



Red Knights International Firefighters Motorcycle Club
Est. 1982 Boylston Massachusetts
“Loyal To Our Duty”



Spring 2025 RKIFMC Non-Executive Board Meeting Minutes
April 24th to 26th in Baltimore, MD.

1. Meeting Schedule and general information:
 - a. RKR and RKM meetings 7:00 pm EDT.
 - b. Meetings will start at 8:00 a.m. EDT and end when complete.
 - c. Shirt colors for each day: Thursday-Gray, Friday-red, and Saturday-Black.
 - d. Special Guest:
 - i. IT Chair and ASSIGN Company Representative 9 am EDT 4/25.
 - ii. By-law Chair AI Proposal 10 am EDT 4/25.
 - iii. Communications Chair: New website 4:30 pm EDT 4/24 via Zoom.
2. Call to order at 7:58 am EDT.
3. Opening greeting by President Spike.
4. Moment of Silence for those who have passed:

762	BERTRAM MOODY	VT 2	2024(9/12/24)
763	BRUCE W. BATES	NY 40	2024(11/24/24)
764	DALROY RUPPERT	GA 22	2024(12/14/24)
765	TED OLMSTED	MN 4	2024(12/13/24)
766	JOE PATNAUDE	MN 4	2025(1/1/25)
767	IAN WELLS	AUS 19	2025(1/18/25)
768	MEL DERHAMMER JR	PA 32	2025(1/17/25)
769	GERALD DELOREY	NS 6	2025(1/28/25)
770	JOSEPH GIARRUSSO	AUS 1	2025(2/1/25)
771	JOE KELLEY	SD 1	2025(2/2/25)
772	STEPHEN F. HUX	LA 1	2025(2/3/25)
773	WILLARD JOHNSON	NB 4	2025(2/4/25)
774	TERRY INGLIS	BC 2	2025(2/4/25)
775	CHRISTOPHER DRUGONIS	CT 7	2025(2/3/25)
776	TIMOTHY COLLIFLOWER	MD 8	2025(2/22/25)
778	WILLIAM G. LAMBERT	NY 36	2025(2/20/25)
779	THOMAS G. BENJAMIN	NY 12	2024(12/29/24)
780	JAMES NOBLE	DE 4	2025(2/8/25)
781	JAMES WALKER	NY 35	2025(4/1/25)
782	LISA ANNE MILLER	IL 16	2025(4/3/25)
783	RICK CRESPO	VT 2	2025(4/5/25)
784	RICHARD TYRRELL	NY 28	2025(4/11/25)
785	KEVIN KENNELLY	IL 8	2025(1/16/25)
786	RON HAGGERTY	WV 6	2025(4/17/25)



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5. Roll Call:

President Spike Ostiguy: Present
Secretary Michael Woods: Present
Region 1 Dir. Ken May: Present
Region 3 Dir. Mark Mullen: Present
Region 5 Dir. Lance Coit: Present
Region 7 Dir. Tom Van Der Kley: Present
Director Emeritus Leo Patry: Not required
Guest: Rasmus Lillemose: Via Zoom 4/25

Vice President Norm Beausoleil: Present
Treasurer Scott Ryan: Present
Region 2 Dir. Randy Smith: Present
Region 4 Dir. Chuck Marks: Present
Region 6 Dir. Brian Singleton: Present
Region 8 Dir. Andrew Young: Present
Guest: Sara-Lynn Hickam: Via Zoom 4/24

6. Rules of meeting:

- a. All cell phones in polite mode, remain courteous and professional, raise hands to be addressed, keep sidebars down, and only speak 3x on a topic.

7. Adjustments or additions to the Agenda:

- a. RKI:
 - i. Requested to Table:
 1. 9.k, 9.m.i & ii,
 - ii. Requested to move:
 1. 9.a and 9.j together starting at 4:30 pm 4/24
 2. 9.g and 9.o together starting at 9 am 4/25
 3. 10.h and 10.j together
 - iii. Requested to move to Executive:
 1. 9.h, 10.m
 - iv. Additions:
 1. 11.a

8. Reports:

- a. Officer's activity reports:
 - i. Region 1: Ken May
 1. Region 1 has lost 6 members since the beginning of 2025.
 2. 8 States, 98 Chapters, 2602 Chapter members, and 28 MALs with a total membership of 2630.
 3. Mayday fund has sold 1000 coins, which have benefited 30 members. 200 coins have been ordered, with the fund having \$3863.22. Maine chapter 8 has created a large Regional tour, and all proceeds will be given to the Mayday Fund.
 4. March 2025 held the Bi-annual regional meeting with 5 State Reps present. The next meeting will be held on Oct. 21st at the Boylston house.
 5. Vermont is working on creating a calendar that can be used for Regional events.
 6. New Jersey State conducted their Annual ACP with MAL Chuck Weikle receiving the Barry Stires Award. Chuck Marks, Region 4 Director, and Ken May, Region 1 Director, presented Emmett Duprey with his Perry Carter Award.



