



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



Summer 2024 RKIFMC NON-Executive Board Meeting Minutes
 Aug. 14th in Leipzig Germany.

1. Meeting Schedule and general information:
 - a. RKR meeting was on Tuesday at 7 p.m.
 - b. RKI Meetings will start at 8:00 a.m. and end when complete.
 - c. RKM meetings will start Wednesday at noon.
 - d. Shirt colors for each day: Wednesday Gray, Thursday Black, and Friday red.
 - e. Special Guest:
 - i. N/A

2. Call to order at 08:14.

3. Opening greeting by President Spike.

4. Moment of Silence for those who have passed called:

728 Carol M. Studdert	IL 2	2024(4/8/24)
729 Philip Seiden	NY 49	2024(4/1/24)
730 Jennifer Hoemer	GA 23	2024(3/20/24)
731 Noel Meloche	ON 6	2024(2/26/24)
732 Mike Weiss SR	AL 6	2024(4/21/24)
733 Wade Robinson	ME 3	2024(4/24/24)
734 Marian Sheldon	NY 50	2024(3/6/24)
735 Rejean Red Ouelette	NB 5	2024(4/11/24)
736 Brooks M. Bourgeois	LA 1	2024(5/13/24)
737 Doreen Atwood	MA 13	2024(5/11/24)
738 Edmund Zukowski	NJ 13	2024(5/23/24)
739 Nancy Brissette	QC MAL	2024(6/2/24)
740 Ray Wines	MD 1	2024(6/6/24)
741 David Carvalho	CT 7	2024(6/12/24)
742 Richard Bowes	QC 3	2024(6/7/24)
743 Paul Chocklett	VA 19	2024(5/20/24)
744 William Brown	VT 2	2024(6/27/24)
745 Steve Benjamin	NS 1	2024(7/14/24)

5. Roll Call:

President Spike Ostiguy: Present
 Secretary Michael Woods: Prtesent
 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:



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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. Request to move to FBM: 9. d-f-g-i-j, and 10. c-e-j-l.
 - b. Request to move 9. h-k-n and 10. g-o to Executive Session.
8. Reports:
 - a. Officer's activity reports:
 - i. President:
 1. Would like to ask that all report forms be sent to the secretary before each meeting.
 2. Still working on the President's report.
 3. Too many emails and phone calls to count.
 - a. Several of these are general membership questions and concerns. Would like to start moving these through the chain of command.
 4. Has entertained several members this year visiting the Memorial House. It is an amazing thing to see the Brotherhood and Sisterhood that has been happening.
 5. All Committees have been coming together and making progress.
 - a. Working on getting laptops to each Committee Chair.
 - ii. Vice President:
 1. 326 MAL on the roster with 231 in good standings.
 2. 49 applications with 18 being approved.
 - a. 4 are from Chapters to MAL
 - b. 12 have been moved to Chapters
 - c. 12 waiting to go to chapters
 - d. Denied 3 applications.
 - e. Finland is growing with 4 new MALs and working towards getting one large Chapter. There appear to to government issues to get by.
 3. Working towards digital ID cards and will discuss them later.
 4. Wanted to thank Tom and Ken Mahon for their help with the overseas MAL program.
 - iii. Secretary:
 1. Heaven One total since the last convention is 54 new members, 17 since SBM.
 2. TMLAs
 - a. 174 total issued this year which has increased due to the education and TMLA audits.
 - b. TMLA Audis is 71% complete at this time.
 - c. Moving on to the TMLA document audit.
 - d. Still working with Mr. Englander to fix the IP issues.
 - e. Mr. Englander has moved firms and we are maintaining his services.
 3. New Chapter requests 9 with 3 pending at this time.
 4. Event Insurance has had 37 requests, 2 chapter withdrawals, and 2 pending.
 5. AD&D we have paid out 16,000 in the first year with one pending.



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- iv. Treasurer:
 - 1. Since our last meeting we have added 244 members and 5 Chapters.
 - 2. His chapter hosted the Atlantic Rally with 110 members attending, this did break the record for attendance.
 - 3. Attended 3 Heaven One funerals, 2 in Canada and one in the US.

- v. Region 1:
 - 1. The region has been very busy and things are going better.
 - 2. Region 1 has 98 Chapters, 2680 Chapter members, and 42 MALs with a total of 2712 members.
 - 3. Region 1 since the last Convention has added 21 members to the Heaven One roster.
 - 4. All States have reps
 - 5. The Yankee Rally was a success this year with minimal issues.
 - a. 2025 Yankee will be in Maine and appears to be moving forward.
 - b. 2026 will be back in Finger Lakes of New York.
 - c. 2027 will be in Connecticut.
 - 6. Working on Chapters to get back into good standings.
 - 7. House rentals have been going well with 59 requests and 46 bookings complete.
 - a. House rental agreements will be switched over to Region 2.
 - 8. He would like to call out NC 13 for all their help and support with his son's motorcycle accident. They still to this day keep in contact today.

