



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



Fall 2023 RKIFMC NON-Executive Board Meeting Minutes  
 Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> in Baltimore MD

1. Meeting Schedule and general information.
  - a. Meetings will start at 8:00 a.m. and end when complete.
  - b. Special Guest:
    - i. Don Brandt IT Committee Chair will be present for computer issues and support (on his own accord).
    - ii. Tom Caisse Nominating Chair Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> Zoom Meeting at 7:30 p.m.
2. Call to order at 8:00 a.m.
3. Moment of Silence for those who have passed called:

692 Royal Phillips Jr.	NY 35	2023(9/10/23)
693 Brent Krebs	NY 21	2023(9/16/23)
694 Jody Salamone	NC 12	2023(8/30/23)
695 Eric M Komlosky Sr.	PA 31	2023(9/8/23)
696 David V. Pollack	IL 23	2023(9/24/23)
697 Richard Wozny	AB 12	2023(9/24/23)
698 Michael Davis	MA 15	2023(9/22/23)
699 Jay Sprague	LA 1	2023(9/26/23)
700 Jacques Breton	QC 4	2023(10/2/23)
701 Nancy Eighmie	NY 49	2023(10/22/23)
702 Kai Schueller	Germany 17	2023(11/9/23)
703 Lance Ransome	Alberta 4	2023(11/8/23)
704 Carl Cornell	ON 11	2023(11/9/23)
705 Jim Meachen	NH 9	2023(11/15/23)

4. Opening greeting by President Spike.
5. Roll Call:

President Spike Ostiguy: Present	Vice President N/A: Vac.
Secretary Michael Woods: Present	Treasurer Scott Ryan: Present
Region. 1 Dir. Ken May: Present	Region. 2 Dir. Randy Smith: Present via Zoom
Region. 3 Dir. Mark Mullen: Present	Region. 4 Dir. Chuck Marks: Present
Region. 5 Dir. Lance Coit: Present	Region. 6 Dir. Allen Aurich: Present
Region. 7 Dir. Tom Van Der Kley: Present	Region. 8 Dir. Ken Mahon: Present

6. Rules of meeting:
  - a. Remain courteous, raise hands, keep sidebars down, and only speak 3x on a topic.
7. Adjustments or additions to Agenda:
  - a. Additions approved and placed at the end of the agenda.
8. Reports:
  - a. Officer's activity reports: A new reporting form for all positions has been created to help identify trends and keep track of items. It was asked to have these reports sent to the Secretary 5 days before the Board Meetings.
    - i. President:
      1. Has been dealing with items on a daily basis and working hard to maintain the VP and President's positions.
      2. MAL report 2022 and 2023:
        - a. Region 1 - 33



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- b. Region 2 - 15
- c. Region 3 - 21
- d. Region 4 - 37
- e. Region 5 - 42
- f. Region 6 - 40
- g. Region 7 - 70
- h. Region 8 - 21
- i. Outside of a given Region – 1
- ii. Vice President: N/A
- iii. Secretary:
  1. The TMLA system is now 100% digital.
    - a. Overall TMLAs:
      - i. Chapter TMLAs: 2662 (39 missing pending chapter review)
      - ii. Vendor TMLAs: 49 (pending audit)
      - iii. RKR TMLAs: 22 (pending signature)
      - iv. RKM TMLAs: 2 (pending signature)
        1. Total: 2735 (+2 pending)
    - b. 2023 TMLA Data:
      - i. Approved: 288
      - ii. Denied: 3
      - iii. Pending: 2
        1. Total Requested: 293
  2. Insurance policies:
    - a. Insurance issued: 48
    - b. Non-compliant: 1 (no waivers returned)
    - c. Pending: 1 for 2024
      - i. Insurance requested: 52
  3. American AD&D:
    - a. Current data
      - i. Pending request: 2
      - ii. Pending request sent in: 1
        1. Paid: 0
    - b. Where does the system stand?
      - i. We have completed phase one.
      - ii. The database for mailings has been completed.
    - c. Phase 2 should happen soon.
      - i. Website page with all the info on it to include contact info.
    - d. If members ask for more info, refer them to the Aug. 3rd letter from the President on our website or refer them to me for info.
  4. New Chapter Applications sent out:
    - a. Interest letters sent: 39
    - b. Applications sent: 29
  5. Rental Agreements issued:
    - a. Total issued: 46
    - b. Pending: 0
      - i. Total Requested: 46
  6. Equipment or items issued:
    - a. Banners: 1
    - b. Flags: 0
      - i. Total Requested: 1
    - c. Missing two flags Portugal and Poland.