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7. Yankee Rally in Bangor, Maine, June 5th. Plans are coming along well, and it will be an event with a lot of activities.
 - a. 2026 Yankee Rally will be in the Finger Lakes region and hosted by NY 30.
 - b. 2027 will be in Connecticut
8. March 3rd, 2025, NY 6 President Nicole Roman, NY 3 President Pat O'Connor, and New York State President Tim Tordoff promoted a NY 6 fundraiser and promoted the Red Knights on the New York News Television Station.
9. Region 1 Director has attended all the International Meetings, 20-30 calls per week, with 10 to 12 hours of computer work as well.
- ii. Region 2: Randy Smith
 1. 40 Chapters, 860 members within Region 2.
 2. Winter time is slow, but working on growing the Ontario Association with slow progress.
 3. In Ontario, there has been a lot of momentum with the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation in Ottawa. The Red Knights have been invited to march in the parade and participate in the Memorial service with families.
 4. Region 2 Director has had the honor to attend 3 Heaven One services in Region 2 and Region 1, and reflected on the Honor that it was.
 5. 2027 International Convention plans are moving forward with a report to be given later.
 6. The Atlantic Rally will be held in Bouctouche, New Brunswick. Working with the region to grow the Rally.
- iii. Region 3: Mark Mullen
 1. 66 Chapters, 1281 Members, and 21 MALs.
 2. 2025 Peoria, IL Convention coming along with a report being given later. There have been a few hiccups, but we are working through them.
 3. Roasters have been sent and are working with chapters to get everything up to date, as some issues have been seen.
 4. 2025 Bootleggers Rally will be held in Waukesha, WI, on Aug. 28th to the 31st. Registration ends July 1st. Looking forward to a good time with good riding. The 2026 Bootleggers Rally will be held in PA, hosted by PA 37.
 5. Recognized 3 new Heaven One Chapter members.
 6. State Reps reported in a with not much going on in the winter months.
- iv. Region 4: Chuck Marks
 1. 90 Chapters, 1660 Members, and 31 MALs.
 2. Getting new State Reps established or appointed.
 3. Tennessee has two new chapters, with Tennessee back on our map.
 4. 2025 Dixie Rally is on May 14th to 18th in New Orleans, LA, with registration still open. They plan a lot of interesting activities.
 5. The 2026 Dixie Rally will be in Maryland.
 6. Georgia is looking to bring the State together and possibly form a State Association and is doing a state rally on Oct. 10th.
 7. GA 5 in Hawkinsville, GA, the city donated the chapter the old fire station for their clubhouse.
 8. Working on issues with different chapters and finding resolutions.
 9. Attended 1 Heaven One service.