- vi. Region 2:
 - 1. Region 2 has 41 chapters in a large geographical area.
 - 2. Attended Atlantic Rally
 - 3. Trying to get reps in all provinces but communication is not good.
 - 4. Working on the Ontario Association and keeping it going.
 - a. Going to a part of the Canada National Fall Firefighters Memorial.

- vii. Region 3:
 - 1. 1331 members, 66 chapters, and 21 MAL.
 - 2. Working hard on the 2025 Convention with final payments being made. Expressed the concerns on the cost of hosting a Convention.
 - 3. Attended PA state meeting
 - a. Some issues with Grand Tour were brought up and believe all has been resolved.
 - 4. The West Virginia Association wants to keep the Association going but no progress has been made.
 - 5. Two new Chapters in Region 3 PA 21 and IL 15.

- viii. Region 4:
 - 1. The region is running smoothly with not a lot to report.
 - 2. Working to start a chapter in Dublin GA.
 - 3. Working on getting State reps in Arkansas and Delaware.

- ix. Region 5:



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1. Couple new chapters BC 5 and Wyoming 2.
 2. Working on MALs in Alberta to form a chapter.
 3. Western Rally went well with next year's Western in Deadwood SD.
 4. All reps are in place but working on communications.
 5. This will be his last term as Regional Director.
- x. Region 6:
1. Oklahoma has been very active along with TX 13. Everything has been going great.
 2. This is his last meeting and has learned a lot and will miss being a part of the board.
 3. Scooter Stampede will be a good time and hope we all can attend.
- xi. Region 7:
1. Reported that there are 1500 members, 79 MALs, and 80 Chapters in Europe.
 2. Works on communications with the other Knights (Blue, Yellow, White, and Green) in the EU.
 3. One German chapter closing this year Germany 20. Some of the members have moved to Germany 31 to stay as Red Knights.
 4. Internal communications have been an issue and are working with all levels to find a solution.
 5. Several new Counties have been added this last year. With a membership tour being planned.
- xii. Region 8:
1. Everything is running smoothly with nothing to report. He added that he would miss being on the Board and thanked everyone for their support.
- b. Committees:
- i. Chaplain:
 1. Spike reported that she is doing a good job and learning our system. Everything appears to be running smoothly with only minor issues.
 - ii. By-Laws:
 1. Spike reported that this year's By-law proposal process started rough but was turned around and successful.
 - iii. Nomination:
 1. Spike reported that Nominations is running well as always and that Tom Delboi will be our Nominations Committee member at this year's ABM.
 - iv. Grand Tour:
 1. Spike reported that the Committee has enacted the new Grand Tour challenge of "Loyal to Our Duty".
 - v. Help-A-Knight:
 1. Spike reported that there have been no issues reported and appears to be running smoothly.



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2. Norm brought up an email from a member in Colorado. They feel that the openness of the Help a Knight documentation is a privacy concern. This is already being looked at.

- vi. IT Committee:
 1. Spike reported that IT has made progress and is continuing to make progress. Looking at a new presentation monitor at the Boylston Memorial House.

- vii. Special Committee: (if required)
 1. N/A at this time.

- c. Convention Reports:
 - i. 2025- Illinois State Association August 21st to the 24th in Peoria Illinois.
 - ii. 2026- Australia 5 August 9th to the 16th in Melbourne Australia.
 - iii. 2027- An application was presented by Randy Smith of Ontario Chapter 1.
 1. Ontario 1 would like to pursue a Convention at Sea for 2027.
 - a. They have members who have experience setting up conference-based cruises.
 - b. Cruise would cover 2 to 3 island stops over 5 days on what they consider a medium cruise ship. The Cruise lines being considered are Celebrity and Royal Caribbean.
 - c. There will be a request made to move the Convention dates to the first or second week of August to attempt to stay away from the Hurricane season.
 - d. At this time departure and arrival ports are being reviewed for best cost and effectiveness.
 - e. It is too early to have the exact cost at this time but based on 2025 rates:
 - i. Celebrity
 1. Balcony room \$1184 CAD / \$871 USD.
 2. Oceanview room \$1094 CAD / \$840 USD.
 3. Inside room \$1084 CAD / \$797 USD.
 - a. Rates above include beverage package, surf WIFI, tips, and \$50 USD onboard spending credit.
 - b. ** Please note, these rates are based on 2025 pricing. Pricing may differ for 2027 sail dates **
 - ii. Royal Caribbean
 1. Balcony room \$1122 CAD / \$825 USD.
 2. Inside room \$849 CAD / \$624 USD.
 - a. Rates include \$100 onboard spending credit and tips.
 - b. ** Please note, these rates are based on 2025 pricing. Pricing may differ for 2027 sail dates **
 - f. More details to come.
 2. 2027 Convention request
 - a. Discussion was made over ON 1 request/application for the 2027 Convention.
 - b. Approved by the Board to present to the membership at the 2024 ABM.



