



NEWSLETTER

JULY 2026



Posted by: Ken Mahon

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Letter from the Editor

Delainey Thorud (MN 4)

Hello, Red Knights!

As always, I want to start off by thanking the team of Regional Reporters for their hard work obtaining and compiling the content for this newsletter. They work up until the very last second to make sure that everything they receive from the chapters in their region is included in the reports that they send to me for inclusion in the International Newsletter.

The July newsletter always seems to be lighter than the January one (by 15-20 pages!), likely due to the start of riding season in most of our regions and the busyness of our members. Despite this, there are still a lot of cool things that the chapters are doing that are highlighted in the newsletter.

I encourage you to see what information other chapters are sharing and think about how you can contribute to the International Newsletter as well. I'm also always open to ideas about new games, activities, or large group/Red Knight photos that can be scattered throughout the newsletter, so please don't hesitate to reach out!

Updates for the next newsletter will need to be sent to your Regional Reporter or me no later than **January 15, 2027, or they may not be included.**

Ride safe and have a great rest of the season!

Delainey Thorud

International Newsletter Editor, RKIFMC

Editor@redknightsmc.com

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Newsletter Tips:

If you are viewing the newsletter as a PDF, you should be able to click on the content items to the left and be taken directly to that page.

There are games throughout the newsletter and the answers can be found on the answer key on the very last page of the newsletter.

If you would like to have a birth, marriage, or Heaven One member included in the newsletter, please make sure to either submit it in the [Notices section](#) of the RKMC website or send the information to your regional reporter or me.

If you have any questions, concerns, ideas, or would like to learn more about the process for these newsletters, please contact the International Newsletter Editor, Delaine Thorud, at Editor@redknightsmc.com.

Happy reading!

Please note, some reports and updates included in this newsletter are presented as submitted and have not been altered or edited in any way.

IN THIS EDITION

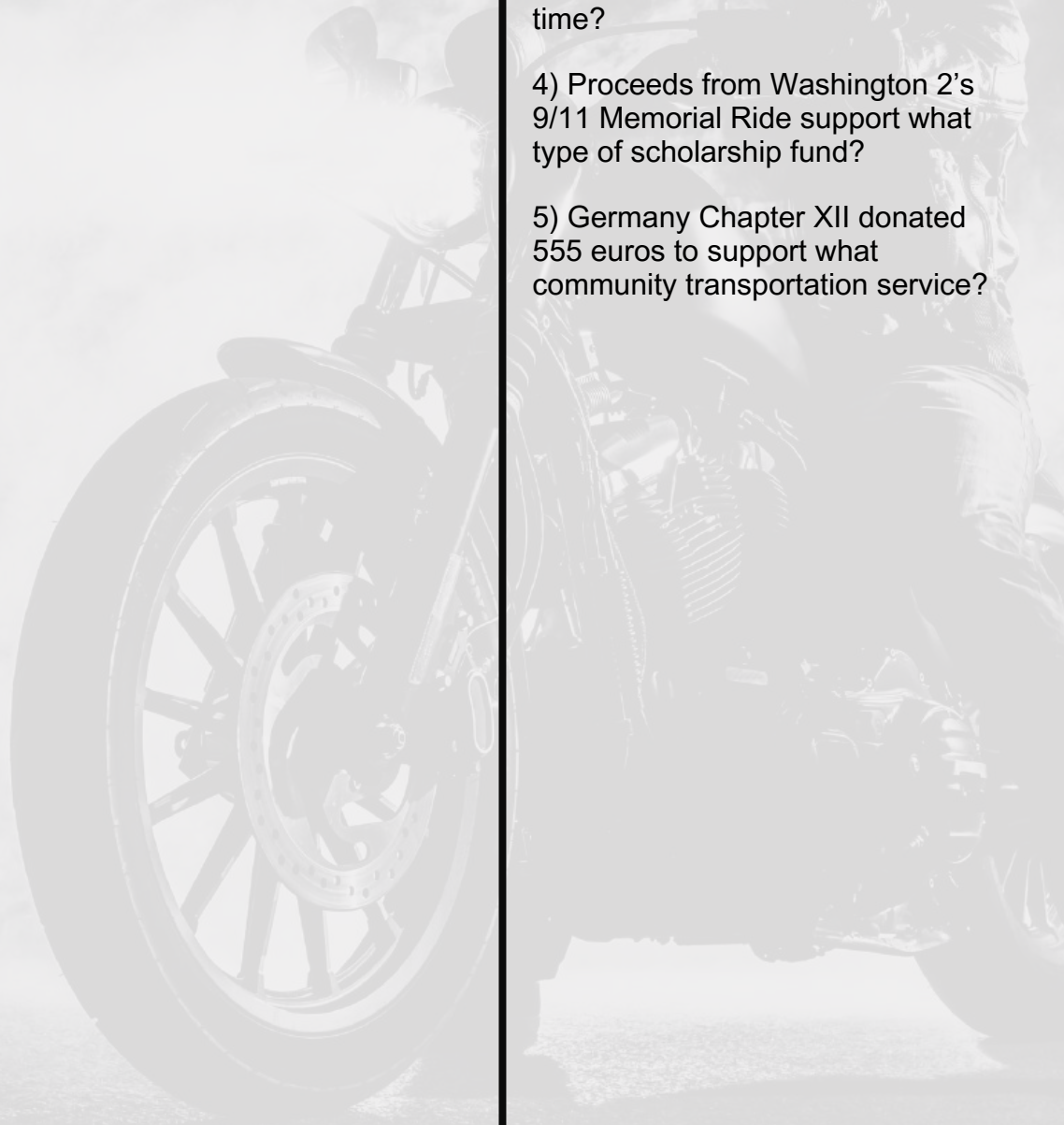
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Newsletter Quiz

Quiz Questions:

- 1) How many new members joined the Red Knights in 2025?
- 2) During the 2026 Yankee Rally, what famous racetrack did Red Knights ride around three times?
- 3) Ontario and Quebec Red Knights participated in what memorial weekend for the second time?
- 4) Proceeds from Washington 2's 9/11 Memorial Ride support what type of scholarship fund?
- 5) Germany Chapter XII donated 555 euros to support what community transportation service?



2026 CONVENTION REPORTS

PRESIDENT – SPIKE OSTIGUY

Fraternal Greetings To All

Welcome to Melbourne Australia for the 2026 Convention and Annual Business Meeting (ABM). We certainly hope you took advantage of our very first convention/ABM hosted in the South Pacific. I believe the catch phrase went something like this; Come for the convention and stay for a holiday/vacation. Most of who I spoke with were doing just that. On behalf of the International Board, an enormous thank you goes out to our convention's host and volunteer organizers. We look forward to seeing our Red Knights family!



Your International Board met April 15-19 for our Spring Board Meeting (SBM) in Baltimore Maryland. To date we've also have held a number of virtual (Zoom) meetings. I was able to attend all scheduled meetings. I was also able to attend both the Dixie Rally in Aberdeen Maryland and the Yankee Rally in the Finger Lakes Region of Upstate New York. All be it in a cage (due to recent dbl. knee replacement surgeries), it did not dampen my spirits. After all it's about being with family.

Most recently, on Friday June 12th I was blessed to have visited with Katherine "Katie" Paige and her husband Paul at Maine Medical Center in Portland. Both are Active Members of R.K.M.C. Maine Chapter 9. As most know, Katherine was severely burned and injured fighting a fire with explosions at the Robbins Lumber Mill in Searsmont Maine. While at the Dixie Rally, I was notified of the fire and one of our members being involved. I follow daily and communicate with Paul frequently, Katie's ongoing medical progress. With my visit I presented to Katherine and her family \$4,300.00 in donations from Red Knights around the world. Continued thoughts and prayers to the Paige family, and Maine Chapter 9.

Before every in-person Board Meeting we pay honor and respect to those Red Knight Members who have passed on and into the Heaven One Chapter. Since my last President's Report, I've attended two (2) Heaven One protocol services. Founding Father and Massachusetts Chapter 1 / International Life Member, Roger D. Wentzell passed away February 22, 2026. A funeral service, with an R.K. Heaven One protocol was held on Saturday May 2, 2026. Nearly fifty Red Knights, as far away as Florida, Indiana, Minnesota and Texas attended the services for Roger. After the cemetery service those who were able, attended a collation celebrating Roger's life, sharing in fellowship with family and friends. Felix LaPorte, Massachusetts Chapter 3 Active/Chapter Life Member passed away on April 29, 2026. Funeral and Heaven One services were held on Friday May 8, 2026.

Lastly. Revisiting last summer's 2025 report, we have since commissioned Massachusetts 1 Member Tim Hamilton to fabricate two (2) new kiosks to be installed at the Red Knights Memorial Park in Boylston, MA.

Respectfully submitted.
Spike Ostiguy
International President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "SPIKE" followed by a stylized flourish.

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VICE PRESIDENT – NORM BEAUSOLEIL

Dedicated to the Memory of a true friend and Club co-founder

Roger Wentzell

Goodbye, Friend - May you rest in peace and gently guide us as you did in life

Now there are 7



Well, here we are in, of all places, Melbourne, Australia. Believe me, I would have never thought 44 years ago that we, the Red Knights Motorcycle Club, would be, not only on the other side of the planet, but on the bottom side, too, attending a membership convention. Congratulations to Australia 5 for hosting the main event of the year, the RKIFMC Convention and Annual Business Meeting, with many thanks extended to Australia 6, 8, and 22, and to Mick James, the Australia Rep, Andy Young, the current Region 8 Director, and finally Ken Mahon, the past Region 8 Director, for your help, guidance and support along the way. This is one for the history books!

Another year, another fantastic moment in the history of the Club! I know – I'm sounding like a broken record or an LP with a scratch and skip – but I want to, once again, thank every single one of you. Not only those of you here in Melbourne, but every single one of you around the world. Really, I mean it. Without each and every one of you, the Red Knights wouldn't be who we are, where we are, or what we are today. You have helped make my life full and I can only hope the Club has done the same for each of you. You represent the Club the Founders could only dream about!

Last year's convention in Peoria was a welcome home, of sorts, for the Club, after a two-year hiatus, where we welcomed 1 new member to the International Board – Joel Nelson, Region 5 Director, a member of Minnesota 4. I'd like to express my thanks to Lance Coit for all he did over the years. He served this Club and the board with honor, pride, and dignity, and so far, Joel has stepped into his shoes running.

Since my last convention report, I've continued to be kept busy with the Member-at-Large (MAL) Program and a few other duties, both required and voluntary, for the Board and the membership.

Briefly, I have attended:

- The 2025 Fall Board Meeting and the 2026 Spring Board Meeting in Baltimore, Maryland;
- All full board Zoom meetings
- All conference calls of the RKI and RKR, as requested
- The 2025 EuCon Rally in Florence, Italy
- The funeral services for my friend and one of the Club's founders, Roger Wentzell
- The 2026 UK-Ireland meet in Essex, England, and
- The 2026 Yankee Rally in Geneva, New York,

2026 CONVENTION REPORTS

VICE PRESIDENT – NORM BEAUSOLEIL

As well as several local & regionally sponsored R.K. rides/events in Florida and beyond. I've hosted several overseas Red Knights families at my home in Florida, and, yes, you're all welcome anytime, just check with my wife, first!

Although I have not had the honor of representing the Board at any Heaven One Ceremonies, I bow my head for all those that have passed in the past year and before. Godspeed and Rest Easy.

State of the Member-At-Large (M.A.L.) Program

At the time of this report... we have 265 M.A.L.'s in good standing

Region 1 = 19	Region 2 = 20
Region 3 = 20	Region 4 = 27
Region 5 = 41	Region 6 = 40
Region 7 = 80	Region 8 = 15

Overseas (Mexico) = 3

Since my last Convention Report (2025) and up to the date this report has been written there have been one hundred one (101) Member-at-Large applications received. Through the hard work and perseverance of many Chapter Presidents, State/Province/Country Reps and Regional Directors, we have or will be able to plug twenty-three (23) M.A.L. applicants into chapters for chapter member status. Fifty-one (51) have been approved as MALs, eight (8) of which are chapter to MAL transfers. Two (2) applicants have been denied and forty-one (41) are still "pending" as I have not received all required information from them. Twenty-one (21) of Finland's twenty-six (26) MALs have formed (transferred to) Finland 1. Seven (7) MAL applicants from Hungary have been approved, adding another country to our domain, and they are fervently working on forming a new chapter.

And now, my final farewell as a board member

As you read this, my term as your International Vice President is in its final hours. By noon today, I will be handing the reins over to your new IVP and stepping off the podium for the final time. Funny thing is, if I were home today, I'd still have another day in the slot position, lol.

The last three years have been a great experience, and I truly hope that I have lived up to your expectations. I wish my replacement the very best, and I promise to be there to assist him at any time he needs.

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VICE PRESIDENT – NORM BEAUSOLEIL

What I ask of everyone is to remember who we are, collectively, and recognize that we aren't all looking through the same stained-glass window or dark tinted Oakley's. The perspective of one group may be different from that of another, but the final goal is for all to be part of the greatest FF MC club in the world. From the top down, and the bottom up, let bygones be bygones and make the future of this Club brighter than anyone can imagine. I urge anyone that feels they have something to offer, sees something they believe is missing, or feels there is a need for change to step up and throw your name in the hat. No challenge, no change. Give the membership a voice. Give them a choice!