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- v. Region 5: Lance Coit
 - 1. 34 chapters and 28 MALs.
 - 2. Now have all State and Provincial Reps in place.
 - 3. Conducted regional Zoom meetings over the winter.
 - 4. 2025 Western Rally, June 27th to 29th, is coming along with minor issues being worked through. The 2026 Rally will be in Alberta, Canada. 2028 will be attentively hosted by MN 4 in Wyoming with the help of the Wyoming chapter.
 - 5. MN 10 started from MN 4 under good pretenses.
- vi. Region 6: Brian Singleton
 - 1. 28 Chapters, 377 Members, and 38 MALs.
 - 2. Region 6 has had issues with wildfires, and our members have been effective by losses. Members have come together to assist each other.
 - 3. Working on growing the Region with travels to different State meetings.
 - 4. Working on getting emails updated on rosters.
 - 5. Scooter Stampede is Oct 1st to the 4th in Kerrville, TX, and everything is going well. Aug 10th is the cut-off date for merchandise.
- vii. Region 7: Tom Van Der Kley
 - 1. 81 Chapters, 1555 members, and roughly 100 MALs
 - 2. Germany:
 - a. reporting that only 15% of the MALs are responding or active. They are working on outreach and engagement programs. They are working on a couple of new chapters coming soon.
 - 3. Poland:
 - a. Working on recruitment and the possible formation of another chapter. Everything is stable, and events are being planned.
 - 4. United Kingdom:
 - a. All is well, with minor issues with communications.
 - 5. France:
 - a. Doing well with the possibility of a new chapter starting soon.
 - b. Issue with Chapter 5 that will be discussed later.
 - c. Several good charity events and other events are happening around France.
 - d. Working through communication issues internally.
 - 6. Finland:
 - a. Has blown up, and they are working towards creating new chapters there out of the many MALs.
 - 7. Communication challenges, as always, with 17 different nations.
- viii. Region 8: Andrew Young
 - 1. 31 Chapters, 564 Members, and 14 MALs with a total of 578 Members.
 - 2. Australia
 - a. Conducted the Country rep elections with Michael James elected as Rep.
 - b. Communication is an internal issue with few chapters corresponding.
 - 3. New Zealand
 - a. Attended the New Zealand Gathering and gave away a bride be their request. Presented Russell and Dianne Rawiri with their International Life Member Award.



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- b. New Gang-related laws in place in NZ - most chapters have opted to voluntarily remove 10" backpatches / Rockers. This was not done at the direction of either government or 1% MCs, but just an overabundance of caution. There was a feeling that some banned clubs would be upset that we could wear patches where they couldn't, and it may create some friction.
- 4. Working with chapters on rosters and dues.
- ix. Treasurer: Scott Ryan
 - 1. Attended several virtual meetings and virtual meetings for Assign.
 - 2. Closed out the 2024 financials for RKI, RKR, and RKM.
 - 3. Processed over 175 Regaila orders.
 - 4. Been in contact with every chapter with rosters and dues.
 - 5. Working on By-law proposals.
 - 6. Added 7 new Chapters and over 400 new members.
 - 7. Attended 2 Heaven One services.
- x. Secretary: Michael Woods
 - 1. Attended all meetings to include Assign meetings.
 - 2. FBM to SBM added 38 members to the Heaven One roster.
 - 3. TMLAs have had 85 requests with 82 approved, and 3 pending since January 1st.
 - 4. 2 New chapter requests since January 1st.
 - 5. North American event Insurance had 27 requests, with 10 pending.
 - 6. AD&D one in process, with one new request sent in. On track for \$24,000 being paid out. If there are still reports of harassing calls from AD&D agents, please get me the names and phone numbers so they can be placed on the no-call list.
 - 7. North American event insurance contracts with K&K had several issues happening, but were able to work through those. A 3% increase was accepted from the 4% they originally offered.
 - 8. IP registrations are a slow, long process, with New Zealand being completed soon. This will take years to fix and complete. Will be setting up a meeting with our IP attorney to get a tracking system set up and get an exact progress report.
- xi. Vice President: Norm Beausoleil
 - 1. 293 MAL 245 in good standing, 48 one year behind on dues, with 11 being removed for nonpayment of dues since 2023.
 - 2. 32 new MAL applications, with one being denied with 20 approved, and 11 moved to chapters. One member's request to move to MAL was approved.
 - 3. Have 3 pending applications in France based on the issue being seen.
 - 4. Have attended everything except one that was excused.
- xii. President: Spike Ostiguy
 - 1. Attended all but one meeting and thanked Norm for stepping up for that one meeting.
 - 2. There have been a lot of small issues over the winter, but nothing major.
 - 3. A further report will be sent to the Secretary.
 - 4. Attended One Heaven One service at the last minute. Reiterated the honor that the Heaven One program has on not only the members, but the Board members delivering them.