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- iv. Treasurer:
  - 1. Welcomed Randy to the position of Region 2 Director and is looking forward to working with him.
  - 2. One Funeral in Region 2 and Leo Patry stepped up to perform those Honors.
  - 3. All Chapters have received their end-of-year dues rosters for 2024.
  - 4. Since Summer Board Meetings added 7 new Chapter's with one finishing its process.
  - 5. The 2023 Budget is on track for the end-of-year numbers.
- v. Region 1:
  - 1. Region 1 consists of eight States, 99 Chapters with 2 Chapters being added since the last report, and 2786 members.
  - 2. In 2023 Region 1 transferred 12 members to Heavens One Chapter.
  - 3. Report given on the Region One Mayday fund.
  - 4. Reports that he is learning and growing and spends 15 to 20 Hours a week on RK items.
  - 5. Held two in-person meetings with State Reps.
  - 6. Attended several State Meetings, Chapter Meetings, and Yankee Rally Committee meetings.
    - a. Yankee Rally is going smoothly.
  - 7. This year attended the Dixie Rally, Yankee Rally, Convention, Maryland State Picnic, New York State Picnic, New Jersey State Picnic, and several other local events.
  - 8. Since taking over the Memorial House rentals everything is moving flawlessly and have handled 34 bookings to date.
  - 9. Total miles traveled for Red Knights business is 9731.
- vi. Region 2:
  - 1. Thanked everyone for their support and already recognizes the challenges ahead.
  - 2. Apologizes for not being in person, the 17<sup>th</sup> was the day he stepped down as Chapter President after 10 years.
  - 3. Has been learning and getting his feet wet with the challenges of Region 2's vast area.
  - 4. Region 2 has 39 Chapters and working on retention via simple communications.
- vii. Region 3:
  - 1. Working on getting the Ohio State Rep position filled and moving forward.
  - 2. Has attended two funerals in IL and PA.
  - 3. Helped fix some issues within another State.
  - 4. Helped get items fixed on Help-A-Knight.
  - 5. Getting a lot of calls on Grand Tour issues.
  - 6. The Region has 64 Chapters with 1304 members.
- viii. Region 4:
  - 1. Has been mostly uneventful year.
  - 2. Region 4 has 87 Chapters, 1722 members, and 28 MALs.
  - 3. Attended Dixie Rally, Bootleggers Rally, and Convention.
  - 4. Had 4 members enter the Heaven One Chapter.
- ix. Region 5:
  - 1. It has been quiet within Region 5.
  - 2. Western Rally was a success.
  - 3. Had 2 members enter the Heaven One Chapter.
  - 4. British Columbia 3 is working on the 2024 Western Rally.
  - 5. Starting to talk about State Reps and working forward.
  - 6. Will be conducting winter monthly Zoom meetings to help keep chapters active.
- x. Region 6:
  - 1. Region 6 has 26 Chapters in good standings and 29 MALs.
  - 2. The region has been quiet overall.