In closing, change can be good, and honestly, I believe very often it is good, but it can't and won't happen if you sit back, complaining loudly to a few but silently to the many. I truly enjoyed my role as your vice president, and I look forward to many more years of sharing this Club with all of you. I will miss serving you from the platform of the Board. My voice will not be silent, and I pray it will not go unheard if there is a real value to message being shared. My eyes and ears will remain open to all of you, and I will continue to stand for each one of you, every day. May you all find joy and happiness in your family, friends, faith, beliefs, jobs, and futures. And may this Club bring the joys to you that it has brought to me.

Remember, **we came to ride!**

As always, I remain,

Loyal to Our Duty

Norm Beausoleil

RKIFMC International Vice President

Life Member & Founder of Massachusetts Chapter 1, and,

Proud to be a member of Ireland 1, Switzerland 4, and any other chapter that calls me brother!

2026 CONVENTION REPORTS

SECRETARY – MICHAEL WOODS

Hello to all my fellow Red Knights Brothers and Sisters

As always, I want to thank everyone for giving me their support in serving you on this Board. It truly is an honor and a privilege to be a small part of our Club's future! The last couple of years have seen highs and lows, chock-full of learning experiences and harsh realities. I continue to learn and grow, seeking better ways to serve you all to a standard I believe you all deserve.



In this last year as International Secretary, I have had the privilege to attend the 2025 International Fall Board Meeting, the 2026 International Spring Board Meeting, Founding Father Roger Wentzel's Memorial Service, and the England-Ireland Meeting. I cherish those events and the memories made at every one of them. I look forward to many more years of building bonds, friendships, and, more so, memories!

I developed a passion for education as a Training Captain with my F.D., and I'm always searching for better ways to drive that here with the RKMC. The development of the Quick Reference Guides (QRGs) is one of those ways. These QRGs are designed to give you further guidance on different aspects of the By-law and SOGs. If your chapter has not received these from your Regional Directors, you can find them on our website.

If you have any ideas for better educational items, please feel free to let me know. I'm here to help and move to a better tomorrow!

We introduced the new ASSIGN system available through an app this year. The ASSIGN system will help us move into the future by providing a platform that puts all your RKMC information right at your fingertips. This system is free for us and will allow every member to access RKMC information instantly, rather than waiting three months for updates through old email chains.

If you have questions about the ASSIGN system or app, please reach out to your Regional Directors. For assistance with onboarding, send an email to assign@redknightsmc.com or visit <https://rkmc-video.assign.ordergroup.dk/#> for informational videos.

While it may be challenging to get started today, the ASSIGN system will become a powerful tool for our membership in the future.

One last thing: get out there and meet new RKMC members, rekindle old contacts, and turn them into friendships! Go to rallies and have a great time with like-minded brothers and sisters. There is more to this club than just chapter life; there is a whole world full of our brothers and sisters that you can create new bonds with! And please don't forget what Brotherhood and Sisterhood mean!

Again, thank you! I'm very appreciative to be able to serve you and help be a small part of making this beloved organization grow for our future!

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SECRETARY – MICHAEL WOODS

Below are the stats since the last Convention: 8/22/2025 to 6/23/2026

HEAVEN ONE CHAPTER:

NEW MEMBERS: 40

TMLA Report:

Approved: 200

Denied: 1

Pending: 7

Total requested: 217

Insurance Events:

Insurance issued: 25

Pending: 5

Insurance requested: 30

Insurance AD&D:

Total claims filed since the beginning: 9

Total payout: \$36,000

New Chapter Applications Sent Out:

Interest letters sent: 19

Applications sent: 12

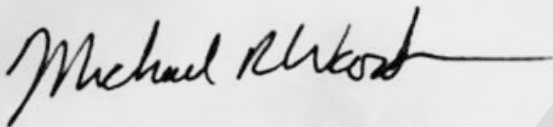
Rental Agreements Issued:

Total issued: 28

Pending: 0

Insurance requested: 28

“Loyal to Our Duty”



Michael “Woody” Woods
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Chapter Member IN 2, AL 4, and AUS 6

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TREASURER – SCOTT RYAN

Please accept this, my 2026 convention report for activities in 2025 as International Treasurer.

Since my last convention report, I have attended the fall and spring in-person meetings in Baltimore along with numerous Board Meetings by way of Zoom and the International Convention in Illinois. As well, I was able to attend the ever growing Atlantic Association Rally and the EuCon Rally in Florence, Italy.



We have added 12 chapter in 2025 and did have to officially close 14 at Convention in 2025, ending the year with 462 chapters.

As far as members go there were over 925 new members who joined our club in 2025! This left us at the end of the year with 10,612 members on paper with 248 of those not in good standing and another 407 members of dual or triple chapters. We are getting very close to, but continue to remain just below 10,000 people in good standing in our club.

As a heads up to those who may not have seen the posting on SOG changes, as a Board, we have been working on the membership application and have added in a question that could have saved a few chapters a lot of grief if it had been there when individual's had joined the club. The version on the website now under Membership – Downloadable Files is the best one to use. Once you have accepted a member into your chapter, please ensure you send me a copy of their application form. It can be sent to me regular mail or email, whichever is easiest for you.

It has been my pleasure to serve you and I look forward to continuing as your Treasurer.

Sincerely
Scott Ryan
Loyal to our Duty
(902) 330-3431

2026 CONVENTION REPORTS

REGION 1 DIRECTOR – KEN MAY

To My Red Knight Family,

Region 1 now consists of the following:

- 8 States
- 95 Chapters
- 2,521 Chapter Members
- 27 Members at Large
- 2,548 Total Members



It is always sad to start my reports by saying Region 1 has transferred 12 members to the Heaven One Chapter since the 2025 convention. May we keep their memories alive as they now ride in the sky.

As a Representative of the International Board, we are sometimes tasked with the Heaven One Flag and Angel Coin presentation at funerals. This year, I present these items at services in New Jersey(2), New York(2), Massachusetts(1), Maryland(1) and Pennsylvania(1).

Last August, our Annual Convention was held in Peoria, Illinois, and what a great job they did. I took my daughter, daughter-in-law and grandson to their first ever convention. Needless to say, my grandson is now hooked. One day the fire alarms sounded in the hotel (false alarm), and my grandson met the responding fire department in the parking lot, telling them the problem was inside. The Fire Chief was amazed and impressed with what my 3-year-old grandson was saying, so he invited him back to the firehouse for a tour and some lunch. Yes, he accepted.

Being a Regional Director sometimes can be challenging, but if it wasn't for my State Reps, it would be frustrating, tiring and challenging. We meet twice a year (March & October) at Memorial Hall in Boylston to see what's happening throughout our region, ironing out possible issues even before they occur. We also look at what rides and events are going on in each state so not to overlap with each other, and we just enjoy the weekend getaway.

As Regional Director, one of my responsibilities is to attend International Board meetings, whether in person, or on a Zoom call. I am happy to say that as Region 1 Director, for the last 3½ years, I have been to every meeting the International has scheduled. This past year I have also traveled and attended Red Knight State meetings in Vermont, New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts and Maine.

I also try to support chapters and state events when my schedule allows me to. So, this past year I have attended the New York 33 Shoot and Scoot Ride in Pleasant Valley, New Jersey 13 Annual BBQ Dinner in Newton, RKMC 4th Annual Dinner Night in Howell New Jersey, New York 50 Squirrel Ride in Plattsburgh, Cape May Classic Toy Ride with NJ 31 in Cape May New Jersey, Nutley New Jersey Holiday Parade, and of course the New Jersey After Christmas Party in Bradley Gardens.

2026 CONVENTION REPORTS

REGION 1 DIRECTOR – KEN MAY

In attending events, I can't forget the 2026 Yankee Rally that was held in Geneva, New York and hosted for the 2nd time by New York Chapter 30. What makes these events successful are the Red Knight members that attend. This year's event hosted 271 Red Knights from 3 Countries, 2 Canadian Provinces, 5 Regions, 12 States and 60 Chapters, and included 2 Founding Fathers.

On the first night of the Rally, the Red Knights were invited to the city of Phelps for some shopping, dining and drinks. Some establishments even created specialty drinks like the RK Lager and the Red Knighter for the attending members.

The Rally hosted 3 escorted rides. One being to Mac's Dive-In BBQ, just a short 6-mile ride for an afternoon lunch, a 57-mile ride to the Corning Museum of Glass and the 55-mile one to Watkins Glen International Speedway, where we were then escorted around the 3.4-mile Road Course, not once but 3 times. Now, when I say escorted around the track, we were not allowed to pass the Pace Car which at times reached speeds well over 100 MPH. "Talk about Wind Therapy..."

On Saturday, as it rained (not a true Red Knight event without some rain) the Red Knights gathered at the 9/11 Memorial for a service that was held by New York 30 Chaplain Steve Dechick and New York State Chaplain Jim Boyce. What a beautiful tribute as a Red Knight Wreath was placed in front of the Memorial.

That evening, before dinner, we held the Yankee Rally meeting where we were honored to have 2 guest speakers, Jim Cecere the Mayor of Geneva and Pam Helming a New York State Senator, both welcoming the Red Knights, and thanking us for what we do, day in and day out. Also, inviting us back to Geneva anytime we would like.

The meeting continued as we secured several more rallies. The 2027 rally will be in Mystic, Connecticut. The 2028 rally will be hosted by Vermont and held in Jay's Peak. The 2029 rally will be back in Maine and the 2030 rally was awarded to the state of New Hampshire.

We also talked about one of our own members, Katherine Paige, an Active Member of Maine Chapter 9. She was seriously injured, suffering 3rd degree burns on her face, head, arms and hands, while battling a fire at a saw mill factory in Searmont, Maine. Well, as I always said, "We are a Family", and families help each other, no matter what Region you're from. Steve Bisbee, a Region 4 member from Maryland and the Chairman of the 2026 Dixie Rally presented a check from their rally for Katherine in the amount \$2,000.00. Meanwhile. The Yankee Rally "Fill The Boot" campaign and the Region 1 Director (me) shaving my mustache and beard for donations, along with other donations from regions around the Red Knight world, allowed our International President Spike Ostiguy, along with Crissy White of Maine 5, to present to Katherine Paige and her husband Paul \$4,300.00. We are all wishing her the best for a speedy recovery.

2026 CONVENTION REPORTS

REGION 1 DIRECTOR – KEN MAY

As most of you all know by now Region 1 has what we call a “Mayday Fund” which is used to help any Region 1 member with a small monetary donation in their time of need. Well, this fund is still actively moving forward as we have sold over 1100 commemorative coins to support our efforts. These coins are still available for purchase, by asking any Region 1 State Rep. Since my last convention report, Region 1 has help 8 members with the small donation, and we still carry a balance of \$3,474.35.

As for the Red Knights Memorial Hall in Boylston, reservations are moving along nicely. Since October of 2025, I have handled 35-member reservations for staying at Memorial Hall. These reservations total to 118 members spending 57 nights.

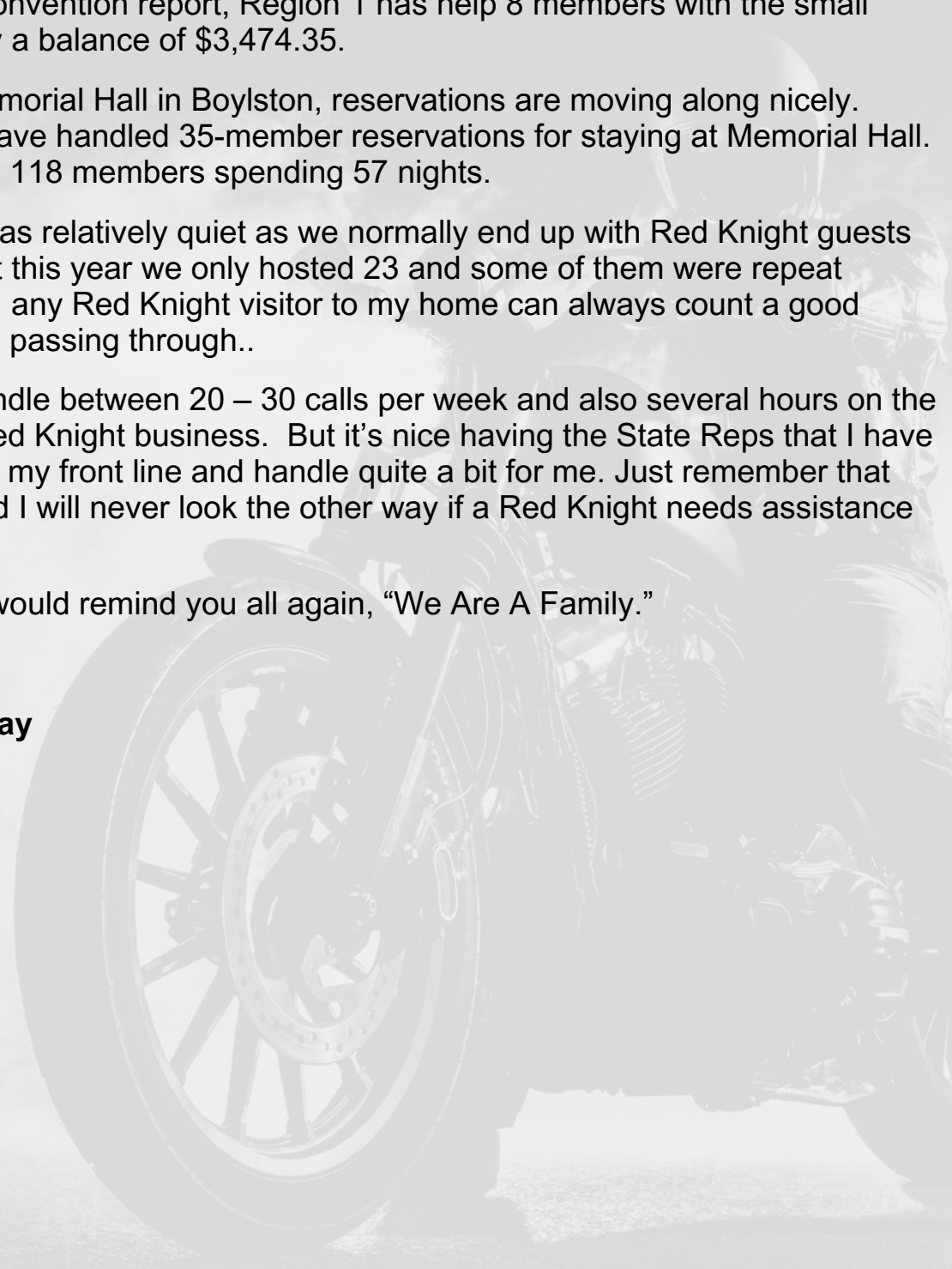
This past year, at home, was relatively quiet as we normally end up with Red Knight guests several times a month. But this year we only hosted 23 and some of them were repeat customers. All I can say is, any Red Knight visitor to my home can always count a good meal and a cozy bed while passing through..

