



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



Spring 2023 RKIFMC NON-Executive Board Meeting Minutes
May 15th to the 18th at Pell City AL.

2. Call to order at 8:10 am central 5/16/2023
3. Moment of Silence for those who have passed called by President Joey Powell.
4. Opening greeting by President Joey Powell
5. Roll Call completed by Secretary Michael Woods.

President Joey Powell: Present
Secretary Michael Woods: Present
Rgn. 1 Dir. Ken May: Present
Rgn. 3 Dir. Trey Anderson: Excused
Rgn. 5 Dir. Lance Coit: Present
Rgn. 7 Dir. Tom Van Der Kley: Present

Vice President Spike Ostiguy: Present
Treasurer Scott Ryan: Present
Rgn. 2 Dir. Leo Patry: Present
Rgn. 4 Dir. Chuck Marks: Present
Rgn. 6 Dir. Allen Aurich: Present
Rgn. 8 Dir. Ken Mahon: Present

6. Rules of the meeting explained by President Joey Powell.
 - a. Remain courteous, raise hands, keep sidebars down, and only speak 2x on a topic.
7. Adjustments or additions to Agenda
 - a. 5 items added to the end of the agenda.
8. Reports:
 - a. Officer's activity reports
 - i. President
 1. Has been overwhelmed with personnel family issues and apologizes for not being as prompt as he would like to be.
 2. Looking forward to new changes and growth.
 3. Has seen an increase in communications from the organization and reminded all of us to engage with each other.
 4. Thanked everyone for all their hard work and for the jobs they do.
 - ii. Vice President
 1. This year has become hectic with issues and has been working hard to move through them.
 2. M.A.L. program has no major issues.
 3. We now have five New M.A.L.s in Portugal. They are working to get enough new members to start our first chapter by the end of the year.
 4. There are 53 M.A.L. members 2 years in the rear on dues.
 - a. Asked that all Regionals help reach out to those members to help retain them.
 5. We have roughly 230 Members in the M.A.L. program.
 - iii. Secretary
 1. Heaven One has had 28 new members added since 10/27/2022.
 2. TMLAs 10/27 to 5/5
 - a. 174 total requested with 172 issued.
 3. Insurance
 - a. Still having issues with communication with K&K and trying to work through these issues.
 - b. As of 5/5 we have 24 insurance requests, 13 issued, and 11 pending.



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4. New Chapter requests
 - a. 13 interest letters were sent out with 12 applications being issued.
 5. Equipment or items issued has only been 1 this year.
 6. Still working on the TMLA education blitz. This is being slowed down by the number of TMLAs and the creation of a new database system.
 - a. Happy to report that Region 1 is now completely digital, with the rest of the Regions to hopefully be done by Fall.
- iv. Treasurer
1. 2022 ended with \$167,000 in dues coming in, and \$145,000 in expenses. We ended the year with a surplus increase of \$31,000. In 2022 the mortgage was reduced by \$34,000.
 2. Since the last meeting 3 new chapters were added in 2022 and 7 in 2023.
 3. To date, 408 chapters have been renewed for 2023 and 42 remain unpaid and on restricted services.
- v. Region 1
1. Thanked everyone for the warm welcome to the Board and all the help from Spike and Woody to get started in this new position.
 2. Region 1 has had 5 members pass since coming onto the Board and was able to attend 4 of those.
 3. Region 1 has 97 Chapters.
 4. Had a regional meeting with the State Reps and Presidents, where a lot was learned.
 5. Region 1 has had many charity events so far this year.
 6. Looking forward to the 2023 Yankee Rally in New York. As it stands the 2024 Yankee Rally will be in New Hampshire and 2025 in Maine.
 7. Region one Director has traveled 4,631 miles and has many more to go.
- vi. Region 2
1. Was happy to see the reopening of the world since covid.
 2. Have been working about 7 to 7 ½ hours a week on Red Knights business.
 3. Helped arrange 5 Heaven one protocols and added that this program is probably the best thing that the Red Knights have ever come up with!
 4. The Ontario and Atlantic Associations have become more active since Covid and are working hard on recruitment.
 5. The Ontario Association set up a booth at the Toronto Bike Super Show which bring in about 100,000 people in 2 and a half days. They had 9 Chapters present.
 6. The Ontario Association is doing 7 different outings to help motivate members to get out this year.
 7. The Boylston house has had 21 bookings so far this year which is in line with last year's total of 47. It is highly encouraged for members to go there and utilize the House and meet some of our Founding Fathers.
- vii. Region 3
1. Excused due to unforeseen work circumstances.