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3. OK Association has been working hard on starting the first Region 6 Rally called the “Scooter Stampede” for next year.
    - a. The Board members were formally asked to attend.
  4. Working on getting new chapters in States that are lacking or nonexistent.
  5. Announced that he would not be running again next year and has been actively working on replacements.
- xi. Region 7:
1. In Region 7 we have 76 Chapters, 1402 members, and 70 MALs.
  2. Communication seems to be an issue and we are working with the IT committee to find resolve.
  3. Region 7 has 16 different countries and 17 different languages making it difficult, but they make it work.
  4. No major issues to report.
  5. This year's Convention was a learning one that will be carried to next year. They are working through a few registration issues but are hopeful to have fixed them in a couple of days.
  6. Working on a new Chapter in the Netherlands and a new Chapter in the country Romania. Working with Romania Military Firefighters to form their first Chapter there.
  7. In the process of voting on a new European Association President.
  8. Working on a promotional tour through Europe to grow the Red Knights.
  9. Members from Austria and Germany are going on a Motorcycle exhibition in January.
  10. One member joined Heaven One Chapter from a newly formed Germany Chapter 17.
  11. Norway has started the Troll Tour event next year and the Ireland and UK meeting in April.
- xii. Region 8:
1. Region 8 has 32 Chapters with a new chapter in Brisbane.
  2. Andy Young has been a great asset in Australia.
  3. Communications have been great in New Zealand.
  4. New Zealand working on the next New Zealand Gathering.
  5. New Zealand did a fundraiser ride and donated roughly 3,000 dollars worth of food items to the local Food Bank.
  6. Attended the Australia National Convention.
  7. The Chapters have been active with fundraising.
- b. Committees:
- i. By-Laws:
    1. After ABM and approval of the By-Law revision, the By-Law Chair stepped down.
  - ii. Nominating:
    1. 2 Special elections, VP and Region 2 are in motion.
    2. Region 2 had only one qualified candidate and has been declared the winner by the Nominations Committee Chair Tom Caisse.
      - a. Sworn in on 10/30/2023 via Zoom Meeting.
      - b. Will not be able to physically attend the FBMs but will Zoom in when available.
  - iii. Grand Tour:
  - iv. Help-A-Knight:
    1. Since I took over last year, I have gone through all the emails, updated them, removed members that are not Red Knights, removed anyone who has passed away, and put it out there if anyone who is on HAK to check on their names, Please email me with any changes, I have also put out there if interested in being on HAK to fill out the application. The program is increasing but also decreasing at the same time.
    2. I have been working with Chris Rogers on the new app for the program, and waiting for his update so I can forward on to you all. I feel there is still a lot that can be done to improve this program and working on some ideas to bring to your table.



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- a. Chris reported to the Chair that it was not cost-effective to go the route they were looking for and will explore other options.
  - v. IT Committee:
    1. The chair was present at the meeting, on his own accord, for assistance with computer issues and the transition to new Microsoft accounts on the new laptops.
    2. Reported 4 new laptops into service. Secured Tech-Soup for lower-cost software purchases. Working on a monitor for Memorial Hall and will visit the house this Spring to investigate this.
  - c. Convention Reports:
    - i. 2024- Germany 18 August 12<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> in Leipzig, Germany.
      1. Everything is moving forward, and they are working through some issues with the registration program.
      2. They are all looking forward to this event next year.
    - ii. 2025- Illinois State Association August 21<sup>st</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup> in Peoria, Illinois.
      1. There is concern about the registration price. The proposal will be discussed later in the meeting. Everything is on track, and they will be ready.
    - iii. 2026- Australia 5 Dates TBD in Melbourne, Australia.
      1. They have it pretty much in hand and working with hotels.
      2. Working on hard dates to be released.
      3. Good support with the local Chapter.
      4. Working on getting Motorcycle rentals.
    - iv. 2027-
      1. If no Chapter steps up to host the Convention, the Board will, according to the By-Laws, conduct the ABM tentatively in Baltimore, MD.
      2. It is highly recommended that we look for Chapters to host the 2027 and 2028 Convention.
        - a. There is interest but no applications have been sent in.
9. Old Business carried forward:
- a. Tri-fold conversion to website or app:
    - i. Will be working with the Communications Chair on a landing page for a QR code made by Tom Van Der Kley. This QR code can be used by all Chapters for recruitment.
      1. Postcards are used with this QR code for recruitment in Europe now.
      2. A list of items to be linked to the landing page will be investigated.
      3. Will investigate working with the IT committee to bring all items together in one app in the future.
  - b. ABM broadcast/recording:
    - i. The Recorded ABM video was of good quality with the sound needing improvement.
      1. The file is too large to send over the internet.
      2. Will need to find solutions to streaming and/or recording.
      3. Will continue to work with the IT Committee to resolve.
      4. It was noted that we should include the projection screen to help show what is talked about.
  - c. Board Operations Manuals discussion:
    - i. The Board's Operations Manual was reviewed and will be sent to the Board for review of additions and corrections to old practices.
      1. The International Board member welcome packet was approved as presented.
      2. Will be reviewed at the Spring Board Meeting.
  - d. SOG 12:01 Bylaw addition discussion:
    - i. Tabled for further review at Spring Board Meeting.
  - e. Country representative and state officer's patch discussion:



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- i. A 4-inch patch will be created by the RKR for the following:
    - ii. “Country Rep”, “State Rep”, and “Provincial Rep” in a 4-inch patch.
  - f. Discussion on standardized application:
    - i. Standard application is finished and being sent to new Chapters.
    - ii. The MAL application has been reviewed and will be sent to the Communication Chair to update the website.
  - g. Chapter back patches discussion:
    - i. Discussion was made that when a member leaves the Chapter should they return the patches because they are not authorized as a non-member to wear them.
    - ii. It is the stance of the Board that this is governed by the Chapter’s SOGs.
    - iii. For MALs it is the Vice President’s responsibility for governing these members.
  - h. International flags being available at Memorial House discussion:
    - i. The RKI flags are solely for Conventions and according to the By-Laws are the responsibility of the International Secretary.
    - ii. This is an RKM item.
      - 1. The RKM Board will need to pursue purchasing and creating the terms of use.
  - i. Discussion carried forward; IT Committee could assist with items:
    - i. Will conduct a Zoom Meeting later to help facilitate different items and issues.
  - j. Discussion carried forward, shortening the Gala items.
    - i. Presentation of the national anthems.
      - 1. Tabled until Spring Board Meeting.
      - 2. See Discussion Topic SOG 17-02.
  - k. Bylaw 4:04.e Discussion over Road Captain and safety violations:
    - i. The proposal will be forwarded to the By-Laws Committee
    - ii. See Motion 2023-035 for details.
  - l. Discussion of Club Historian:
    - i. Letter to Membership will be drafted.
    - ii. See Motion 2023-036 for details.
  - m. SOG 15:02 Registering to Vote at Annual Business Meeting:
    - i. It was identified that a dual Chapter Active Member could be a Chapter delegate of his home chapter but not with the Active Members dual chapter for the purpose of voting at an ABM.
      - 1. This clarifies that voting rights cannot be delegated to anyone outside the home chapter.
        - a. See Motion 2023-046 Passed 9-0

### 10. New Business:

- a. Bylaw 2:09 Special Compassionate Honorary Members in relation to AD&D:
  - i. This needs to be looked at for better clarification on the “No Dues” being paid. It could conflict with American Income policy as stated as “Dues-paying members in good standing.”
  - ii. The International Board Manual defines membership levels that do not pay dues are in all intents and purposes are considered paid in full members.
- b. SOG 5:03 Junior Member patch discussion:
  - i. See Motion 2023-037 for details.
- c. SOG 4:03 TMLA audit discussion:
  - i. Move from annually to a ten-year time span.
  - ii. See Motion 2023-038 for details.
- d. By-law 2:04 Social Membership proposal:
  - i. The proposal will be forwarded to the By-Laws Committee.
  - ii. See Motion 2023-039 for details.
- e. Perry Carter Award program standardization discussion:
  - i. Tabled until Spring Board Meeting.
- f. Charter relocations Discussion:
  - i. Region 7 Switzerland 4