As Region 1 Director, I handle between 20 – 30 calls per week and also several hours on the computer taking care of Red Knight business. But it's nice having the State Reps that I have since they are pretty much my front line and handle quite a bit for me. Just remember that my phone is always on and I will never look the other way if a Red Knight needs assistance or help.

So, as I close my report I would remind you all again, “We Are A Family.”

God Bless and Ride Safe

Kenneth “Moonshine” May
Region 1 Director



2026 CONVENTION REPORTS

REGION 2 DIRECTOR – RANDY SMITH

Hello/Bonjour my Brothers and Sisters

The 2025-2026 year has been the busiest period that I have had since joining the International Board. The Board brings together 12 very dedicated officers, and while we each have regional idiosyncrasies, we all pull together to drive the Club forward. Do we disagree? You're darn right we do, that's the passion we have. We serve the membership, and it's 10,000 people who deserve our best effort.



Region 2 encompasses eastern Canada, from Ontario to Newfoundland. There are 39 chapters, with 830 chapter members and 22 MALs. We have chapters over 3200 km (1988 miles) apart. Without events such as the Atlantic Rally, it would be impossible to meet many members of the Region.

Since the 2025 Convention in Peoria, Illinois, USA, I have attended all meetings of the Board either in person or remotely. We continue to deal with issues on an ongoing basis, and also to try to pre-empt issues before they occur.

As of August of 2026, I will be responsible for the Memorial House reservations. The Red Knights house is in Boylston, MA. You can stay there for a nominal fee, see some Red Knights history, have a BBQ on the deck and hang out. While you're there, you must visit the Memorial, where the names of our fallen members are recorded. The House is available year-round to visiting Red Knights from around the world.

I have attended several Heaven One presentations, in Ontario and Quebec. Each of these presentations is humbling. Families are universally grateful for the ceremony. It's a reminder to always submit your quarterly roster updates, to ensure that your members are entitled to not only this honour, but also the free \$4000 Accidental Death benefit (if applicable) offered to North American Knights.

Ontario and Quebec Red Knights participated for the second time in the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Memorial weekend last September. Our contingent grew from 5 bikes (from 1 Province) in 2024 to 13 bikes (from 4 Provinces) We will be returning this year (Sept. 11-13) to once again provide a Guard of Honour at a special ceremony for the families of fallen Canadian firefighters. We are looking to grow our contingent for 2026, as we now march in the official parade as well.

Technology is our friend. At the Fire Department, I see that every shift has a Whatsapp group to organize schedules. Whatsapp is easy to use, and flexible. Perhaps you're a Facebook person. Maybe you do it all on Instagram. Whatever your preference, these are all great ways to get the word out about events, elections, etc. This is critical if we want to grow the Club.

2026 CONVENTION REPORTS

REGION 2 DIRECTOR – RANDY SMITH

I just returned a few weeks ago from the England/Ireland Meetup, in Bulphan Essex. It was a smashing success. It was great to see our friends on their home turf.

On June 18, I'm leaving for the Western Rally. Once again, members from many provinces and states will gather to socialize, ride and make memories.

The Atlantic Rally is in Truro, Nova Scotia starting July 30. I'll be there with several other Ontario members.

By the time you read this, we will be gathered in Melbourne, Australia for the 2026 International Convention. This will be the first International held in Region 8.

In 2027, my home chapter (Ontario 1) is hosting the first ever International Convention at sea! Planning is well underway for this event as well. These and many other Red Knight events bring us together, to share our experiences, and deepen our bonds.

It doesn't matter what the brand is, get out and ride. Wear your colours proudly. If you need a good quality red RKMC vest that does not "bleed" in the sun, the Canadian supplier is in Toronto. These are made to order, not cheap, but very high quality. Our colours are our identity in the motorcycle world. We are blessed to have such a respected profession. Honour your colours, and remember you are representing not just the RKMC, but all firefighters whenever you have them on.

Please know that I am always available by email at region2@redknightsmc.com, or by phone at 1-647-470-7562. If you're coming through Toronto, be sure to give me a call. I'd be happy to show you my fire station, grab a coffee or have a bite to eat. I'm always ready to talk Red Knights.

Stay safe, enjoy each day, and get out there on that bike!

*I remain,
Loyal To Our Duty*

Randy Smith
Red Knights International
Firefighters Motorcycle Club
Region 2 Director
Eastern Canada

2026 CONVENTION REPORTS

REGION 3 DIRECTOR – MARK MULLEN

Region 3 has 63 chapters, 1237 members, and 21 MAL's.

Illinois has eight chapters, Indiana has seven chapters, Michigan has one chapter, Missouri has two chapters, Ohio has nine chapters, Pennsylvania has 25 chapters, West Virginia has five chapters, Wisconsin has five chapters, and Kentucky has two Mal's.

Current rosters have been sent to all the regions so that the State Reps can see how their chapters are doing.

We have lost three members since my last report:

- Bill Schneider, Ohio 14.
- Thomas D Etzle Jr, PA15.
- Darlene Czaja, IL 23.

Please keep them and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

Red Knight rallies have begun, Dixie Rally and Yankee Rally have already passed, I believe the western rally is going on as I write this. And of course our Bootlegger Rally is coming in September the dates are the 3rd through the 6th. 2026. And will be held in Champion PA at the Seven Springs Ski Resort. And that is a Beautiful area to ride in, Looking forward to seeing everyone there.

Don't forget we're still looking for a chapter to host the 2027, 2028 bootlegger rallies, If interested, let me know. I'm going to be contacting Michigan and Missouri and see if they would like to take a stab at it. West Virginia has Stepped up to do the 2029 Bootlegger, which would be the 10 year anniversary where it all started. And Illinois 14 has stated they would like to do 2030.

The 2026 International Convention will be held in Melbourne, Australia, August 18th to the 23rd. Flights are still available. And they're really not as expensive as you would think. I booked my economy flight for about \$1600 round trip on American Airlines and Qantas Airlines.

The Assign App seems to be coming along, Regions 3,4,5,6 are on board and regions 1 and 2 are next. 7 and 8 have been active for awhile now.

Don't forget the 2027 International convention will be hosted by Ontario 1 and will be a Caribbean cruise August 23rd through the 27th, 2027. That will be something different. Riding the bikes to Florida and then getting on a ship.

Riding season has begun here in the Midwest and towards the East, Please remember to have your bikes checked and as always, ride safe.

Submitted by
Moon
Region 3 Director



2026 CONVENTION REPORTS

REGION 4 DIRECTOR – CHUCK MARKS

Brothers and Sisters,

As I conclude my second term as Region 4 Director, I would like to reflect on another incredible year and express my sincere appreciation for the opportunity to serve the members of Region 4 and the Red Knights International Firefighter Motorcycle Club.



This past year has been filled with opportunities to strengthen relationships, represent Region 4, and promote the values that make our organization so special. It has truly been an honor and privilege to work alongside the International Board while representing what I believe is the greatest region in the Red Knights.

One of the highlights of the year was attending the 2025 International Convention in East Peoria, Illinois. The convention provided an excellent opportunity to reconnect with old friends, meet new members from across the world, and celebrate the continued growth and success of our organization.

I would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who joined Brandi and me at Kuchie's on the Water to celebrate our 20th Wedding Anniversary prior to the start of the Convention. Being able to share such a significant milestone in our lives with so many Red Knights and friends made the occasion even more special. The incredible turnout was a reminder not only of the support we have received throughout the years, but also of the unique bond that exists within this organization. Celebrating this milestone surrounded by fellow members reinforced the love, friendship, and sense of belonging that we feel whenever we gather together. It is moments like these that remind us why we are so proud to be part of this great organization.

Following the convention, we were fortunate to spend a week in Oconto, Wisconsin, with fellow Red Knights from several different regions. Time spent riding, sharing stories, and building friendships reminds us that while motorcycles may bring us together, it is the people and the brotherhood/sisterhood that keep us connected.

From there, we attended the 2025 Bootlegger Rally in Pewaukee, Wisconsin. In true Red Knight fashion, the rally proved to be another memorable experience—and yes, it even resulted in bringing home a new motorcycle. More importantly, it was another opportunity to enjoy the camaraderie and friendships that make every Red Knight event special.

Throughout the year, I attended both the 2025 Fall Board Meeting and the 2026 Spring Board Meeting in Baltimore, Maryland. These meetings allowed the International Board to work together toward the continued success and future growth of our club. It is always rewarding to collaborate with dedicated leaders who share a commitment to ensuring the International Red Knights Motorcycle Club remains strong for future generations.

2026 CONVENTION REPORTS

REGION 4 DIRECTOR – CHUCK MARKS

Another highlight was attending the Region 4 Dixie Rally in Aberdeen, Maryland. Once again, the hosts demonstrated why the Dixie Rally has earned its reputation as one of the premier events in our organization. The hospitality, planning, fellowship, and overall experience were second to none. If there was ever any doubt, this year's rally once again proved that the Dixie Rally is simply the best. The hard work and dedication of everyone involved were evident throughout the entire event, creating an unforgettable experience for all who attended and showcasing the very best of Region 4.

Throughout the year, I also had the privilege of participating in several Heaven 1 presentations. These events serve as powerful reminders of the deeper purpose of our organization and the importance of honoring those who have gone before us. They continue to be among the most meaningful experiences we share as Red Knights.

None of these experiences would be possible without the dedication of our chapter officers, members, rally hosts, volunteers, and the countless individuals who work behind the scenes to make our events successful. Region 4 continues to set an example through its commitment to fellowship, service, and support of one another.

On a personal note, Brandi and I are grateful for the friendships, memories, and experiences we have gained through this organization. The Red Knights have become much more than a motorcycle club to us—they are family. The opportunity to travel, serve, and spend time with members from across North America and beyond has been one of the greatest blessings of our lives.

If there is one piece of advice I would offer to every member, it is this: If you have the opportunity to attend an International Convention, a regional rally outside of your own region, or any event that brings together Red Knights from across the organization—DO IT.

While chapter events are the foundation of our club, there is so much more to experience throughout the International Red Knights Motorcycle Club. Some of the greatest friendships Brandi and I have made, and some of our most memorable experiences, have come from traveling beyond our home chapter and region. Attending these events allows you to truly see what the RKMC is all about—the fellowship, the camaraderie, the dedication to service, and the family atmosphere that exists throughout our organization.

The friendships you build, the memories you create, and the experiences you share are something you will carry with you for a lifetime. We have never regretted attending an event, and I can confidently say that if you take the opportunity to participate, you won't regret it either.

As I complete my second term as Region 4 Director, I remain humbled by the trust that has been placed in me and thankful for the opportunity to serve. It has been an honor and privilege to work with the International Board while representing the greatest Region in the organization. I sincerely hope to continue serving this great club and its members in whatever capacity I am able.

2026 CONVENTION REPORTS

REGION 4 DIRECTOR – CHUCK MARKS

Thank you for your friendship, your dedication, and your commitment to keeping the spirit of the Red Knights strong.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chuck Marks
Region 4 Director
FKIFMC

“LOYAL TO OUR DUTY”

SPOT THE DIFFERENCES

There are 10 differences. Answers can be found on [page 64 \(linked here\)](#).



2026 CONVENTION REPORTS

REGION 5 DIRECTOR – JOEL NELSON

Region 5 has 18 States & Provinces; however, 6 (Alaska, Montana, NW Territory, Nunavut, Saskatchewan & Yukon) have no chapters. R5 has 37 chapters with 834 chapter members and 42 MAL's. We have added AB6 since the last report and lost ND2 (they have opted to close the chapter).