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- c.
- iv. 2028- TBD or Baltimore MD Board only.
- v. 2029-TBD or Baltimore MD Board only.

9. Old Business carried forward:

- a. Convention ABM discussion:
 - i. ABM Agenda review
 - 1. With minor changes made.
 - ii. Assigning of SAA.
 - 1. Assigned by Host Chapter.
 - a. Jan Behrends Germany 16
 - b. Mauro Osti Switzerland 1
 - c. Roger Gillock Germany 5
 - iii. Final disposition of Recalled chapters and Voting eligibility.
 - 1. Review with the Treasurer and lists completed.
 - a. If an ineligible chapter attempts to sign in we will attempt to get them into good standings.
 - iv. PowerPoint discussion.
 - 1. Will be completed after all information is gathered by Friday afternoon.
 - 2. Review and flow discussion.
 - 3. By-law proposal presentation review.
 - 4. Committee appointment process letter discussion.
 - a. Reviewed for release.
 - v. Board schedule for registration of delegates.
 - 1. Schedule time frame and assignment completed.
 - vi. Discussion over board meeting after the ABM was made.
- b. Convention Banquet discussion:
 - i. The final draft of the Banquet agenda review.
 - 1. Minor changes made at the request of the Host Chapter.
 - ii. International Convention 50/50 Tickets.
 - 1. 50% to the winner and 50% to the Memorial House maintenance fund.
 - 2. One ticket for one Euro or US dollar. 50/50 will be split between the two currencies.
 - iii. Flag bearers discussion.
 - 1. Flag bearers will be appointed by the Host Chapter and Regional Directors.
 - iv. International Board Swearing-in discussion.
 - 1. No Founding Fathers are available so the first European member Daniel Waldspurge will be asked to perform these duties.
- c. TMLA audit and review:
 - i. See Motion 2024-030
- d. Tri-fold conversion to the website or QR Code: (S and Commo)
 - i. Carried to FBM.
- e. ABM Recording Discussion:



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- i. Discussion was made over last year's recording not being placed on the website due to issues on Bluetone's side of things. It is believed that those issues are being resolved.
 - ii. It was concluded that we will again attempt to record and place it on the website.
 - f. Discussion State/Province/Country Reps.:
 - i. Carried to FBM.
 - g. Bylaw 3:24 By-Laws Committee and Rules and Regulations discussion:
 - i. Carried to FBM due to pending By-law proposals.
 - h. Club Historian discussion and appointment:
 - i. Moved to Executive session.
 - 1. See Motion 2024-036
 - i. Perry Carter Award program standardization discussion:
 - i. Carried to FBM.
 - j. SOG authority discussion:
 - i. Carried to FBM.
 - k. App proposal:
 - i. Moved to Executive Session.
 - l. 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 it was covered during the SBM and no further actions are required.
 - m. ID Card Discussion:
 - i. Norm presented a new digital self-print membership card with a QR code for the MAL program. It is formatted with the Avery template for easy printing. The QR code leads to the international website.
 - ii. The decision has been made to move forward with the plan. Woody will design a fillable form for use in the MAL program and also create a fillable general membership template. This will allow individual Chapters to print the templates for their members if they want to. The year on the card will not be fillable to control the issuing process.
 - n. Awards
 - i. Moved to Executive.
 - ii. See Motions 2024-031, 2024-033, 2024-2034, and 2024-035.
10. New Business:
- a. SOG 12:06 discussion:
 - i. Discussion was made over how it is written it could exclude a new chapter from the issuing of the Business TMLA if they don't comply with the initial Business TMLA sent at the time of the issuing of their charter. If a chapter fails to comply with the initial



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Business TMLA at the time of charting, they would be considered in restrictive service and how it is written they could not be issued the Business TMLA.