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- b. Committees Reports:
 - i. Communications:
 - 1. Sara-Lynn had a couple of points on the agenda below.
 - ii. Chaplain:
 - 1. No report
 - iii. By-Laws:
 - 1. No proposals submitted at this time.
 - iv. Nomination:
 - 1. No report
 - v. Grand Tour:
 - 1. No report
 - vi. Help-A-Knight:
 - 1. No report
 - vii. IT Committee:
 - 1. No report
 - viii. Newsletter Editor:
 - 1. No report, but it was brought up that the International President would like to see committee Chairs start to do a report for the newsletter.
 - ix. Special: (if required)
 - 1. Club Historical Committee:
 - a. Emails were sent out to all chapters requesting information about their chapters. Information is slowly coming in, and progress is being made.
- c. Convention Reports:
 - i. 2025- Illinois State Association August 21st to the 24th in Peoria, Illinois: *Delivered by Region 3 Director Mark Mullen*
 - 1. A Zoom Meeting was held with the International Secretary on Sunday, March 23, to confirm the Board's needs throughout the convention.
 - 2. 103 Registered Guests (list attached) as of April 22, 2025.
 - 3. Total amount received from registrants as of April 22, 2025, for Registration, Merchandise and Adventures:
 - 4. Embassy Suites
 - a. Rooms:
 - Monday, August 18 – 1 room booked
 - Tuesday, August 19 – 18 rooms booked
 - Wednesday, August 20 – 88 rooms booked
 - Thursday, August 21 – 149 rooms booked
 - Friday, August 22 – 152 rooms booked
 - Saturday, August 23 – 151 rooms booked
 - Sunday, August 24 – 1 room booked
 - b. Hotel is only willing to provide 15 additional rooms at \$169 per night (plus tax) with a 3-night minimum stay.
 - c. We are working on negotiating a block of rooms at a nearby hotel (Holiday Inn & Suites East Peoria) and hope to have that finalized by the end of the week.
 - 5. DJ has been scheduled for the Saturday Banquet.



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6. 4 Helmets have been procured and are in the process of being sanded, primed and clear-coated for airbrushing for raffles.
7. Illinois State Association meeting on April 26, 2025, to further discuss progress on Convention.
 - a. Among other things, we will be discussing two requests to accommodate high-value auction items for individual chapters.
8. State will be increasing posts on Facebook once arrangements with the secondary hotel has been finalized.
9. We will update the schedule/timing for breakouts, as requested by the Board, and We will make time for a meeting insurance representative (as discussed with the International Secretary on March 23).
10. Convention logo for Convention Pin, T-Shirt, Yeti, and Coin are still in progress, but we hope to have that finalized by April 30, 2025.
- ii. 2026- Australia 5 August 9th to the 16th in Melbourne, Australia: *Delivered by Region 8 Director Andrew Young.*

At the time of writing, the Australian Convention Committee would like to report

1. Hotel is locked in with a contract of service covering all our requirements
2. Deposit has been paid in full
3. Function areas on the first floor are set, room rates are locked, and event price will be set at \$100 USD.
4. Driver bus lines have been engaged to provide tour packages to
 - a. Healesville Sanctuary and surrounds
 - b. Philip Island - GP circuit, Penguin parade, and other sights
5. Eaglerider will be our preferred supplier of rental bikes.
 - a. For the "AUSTRALIA" tour - this will be a limited numbers ride with spaces held for the international board on the Thursday ride.
 - b. For extended rentals while in Australia.
6. The "AUSTRALIA" is being ridden by members to gauge timing (it is 253 miles long)
7. Regalia items are in design stage with TLMA's to be applied for in the near future
8. Pricing for the above is planned to be locked in and published at this year's Convention in Peoria.
9. Advertising will be open for our convention manual to all Red Knight chapters wishing to sell items (# except for the middle pages - these have been offered to Region 2 -Randy Smith at no charge)
10. We are (with the board's approval) planning a meet the board dinner at a local Melbourne Pub (Famous but a surprise) - This will be a limited numbers event per booked _ details to follow
11. Walking tours and the Sights of Melbourne eagerly await our brothers and sisters from around the world

The Chapters Convention Committee is holding our next meeting on the 6th of April (effectively tomorrow in relation to this report)

Discussion will be around structures for tours, number restrictions for "AUSTRALIA" ride (i.e., private bikes, hire bikes, and size of coach), as a side note to improve efficiency, we are substituting out "U" for the ride with "Queenscliff" thus shortening the ride considerably.



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Tour coaches will have 2 local volunteer Red Knights to assist the drivers heard cats. They will be included at no personal cost to them.

Our suppliers of clothing and other regalia have been sourced from a variety of suppliers already used by local chapters.

iii. 2027- Ontario 1 Convention at Sea: *Delivered by Region 2 Director Randy Smith.*

The planning is under way but we are at the mercy of the 2 Cruiselines as they do not release pricing until 18 months out.