Alaska has 1 MAL; Alberta has 11 chapters with 210 members and 13 MAL's; British Columbia has 4 chapters with 130 members and 2 MAL's; Idaho has 1 chapter with 10 members and 1 MAL; Iowa has 2 chapters with 51 members and 2 MAL's; Manitoba has 1 chapter with 15 members and 2 MAL's; Minnesota has 7 chapters with 214 members and 2 MAL's; Nebraska has 3 chapters with 68 members and 2 MAL's; North Dakota has 2 chapters with 58 members and 7 MAL's; Oregon has 1 chapter with 14 members and 1 MAL; South Dakota has 1 chapter with 20 members and 3 MAL's; Washington has 3 chapters with 41 members and 2 MAL's; Wyoming has 1 chapter with 11 members; Saskatchewan has 5 MAL's.



I have been working with the team from AB11 as they prepare for the 2026 Western Rally, they have a great location just outside of Banff National Park in High River, Alberta, Canada as well as a solid plan for a fun rally.

I have just returned from the Western Rally in High River, Alberta, Canada. AB11 was the host chapter and did a fantastic job setting up a great rally. Riding in the Canadian Rockies was incredible, as was the surrounding areas of Alberta and British Columbia. Plus, the weather was fantastic. We drove about 1,200 miles each way to get there and then rode a little over 2,000 miles from Saturday the 13th to Saturday the 20th of June.

Members of MN4 are preparing for an "All Chapters" Camping and Party weekend July 10-12 in Elmore, Minnesota for all MN Chapters. All Red Knights are welcome and if you would like to join us, please reach out and I will get you the info.

There has not been a lot of other activity in the region this spring but you can see the attached R5 board report for some of the items we have been working on.

Submitted by
Joel "Hambone" Nelson
Region 5 Director

2026 CONVENTION REPORTS

REGION 6 DIRECTOR – BRIAN SINGLETON

Region 6 currently has 31 Chapters, 409 Members, and 45 Members at Large. Unfortunately, we lost two members (Martin Jones, OK 4, and Flint Breeding, TX 2) this year.

With the assistance of my state representatives, we have collaborated with each chapter to ensure that current contact information is on file. This has been instrumental in ensuring that all members continue to receive information sent by other RKMC members or me. Furthermore, our close work with each state representative to ensure that all MALs receive timely updates and international information has made our membership feel involved and valued.



The Texas State Association, in its review, updated its state SOGs. The Texas State Association held its annual member meeting on 04/17-04/19, during which it elected Daryl LaBove, TX 1, as State President/Representative and Chuck Buckman, TX 2, as State Treasurer. I was unable to attend due to my attendance at the Quarterly Spring Board Meeting.

The Oklahoma State Association held its annual membership meeting on 03/27-03/29, during which it elected Brian Thompson, State President/Representative, Jimmy Ralls, Central State Vice President, and Rose Butler, State Secretary. They raised an impressive \$3,345.00 for their charity, Hydrants of Hope, a testament to their hard work and dedication. I want to congratulate them on a job well done and let them know how honored I was to attend and be part of their amazing event. I want to congratulate them on a job well done and let them know how proud I am of them. They also observed a moment of silence and sat at a table in honor of their lost brother from OK4.

OK13 has planned and is hosting the 3rd annual Scooter Stampede (Region 6 Rally) on October 8-11 at Lake Texoma Lodge and Resort in beautiful Mead, OK. The team has put together a great schedule of events and is looking forward to hosting their brothers and sisters from the Red Knights.

The other states in our region continue to maintain RKMC's presence and represent the region internationally at local events. They continue to recruit potential new members.

I spend about 10-15 hours a week on Red Knight business, whether it's getting information out to my state reps or handling issues on my own. This, of course, does not include the numerous phone calls I receive, which are pretty much daily. I will never turn anyone away who is looking for answers or just wants to talk.

This year so far has been a lot better for rides and rallies. In May, I attended the Dixie Rally along with members from TX2 and TX3. We all had a wonderful time. I was also able to travel to the Memorial Hall while attending the memorial service for one of our Founding Fathers, Roger Wentzell.

2026 CONVENTION REPORTS

REGION 6 DIRECTOR – BRIAN SINGLETON

To all of the Region 6 Chapters, please send your pictures of events and fundraisers to region6reporter@redknightsmc.com so that they can be added to the newsletter. As a reminder, your chapter must submit quarterly roster updates by April 1st, July 1st, & Oct 1st to avoid being placed on Limited duty. These updates must come from your chapter's email so we know which chapter is submitting them.

Respectfully submitted:
Brian Singleton, "Minion"
Region 6 Director



Region 6
SCOOTER STAMPEDE
PRE-REGISTRATION DUE
BY AUGUST 15TH!

2026

OCTOBER 8- OCTOBER 11

**LAKE TEXOMA
LODGE & RESORT
3263 US 70
MEAD, OK 73449**

\$80/MEMBER
\$40/JUNIOR

580-931-0100
10% DISCOUNT FOR RED KNIGHTS

TSHIRT, POKER
CHIP, SATURDAY DINNER
@SNEAKY TIKI

QUESTIONS? EMAIL:
SCOOTERSTAMPEDECOMMITTEE@GMAIL.COM

2026 CONVENTION REPORTS

REGION 7 DIRECTOR – TOM VAN DER KLEY

A Year Full of Special Moments

It has been a good year filled with many wonderful, moving, and unforgettable moments. Before I look back on the events of this year, however, I would like to take a moment to remember all the members we have lost over the past years. They will always remain a part of our community and will continue to live on in our hearts.



Once again, this year allowed me to experience many things that would only have been possible because of this incredible family. One particularly special experience was our honeymoon through Louisiana and Texas, which we began with the Dixie Rally in New Orleans. We had a fantastic time together there—not only with our members but also with the local people we met along the way. These encounters, conversations, and shared experiences once again demonstrated the strength of the bond within our community.

Another major highlight was finally having the opportunity to cross the Channel again and attend the UK/Ireland Meeting. While there, I had the privilege of visiting the Memorial for Fallen Firefighters for the first time and participating in a dedication ceremony for K9 dogs. It was truly indescribable to see how much work, dedication, and passion England 4 has invested in building and maintaining this memorial. They have earned my utmost respect for their efforts.

Beyond these memorable events, this year also brought important growth for our organization. We were able to support the founding of several new chapters, further strengthening our presence and expanding our family. It has been inspiring to see dedicated members step forward, invest their time and energy, and create new opportunities for fellowship and service within their local communities. In addition, we continued to represent our club in new countries and regions, helping to build connections across borders and ensuring that our values and mission reach even more firefighters and supporters around the world. Seeing our organization grow internationally while maintaining its strong sense of family has been one of the most rewarding aspects of this year.

In addition to these special trips, gatherings, and organizational achievements, the year was naturally filled with countless emails, phone calls, messages, and many other conversations. Unfortunately, I was not able to attend every meeting this year. Due to a professional advancement, my work now demands even more of my time. Nevertheless, I continue to do my very best to represent the interests of my region.

As this will be my final year serving as Regional Director, and elections for the position will take place next year, I would like to remind everyone to take a close look at the candidates. Ask them any questions that matter to you, share your ideas with them, and choose the person you believe will best represent your interests.

2026 CONVENTION REPORTS

REGION 7 DIRECTOR – TOM VAN DER KLEY

Finally, I would like to sincerely apologize for not being able to join you in Australia this year. Due to professional, personal, and political changes, it was unfortunately not possible for me to attend the convention. This is especially painful because I know how much heart, effort, and dedication you have invested in making this event a success—and I also know what I will be missing.

Thank you all for your commitment, your friendship, and the sense of unity that makes this community so special.

Tom van der Kley



2026 CONVENTION REPORTS

REGION 8 DIRECTOR – ANDREW YOUNG

G'day from Region 8!!

And to all members attending the International Convention –
Welcome to Australia!!!

We look forward to hosting you here in the Land Down Under. Roger Van Kollenburg and the members of Australia 5 have been on a 5-year journey of preparation for this event, and they cannot wait to welcome members from Australia, New Zealand and across the world to the first convention in Australia, and first ever held in the Southern Hemisphere. Aus 5 have put together a big week of tours, and activities that will showcase the City of Melbourne to the Red Knight world.



Unhappily 2026 started with the passing of 2 members (John Brennan from New Zealand 2 and Andrew Rush from New Zealand 3)

Please spare a thought for their families, all Region 8 mourns their passing.

The 2026 NZ Gathering took place in Hawera, on the North Island of New Zealand, and New Zealand 4 did a great job in hosting the event. Well over 100 attendee's from across New Zealand made the journey for some fun, a great ride, a few drinks and a great party.

On Saturday night, Ken and Jan Mahon received International Life Member Awards. Ken founded New Zealand 6 and has served as Chapter President for 13 years and served the International Board as Region 8 Director from 2020 to 2024. Congratulations to them on their well-deserved awards.

In February, after a challenging 12 months as New Zealand Rep, Zane Eyre stood down from the position to focus on Family and Career. I would like to extend my thanks to Zane for his work on behalf on the NZ Red Knight community, he did an excellent job in his position, and his efforts were greatly appreciated. The New Zealand Rep position has been filled by Shaun Crowley from New Zealand 3, and while he has some big shoes to fill, I have great confidence in him to be a great representative for the New Zealand Members.

Region 8 has 31 Chapters – 12 in New Zealand and 20 In Australia. Currently our members total 320 in Australian Chapters and MAL's and 302 members in New Zealand. The largest chapter in Region 8 is New Zealand 3 with 51 members.

Since my last report I have attended the Spring Board meeting in Baltimore and been present at all Zoom meetings involving the International Board. I currently undertake approximately 3-4 hours per week on Red Knight business.

This convention marks the end of my first term as Region 8 Director, and I'd like to thank my fellow board members for their support and advice. They are a very dedicated group of people that are determined to make the club better for everyone, at every opportunity.

2026 CONVENTION REPORTS

REGION 8 DIRECTOR – ANDREW YOUNG

Finally, I would encourage all members, no matter where you're from to go to a Convention, Regional Rally, Gathering or just a neighbouring chapters event. Meet some new people, make new connections and most of all ride your bike and have some fun.

Thanks, and Regards
Andy Young
Region 8 Director



The Region 8 South Pacific Limited-Edition banner was created to celebrate the unique bond between Australia and New Zealand and will be available at the upcoming International Convention in Melbourne, Australia in August.

Printed on premium 160gsm heavy-duty polybunting fabric, this durable 180cm × 100cm banner is built to last and includes reinforced eyelets for easy display at home, club events, gazebos, or rallies.

Most importantly, all profits after manufacturing costs will be donated to the K-55 Firefighters Support Charitable Trust (New Zealand), established by firefighters for firefighters.

Available for Aus \$100 or U.S \$70. PayPal accepted. Postage additional if you can't pick up from convention.

Contact newzealandrep@redknightsmc.com for orders. Placing an order by 20th July.

UPCOMING EVENTS

**JUL 30
–
AUG 2**

Atlantic Rally

Truro, NS,
Canada

**AUG
18–23**

International Convention

Melbourne, VIC,
Australia

**SEPT
3–6**

Bootlegger Rally

Champion, PA,
USA

**SEPT
11–13**

EuCon

Fußach, Austria

**OCT
8–11**

Scooter Stampede

Mead, OK, USA

**OCT
8–11**

Knights of the Roundtable

Dalton, Georgia,
USA



REGIONAL NEWS

REGION 1 – REPORTER: JAMES VOSS

Dixie Rally



Red Knights NH Chapter 5 Vice President John Alcaidinho and his wife Deborah arrived for Dixie Rally, and met up with NH Chapter 1 riders.



One always visits the local Harley Davidson dealership to see what you may need. Many fun stops along the road as well to see how the locals use horsepower.



Red Knights NH Chapter 1 President 'Blue' Kelloway and his wife Ruth in the long line signing in for Dixie Rally.



Red Knights NH Chapter 1 members Rich, Laurie, Blue, Ruth, Kathy and Carl enjoying a local dinner at Dixie Rally.

REGIONAL NEWS

REGION 1 – REPORTER: JAMES VOSS

Dixie Rally



Happy Riding and another great meal sharing NH Red Knights Chapters 1 and 5 camaraderie.



A successful Red Knights Dixie Rally.

Massachusetts 2

Covered Bridge Challenge Ride



Kim and Ed Watts of RK NJ-31 were the first Red Knights to complete the RK MA-2 Covered Bridge Challenge Ride, and Lonny and Julie Ricketts, were the first members of MA-2 to complete the challenge ride, early in the spring. The ride challenge is to get out and visit six covered bridges and submit your application with the photos and receive a "Searching for Covered Bridges" patch. For more information, visit www.rk-mass2.org/coveredbridges.htm

REGIONAL NEWS

REGION 1 – REPORTER: JAMES VOSS

Massachusetts 2

Honoring the Boylston Chief as he is laid to rest

Red Knight Founding Father Roger Wentzell, 87, life-long resident of Boylston, was laid to rest on May 2, 2026, with a contingent of Red Knights representing members from across the globe on hand to honor this public servant. An estimated 300 people were on hand to grieve with Roger's widow Janet and his children Jodi, Robert, and Carolyn and their families.



Roger spent 48 years with the Boylston Fire Department, retiring as Chief.

For 63 years, Roger was the proprietor of Model Dairy, a true fixture in Boylston. Generations of families knew him as a steady, friendly presence, delivering not only milk but conversation, laughter, kindness and affectionately -earned him the badge of "Midnight Milkman," Roger's commitment to the benefit of others earned him the honor of Citizen of the Year in 1999.

