



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



Spring 2024 RKIFMC NON-Executive Board Meeting Minutes April 11th to 13th in Baltimore MD

1. Meeting Schedule and general information:
 - a. RKR and RKM meetings will start Wednesday at 7 p.m.
 - b. Meetings will start at 8:00 a.m. and end when complete.
 - c. Shirt colors for each day: Thursday Gray, Friday red, and Saturday Black.
 - d. Special Guest:
 - i. Presentation of an app 12th at 9:10 am.
 - ii. RKM 10th at 7:00 pm.
 - iii. Nomination Chair 11th 7:00 pm.
2. Call to order at 8:00 a.m.
3. Opening greeting by President Spike.
4. Moment of Silence for those who have passed called:

706 Stephen Gelsthorpe	England 2	2023(11/21/23)
707 Joe Piszczatowski	NY 20	2023(11/19/23)
708 Diane Godin	CT 7	2023(11/11/23)
709 Anthony Remkus	NY 25	2023(11/29/23)
710 David Diveley Sr	IL 14	2023(12/1/23)
711 Calvin Baggett	OK 3	2023(12/5/23)
712 Guy Randy Sposato	CT 11	2023(12/15/23)
713 Tricia Sutton	TX 9	2023(12/21/23)
714 Alex Znack	NY 16	2023(7/30/23)
715 Edward Brouillet	MA 2	2023(12/31/23)
716 Latka Jolanta	Poland 1	2024(1/9/24)
717 Joe Day	IN 2	2024(1/13/24)
718 Hal Billiard	MA 2	2024(1/21/24)
719 Roland D. Belew	LA 1	2024(2/4/24)
720 George Michels	IN 11	2024(2/6/24)
721 Raymond Corley Slaton	AL 10	2023(9/28/23)
722 David Thomas Vogelsong	PA 41	2024(2/19/24)
723 Tina M. Larson	NJ 13	2024(3/6/24)
724 LeRoy Magnuson	ND 1	2024(3/12/24)
725 Paul Anthon	NY 21	2020(12/6/20)
726 Dave Frye	AB 12	2024(3/23/24)
727 Phillis Barrett Rader	GA 1	2024(1/14/24)
728 Carol M. Studdert	IL 2	2024(4/8/24)



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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
Guest:

Vice President Norm Beausoleil: Present
Treasurer Scott Ryan: Present
Region. 2 Dir. Randy Smith: Present
Region. 4 Dir. Chuck Marks: Present
Region. 6 Dir. Allen Aurich: Present
Region. 8 Dir. Ken Mahon: Present
Guest:

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 Agenda:

- a. RKI:
 - i. 8.b.iv will be held Saturday at 8:00 am.
 - ii. 9.i hold until Saturday morning with the By-law Chair.
 - iii. Request to move 9.m, 9.n, 10.q, 10.t, 10.u, 10.w, 10.y, and 10.z to Executive Session.
- b. RKI Exec.:
 - i. 9.m International Committee appointments
 - ii. 9.n Awards

8. Reports:

- a. Officer's activity reports:
 - i. President:
 1. Working on standardizing the reporting form so we all are on the same consistency.
 2. No one Chapter can just dissolve, we need to reach out to all chapter members if a chapter indicates they want to dissolve. There have been several times this has happened, and we have called the Members to find they had no idea about it and the Chapter was saved.
 3. There has been an overwhelming number of emails and phone calls daily. Will work on a new recording report to help identify these items.
 - ii. Vice President:
 1. 204 MALs in good standings, 55 MALs one year in the rear of dues, 38 MALs two years in the rear of dues, and 9 pending.
 2. Since taking office we have had 71 MAL requests, Denied 11, 25 pending, and 35 approved. One of those 35 bring in a new Country of Scotland. 15 MALs moved to Chapters one of which created a new Chapter in New Brunswick and one new Chapter in Florida.
 3. Reached out to 2022 in rears of dues and brought back 5 and will reach out to the others after returning from Ireland.
 4. Getting caught up with the new position with Spike's help.