1. ON 1 members are the agents performing these duties.
2. Looking at utilizing one of two ports on the east side of Florida. Two members from ON 1 went down to do a reconnaissance of the areas and relationships with local chapters. And to locate local hotels in departure ports.
3. Cost will be reasonably priced.
4. This type of Convention has never been attempted before; this is very fluid.
5. They are working with the Cruzelines to give us the general cost and information to present to the membership.

iv. 2028-2030 TBD or Baltimore, MD Board only.

1. No requests made at this time.

9. Old Business carried forward:

a. Tri-fold discussion:

- i. A review was conducted on the updated tri-fold flyer. Minor changes were noted and addressed.
- ii. In conclusion, the new tri-fold flyer is approved for release and will be distributed to Regional Directors and posted on the new website.

b. State/Province/Country Reps./President discussion:

- i. Discussion was made at the FBM and carried over to SBM to make it clear that all three titles go by the same standard. The Country Rep was left off due to individual By-laws or SOGs being created before the need, or a simple past practice being used in writing. The intent is that State/Province/Country Reps have the same standards and responsibilities.
- ii. It was concluded that this is just not a simple fix. A plan was developed to correct this misunderstanding with the use of Representative (Capital R) and representative (Lowercase r) to identify that the Representative (Capital "R") was indicating State/Province/Country Representatives' position and representative (Lowercase r) representing something.
 1. See Motion 2025-010.
 2. A SOG proposal will be completed following the 2025 ABM By-law voting outcome.

c. By-Law/SOG definition discussion:

- i. A discussion was held at the SBM regarding the insertion of a definitions page into the governing documents, which would significantly improve our understanding. At the FBM, it was concluded that a By-Law proposal for a definitions section in By-Law Article 6, General, will be proposed. An SOG proposal will follow the same wording as



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the By-Law proposal once it is approved by the Membership. The definition in SOG 10:02 was also discussed at the FBM and will be retained.

- ii. In conclusion, this proposal turned out to be more complex than initially anticipated. A review by the Board will be conducted to determine which terms should be added and where they should be included—either in the governing documents or in a Quick Reference Guide (QRG). The proposal will be sent to the Board for their review and will be discussed again at the SuBM.
- d. Organization Chart discussion:
 - i. Completed in Executive session.
 - 1. See Motion 2025-014.
- e. Rules and Regulations discussion:
 - i. Discussion was made on the current standing Rules and Regulations. The current relevance was discussed on what they are. Discussion and review were also made on spelling, grammar, and consistency with the current By-laws.
 - ii. It was concluded that the Rules and Regulations need to be cleaned up for spelling and grammar, and consistency with the current By-laws.
 - 1. See Motion 2025-005.
- f. Perry Carter Award program standardization discussion:
 - i. Discussion was made over making the Perry Carter Award a standardized firefighter-based award. It was agreed to move towards a general Firefighter award while keeping the price within the same scope as the clock award. Several different ideas were kicked around.
 - ii. It was concluded that this will be tabled for further review, as this cannot be able to be done for this year's award. Several ideas will be looked at and brought back to the SuBM. The Clock will be issued this year.
- g. ASSIGN App review:
 - i. TA training session was conducted on the new Assign app via Zoom, led by the Assign representative. Prior to the training, the Secretary onboarded the Board members. The Assign Representative conducted the training; however, the system is still under development, and additional education will be required. A goal was established to start the implementation at this year's Annual Board Meeting (ABM)..
 - ii. Additional training sessions will be held in smaller groups during the summer, with the IT Chair assisting in this process. A progress report will be presented to SuBM.
- h. Awards discussion:
 - i. Completed in Executive Session.
- i. General recruitment card Discussion:
 - i. It was discussed to create a general business card for members to have for recruitment in the same fashion as the Region 7 postcard.
 - ii. In conclusion, a general fillable recruitment card is available for chapters to print if they so choose.



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j. Website discussion:

- i. Sara-Lynn Hickam, the Communication Chair, provided an update on the status of the new website. The public side of the website appears to be complete, and a review has already been conducted. However, the membership section still needs some work; specifically, emails and passwords need to be created for all members. There was further discussion on how this process could be implemented, and it was suggested that a letter be sent out to assist with this initiative. Additionally, the membership website requires some final touches, including PayPal integration and a few minor details. This new website has more control and abilities than the last proprietary host. It should be ready for release soon.

In addition to the new website, a brief discussion was held over the future move of the email server and how this might be done.

- ii. In conclusion, we need to draft a letter to our members regarding the new website. It is important to emphasize the need for patience during the email login process. Additionally, we should request that each chapter verify its members' email addresses to ensure a smoother rollout.