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viii. Region 4

1. Excited about the convention and learning what the Brotherhood means there.
2. Made several different events and is trying to hit events in all the states within the region.
3. Working on getting a new Georgia State rep due to the loss of Vince.
4. 5 funerals in Region 4 and had 4 Heaven One protocols done with one being done Saturday at the Dixie Rally.
5. Several new Chapters have been formed.

ix. Region 5

1. Continued monthly Zoom meetings with random participation but seem to be going well.
2. Looking at adding a couple of new chapters.
3. Western Rally is in 3 weeks.

x. Region 6

1. Texas Association raised \$3000 at their State Association Meeting. The proceeds went to the Shriners Hospitals.
2. Oklahoma Association raised \$4000 at their State Association Meeting. The proceeds went to their "Hydrants for Hope" cancer charity.
3. Has been working on recruitment within Region 6.

xi. Region 7

1. Has 74 Chapters
2. The European Association has been working on recruitment with all the counties.
3. The European Association will be bringing several Bylaw proposals soon.

xii. Region 8

1. Working hard on getting Chapters to pay their dues.
2. There have been several charity events and the New Zealand Gathering had approximately 190 members present from 2 countries.
3. The region has been using Messenger for its communications with great results.

b. Committees (reports)

i. By-Laws

1. Will review the committee manual with Bylaw review at the end of the meetings.
2. A question was posed if a member of the Board was also a Chapter representative could he speak during the Bylaw review at ABM.
 - a. The answer is yes, but they must remove themselves from the Board seating area and move to the floor to ask their Chapter requested questions.

ii. Nomination

1. One contested race this year so far in Region 3.

iii. Grand Tour:

1. Proposal from Emmitt and presented by Secretary.
 - a. Now on hold.
2. Motion 2023-004 to appoint Rolf Muehlemann Switzerland 1 as Chair.



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iv. Help-A-Knight

1. A Zoom meeting presentation was held with the HAK Chair and members of the committee.
2. The committee proposed a new mobile app for the use of the members.
3. This proposed app is powered by Google. And is very mobile and user-friendly.
4. The mobile app will help with the exact location in relation to the location of other members. Currently, we use a printed database on paper.
5. The app will also show Red Knight events if they are reported by members.
6. The app can do more items than just the HAK stuff.
7. The cost is going to be a large concern. The committee was granted the right to contact Google for further information on pricing and nonprofit pricing.
8. The committee will look at other applications as well.
9. The Board requested this to be done in a written proposal with pricing from Google with the possible application for nonprofit pricing.

v. IT Committee

1. Motion 2023-004 to appoint Don Brandt PA 11 as Chair.

c. Convention Reports:

- i. 2023 Austria: PowerPoint presented by Tom Van Der Kley
- ii. 2024 Germany: PowerPoint presented by Tom Van Der Kley
- iii. 2025 Illinois: Region 3 excused
- iv. 2026 Australia Present by Ken Mahon

9. Old Business carried forward:

a. Communication issues:

- i. A discussion was had over communication.
 1. The Slack app has been being used and it works well.
 2. With the increased warrant for communications, we should conduct monthly Zoom Meetings to keep the flow of information going and the Board better engaged. These meetings are not mandatory but highly recommended. This meeting will be open with no agenda being presented.
 - a. Second Tuesday of the month.

b. Region 7 Bi-fold.

- i. Working on updating the Club's Tri-fold flyer to a digital format. Will be working with 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. Postcards are used with this QR code for recruitment in Europe now.

c. ABM broadcast:

- i. We should look at a way to record and broadcast the annual meetings, so all members can have the opportunity to at least see what is happening without waiting for the minutes to be circulated, and to see the entire conversation.
- ii. A GoPro Hero 11 Kit was purchased to move in this direction. With the possibility of needing Microphones and other small items to capture sound better.
- iii. Tom Van Der Kley will take the GoPro back to Region 7 and testing will be conducted.