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iii. Secretary:

1. Heaven One
 - a. Since 2023 ABM has had 35 new Chapter Members added with 11 being in 2024.
 - b. Heaven one Memorial PowerPoint is being updated as we go and we are missing a few pictures for this.
2. TMLA
 - a. We have had 67 requests with 1 denied, 7 pending, and 65 issued so far this year.
3. The 2024 TMLA Audit is moving along with over 1600 emails being sent so far.
 - a. Region 1 is 44% complete, Region 2 is 51% complete, Region 3 is 50% complete, Region 4 is 77% complete, Region 5 is 50% complete, Region 6 is 29% complete, Region 7 is 52% complete, and Region 8 is 48% complete.
 - b. The second wave of emails will start being sent in May.
4. New Chapter requests
 - a. 12 requests, 7 pending, and issued 0 applications.
5. Insurance (Event)
 - a. 11 requests made and 5 issued. The education work is paying off and these items are becoming easier.
6. Insurance (AD&D)
 - a. Issued 4 payouts over \$16,000 total since the start of the program with one being in 2024.
7. The Adobe Pro account has been switched over from the Secretaries privet account to the International account.
8. Flags for the new Countries will be purchased after Spring Board Meetings

iv. Treasurer:

1. Review of the 2023 Financial report to be presented at this year's ABM.

v. Region 1:

1. Region 1 has 8 States, 97 Chapters, 2573 Chapter Members, and 26 MAL Members, with 2599 total Members in the Region.
2. 10 Members transferred to Heaven One Chapter.
3. AD&D has paid out for two Members within the Region.
4. Region 1 May Day Fund has sold 900 to date and the fund has helped 24 Region 1 members. The fund has \$3700 in the coffers.
5. Attended:
 - a. Several Chapter Meetings in New Jersey and New York.
 - i. Help NY 25 swear in their newly elected Officers and present a check for \$10,000 to the Long Island Burn Foundation.
 - b. March had a State Rep's meeting.
 - c. 2024 Yankee Rally Committee Meeting
6. Bookings for Memorial House are going well with 25 Bookings so far.
7. The day-to-day workload has become more efficient and is down to 1 ½ hours per day from 3 hours per day in the past.



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vi. Region 2:

1. Region 2 has 6 Provinces 39 chapters 800 plus Members that are growing and contracting each week.
2. Working with Members and non-members to start several new Chapters.
3. Getting involved in the Canadian Firefighter Memorial with several Chapter's. We have been asked to attend the CFM presentation in Ottawa. The Prime Minister and other Ministers are present at these events.
4. Helping Chapter with their Chapter rewrite of By-laws to be better in line with the International.
5. Helping with the Associations and their movement forward.

vii. Region 3:

1. Region 3 has 9 States, 65 Chapters, 1318 Members, and 19 MALs.
2. 4 Members Transferring to Heaven One Chapter.
3. Working on restoring the West Virginia State Association and keeping several other Chapters going.
4. Attended Wisconsin and Illinois State Meetings and all is going well.
5. Ohio State had their elections and Josh Sorrell was elected the new State Rep.
6. Missouri has a possible new chapter starting.

viii. Region 4:

1. Region 4 has 89 Chapters with 77 in good standing. Attempting to fix this.
2. Mississippi has a new State Rep. Shawn Mendez
3. North Carolina has a new State Rep. Chris Beam
4. New Chapter in South Carolina and possibly forming the South Carolina State Association.
5. The 2024 Dixie Rally is on track and will be a good busy weekend.
6. Knights of the Round Table (KORT) will be at Fontana Dam in North Carolina.

ix. Region 5:

1. Region 5 has 32 Chapters and 43 MALs with one Member transferring to Heaven One Chapter.
2. Conducts a Monthly Zoom meeting with around 11 Chapter's getting involved.
3. The Western Rally is in June this year, sounds like it will be a good turnout.
4. Working on getting State Reps in place with the last of the elections being done shortly.
5. Looking forward to Summer and getting back on the road.

x. Region 6:

1. Region 6 has 12 Oklahoma Chapters, 12 Texas Chapters, 1 Arizona Chapter, and 1 California Chapter.
2. Region 6 has been running smoothly.
3. Working on keeping Chapters and reviving other Chapters.
4. The first annual Scooter Stampede is in Oklahoma and already has 120 registrations. Hydrants of Hope is their Charity and looking forward to a good time.