The letter should highlight that the new website will be continually updated with improvements as needed. It should also be noted that there will be a brief period of downtime during the transition to the new website. If any issues arise, members should contact their Regional Directors for assistance.

Scott will work with Sara-Lynn to establish specific dates and a plan for the rollout. With the consideration of the end-of-year dues coming, the release date should be done prior to that timeframe. We should also post announcements on the old website and on our Facebook pages to keep everyone informed.

k. Convention Manual proposal:

- i. Discussions were held at the 2024 FBM regarding grammar and spelling corrections. During these discussions, a conflict was identified. It was decided to table this matter until further investigation could take place and the conflicts could be resolved.
- ii. In conclusion, a by-law proposal was drafted and submitted to the by-law committee. This proposal has been postponed until FBM for further review based on the outcome of the by-law proposal.

l. QRG SOG 12:02 Discussion:

- i. There was continued discussion about the complexity of the grievance process, particularly regarding the different sources from which grievances could originate and the various levels at which they could be initiated. Several methods and pathways were explored, including the use of the chain of command as a potentially better solution, along with the suggestion of implementing a flowchart.
- ii. Due to the complexity of the grievance process, a committee of board members will develop a new approach to address the different types and levels of grievances. This matter has been set aside for further discussion by the committee, which includes the President and representatives from Regions 2 and 7. The committee will present its recommendations for the QRG and may propose revisions to the SOG for review by the FBM.



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- m. Trademark audit discussion:
 - i. TMLA open to all Facebook pages:
 - 1. During the 2024 FBM, a discussion took place regarding the RKMC Facebook pages that are open to everyone. Currently, these pages are registered under the Chapter Business Trademark Licensing agreements of a specific chapter. It was noted that there are several Facebook pages whose controllers are unknown, and they are using the protected RKMC logo and names. Additionally, the discussion focused on how to identify and grant the appropriate authority for these specific open-to-all Facebook pages..
 - 2. In conclusion, the 2024 FBM identified the need for improved controls, and a plan will be developed for review by the 2025 SBM. This matter has been tabled until further research can be completed, after which it will be brought back to the 2025 FBM for consideration.
 - ii. TMLA jurisdictional Discussion:
 - 1. It was discussed at the FBM that members from around the world are restricted in purchasing items due to shipping issues and cost. Members from Europe and Australia do not have easy access to RKMC products produced in North America. Our TMLA system has multiple jurisdictions around the world, and it was proposed to look at creating jurisdictions within our system.
 - 2. It was requested to table this to a later date for better control measures and definitions.
 - iii. TMLA Education discussion:
 - 1. A discussion was made over a QRG proposal to help better identify numerous questions and misconceptions within the TMLA system. A SOG proposal was also made to help clarify who could sell RKMC items to non-members.
 - 2. In conclusion, the board made slight changes to the proposal to help in the understanding of the system, and the QRG was approved for release to the members along with approval of the SOG proposal.
 - a. See: QRG RKMC TMLA System
 - b. See: Motion 2025-006
- n. SOG 3:03 discussion:
 - i. Discussion was made over the SOG 3:03 proposal of classes of uniforms, Class A, Class B, and Class C, for the Executive Board. Collar Brass was also discussed on color, type, and location.
 - ii. In conclusion, the SOG 3:03 proposal was accepted.
 - 1. See: Motion 2025-007.
- o. ABM By-law review and vote AI assistance discussion:
 - i. A discussion was held about using AI to read the By-law proposal presentation. It was explained how the AI could work with embedded video reading and provide a follow-along presentation. The discussion and voting portion of the By-law presentation will continue as it has in the past. There were concerns regarding the speed of the reading, its length, and the manner in which it is presented. The By-law Chair indicated that the speed can be controlled and that the wording is determined solely by what is input into the program. To expedite the process, only the relevant portions of the proposal can be



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read. Future use was discussed with what potential costs and programs, and could be referred to the IT Chair for future assistance. Overall, the concept was well received.