During the reception following the services, many stories were told, one being that his milk truck was equipped with red lights and a fire department radio. Also, that many times, you could look at pictures of fire scenes in Boylston and would see a milk truck parked in the background.

Roger's life was one of quiet strength, tireless service, and enduring commitment for his town, his friends, and most especially his family. His legacy will live on in the community he helped build and the countless lives he touched. He will be missed by many, including the countless Red Knights that became friends over the miles and the years since our club was founded in 1982. Robert Laford Red Knights Motorcycle Club Mass Chapter 2

REGIONAL NEWS

REGION 3 – REPORTER: JIM GARNER

Ohio 6

Keeping Busy!

- Members of Ohio 6 participated in the 22nd Annual Firefighters Memorial Ride. Over 500 motorcycles gathered at Huntington Bank Stadium in Cleveland. The morning started out a little gloomy but ended up a really nice day. The ride was led by the Cleveland Police past 12 Fire Stations and ended up at Rock - N - Roll Hharley Davidson.
- The Nation of Patriot Tour was a veterans group transporting a flag across all 50 states. A stop was made at the American Legion Post 336 in Painesville, Ohio. Ohio 6 was invited to attend the escort the following day. Kickstands were at 10:00 am, and we were Police escorted to the Mellon Veterans Outreach Center in North East, PA. It was an honor to be involved with the American Legion and many Veterans.
- Ohio 6 has developed a new chapter patch, and it has been added to the Chapter Merchandise section on the Red Knights Web Site. Patches sell for \$8.00 each.

Hope everyone has a great and safe summer riding season.

Rich Merkosky - President Ohio 6



REGIONAL NEWS

REGION 4 – REPORTERS: ALAN AND DIANE BILLINGS

22nd Annual* Dixie Rally 2026

*There have been 22 Dixie Rallies scheduled with 2020 being cancelled due to covid

Hosted by Maryland 6 and 7

- 355 registered attendees
- 83 total chapters represented
- 5 regions in attendance



Passing of the new Dixie Rally statue to the next rally host. This statue has a plate with the chapter and location of every Dixie Rally with spots for the next 20 rallies



Friday night catered dinner



Skip Kittrell, Mel McEvoy, and Chris Gadway have attended all of the Dixie rallies



Lighthouse ride



Conowingo Dam ride



Saturday night food trucks



Covered bridge ride

REGIONAL NEWS

REGION 4 – REPORTERS: ALAN AND DIANE BILLINGS

Dixie Rally 2027

Dixie Rally 2027 will be returning to Golden Isles, Georgia hosted by Georgia 20.

Visit the Dixie Rally 2027 facebook page for more information



North Carolina 13

On April 17th we had our Executive meeting tonight and here is your new officer list.

- President - Todd McClain
- VP - Dave Degrave
- Secretary - Dale French
- Treasurer - Vanessa Degrave
- Senior Road Captain - Jason Mullins
- Road Captains - Robert Kennedy, Donnie Morris, Mark Strazzabosco, Ricky Bustle, Lynn Cook

We also gave Jason Mullins a few gifts for being the President for the last 10 years and thanked him for everything he had done for the Chapter.

May 8th and 9th - Well we made it to the NCCFF Memorial Weekend. Nice ride up with the crew. We meet at Sheetz in Statesville and rode to Asheboro and ate at the usual [The Flying Pig](#). Kinda has become an annual tradition. Then we rode to Clayton to see [Paul Tidwell](#). Wish you were here in our heads. Then rode to our hotels for a quick break. Then we rode to the Memorial at Nash Square. We helped provide security for the Foundation and enjoyed the Candlelight Service for the families. Of course we took a group photo, again tradition. Then off to the Hickory Tavern to end the day.



REGIONAL NEWS

REGION 4 – REPORTERS: ALAN AND DIANE BILLINGS

North Carolina 13

We paid tribute and honored the fallen with [The 14th Annual NCFFF Red Helmet Ride](#) and with the North Carolina Fallen Firefighter Foundation Memorial Service. One of the hardest things to do is keep composure while seeing these families in a time of loss. These guys and gals carried their loved one's names on their bike of those being placed on the memorial. To those families they get to see their loved one's name being carried on a motorcycle and hear the loud roar of a motorcycle to say their voice can and will forever be heard.

Once parked at the Memorial the families get to come up and meet the rider and see that name on the bike. After that those that participated in the ride line up with the Sea of Blue and hold the names of the fallen as they pass by to take their seat. Once the service starts, we follow the commands of the Honor Guard Commander. Once called we then walk in behind the helmet to be placed at the memorial. Once we come out the honor guard lines up to present these families with a flag and a rose.



What a lot people don't see or realize is that me and [Eugene Earp](#) wait behind that honor guard to hand the families that name tag with their loved ones name. One the hardest things to do is look a family in the eye as they have made contact with that tag of their loved one with tears falling and tell them " On behalf of those that participated in the Red Helmet Ride, we present this to you in memory of your loved one and we will never forget them". Thank you to the Foundation for allowing us to do that for the families. We also want to thank Gear wash in Charlotte and miss Lesile for doing this for us and the families of the fallen every year. I ask that you plan on attending next years' service and ride and let's make an effort to support these families as we said we would. Thank you to all those who came out and support both events.



REGIONAL NEWS

REGION 4 – REPORTERS: ALAN AND DIANE BILLINGS

North Carolina 13 + 26



September 12th 830am 11th annual 9/11 Ride Presented by RKM NC13



Ongoing and need your help “Motorcycle Raffle” 26 HD Heritage Bike. See Facebook page or one of our members



North Carolina 14

Members from Chapter 2, 13, and 14, put down 400 miles on a ride that had a little bit of everything. Elevation, technical riding, and even some dirt.

The day started with a run along the Blue Ridge Parkway, cutting through a few mountain tunnels on the way to Mount Mitchell. Climbing to 6,684 feet—the highest point east of the Mississippi River—the ride delivered cool air, sweeping curves, and views that make every mile worth it.

Before tackling the next stretch, we stopped in at Blue Mountain Pizza to fuel up—good food and a solid reset before getting back after it.



From there, things got interesting. A 5-mile stretch of twisty dirt road tested both rider and machine—loose terrain, tight turns, and a reminder that not every mile is meant to be easy.

We closed it out with the legendary Devil’s Whip—a technical run of sharp switchbacks that demands focus and delivers pure adrenaline all the way through.

REGIONAL NEWS

REGION 4 – REPORTERS: ALAN AND DIANE BILLINGS

North Carolina 22

NC22 celebrated our 10th Anniversary as a Chapter and presented our remaining Charter Members their 10 year pins on February 22nd. Three members, Phillip Burton, CW Bradsher, and Joey Powell, were at the original meeting. We held the event at Golden Corral in Roxboro because that is where the club held its first meeting.



On June 6th, we held our 9th Annual Heal the Burn Charity Ride benefiting the Firefighters Burned Children Fund of Person County. This year was the largest ever turn out. We had 100 motorcycles present and raised \$13,700 for the Burned Kids.



On May 5th, Charter Member CW Bradsher and Social Member Suzanne Ferguson were married.

REGIONAL NEWS

REGION 4 – REPORTERS: ALAN AND DIANE BILLINGS

South Carolina 1

South Carolina 1 participated in the America 250 Red White and Blue Remember Parade and Myrtle Beach Warbird Park Memorial Day dedication of the Vietnam War Memorial



REGIONAL NEWS

REGION 4 – REPORTERS: ALAN AND DIANE BILLINGS

Virginia 8

Good afternoon all...
I am well pleased to share the flyer created by Virginia 8 for their annual ride commemorating September 11, 2001.

A well attended annual event, this one more so as its the 25th anniversary of the tragedy that unfolded that day.

The ride is hosted and winds its way through the beautiful countryside of south/central Virginia.

Its never too soon to register, so please share this notification with your members at your meetings and events.

Contact President Hickam of Virginia 8 directly with any questions and comments, and surely if I can be of assistance, reach out to me.

September is not that far off!

Michael "Red Writer" Brigati
Va. State Rep.
RKMC



**10TH ANNUAL
RED KNIGHTS 9/11 RIDE
SEPTEMBER 13, 2026**

**JOIN THE RED KNIGHTS CHAPTER 8 FOR 80+ SCENIC
MILES WHILE REMEMBERING THOSE WE LOST ON 9/11.**

**REGISTRATION STARTS AT 7:30 AM AT
PRINCE GEORGE FD COMPANY 1**

**BLESSING OF THE BIKES & SAFETY BRIEF PRIOR
KICK STANDS UP AT 9:11 AM
ENDS AT NAMOZINE VFD.**

**REGISTERING BEFORE THE EVENT IS ENCOURAGED AT
WWW.REDKNIGHTSVA8.COM**

**DRIVER & PASSENGER IS \$20 EACH PRIOR TO 9/7/26.
AFTER OR ON-SITE \$25 FOR DRIVER & PASSENGER
EACH. PART OF THE PROCEEDS WILL BE GOING TO
HELP THOSE IN OUR COMMUNITY.**

**SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION & TO
REGISTER.**

REGIONAL NEWS

REGION 4 – REPORTERS: ALAN AND DIANE BILLINGS

Letter From Steve “Biz” Bisbee

Hello RKIFMC, Family,

I would first like to thank my Red Knights family for making this year’s Dixie event such a great success. On behalf of the entire committee and the Maryland State Association, we thank everyone who made the trip to visit Maryland.

If you did not see the post, we had:

- 355 registered attendees
- 83 total chapters represented
- 5 regions in attendance



Another fun fact from the weekend — three members ended up taking home new motorcycles after visiting the local Harley-Davidson dealerships!

As I write this, I am truly honored to be running for Region 4 Director and look forward to earning your support as voting begins.

One question I am often asked is, “What will you do differently if elected?”

My goal is to work closely with all State Presidents and representatives to build stronger communication throughout Region 4. I believe we can improve collaboration by setting up a few meetings throughout the year. This would give us an opportunity to share upcoming events, discuss ideas, and support one another across the region.

As you read the newsletters, if you have any questions or would simply like to connect, I am always available to talk.

As you read the newsletters, if you have any questions or would simply like to connect, I am always available to talk.

Steve “Biz” Bisbee
Loyal to Our Duty

410-708-8012
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REGIONAL NEWS

REGION 5 – REPORTERS: ASHLEY MARTIN AND JEN ZENKER

Alberta 1

Celebrating a Graduation

Join us in congratulating AB1 member (and AB Province Rep) Aaron Fuson on the graduation of his firstborn! Cheyenne Fuson is headed to MC College in Edmonton, to become a Red Seal Stylist and continue to wow the world with her skills!



Waterton National Park Ride

The AB1 Road Captain led 26 bikes on a ride from High River to Waterton National Park on Friday at the Western Rally! What a great day!



REGIONAL NEWS

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Alberta 4

Keeping Busy

AB4 kept themselves dreaming about bikes and the road through the winter, as a group headed to the Calgary motorcycle show in late January and making plans to attend the Western Rally, while reliving a few memories of the 2025 Western Rally! They've been getting together for group rides and bike nights, and a few went to the Badlands HD in Dunmore, AB, to support their Ridin' for Kids ride and Swap Meet!



Alberta 11

Preparing for Western 2026

AB11 has been extremely busy preparing to be the gracious Western Hosts for 2026. Navigating around a music festival and a rodeo popping up at the same time has been an adventure for them, but have no fear, they've used their expert swerving skills to make sure Western will be the best one yet!



REGIONAL NEWS

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Alberta 11

Preparing for Western

Set in High River, AB, from June 18-25, they are ready to welcome you! High River is located near two or three (depending on how far you want to ride) of the most scenic rides in Alberta, so this is potentially going to be one of the most photographed events this year! Nurtured By Nature Mental Health and Wellness Society is the charity that will receive donations from this year's Red Knights MC Western Rally.



Top Scenic Highways in Alberta:

- **Icefields Parkway (Hwy 93):** (Lake Louise to Jasper) The ultimate Rockies experience, featuring glaciers, icefields, and iconic lakes, taking a full day to enjoy.
- **Bow Valley Parkway (Hwy 1A):** (Banff to Lake Louise) A slower, wildlife-rich alternative to the main highway, winding through the valley floor.
- **Cowboy Trail (Hwy 22):** (Mayerthorpe to Lundbreck) Experience the transition from prairies to foothills with ranching landscapes and Western charm.
- **Smith Dorrien Spray Trail (Hwy 66):** (Canmore to Kananaskis Lakes) A rugged, gravel road offering immense mountain views in Kananaskis Country.
- **Highwood Pass (Hwy 40):** Southern Alberta's scenic route, reaching the highest paved road in Canada, known for wildflowers and wildlife.

British Columbia 3

First Responders Ride

Members of Red Knights BC Chapter 3 joined fellow first responders and supporters for the inaugural First Responders Ride. The event brought together members of the fire service, law

enforcement, military and emergency services communities for a day of camaraderie, fellowship and riding. Despite overcast skies, riders enjoyed a fantastic day on the road, followed by great food and even better company.