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xi. Region 7:

1. Region 7 has 18 Countries, 80 Chapters, 1505 Members, and 74 MALs.
2. With the 18 countries come several different languages and this creates communication issues.
3. Just added two new Countries Romania and Czech Republic.
4. Working on a promotional Tour to help spread the Red Knights into other Countries within the Region.
5. The International Convention in Germany is coming along.
6. The EU Association is getting better and better with a new EU Association President. The EU President has been working hard and making good progress forward.
7. No major issues going on and everything seems to running smoothly.

xii. Region 8:

1. Australia has 334 Chapter Members, 17 MAL, and 21 Chapters.
 - a. Having minor communication issues with Chapters.
 - b. Good Charity work going on.
 - c. No major issues going on.
2. New Zealand has 243 Chapter Members, 10 Chapters, and no MALs.
 - a. The National Gathering happened in March with the number being down. But a lot of good items came from it.
 - b. Working on promotion of the Club.
 - c. Looking to make the Red Knights a recognized charity to help with fundraising and other charity work.
3. No real problems within the Region.

b. Committees:

i. Chaplain:

1. Region 2 Director Randy Smith has been the Interim International Chaplain since the passing of the Past Chaplain, David Diveley, Sr.
2. Very glad we do this position and remember our past members.
3. Thanked the Regional Directors for all their help keeping this position going.
4. A card has been created and sent to past Member's families.
5. Will be assisting the new Chaplain when they are appointed.

ii. By-Laws:

1. 3 By-Law proposals were sent to the Board for review with one that was an International Board proposal. The Board reviewed what was presented by the By-laws Committee Chair.

iii. Nomination:

1. Report given by Committee Chair, Tom Caisse via Zoom Meeting on Thursday the 11th at 7:00 pm.
 - a. Review of last election results. These results will be placed on the International website.
 - b. Review of Committee Manual draft.
 - i. Will return at a later date with edits.
 - c. Review of proposed changes to the Nomination application.



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- ii. It was concluded that this is just not a simple housekeeping item. These will be reviewed individually and brought back to the Board and By-laws Committee Chair for review.
 - j. SOG authority:
 - i. Discussion again was made that the SOGs are enforceable, and authority comes from the By-Laws and Roberts Rule of Order.
 - ii. SOGs are a “standard” and will be followed.
 - iii. A By-Law proposal will be investigated.
 - k. SOG Section 18 International 50/50 drawing:
 - i. Discussion was carried out by FBM on doing the 2024 Convention 50/50. Region 7 Director asked the hosting Chapter to ensure they were ok with this.
 - ii. It was concluded that the hosting Chapter was ok with it and a standard role of tickets will be used. With the tickets being donated.
 - l. Bylaw 3:24 By-Laws Committee and Rules and Regulations discussion:
 - i. Discussion was made over these two items and it was determined that a prior By-Law proposal was already made.
 - ii. This was inadvertently carried forward from FBM.
 - iii. Further investigation will be reviewed at 2024 FBM once By-Law proposals are complete.
 - m. Chaplain and Newsletter Editor appointment:
 - i. Moved to Executive Session.
 - ii. See Motion 2024-022.
 - n. Awards:
 - i. Move to Executive Session.
10. New Business:
- a. SOG 2:04 Investigation Committee discussion:
 - i. Discussion was made over expanding out from “surrounding States/Provinces/Country Reps”.
 - ii. It was concluded that the restriction and definition of “surrounding” have restricted the appointments and the definition was subjective. It was the past practice to not utilize the Rep from where the accused State/Province/Country Rep. is from.
 - iii. See Motion 2024-007.
 - b. SOG 1:08 discussion:
 - i. A conflict in referencing another SOG was found.
 - ii. Simply change to verbiage to indicate to follow the outline as indicated in the SOGs.
 - iii. See Motion 2024-008.
 - c. Discussion over Heaven One Protocol:
 - i. Founders and Past Board Members:
 - 1. Discussion was made over Board Members attending Funerals and the reimbursement policies.



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2. It was concluded that any Member of the Board wishing to attend may at their own accord, if there is a hardship and would like to request reimbursement they must follow SOG 16:02 and receive the Board's approval.
 - ii. Flag and coin distribution:
 1. Discussion was made over who and how many flags and coins should be held within the Regions.
 2. It was concluded that the Regional Director will maintain 6 sets. It was reminded that this program is a Board program giving back to the Membership. The Board should make all attempts to conduct these services. When necessary the Regional Director will distribute the Flag and Coin to State Reps when needed.
 - iii. Further discussion was made that the International Chaplain is the coordinator for this program and the Chaplain is who we look to ensure that this program doesn't fail. It was also discussed that the closest Executive Board Member will attend these funerals. It isn't based on the region. This is indicated in the Chaplain's manual.
- d. Discussion over By-Law 2:09 Special Compassionate Honorary Membership:
- i. Discussion was made over clarification as to who qualifies for this honor. It was also discussed how to handle SCHM when a chapter is no longer viable.
 - ii. It was concluded that a By-law proposal will be made to indicate SCHM only relates to an Active or Associate Member and make provisions for those members if their Chapter is no longer viable.
 - iii. See Motion 2024-019.
- e. By-law 2:11 proposal:
- i. Discussion was made over ABM's rising cost.
 - ii. It was concluded that inflation has risen to a point where the \$75.00 has become a burden on hosting chapter(s), increasing registration to \$100.00 will help combat this current inflation.
 - iii. See Motion 2024-009.
- f. Discussion over Convention Manual:
- i. Discussion was made over allowing activities to be scheduled during ABM. Not all members are going to attend the ABM portion of the Convention.
 - ii. It was concluded that activities may now be allowed however, all registered Presidents and/or Representatives are expected to attend the ABM.
 - iii. See Motion 2024-010.
- g. EU RK e-mails / URLs:
- i. Moved to Executive Session.
- h. App proposal:
- i. Rasmus Lillemose, Peter Abbring, and Tom Van Der Kley presenting a new App via Zoom called "ASSIGN".
 - ii. This system can be used at all levels of Membership.
 - iii. This app can be used for questionnaires, Membership updates, distribution of information, emails, and many other items.
 - iv. There are different levels of access, general membership would have less up to the International Board having more items and functions.