- ii. It was concluded that AI assistance will be further investigated, with the Secretary, Treasurer, and By-law Chair reviewing the language and presentation speed to ensure a responsible message is delivered to the Membership at the ABM.
- p. SOG Section 8 discussion:
 - i. The discussion focused on the layout of the SOG Section 8 and the voting processes within associations. There were varying opinions on how each state, province, or country association currently conducts its voting process. Additionally, the use of the term “endorsed” raised questions and concerns among the participants. It was also discussed to change 8:01 and 8:02 as 8:02 should be before 8:01.
 - ii. In conclusion, the Treasurer will work on a proposal and bring it back to SuBM.
- q. Committee Chair attendance discussion:
 - i. A discussion was made over committee chairs being reimbursed for their attendance at conventions and rallies. A review of how it was handled in the past and the cost-effectiveness was conducted.
 - ii. It was concluded that this will be handled on a case-by-case basis, with cost playing a large factor. It was also determined that there was no case for any Committee Chairs to receive funding for the 2025 Annual Business Meeting.
- r. SOG 14:02 Discussion:
 - i. A discussion was held about moving the due date for the Board Officers' End of Year reports from January 31st to January 10th. The newsletter is typically released at the end of February, but the newsletter editor is waiting for the Board reports to finalize it.
 - ii. In conclusion, the proposal to change the report submission date was accepted by the Board.
 - 1. See Motion 2025-008.
- s. RKM Memorial Kiosk Discussion:
 - i. Discussion was held at FBM regarding the RKM memorial kiosk issues. Tim Hamilton and his son Marcus have created a new panel for the current kiosks. Pictures were shown of the new panels installed on the first kiosk.
 - ii. The craftsmanship was remarkable, and a second one will be considered for the other kiosk.

10. New Business:

- a. SOG 2:03 Discussion:
 - i. Discussion was held regarding section SOG 2:03, Electioneering, focusing on improving the wording and clarifying ambiguous areas found in the current text.
 - ii. In conclusion, the board reviewed the proposal and gave its approval.
 - 1. See Motion 2025-009.
- b. Heaven One Memorial discussion:
 - i. Heaven 1 Memorium discussion:



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1. Discussion over duplicate names and how they are presented on the Memorium Kiosk. There are 3 different lists, one completed by the Treasurer as the Heaven 1 Chapter roster, the second is done by the Secretary and is a digital Memorium on the website and ABM presentation, and then a list held on site to assist members and family in finding their loved ones on the Memorium Kiosk on site.
 2. In conclusion, the RKM board members and the International Secretary will conduct a thorough review of all documents to ensure better alignment among the three. They will also verify that no member of the Heaven 1 chapter has been inadvertently omitted from any lists. Additionally, the review will check for any duplicate entries in order to conserve space for the future.
- ii. Heaven One protocol and Chaplain discussion:
1. Completed in Executive Session.
- c. International Board Manual updates discussion:
- i. Discussion and Review were conducted on the 2024 insertions.
 - ii. In conclusion, the board approved the 2024 updates.
- d. Dues and date discussion:
- i. It was discussed that allowing a member of a chapter who is not in good standing, as defined by our governing documents, to be granted Heaven 1 protocol and receive all possible rights could lead to insurance fraud. Additionally, we explored ways to recognize these members, even if they are not in good standing. It was noted that Regional Directors receive monthly updates on chapters and could send reminders about their status and how it affects their membership. It has become evident that some chapter officers are failing to submit rosters, which negatively impacts membership. While the chapter officers may not fulfill their responsibilities, the international organization still feels the consequences of these actions.
 - ii. It was concluded that a proposal will be brought back to SuBM to find a way to still recognize passing members when their chapters are not in good standing. A letter will be created to send to all chapters, placed on the website, and then placed on social media for better broadcasting.
- e. Chapters in arrears discussion:
- i. A discussion was held regarding the chapters that have been recalled and the requests for disbandment. It was discovered that some chapters seeking disbandment did not have approval from all of their members. Additionally, questions arose about the handling of email communications and the status of existing funds. By-law 3:10.7 states that any remaining funds and property must be donated to a charitable organization.
 - ii. In conclusion, this will be brought back to SuBM with a proposal on how these situations will be handled. Along with how to handle the email accounts after recall. Possibly placing this into the IBM.
- f. Back 10-inch lower rocker discussion:
- i. There was a discussion about creating 10-inch lower rockers to represent the positions of the International Officers, which would replace the current chapter lower rocker. Further conversation focused on how to govern this change and where in our governing documents it could be addressed, and identify any possible conflicts.