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- iv. The goal is to be able to broadcast live at this year's ABM. And possibly look into live feedback in the future.
 - v. Will ask for help from the IT committee.
- d. Committee discussion over:
- i. Standardize the process for (all) committee appointments.
 - ii. Standardize the annual letter (e-mail) that is sent to Committee Chairs and members.
 - 1. A standardized letter will be formulated later.
 - iii. Move the committee terms to a two-year appointment.
 - iv. Reorganize the committees into one chapter of the SOGs instead of two.
 - 1. Moved Section 19 to Section 1 with general Section 1 cleanup.
 - v. Motion 2023-006 – SOG Section 1, passed 11-0
- e. Membership status in relation to MC endorsements or licenses Bylaw 2:01:
- i. After a quick external investigation, it was found the endorsement type was based on the State that it is issued by or gives the ability to ride a 2-wheeled or 3-wheeled motorcycle.
 - ii. Motion 2023-007 – Bylaw 2:01 proposal, passed 11-0
 - 1. To be sent to the Bylaws Committee
- f. Heaven one protocol.
- i. The discussion was made about the club flag for funerals.
 - ii. Will investigate a cloth flag and the pricing and will bring it back for review.
- g. 8:01 Elections of State/Provincial/Country Representatives:
- i. Discussion over State/Provincial/Country Representatives being held to the same standards as the Board.
 - ii. Motion 2023-008 – SOG 8:01 amendment, passed 7-4
- h. 15:02 SOG Registering to Vote at Annual Business Meeting:
- i. Tabled until Fall Board Meeting due to several Bylaw proposals that might change this.
- i. International Board issuing of Life membership:
- i. Discussion on when we issue Life Membership to Board members leaving the Board. We verify all other awards and feel this should as well be verified.
 - ii. It shall be at the will of the International Board when this award is issued.
 - iii. This could be placed into the Board manual for future reference.
 - iv. Motion 2023-016 – amendment to Motion 2022-026, passed 11-0
 - 1. To be sent to the Bylaws Committee



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10. New Business

- a. 1:05 Bylaws proposal:
 - i. 4 different proposals were sent out to the membership for review last fall.
 - ii. These will be sent to the Bylaws committee.
- b. 17:01 SOG correction and Amendment:
 - i. This is a housekeeping item and will make corrections in the next revision.
- c. 3:17 Bylaws corrections:
 - i. General layout changes and New Chapter startup kit information.
 - ii. Motion 2023-017 – Bylaw proposal 3:17, passed 11-0
 1. To be sent to the Bylaws Committee
- d. Manuals discussion:
 - i. Committee
 1. Discussion on making all Committee Chairs follow the International Boards members in creating a manual for their position. Will help create a smooth transition when a chair is replaced.
 2. Motion 2023-009 – Committee Chair manual, Passed 11-0
 - ii. Regional Directors and Executive Officers
 1. Need to update their regional manuals to include any specific responsibilities unique to their regions. The last updates on file are in 2016.
 2. Everyone to work on theirs and bring it back to the Summer Board meeting.
 - iii. Board operations
 1. Will be sent out to Board members for their review.
 2. If an item needs to be added please forward it to the Secretary.
 3. This will be a living document based upon items not inclusive to all other Bylaws.
 - iv. New Board welcome manual
 1. Will be updated and issued to new members.
- e. Website Discussion:
 - i. We have been having issues with the current service provider, Communications Chair and the IT committee should investigate this issue.
 - ii. Dealing with 1%ers
 1. Have Communications remove this from the website.
 - iii. Concern for personal safety with board members personal info being out in the open.
 1. It is up to the Board member whether they want their personnel info on the Board members listing on the website.
 - iv. Scrolling ribbon on the website with current news and information on it.
 - v. It was requested to change the main page picture.
 - vi. The website is now set up for the visually impaired. Normal use is not affected by this.
- f. Bylaw addition discussion on SOG 12:01:
 - i. Moving SOG 12:01 to the Bylaws will be investigated.
 - ii. This item will be investigated, and returned to the Board with a proposal.
- g. Club Historian Discussion:
 - i. The Board believes this is a good idea and should be investigated.