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- v. Further discussion will be made at a later date.
- i. SOG 12:06 proposed amendment:
 - i. Discussion over adding TMLA applications to be labeled out in restricted service as well.
 - ii. See Motion 2024-011.
- j. SOG 16:02 proposed amendment:
 - i. Discussion over reimbursements of travel costs with other than Board members for Heaven One Protocol.
 - ii. It was concluded that if the Chaplain and Regional Director have indicated a NonBoard Member is to attend a service representing the Board for Heaven One Protocol they may be reimbursed for their travel expenses if they so choose to request it. This will be revisited with possible changes to the Chaplain Manual to be more specific and a Possible SOG proposal made.
- k. By-law 4:04 proposed amendment:
 - i. This item was revised from prior Motion 2023-035 and 2024-004 during the By-law review. These two Motions have been rescinded.
 - ii. Discussion was made to combine these proposals.
 - iii. See Motion 2024-012 and 2024-013.
- l. SOG 12:02 discussion over Associations:
 - i. Moved to Executive Session.
- m. SOG 13:01 discussion:
 - i. Discussion was made over Active versus active and a clarification. The By-laws indicate what an Active member is and do not define Active as in activities.
 - ii. It was concluded that the non-capitalization was a simple mistake and the intent was the use of Active is about the Active Membership classification. It was found that there are several places where this has been recognized.
 - iii. See Motion 2024-014.
- n. By-law 2:06 proposal:
 - i. Discussion was made on clarifying Member-At-Large dues when transferring to a Chapter.
 - ii. It was concluded that a MAL transferring to a Chapter will not be refunded their dues for that year but the Chapter will not owe any dues for that member in the year of the transfer either.
 - iii. See Motion 2024-015.
- o. SOG 15:02 proposal:
 - i. Discussion was made over a Chapter delegate voting at ABM having the ability to change the Chapter's prescribed vote based on the explanation of the intent of the By-law proposal without fear of retribution.
 - ii. It was concluded that many Chapter votes in the past have been changed on the floor because of a Chapter misunderstanding of the intent of a proposal given on the assembly floor at the time of the proposal. Robert's Rule of Order also states this and this just helps to clarify and protect Chapter Delegates.



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- iii. See Motion 2024-016.

- p. Convention Manual Discussion (Sergeant-At-Arms):
 - i. Discussion was made over the confusion seen at the 2023 ABM with voting delegates leaving and reentering the meeting.
 - ii. It was concluded that an SAA informational sheet will be created and affixed to the back of a clipboard to assist with understanding. Also, a check-in and check-out sheet will be created to ensure the number of voting delegates on the assembly floor at the time of each vote. Only one point will be allowed for delegates to leave and or re-enter the assembly floor during the meeting.

- q. By-law 3:03 discussion:
 - i. Moved to Executive Session.

- r. By-Law 4:02 State/Province/Region Association Officers proposal:
 - i. Discussion was made over the past practice of Associate or Social Members holding the position of Secretary, Treasurer, and Road Captain within a State/Province/Reginal/Country Association if no Active Member is available to hold these titles.
 - ii. It was concluded that this will bring the Association By-law in line with the Chapter By-law about the Association Secretary, Treasurer, and Road Captain positions.
 - iii. See Motion 2024-017.

- s. Roster Excel Tutorial:
 - i. Tutorial on filters and updates on main rosters given by the International Treasurer.

- t. Discussion over Rallies:
 - i. Moved to Executive Session.