- ii. It was concluded that an addition of “other than a Chapter Business TMLA” on point 5 will resolve this potential issue.
 1. See Motion 2024-037

- b. Website discussion:
 - i. Discussion was made over the removal of the board's personal information being open to the general public. As it is currently presented the new members personal information is not present. It was also discussed that each member's bio will need to have that information removed as well.
 - ii. It was concluded that only name, position, and email will be presented in this section as they are elected onto the board. When a possible membership portal is created, then all information will be added. However, a Board member may choose what information is openly presented to the general public. Spike will ask each member what their preference is.

- c. IB Procedural Manual 3:02 discussion:
 - i. Carried to FBM.

- d. SOG 4:05 discussion:
 - i. Discussion was made over the overuse of the ® within this section and there are missing areas with incorrect information presented.
 - ii. It was concluded To remove redundant ®, misnamed, or numbered documents, and clean up grammar.
 1. See Motion 2024-038.

- e. Convention Manual proposal:
 - i. Carried to FBM.

- f. Heaven 1 discussion:
 - i. It was discussed that the Heaven One program is an International program facilitated by the International Board or a designee assigned by the International Board. The International Chaplain should be in control of this process.
 1. It was concluded that this program is to be controlled by the International Chaplain and conducted by an International Board member or designee as prescribed in SOG 16:01. If a chapter chooses to exclude the International they may choose to but the flag and coin will come directly from the International Chaplain and reimbursements under SOG 9:01 and 16:02 will not be issued by the International but can be reimbursed by the initiating chapter.
 - ii. It was also discussed that mailing of the Flag and Coin can be a burden due to shipping restrictions, travel distances, and time.
 1. In conclusion the use of State/Provincial/Country Reps may be allowed in these situations.
 - iii. It was also discussed the cost of the flag and coin is roughly \$90 per set and controls should be tightened.
 - iv. In overall conclusion we should always respect the wishes of the family and compassion for the situation should never be forgotten with these honors. A review of the Chaplain



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manual and International Board Manual with possible amendments will be brought back to the FBM.

- g. Membership discussion:
 - i. Moved to Executive.
 - h. QRG SOG 12:02 discussion:
 - i. It was discussed to create a better way to assist Chapters in this process as it has been observed that confusion and misunderstandings are occurring.
 - ii. This will be carried to FBM for further review.
 - i. Discussion on States/Provinces/Countries with only MAL representation:
 - i. Discussion was made over areas that do not have representation as a Rep. or Association President would provide.
 - ii. It was concluded that nothing is stopping a State/Province/Country Rep. from being a MAL and it is at the discretion of the Regional Director.
 - j. SOG 10:02 discussion:
 - i. Carried to FBM.
 - k. SOG 16:07 Discussion:
 - i. Discussion was made over how the Heaven One rocker is located or presented with the Heaven One 4-inch patch.
 - ii. It was concluded that these are considered a bottom rocker with the 4-inch Heaven One patch.
 - 1. See Motion 2024-039
 - l. State/Province/Country Reps. discussion:
 - i. Requested to move to 9. f and Carried to FBM.
 - m. Meeting after ABM discussion:
 - i. Discussion was made prior in section 9. a.
 - n. Support request discussion:
 - i. Discussion was made over International support for charity events or funds.
 - ii. It was concluded that in the past the International doesn't support individual items as a Chapter may. However, it was at the discretion of the Regional Directors to assist in spreading the word about these types of items.
 - o. Active member status discussion:
 - i. Moved to Executive.
11. Open floor and additional items added: (If time allows)
- a. Items as follows:
 - i. Use of the word "Support" discussion.
 - 1. Discussion over the use of the word, "Support" on RKMC items. This is a word commonly used by other MCs and could indicate support Club or support for.



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2. It was concluded that this is not allowed and is spelled out on the International website under Chapter Merchandise. The image in question has also not received a TMLA for its use. This will be addressed by the Regional Director.
 - ii. Adding an additional day to the SBM discussion.
 1. Discussion over meeting items for SBM have grown and become lengthy.
 2. In conclusion it was found that we can do more Zoom meetings to lessen the load during the physical meetings.
 - iii. Physical meeting dates discussion.
 1. Discussion was made over a request made by the incoming Regional Director to get the dates as travel and time off is difficult.
 2. It was concluded that two sets of dates for SBM (April 9th Travel 10th to 12th Meeting 13th travel or April 23rd travel 24th to 26th meeting 27th travel) with the FBM being set as 5th travel 6th to 8th meeting 9th travel.
12. Good of the order and reminders:
- a. Fall Board Meeting
 - i. Nov. 13th Travel, 14th to 16th Meeting, and 17th Travel.
13. Adjournment:
- a. All in favor of adjournment at 6:46 pm.