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British Columbia 3

Canadian Senior Motorcyclists Show & Shine

Members of Red Knights BC Chapter 3 attended the Canadian Senior Motorcyclists Show & Shine at Stanford Seniors Village in Parksville, BC. Residents and guests had the opportunity to view a variety of motorcycles, meet the riders and cast votes for their favourite bikes. The event created meaningful connections between riders and seniors while providing an enjoyable day of conversation, community engagement and appreciation for motorcycling. Several chapter members proudly displayed their motorcycles and spent time visiting with residents throughout the event.



Courtenay Legion Poker Run

Members participated in the Courtenay Legion Poker Run in support of the Royal Canadian Legion. Riders travelled through several Legion branches throughout the Comox Valley and surrounding communities while supporting veterans and local Legion programs. The event offered an enjoyable day of riding while contributing to a worthy cause.



1st Annual Kickstands Up for Veterans

Red Knights BC Chapter 3 proudly supported the inaugural Kickstands Up for Veterans event hosted by the League of Veterans Canada. The event brought together veterans, riders, families, and community members in support of healing, connection and service dogs for veterans.



REGIONAL NEWS

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British Columbia 3

1st Annual Kickstands Up for Veterans Continued

The chapter members were honoured to receive a Certificate of Appreciation recognizing their support and contribution to the success of this first-year event. The outstanding turnout demonstrated the strength of the motorcycle community and its commitment to supporting those who have served our country.



Looking Ahead

Red Knights BC Chapter 3 continues to strengthen relationships within the first responder, veteran and motorcycle communities while supporting charitable initiatives throughout Vancouver Island. We look forward to participating in upcoming rides, community events and fundraising opportunities throughout the summer riding season.

Iowa 2

IA 2 hosted a Summer Fun Run! Was a great day of riding with stops at Obie's, Poopy's, Offshore and Bent Rim.



Manitoba 1

30th Anniversary

MB1 continues to celebrate their 30th anniversary this year! Check out some of these great "back in the day" and "current" photos of the chapter that Bill Wardekker shared!



REGIONAL NEWS

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Manitoba 1

Ride for Dad

Bill also participated in his 14th Ride for Dad in May! He rode to raise money for a prostate cancer cure! Check out his FB page next year in early May if you'd like to donate to the ride/cause for his 15th year!



Minnesota 2

Dinner Rides

MN2 has been doing monthly dinner rides with each other! Exploring NE and Central MN! Pictured here with a couple members of MN 4!



Blessing of the Bikes

A few members of MN 2 went to Maranatha Church's Blessing of the bikes where they rode through the church and had themselves and their bikes prayed over for a safe riding season!



Finlayson FD Pancake Breakfast

MN2 members got together to support the Finlayson Fire Department at their Pancake Breakfast on the 4th of July.



REGIONAL NEWS

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Minnesota 4

MN 4 has had a busy start to the summer! They kept their connections strong throughout the winter with dinner (cage) rides and kicked off riding season in full force. One of the best things about our Minnesota chapters is that we do everything together. It's common to see members from multiple chapters riding together, meeting for dinner, or attending events across the state. We're fortunate to have such a close-knit community! With our warm weather here for only a short time, we're excited to make the most of every opportunity—logging plenty of miles and creating lasting memories along the way.

Welcoming New Board Members

- Chris “Tumbles” Schmidt: Secretary
- Elisha “Delish” Wolfman: Road Captain and FIRST female board member!
- Also Congrats to new MN State Rep: Adam “Flash” Gordon

Dinner Rides in Rain or Shine (or Snow!)



Memorial Day Weekend

Memorial Day weekend brought many of the chapter members down to Lanesboro, MN for the annual get together! Members enjoyed beautiful southern MN bluff riding, great local food, and camaraderie that was unmatched!



REGIONAL NEWS

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Minnesota 4

Blessing of the Bikes

Along with many MN Chapters, MN 4 also attended the Blessing of the Bikes! Riding your motorcycle through the church is an experience we think everyone should have at least once!



3rd Annual Family Picnic



MN 4 hosted their 3rd Annual Family picnic where members were encouraged to bring the fam! Some wet weather broke away and it turned out to be a wonderful day!

Coming up for MN4!

Don't miss our 26th Annual Firefighters Fighting Cancer Benefit on August 29th this year!

FIRE FIGHTERS FIGHTING CANCER BENEFIT RED KNIGHTS MN4



HAMEL VFW

19020 Hamel Road Plymouth, MN 55446

Saturday - August 29th, 2026

10AM: Registration Opens

10AM-12PM: Breakfast, Coffee, & Comradery

12PM: KSU For a Scenic Ride With One Stop

3:30PM: Return to Hamel VFW

(Food, Drinks, Silent Auction, Games)

3:30PM-7PM: Music From Jason Paulson Band

ALL ARE WELCOME - RIDERS AND NON-RIDERS ALIKE!!!

Contacts:

Shawn Thorud – President.RKMN4@Gmail

Nate Zenker – VP.RKMN4@Gmail.

Elisha Marie – RoadCapt.RKMN4@Gmail



Donate



REGIONAL NEWS

REGION 5 – REPORTERS: ASHLEY MARTIN AND JEN ZENKER

Minnesota 7

MN 7 took advantage of the great Memorial Day Weather and went on a little scoot together!



Minnesota 8

COMING UP! MN 8 Annual Ride on July 11!



Minnesota 10

RC Dylan Annis led a group to St. Mary's Distillery in Wisconsin during Memorial Day Weekend!



REGIONAL NEWS

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Washington 2

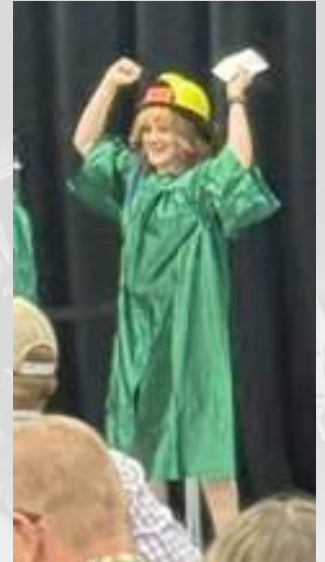
WA2's fire science student, Alli Goeske, at SCC graduated this spring!

Each year, the proceeds from WA2's 9/11 Memorial Ride are donated to a Fire Science Scholarship Fund at SCC, helping students pursue their goal of becoming firefighters.

We are proud to share that one of the scholarship recipients, Alli, graduated from the Fire Science Program on Monday, June 15. Throughout her education, Alli not only successfully completed her coursework but also held down a job and dedicated countless volunteer hours to the fire department.

We are incredibly proud of her hard work, commitment, and accomplishments, and we wish her continued success as she begins her career in the fire service.

WTG Alli and what a wonderful contribution you are making to the local community, WA2!!!



Easter Service with Soul Patrol

They kicked off April with an Easter service with Soul Patrol and then the great Girl Scout cookie buyout event with over 40 Girl Scouts.



REGIONAL NEWS

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Washington 2

Girl Scout Cookie Buyout Ride Out

Nearly 400 bikers rolled into Lone Wolf Harley-Davidson during the 4th Annual "Girl Scout Cookie Buyout Ride Out."

Some of the participants purchased as much as \$500 worth of cookies from the 40 Girl Scouts posted outside the dealership. One person estimated 1,512 boxes were sold, according to a post on social media.

Check out the local news article on the Cookie Buyout! I spy with my little eye some RK patches! <https://tinyurl.com/CookieBuyOut>



KIFF and Zombie Spring Opener



REGIONAL NEWS

REGION 5 – REPORTERS: ASHLEY MARTIN AND JEN ZENKER

Washington 2

Supporting Small Businesses

May found WA2 rolling out to support small businesses in the community - and honestly, who DOESN'T like ice cream?



23 Ride for C-Hawk

WA2 then went out and supported the Buffalo Soldiers MC on the 23 Ride for C-Hawk



REGIONAL NEWS

REGION 5 – REPORTERS: ASHLEY MARTIN AND JEN ZENKER

Washington 2 and 5

Save the Date for the Benefit Ride!

Save the date for the benefit ride for Ronald McDonald House with the Red Knights WA II and WA V !!! Saturday, August 15th

**JOIN US TO
HELP SUPPORT:**

Saturday, August 15th , 2026

Save the Date!
Be sure to add this amazing event to your ride calendar. More info on the ride and donations to follow.

Help us fill our trailer with needed supplies for Ronald McDonald House.

 Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Inland Northwest

Cost: In place of a registration fee, we ask that you purchase items from the provided list.
Cash donations are always accepted.
We will then load up the trailer and deliver it to Ronald McDonald House
Suggested donation: \$30
ALL ARE WELCOME

Wyoming 2

Monthly Bike Nights!

Monthly Bike Nights! Organized by the chapter to get together, enjoy each other's company and build the chapter!

Upcoming for WY2!

Come check out the Carbon County Fair Car show!



Carbon County Fair

EST. 1910

Help us Celebrate "Through The Decades" of Carbon County Fair with a Car Show!
Cars can be in the parade or meet at the fair grounds following the parade.

Registration is \$20 per vehicle with all proceeds going to Will's Warriors a First Responder Non-profit.



SATURDAY AUG 1ST

12PM - 4PM

HOSTED BY THE RED KNIGHTS WY2 IN CONJUNCTION WITH CC FAIR BOARD

CARBON COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS.
RAWLINS, WY. 82301

@James-Johnston-246



venmo

REGIONAL NEWS

REGION 7 – REPORTER: STEVE WILLIAMSON

Denmark 1

PTSD IN OUR MIDST– THE INVISIBLE STRUGGLE and ONE MAN’S BATTLE TO OVERCOME IT..

Results from a Danish study about mental health of firefighters and EMT Post traumatic stress disorder, PTSD, appear as a psychological reaction on an external strong stressful, life threatening or frightening experience. The perception of the experience is often different from person to person, it depends on the individual mental state, health, surroundings and many other factors. It normal to have reactions due to the incident in the days or weeks after, but can be delayed for years.

For veterans it's in average 16 years delayed. Facts of the study on firefighters and EMT: - 7-8% fulfil the criteria for a PTSD-diagnosis - 17-22% is in high-risk of getting PTSD - Firefighters experience 3-4 traumatic incidents a year, EMT often way more - PTSD can show years later, in some cases 40 years later and here is the President Denmark 1, Jan Winther's take on this:

The number are the known cases, but the dark unknown number can be twice as high. As Vice President of the Danish firefighter cancer organization, BFC, I get a lot of questions about this. I, myself, have PTSD and try to guide to get people the right help and get the traumas acknowledged as a work-related incident. The problem is to prove this. Like with cancer issues, brain damage due to carbon monoxide exposure, BFC fights for an assumption legislation for PTSD in Denmark. It's a hard fight, but we will get there. Why do you get PTSD? If your brain tells you, you're in life threatening danger, well, then you are. No matter how others see the situation, you feel in danger, that can give you a trauma. Many small traumas, can accumulate and end up as PTSD. Situations where you feel unequipped, not prepared, unsafe, not protected, not backed up, and many many more things can accumulate to a severe trauma. Your interpretation of the situation, is the main factor. You can train your whole life for all kinds of situations, but as you all know, everyone can be caught of garde. It can happen to all, no matter how prepared, tuff and hardcore you think you are. Studies of soldiers with PTSD have showed, that up to 40%, said that bad and incompetent leadership was a big factor of the traumas.

My guess is that it's the same in the fire service. That's kind of scary, because this trauma comes from the people you should be able to trust.

My own case: In 1994, I was a handsome young Sergeant Major, in the Danish civilian defence, like FEMA or the German THW. State owned heavy rescue service. I was asked to go to the current war in former Yugoslavia in the Balkans. The war started in 1988, 2 years after the dictator Tito died. His iron grip on the population, held 3 religions together as neighbours. Now everyone was fighting against each other. I will not get into who, I think, was the bad guys down there, but I can say, we meet aggressors and nice people from all sides. My job was to be a leader on a food aid convoy-team.

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Denmark 1

PTSD IN OUR MIDST– THE INVISIBLE STRUGGLE and ONE MAN’S BATTLE TO OVERCOME IT..



Together with a local interpreter, running point, guiding the truck to the destinations and keeping everyone alive and safe. A year before we lost 2 drivers, many others heavily injured, in a tank attack, in a tunnel in Maglaj. A driver, from Danish refugee council, got killed by sniper fire near Jayce, and a colleague of mine got a mortar grenade dropped on his car, killing his interpreter and blowing my colleague to pieces. He survived the attack though. We got ready to go, wrote our “Last will” - papers and went down there. Based in a civilian housing area in Zagreb, we drove all over the north side of the area. Daily crossings of checkpoints, with different military control.



Our vehicles were normal trucks, Mercedes 911, and a Toyota Landcruiser for me as leader of the team. No armour, just a ballistic helmet and vest. As aid organization we were unarmed, except a pocket knife. We saw a lot of bad sights there, driving all over the place. Bodies lying where they were shot down, ethnics cleansing, blown up buildings, bodies stacked up or floating in rivers. Artillery and sniper fire over our heads, held up on gunpoint numerous of times, a truck lost it steering and drove in to a mine field, intimidations and threats to give up our load of aids. Once we were followed by a Flying Fortress Helicopter, Russian model, hovering behind us, for what I thought was a half hour, but later found out was about 5-6 minutes, enough time to scare the s--t out of all of us. One push at the trigger and we would be slaughtered. The only people that was happy to see us was the once getting the food aid. A lot of s--t to deal with. I could go on, but I think you get the picture.