- u. Chapter Life request:
 - i. Moved to Executive Session.

- v. SOG 6:03 proposal:
 - i. Discussion was made over removing the responsibility of being the contact person with our Intellectual Property Law firm with regards to Trademark/Service marks.
 - ii. It was concluded that past practice has been the Secretary is the contact person for all I.P items and the stated Law Firm was not the current Law Firm being used.
 - iii. See Motion 2024 2024-018.

- w. By-law 1:08 discussion:
 - i. Moved to Executive Session.

- x. ID Card discussion:
 - i. Discussion was made over the use of the old handwritten ID cards. These cards are no longer being produced. An idea for a move forward to the digital age is to move to a fillable ID card that can be printed by the Chapters. The MAL ID cards would still be produced when requested by the MAL.



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- ii. It was concluded that it is worth looking into and will be revisited at the Summer Board Meeting with a working model.
 - y. MAL applicant issue:
 - i. Moved to Executive Session.
 - z. By-law 6:01 discussion:
 - i. Moved to Executive Session.
 - aa. International Executive Voting Report discussion:
 - i. Discussion was made over a request by Region 1 State Representatives/Presidents to be informed of what Chapters did or didn't cast a vote.
 - ii. It was concluded that this information is not reported, only percentages of votes cast were made available by Vote Net. It also indicates in By-Law Section 2:19 that votes will be "electronic secret ballot".
 - bb. Grand Tour timeframe:
 - i. Discussion was made over the shortened riding seasons for northern areas.
 - ii. It was concluded that the Grand Tour Chair would be asked to look into this and investigate a possible plan.
 - cc. Region 8 discussion over Director position:
 - i. Discussion was made over doing a rotational plan between Australia and New Zealand with who would be the Regional Director.
 - ii. It was concluded that this would not be good for a By-Law because the region would be bound to this and could create issues with other regions. All members should be allowed to run for an International position if they so choose to do so and this would remove a member's rights to run for a higher office.
 - dd. Region 8 discussion on back patches:
 - i. Discussion was made over back patch requests from Queensland Australia Chapters with a proposal being given to the Board. It was also discussed another Country wearing a back patch with the "Motorcycle Club" removed or a couple of different options given. It was further discussed that this is a Governmental issue and an OMG issue but both are a concern.
 - ii. It was concluded that our back patch should not be altered.
 - ee. Switzerland Request for funds:
 - i. Discussion was made over a request for additional funds for an exhibit in 2025 by the Region 7 Director.
 - ii. It was concluded that the provisions as outlined in SOG 10:01 don't allow to go over the established \$200 US dollar.
11. Open floor and additional items added: (If time allows)
- a. Items as follows:



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- i. RKIFMC outdated projector discussion:
 1. Discussion was made over the outdated projector that is very rarely used.
 2. It was concluded that we should only replace at the time of need.
 - ii. RKM Tree Issues:
 1. Discussion was made over the removal of potential problematic trees at the Memorial House. In the past, the RKI has paid for removal as a preventative measure. These particular trees are not diseased but have the potential to cause damage to the House.
 2. It was concluded that with the trees not being diseased and having insurance on the property, we will leave them alone for now.
 - iii. SOG 6:04 Discussion:
 1. Discussion was made over Quartermasters of the Chapter may be allowed to order from RKR, removal of the stated uniforms, and indicate that State/Provincial/Country Rep may order their respective Rep patches.
 2. It was concluded that Quartermaster will be added to the SOG, we will remove the uniforms, and allow Rep to purchase their rockers.
 3. See Motion 2024-021.
 - iv. Investigations Instruction discussion:
 1. Discussion was made over the Investigation Committee's instructions and the process overall.
 2. It was concluded that the verbiage within the IC instructions meets the requirements and no further change, at this point, is needed.
12. Good of the order:
- a. Summer Board Meeting:
 - i. Discussion was made on the agenda of SBM/ABM.
 - ii. Further discussion will be made via the next Zoom meeting.
 - b. Fall Board Meeting:
 - i. November 13th Travel, 14th – 16th Meetings, and 17th Travel, tentatively Baltimore, MD.
 - c. Discussion Moving SBM to a 4-day meeting:
 - i. Discussion was made that SBM is continuing to grow in length and the past in-person Board meetings were all 4-day meetings. To thoroughly represent the membership items and in doing their business it is felt we should not rush to give them a better result.
 - ii. Tabled until FBM:
 - d. International President Spike Ostiguy conducted a round table exercise.
13. Adjournment:
- a. All in favor: 5:00 pm 4/13/2024.