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1. See Motion 2023-040 for details.
  - ii. Region 7 Belgium 3
    1. See Motion 2023-041 for details.
- g. By-Law 3:05 Conflict Discussion:
  - i. The Nominating Committee Chair Tom Caisse was brought into the Meeting via Zoom to help clarify the conflict.
  - ii. It was discussed to further this conversation in conjunction with By-Laws Chair, Nominating Chair, and the Board to find a resolution and bring this back to Spring Board Meetings.
- h. Request for funding by England 4:
  - i. Tom will advise the Chapter to contact the Treasurer under SOG 10:01.
- i. Standardized letterheads discussion:
  - i. New letterheads sent to all Board Members.
- j. State/Province/Country reps. discussion:
  - i. A proposal will be drafted and brought back to the Spring Board meeting.
- k. Bylaw 3:16 correction:
  - i. “Providence” to “Province” correction was determined to be housekeeping and will be sent to the By-Laws committee for review.
- l. FORK clothing discussion:
  - i. There was a request for a F.O.R.K. vest and after discussion, it was found not to change the program at this time.
- m. SOG 1:06, 7, and 10 conflict corrections in the two-year terms:
  - i. Terms of all Committees were changed to a two-year term. Conflicts were found and corrected.
  - ii. See Motion 2023-042 for details.
- n. SOG 1:01 Correction discussion:
  - i. Change from Continental Europe to Europe.
  - ii. See Motion 2023-043 for details.
- o. SOG authority:
  - i. Tabled until Spring Board Meeting.
- p. By-Law 2:07 Life Member discussion.
  - i. Defining the Chapter Life Member and International Life member.
  - ii. The proposal will be forwarded to the By-Laws Committee.
  - iii. See Motion 2023-044 for details.
- q. International 50/50 at 2024 Convention discussion:
  - i. Tabled until Spring Board Meeting.
- r. By-Law 2:08 Junior Member discussion:
  - i. Discussion over junior members being permitted to vote.
  - ii. The proposal will be forwarded to the By-Laws Committee.
  - iii. See Motion 2023-045 for details.
- s. Chapter Start-up kits mailing issues:
  - i. Changes to mailing from the US have created a much higher cost due to customs.
  - ii. It will be investigated about how to save postage.
  - iii. Spike will contact the EU Quartermaster and have them contact the Secretary.
- t. Donations website page discussion:
  - i. These donations are strictly for the RKM.
  - ii. Spike will work with Communications to bring life to this portion of the Website.
- u. “Shall” Discussion:
  - i. Shall definition proposal to Section 6 of the By-Laws.
  - ii. The proposal will be forwarded to the By-Laws Committee.
  - iii. See Motion 2023-047 for details.
- v. Ratification of Committee Chairs:
  - i. See Motion 2023-048 for details.



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- w. SOG 12:02 Grievance:
    - i. With a very lengthy discussion it was agreed that we need to clarify the process and create a Quick Reference Guide (QRG) to help all levels better understand the steps involved.
    - ii. See Motion 2023-049 for details.
    - iii. See QRG SOG 12:02 for details.
  - x. Discussion of a conflicting issue with the Declaration of a home chapter and Social, Junior, and Associate members:
    - i. A By-Law proposal for Amending 2:01 Active Member and addition of 2:20 Additional Chapters to allow the standing practice to continue with Social, Junior, and Associate members belonging to multiple Chapters.
    - ii. The proposal will be forwarded to the By-Laws Committee.
    - iii. See Motion 2023-050 for details.
  - y. Bylaw 3:24 By-Laws Committee discussion:
    - i. The “Within” forty-five (45) days is a presumed typo from the beginning which is now amended to ensure members have the changes at least forty-five (45) days.
    - ii. The process for amending the Rules and Regulations within that document conflicts with this section as it was written in the Rules and Regulations itself.
    - iii. The proposal will be forwarded to the By-Laws Committee.
    - iv. See Motion 2023-051 for details.
  - z. Bylaw 2:03 Associate Membership discussion:
    - i. An issue was brought put by the Membership over the Associate 10% rule and the Active Membership falling below that rule. It has been a past practice of leniency and a proposal was drafted to have a written resolve.
    - ii. The proposal will be forwarded to the By-Laws Committee.
    - iii. See Motion 2023-052 for details.
  - aa. Discussion over Registration fees for Hosting a Convention:
    - i. With the cost of everything on the rise it was found that there was a need to review.
    - ii. Convention Manual was reviewed and unanimously approved to increase the fee from \$75 to \$100.
    - iii. The revised Convention Manual will be sent to Communications for posting on our website.
  - bb. RKI flags were inventoried and found to have been missing flags:
    - i. Two flags will be purchased, and a potential new Country flag was approved as well.
    - ii. See Motion 2023-053 for details.
  - cc. 2024 Budget draft review:
    - i. See Motion 2023-054 for details.
  - dd. 2024 Board Meetings discussion:
    - i. Spring Board Meeting:
      - 1. April 10<sup>th</sup> Travel, 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> Meetings, and 14<sup>th</sup> Travel in Baltimore, MD.
      - 2. Chuck will look into a suitable location further south and will report back at the Spring Board Meeting.
      - 3. The dates set will be carried forward for future dates.
    - ii. Fall Board Meeting:
      - 1. November 13<sup>th</sup> Travel, 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> Meetings, and 17<sup>th</sup> Travel tentatively Baltimore, MD.
11. Good of the order:
- a. Please remember to get Reports sent into the Secretary.
  - b. Round table conducted.





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### 12. Adjournment:

- a. All in favor on 11/18/2023 at 5:23 P.M.