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- ii. It was concluded to bring this back to SuBM with a proposal to review.
- g. By-law Section 2 discussion:
 - i. Discussion was made over the verbiage currently found in By-law 2:01 and 2:03 referencing “employed by or is an employee” status. By-law 2:01 indicates that Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) and Medics who are not currently employed by an established Fire Department can no longer be considered Active members. Additionally, By-law 2:03 indicates that Fire Department Associate members who are not employed by a Fire Department will no longer be eligible to maintain their status as FD Associates. They may be transitioned to Associate membership if the chapter has the capacity for it. It was further noted that while this has not been enforced by the International in the past, it could be interpreted that way by the Membership. An additional discussion on placing a grandfather clause was reviewed.
 - ii. In conclusion, a By-law proposal was drafted to be sent to the membership.
 - 1. See Motion 2025-015.
- h. Use of standardized applications by chapters discussion:
 - i. Discussion was made on utilizing the RKMC general member application form. It has been seen that individuals who should never have been allowed to join due to their past misconduct have slipped through the cracks. Utilizing this application would at least ask pertinent questions that could protect our membership from certain types of individuals.
 - ii. It was concluded that this will be brought back to SuBM with a proposal for SOG 5:04.
- i. International Life Membership discussion:
 - i. Discussion was made over whether an International Life Member should be considered not in good standing if their chapter is not in good standing or if they are the only members left within the chapter.
 - ii. In conclusion, it was found that International Life members are always in good standing as the International pays their dues, and that chapter will not be recalled. If there are other members listed who have not paid dues, those members are not in good standing.
- j. New Chapter application and membership application discussion:
 - i. It was discussed that each new chapter is given a copy of the new member application, but each new member coming in with the new chapter application doesn’t fill out any application personally to join the Club. The new chapter application was reviewed along with the RKMC general membership application to tie them together.
 - ii. In conclusion, the New Chapter application will be modified, and the General membership application will be integrated.
- k. Wearing of Sergeant At Arms 4-inch rocker in Germany:
 - i. Discussion was made over a request from the German Country Rep to the International Board, wishing for the Sergeant at Arms (SAA) to be banned in Germany, as it could have a negative impact. Robert’s Rule of Order indicates the use of SAA for official purposes. Further discussion made considerations on the use of this as a 1% item.
 - ii. In conclusion, this would need to be a By-law proposal made by the chapters from Germany to the membership as a safety issue; a By-law 1:05.1.e request should be made by the proposing chapters.



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- l. Non-Red Knights International Social media discussion:
 - i. There was a discussion regarding an image that was removed from the RKMC All Chapters and MAL Facebook page, as well as the community standards and rules governing these platforms. Additionally, it was noted that the controls on privately owned social media platforms that use our protected intellectual property have not been fully standardized, as discussed in previous International Board Meetings. It was also emphasized that the International Board does not have control over these privately run pages.
 - ii. In conclusion, it has been determined that this matter is already on the agenda for FBM to review. The President will reach out to the admins for clearer clarification and understanding of their rules. A proposal will be brought back to the SuBM for review.
 - m. General membership items discussion:
 - i. Completed in Executive Session.
 - n. Awards discussion:
 - i. A discussion took place regarding the definition of the Life Saving Award. Various scenarios were examined to understand how it is perceived in different regions.
 - ii. It was concluded that perceptions of life saved vary significantly across different regions of the world, and that these unique cases should be addressed individually.
11. Open floor and additional items added: (If time allows)
- a. Convention timeframe discussion:
 - i. A discussion was held regarding the frequency of the International Convention. This topic was first raised during the 2022 Annual Business Meeting (ABM) as a follow-up to a proposal from 2020 that had been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Further conversations explored this proposal and considered various scenarios. It was recognized that chapters may be hesitant to host the Convention for several reasons, with funding being a significant concern, along with other identified factors. Additionally, the discussion addressed the potential impact on the annual ABM, as well as on by-law proposals, reviews, voting, and elections.
 - ii. In conclusion, this discussion point is very complex, involving many factors, avenues, and potential conflicts. It was brought to the Board solely as a topic for investigation.
12. Good of the order:
- a. 2025 SuBM/Convention dates: Aug. 19th travel, 20th to 23rd meetings, and 24th travel in Peoria, Illinois.
 - b. 2025 FBM dates: Nov. 5th travel, 6th to 8th meetings, and 9th travel in Blatimore, MD.
 - c. International President Spike Ostiguy conducted a round table exercise to end the SBM.
13. Adjournment:
- a. All in favor: 4:57 pm EDT.