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- ii. Put a letter out to the membership to see if anyone would be interested in a potential Club historian.
 - iii. Charley Clarkson's History of the Red Knights is a good building point.
 - iv. Could regional recorders fulfill this role?
 - v. Will investigate and return with info.
- h. ABM Break out session in Europe:
- i. Discussion over history lesson of the Memorial Hall and Memorial.
 - ii. Will look at doing Fall Board Meeting at Boylston so we could possibly do a video on what the Memorial and Memorial Hall is and represents.
- i. Discussion on the Q&A process at the 2023 Convention:
- i. Voting process in Europe will be very difficult because of the complexity of Roberts's Rule of Order and translation.
 - ii. A QRG/Guide will be created to help educate members on how this will work.
 - iii. We must use a common language to ensure the translation is understood.
- j. Distribution of International Correspondence to Chapters & MALs:
- i. When sending out the Regional/State/Chapter rosters please remove all unnecessary entries.
 - ii. It is the responsibility of the Regional Director to ensure that Chapters receive all information.
- k. Discussion over Chapter request to move charter location.
- i. Australia Chapter 20 Charter address from Somerville Victoria to Dromana Victoria
 - 1. Motion 2023-010 - Move AUS 20 Charter, passed 9-2
 - ii. Texas Chapter 3 Charter address from Huston Texas to Katy Texas
 - 1. Motion 2023-011 - Move TX 3 Charter, passed 9-2
 - iii. Massachusetts Chapter 9 Charter from Merrimac to Boxford.
 - 1. Motion 2023-012 – Move MA 9 Charter, passed 11-0
- l. Country representative and state officer's question:
- i. Request for "Country Rep" patch.
 - ii. Request for "State Rep" patch
 - iii. Request for "European Assoc. Officer"
 - iv. This will be tabled until after Bylaw proposals over 1:05.
- m. Discussion on Suspension of Multi-Chapter members Bylaw 3:25:
- i. Suspension or removal of multi-chapter members; are secondary members liable for that chapter's wrongdoing? If a member is removed, are they removed from the Red Knights completely?
 - ii. When an IC committee is formed, they must be informed to look at the members that are at fault not the entire membership of the chapter.
 - iii. Motion 2023-013 – Bylaw proposal 3:25, passed 11-0
 - 1. To be sent to the Bylaws Committee



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- n. Discussion on changing SOG 1:06:
 - i. Maintaining a bridge between the Nominations committee and the Board was stated in this SOG but has not been followed. The International Treasurer has always been a point of contact for vetting processes.
 - ii. It was noted that all Committee Chairs should have Red Knights laptops to help preserve information. Personal computers and server-saved information has the potential to have our data/history lost.
 - 1. This will be sent to the IT committee for review and advised direction.
 - iii. Motion 2023-014 – SOG 1:06 correction, passed 11-0
- o. Bylaw 2:02 Proposal:
 - i. Discussion over when a member can be granted Charter Status. If a member joins as a social but becomes an active member later after the first year, can this member be granted Charter Status if they joined within the first year?
 - ii. Motion 2023-018 – Bylaw 2:02 proposal, passed 9-2
 - 1. To be sent to the Bylaws Committee
- p. Discussion on exploring universal banks solutions:
 - i. Tabled until summer meeting and an investigation can be made into viable solutions can be found.
- q. Discussion FD Associate qualifications Bylaw 2:03:
 - i. Discussion on adding the requirements to have a motorcycle License.
 - ii. Motion 2023-015 – Bylaw 2:03 proposal, passed 9-1-1
 - 1. To be sent to the Bylaws Committee
- r. Discussion on Items being placed in Memorial Hall.
 - i. Requested to add New Hampshire Governor Proclamation on the wall at Memorial Hall.
 - ii. It was discussed that no artifacts should be placed on the walls of the Memorial House.
 - iii. It has been discussed several times in the past and the consensus is still no.
 - iv. It has been discussed having a digital scrolling picture frame or screen to display all the different proclamations, letters, past presidents, and anything deemed relevant to the Club's historical past.
 - 1. This will be moved to the IT Committee.
- s. Discussion on the standardized application for the protection of our members.
 - i. There has been a growing concern over violent offenders, sexual offenders, and felons within our ranks or applying for membership. For the protection of our members and our families, a standardized application needs to be looked at to better give our Chapter the ability to protect themselves from these potential threats.
 - ii. Standardized application was formed.
 - 1. This will be made into a fillable PDF and placed on the website and sent to chapters via Regional Directors.
 - iii. Standardized application for MAL will be drafted later with the Vice President.



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11. Open floor (If time allows)

a. Items as follows:

i. Florida 1 Chapter discussion.

1. New members requesting to revive this chapter.
2. Spike attempted to make contact with current members and get their blessing to restart the chapter.
3. Chapter will maintain the Life members on the chapter roster.
4. Tabled until all attempts to contact current members has been completed.

ii. Bylaws Proposal review.

1. Notes will be sent to Bylaws committee from this review.

12. Good of the order:

- a. Several members are very appreciative of the fact that the entire board chose to have the Spring Board Meeting at the Dixie Rally. The interaction with members has been recognized.
- b. President Joey Powell conducted a "Round Table" exercise.

13. Adjournment at 11:05 am CT 5/18/2023