REGIONAL NEWS

REGION 7 – REPORTER: STEVE WILLIAMSON

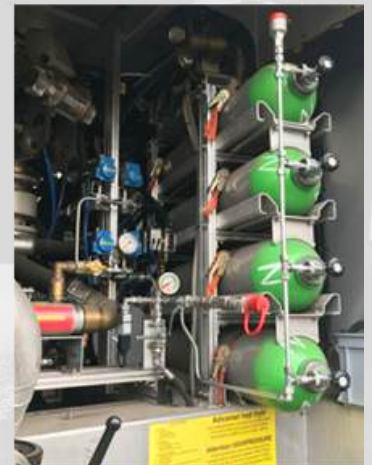
Denmark 1

PTSD IN OUR MIDST– THE INVISIBLE STRUGGLE and ONE MAN’S BATTLE TO OVERCOME IT..

When we all got back home, we had two days off and then back to our normal jobs, no debriefing, no help. My friends, family and colleagues said I was changed when I came back, but no one talked about it. I kept everything inside my head, no need to bother others about the things I was dealing with. And absolutely no acceptance from my side, that something wasn't right.

Over the years after, I was short fused, angry, feeling alone with my thoughts, constant nightmares, bad sleep, a feeling of being targeted every time I was outside, looking snipers everywhere, open areas and crowded places was a big NO THANKS, didn't like to walk the lawn because of mines, easy to start crying when I was alone, constant on my toes and seeking secure areas, but never feeling safe. In the later years I got a little better to act "normal" around other people, trying to be a regular person, acting happy and care free. I was better at acting than I thought, keeping it up for 3 decades. Everything was good, on the outside.

30 years later, I'm a firefighter in Copenhagen Airport. On a day, two days before our team left for vacation, our team had a routine exercise with our crash tenders. The goal was to train with the Compressed air foam system, CAFS, first with hoses and later with the roof water cannon. A system where you add compressed air, reduced to 22-25 bars pressure, to the already mixed water-foam extinguish system. The CAFS, has a 6 x 200 litre bottle, 300 bars, supply system. That's a LOT of air. That day my job was to drive the crash tender and on site work the pump and CAFS system. The first team, at the nozzle, gave me a thumbs up, they were ready. I pushed all the right buttons and the engine started its job.



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Denmark 1

PTSD IN OUR MIDST– THE INVISIBLE STRUGGLE and ONE MAN’S BATTLE TO OVERCOME IT..

When I turned on the CAFS, a default in the pressure system, made 300 bars of compressed air join the system, without the reduction of the pressure to the normal 25 bars. Within a few seconds, a security valve, reacted and led the pressure to an outlet underneath the crash tender, 1 meter from where I was standing. I reacted, something was wrong, I turned everything off, jumped into the truck and turned off the engines. I was sitting in the driver’s seat, and replaying the whole thing in my head. I was sure, this was my mistake. I didn’t want to look out the window; I was convinced that I had killed the whole team. I was scared of the scene of dead and heavily injured colleagues in front of the truck. Did I make a mistake and killed everyone?? I then realized I couldn’t hear anything, I was deaf from the blowout. Rewinding 10 seconds.

When the unreduced high-pressured water-foam solution, left the pump, into the hose, a lot of things happened almost at once. The guys holding the nozzle, got thrown to the ground, breaking 3 ribs, when the nozzle impacted with his chest. The hose gets thrown around and hits another colleague on the knee, with a bad injury to the kneecap. Gravel and small rocks get sent out everywhere. A rock hit a colleague in the head, rips his chin and break of two of his teeth. The hose, tested for 80 bars of pressure, splits open a hole 3 meters long, sending water-foam all over the area. No one died, a lot of small tears and everyone looking like white garden gnomes covered in foam. Everyone looking at each other with a “WHAT THE HELL JUST HAPPENED...????!!!”- look on their faces. The security valve has blown a 1 square meter, 20 centimetre deep, hole in the asphalt underneath the truck. Half of the air in the supply bottles is gone, 180.000 litres of air in a few seconds. I convince myself that I have to take a look outside the truck. I see my colleagues slowly getting off the ground, checking themselves and the others for injuries, starting talking and when everyone is on their feet, still shocked, of course starting laughing by the look of the other white garden gnomes. No panic, just another day in the fire department.

But in my head, everything collapses. I sit on the ground crying. My hearing slowly returns suddenly all my colleagues gather around me, assuring me that all survived and it wasn’t my fault. I slowly get back to the real world outside my head and get a grip of myself. We had debriefing afterwards. I was offered psychological assistance, but the “NO, I’M FINE”- acting came back to me. Other than my messed-up brain, my only other injury was tinnitus, still there to remind me of that day. Our mechanics investigated the incident and they found the default in the valves, and the security valve was stuck at first, due to lack of service.

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Denmark 1

PTSD IN OUR MIDST– THE INVISIBLE STRUGGLE and ONE MAN’S BATTLE TO OVERCOME IT..

They changed the hole security system afterwards. We now had proof that it wasn't my fault. I kept up the acting "normal" for one more year, until we had a similar exercise... That day I was on the nozzle-team. Business as usual, until the pump started roaring. I got tunnel vision, my brain messed up, I wanted to run, run fast away from it all. I finished the exercise still trying to act normal, but something changed. I couldn't shake it off anymore. I was scared. Scared of myself, my first reaction. From that day, the downward spiral started, going REALLY fast down. I was at home, sick, after seeing the Doctor in the fire service, shock, stress and depression, he said.

The diagnosis didn't make sense to me, I was a firefighter, tuff and hardcore, I could walk on water if I wanted to. How the fuck did that change, to being a whining sissy, crying my eyes out when I was alone?? I was sent to a psychiatrist. Not that I thought it would make a difference, in fact I was against it. But my wife on the other hand, insisted for me to go. She had found me, when she came home from work, weeks in a row, sitting in my bathrobe, a cold cup of coffee staring at the television and having no idea what I was watching or where the last 8 hours had gone. My brain was spinning off, 10.000 thoughts at the same time, never getting any rest. Flashbacks from the war, soldiers in uniform with no faces, the incident in the fire service, all the fear came back. The nightmares were devastating, covered in sweat, pulse on a 160 bpm and the feeling that I had to escape, fleeing from my imaginary enemies in my head. At a point, thoughts about leaving this life, started coming up, in the back of my brain. My wife asked me how I was doing. After 15 minutes of silence, I had no answer to give. I accepted I needed help. Now, after 8 years of therapy, medication, talking, telling my story over and over until my friends' ears were bleeding and an early retirement due to severe PTSD, I'm starting to get better. I have more good days than bad days. It's been a hard, long struggle to get here, but I'm getting better. On the bad days, I sleep a lot, trying not to isolate myself, breathing and just staying alive. If you need movie suggestion on Netflix, just ask, I've seen it all. The good days, I have a little more energy to do something around the house. Drive on the bike, visiting friends, do my hobbies. My therapist told me, look at my energy usage as matches. Everyone wakes up with 10 new matches every day. "Normal" people use one match, to get out of bed, take a shower and leave for work. After work they might have 3-4 matches left, for sports, family and friends. I, on the other hand, use a match just to convince myself to get out of bed before I piss myself, a match for a shower and one for drinking coffee and getting ready for a brand-new day. Before I'm ready to get up and do anything, I have used 3-5 matches. I might run out of matches before noon and that's it; I'm done for the rest of the day. You can borrow matches from tomorrow, but then you only wake up with less matches the next day. When I go to big family gatherings, parties, a concert, everything that makes my head going in security mode, making me alert on my surroundings, I use extra matches.

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Denmark 1

PTSD IN OUR MIDST– THE INVISIBLE STRUGGLE and ONE MAN’S BATTLE TO OVERCOME IT..

Matches borrowed from the day after. I know this and plan for it. Often, I have to plan for 2 days, with no activity at all, when I get home. Just to get my full set of matches back.

When I go with you guys, my Red Knight Family, I get a burst of energy, felling safe and happy. Good people, laughs and parties. The matches are burning slow. I love it. I think I use less matches, when I’m with this family, because as firefighters everyone is aware of the surroundings, ready to step in. I’m not doing the job alone and I’m able to relax and enjoy. And very important, I come home and have fun stories to tell. My wish for you all, and what I had to learn the hard way, is to be aware of each other, talk about the funny stuff BUT also the hard stuff. No more taboos on how you are doing. Get it out in the open and you will see you’re not alone with all this. If you see someone struggling, put out a hand, a shoulder to cry on or whatever is needed. We are trained as firefighters, to help people on the worst day of their lives, taking care of others, but who’s taking care of us? If you are struggling don’t hesitate to reach out, the help is only a phone call away.

And remember, the world is a better place with you in it! If you want help or advice, I’m always here to help, feel free to contact me.

PS. I hope reading this didn’t use too many of YOUR matches in the daily matchbox. I’ll probably take a few days to recover some matches, burned from writing this.

Jan Winther

President, Denmark 1



REGIONAL NEWS

REGION 7 – REPORTER: STEVE WILLIAMSON

Denmark 2

ASSIGN Operations Comes to Red Knights MC

Structured Operations, Shared Awareness, Stronger Coordination

By: Rasmus “Wild Patch” Lillemose, Denmark 2

Red Knights MC is taking an important step toward more structured and transparent operational coordination. ASSIGN Operations is now being introduced across the organization, already rolled out within Region 8 and Region 7, with 2275 members - followed by Region 6 and Region 5 in February 2026, and thereafter approximately one region per month until all regions are onboard.

This rollout is not about changing who we are, it is about strengthening how we coordinate, communicate, and operate when we ride, plan, escort, or support others. ASSIGN Operations is already widely used by emergency services and operational organizations. Now, it is being adapted to support the way Red Knights MC works in practice.

What Is ASSIGN Operations?

ASSIGN Operations is an operational management system designed to handle daily operations, coordinated activities, and complex events involving multiple units, people, and resources. The system structures operational work around core elements such as personnel, units, tasks, locations, and timelines, creating a shared operational overview in real time.

Rather than relying on fragmented communication channels, personal notes, or informal coordination, ASSIGN Operations provides a single operational platform where information is structured, updated, and accessible to those who need it.

Proven Use in Emergency and Operational Organizations

ASSIGN Operations is used extensively by emergency services and preparedness organizations to manage daily readiness and active operations. In these environments, the system supports:

- Allocation and tracking of units and personnel
- Resource and vehicle overview
- Operational documentation and traceability
- Shared situational awareness across command levels

A key technical principle is role-based visibility. Users only see information relevant to their role, ensuring clarity even in complex operations. This reduces cognitive load and allows users to focus on execution rather than information management.

Another core strength is transparency. Changes in status, task completion, and resource availability are visible in real time, creating a common operational picture and supporting informed decision-making

REGIONAL NEWS

REGION 7 – REPORTER: STEVE WILLIAMSON

Denmark 2

ASSIGN Operations Comes to Red Knights MC

Structured Operations, Shared Awareness, Stronger Coordination

By: Rasmus “Wild Patch” Lillemose, Denmark 2

Structured Operations Without Losing Flexibility

ASSIGN Operations does not enforce rigid workflows. Instead, it provides a structured framework that supports both planned activities and dynamic situations. Tasks and roles can be predefined, adjusted, and reassigned as conditions change—without losing overview or control.

Documentation is handled as part of normal operations. Actions and decisions are logged automatically, reducing administrative effort and ensuring accurate records without extra work for the user.

How Red Knights MC Benefits from ASSIGN Operations

For Red Knights MC, ASSIGN Operations supports activities such as escorts, events, coordinated rides, charitable missions, and support operations, especially when these involve multiple chapters or regions.

Operations can be planned with:

- Clearly defined roles and responsibilities
- Task distribution across members and units
- Route and timing coordination
- Real-time status updates during execution

Leadership gains a clear overview of participation, progress, and potential issues, while individual members receive clear instructions relevant to their role.

When cooperating with emergency services or public authorities, ASSIGN Operations provides a professional and familiar operational structure. This improves coordination, safety, and mutual understanding, as the system aligns closely with how emergency services already operate.

A Gradual and Controlled Rollout

The phased rollout ensures that each region has time to become familiar with the system before the next joins. Starting with Regions 8 and 7, followed by Regions 6 and 5 in February, ASSIGN Operations will be introduced steadily across all regions.

This approach allows training, feedback, and adaptation to happen organically, ensuring the system supports Red Knights MC in practice, not just in theory.

REGIONAL NEWS

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Denmark 2

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By: Rasmus “Wild Patch” Lillemose, Denmark 2

Looking Ahead

ASSIGN Operations is a tool that turns coordination into structure and complexity into clarity. For Red Knights MC, it strengthens operational capability without changing the spirit of the organization. Members remain volunteers, rides remain rides, but coordination becomes clearer, safer, and more transparent.

As more regions come online, ASSIGN Operations will become a shared operational foundation across Red Knights MC, supporting both independence at chapter level and strong coordination at regional and national scale.

Do you want to learn more?

ASSIGN have allocated a Red Knight MC focused video page, for a variant of instructions on the system.

Go to: <https://rkmc-video.assign.ordergroup.dk/>
Or scan the QR code



France 7 and 10

France VII enjoy a visit to their brothers and sisters from France 10

On June 21, 2026, a delegation from the Red Knights MC France 7 took the road to visit the [Red Knights France Chapter X Charleville-Mézières](#) family on the occasion of their rally to support [Don d'organes et de tissus](#)

Under a leading sun and a beautiful blue sky, the engines roared in a warm atmosphere, placed under the sign of friendship, sharing and fraternity that unites the Red Knights across France and the world.



REGIONAL NEWS

REGION 7 – REPORTER: STEVE WILLIAMSON

France 7 and 10

France VII enjoy a visit to their brothers and sisters from France 10

A big thank you to Chapter France 10 for its welcome, organization and these great moments spent together. These meetings are an opportunity to strengthen the bonds that make our MC the strength and share our common passion for motorcycling in a spirit of camaraderie and respect while working for associations.

All that attended enjoyed the feelings of Fraternity, Passion and the Red Knights spirit



Germany 3

Germany 3 Visit German rally and the summer festival

Germany 3 visited the rally and festival of the Red Knights MC Germany 1 & 33 that was also attended by the Yellow Knights 3

Their member Thomas and President Timo followed the invitation to the German rally and to the summer festival on their machines, the two set off to the Bodensee region, more precisely to the quaint town of Meßkirch near Sigmaringen.



The arrival initially led via the motorway up to the height of Karlsruhe, there they left the highway and continued their tour on the beautiful country roads of the Black Forest.



In the best motorcycle weather, the winding tracks, dense forests and magnificent views offered numerous opportunities to enjoy the ride. The varied landscape of the Black Forest already made the arrival a special experience and increased the anticipation for the upcoming meeting.

Towards early evening, Thomas and Timo finally reached their destination in Meßkirch. There they were warmly received by the hosts and the guests who had already arrived.

REGIONAL NEWS

REGION 7 – REPORTER: STEVE WILLIAMSON

Germany 3

Germany 3 Visit German rally and the summer festival

A special point of the program was the participation in the membership inducting of the Red Knights Motorcycle Club Germany 1 & 33 at which point a warm welcome to the new members in the big family of the Red Knights Motorcycle Club was given.

The evening afterwards ended up in a social round with good food, cool drinks and lots of interesting conversations, the two spent some nice hours with friends from Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Italy, France and the Netherlands.



There was a lot of laughter, expertise and the international friendship that makes our club so special.

After a shared breakfast the next morning, Thomas and Timo started the journey home.

Total distance: approx. 800 km.

Timo and Thomas gave their sincere thanks to the Red Knights Germany 1 & 33 as well as the Yellow Knights 3 for the invitation, the excellent organization and the warm hospitality throughout the weekend.

They felt very welcome and would love to come back.

Germany 12

Red Knights charity donation raises 555 Euros towards the CitizenBus Eschede

The motorcycle club Red Knights Germany Chapter XII has supported the BürgerBus Eschede e.V. with a donation of 555 euros. The symbolic donation check was received by the club chairman Wilhelm Lilje. The financial support should help secure the voluntary mobility supply in the region in the long term.



REGIONAL NEWS

REGION 7 – REPORTER: STEVE WILLIAMSON

Germany 12

Germany XII Members attend the wedding of Tanja and Jörn

On Saturday, June 6, 2026, a delegation of 11 members travelled to Cuxhaven to witness our fellow members Tanja and Jörn exchange their wedding vows.

We offer them our heartfelt congratulations on their marriage and wish them all the best and much happiness for their life together.



Switzerland 2

A very hot but great weekend comes to an end

Switzerland 2 drove with members of Switzerland 1 and Italy 1 to Messkirch for the summer festival.

As always, it was a nice party with lots of good conversations.

Lots of old familiar faces and loved ones and new friendships! The motorcycle ride was hot.... Very hot!!!!

While driving back, a few cooled off in the village fountain of Veltheim....

We would like to thank Germany 1 + 33 and the Yellow Knights for the warm way they welcomed their guests!



REGIONAL NEWS

REGION 8 NZ – REPORTER: ZANE EYRE

New Zealand Annual Gathering Marks 25 Years

Late February saw 123 members descend on Hāwera, Taranaki, for the New Zealand Annual Gathering, and a significant milestone—25 years of Red Knights membership in New Zealand.



The gathering brought together members from all New Zealand Chapters, alongside Region 8 Director Andy Young and a strong contingent of Australian members who proudly “flew over the ditch” to join the celebrations. The weekend was a fantastic display of the camaraderie and friendships that continue to unite Red Knights members across both sides of the Tasman.

Festivities kicked off on Friday evening with a relaxed meet-and-greet, giving members the opportunity to reconnect with old friends, welcome new faces, and share stories. The National Executive Meeting was also held, ensuring the organisation continues to move forward with a strong vision for the future.

Saturday morning saw members saddle up for a spectacular ride around the iconic Mount Taranaki. Blessed with great riding conditions and stunning scenery, the group travelled through the region on a poker run, stopping along the way to enjoy refreshments and lunch generously hosted by local fire brigades. The support shown by the brigades was greatly appreciated and highlighted the strong relationship between firefighters and the Red Knights.

The celebrations continued into the evening with a formal dinner and awards presentation. One of the highlights of the night was the recognition of Past Region 8 Director Ken Mahon, who was awarded International Life Membership in recognition of his many years of outstanding service, leadership, and commitment to the Red Knights. It was a fitting tribute to someone who has played an important role in the growth and success of the organisation.



REGIONAL NEWS

REGION 8 NZ – REPORTER: ZANE EYRE

New Zealand Annual Gathering Marks 25 Years

Members also raising an impressive \$5,183 for the Kohi, Manaia, and Hāwera Fire Brigades. A further \$470 was donated to the K55 Charity Fund, reflecting the generous spirit that remains at the heart of the Red Knights.

As the formalities concluded, the karaoke microphone appeared and the evening quickly transformed into a night filled with laughter, music, and entertainment, creating memories that will no doubt be talked about for years to come.



The gathering wrapped up on Sunday morning with a farewell breakfast, providing one final chance to exchange handshakes, and say goodbye before members began their journeys home.

As the celebrations came to a close, the weekend served as a proud reminder of everything the Red Knights stand for—friendship, community service, and a shared passion for motorcycles. Most importantly, it was a fitting way to celebrate 25 years of Red Knights in New Zealand and look ahead to many more years of riding together.

Zane Eyre

The Aotearoa Ride

New Zealand now has its own unique patch ride for members to enjoy while exploring our beautiful country.



Aotearoa is the Māori name for New Zealand and is most commonly translated as **"The Land of the Long White Cloud."**

The name originates from early Polynesian navigation traditions. According to Māori oral history, the legendary explorer Kupe was guided to these islands by a distinctive cloud formation. His wife, or in some accounts his daughter, Hine te Apārangi, is said to have sighted the land and called out, "He ao! He ao! Aotearoa!" ("A cloud! A cloud!"), recognising the long, flat clouds that often signalled nearby land.

Today, Aotearoa is widely used as a name for the whole of New Zealand and reflects the country's rich cultural heritage.

REGIONAL NEWS

REGION 8 NZ – REPORTER: ZANE EYRE

The Aotearoa Ride

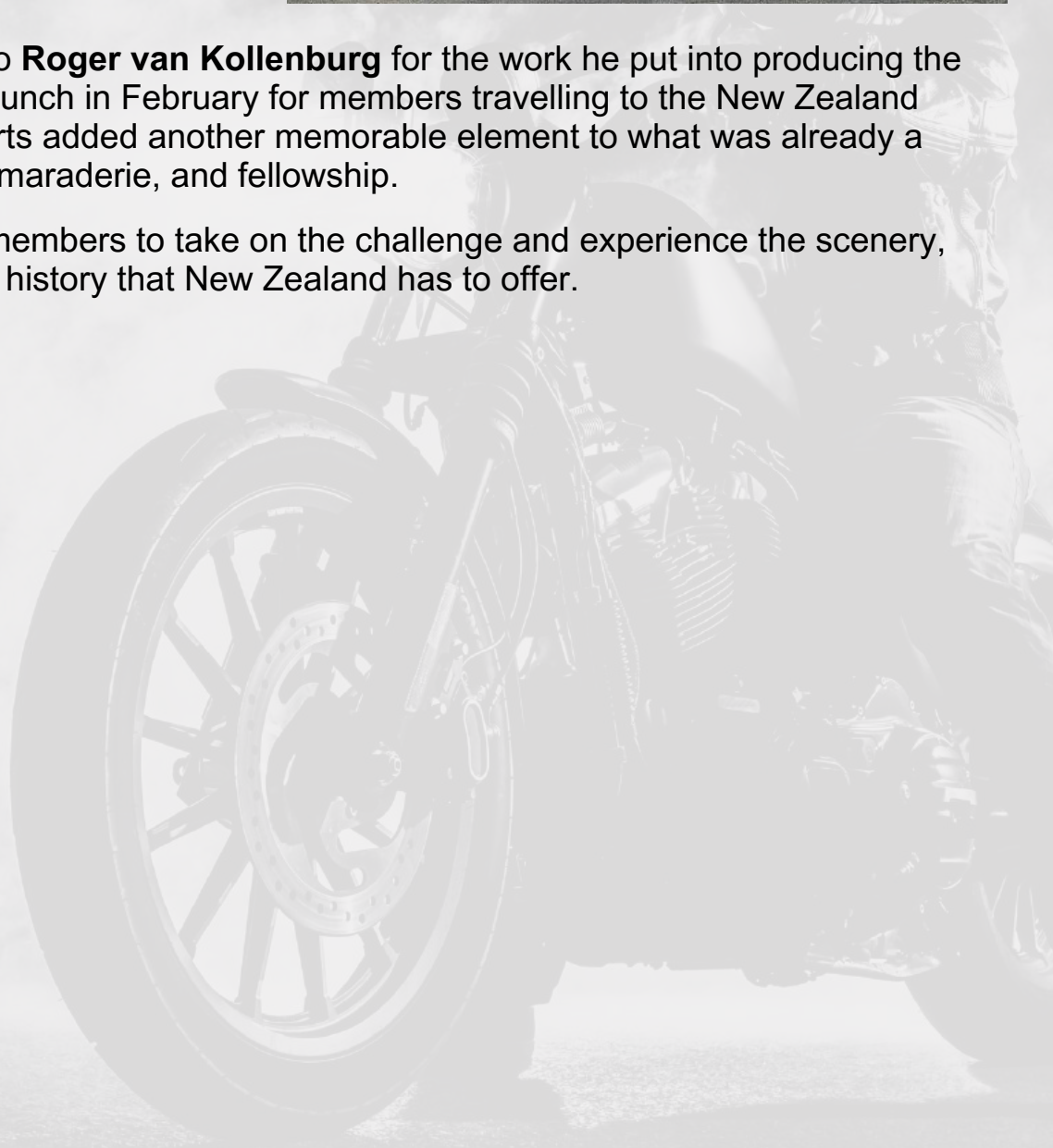
Much like the Grand Tour rides, participants must visit fire stations that collectively spell out **AOTEAROA**, while also collecting one additional station to bring the total to nine. The unique twist is that, similar to Australia's popular AUSTRALIA patch ride, the **Aotearoa +1 Ride** can only be completed within New Zealand.



A special thank you goes to **Roger van Kollenburg** for the work he put into producing the patch and overseeing its launch in February for members travelling to the New Zealand Annual Gathering. His efforts added another memorable element to what was already a fantastic week of riding, camaraderie, and fellowship.

We encourage all visiting members to take on the challenge and experience the scenery, hospitality, and fire service history that New Zealand has to offer.

Zane Eyre



WORD SEARCH

The words can go in any direction and may share letters.

Answers can be found on [page 71 \(linked here\)](#).

K	Y	J	B	I	G	Z	R	D	V	K	G
C	U	L	O	H	V	C	I	T	Y	F	F
C	I	T	L	Y	Y	G	C	N	V	E	R
S	O	T	A	A	S	J	O	U	P	A	Z
Y	N	N	N	M	R	C	H	T	S	D	N
N	Q	K	V	A	U	V	O	C	U	I	F
R	E	G	G	E	L	T	O	O	B	X	X
E	M	X	L	H	N	T	E	O	T	I	E
T	R	O	U	N	D	T	A	B	L	E	I
S	C	R	D	R	M	G	I	E	Q	R	R
E	X	U	A	M	N	B	Q	O	P	Z	U
W	G	K	B	W	N	Q	S	N	N	E	X

Words:

Rally

Atlantic

Bootlegger

Convention

Dixie

Eucon

Roundtable

Scooter

Western

Yankee

HEAVEN ONE

IN LOVING MEMORY



Michael Flint Breeding
TX2



Janet Lynn Capo
PA13



Darren Crays
ID1



Gerald Forstater
LA1



Geczi-Mehesz Ioan
ROU1



Luc Maes
BEL2



Richard Meeks
AL9



Don Reese
NJ14



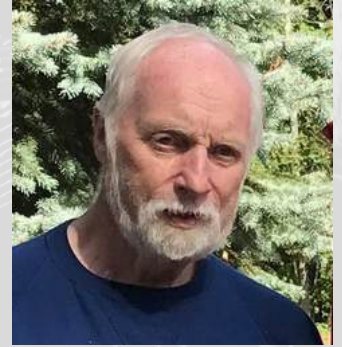
Shirley Reynolds
ME9



Bill Schneider
OH14



Francis Truscello Sr.
PA22



Roger Wentzell
MA1

Not Pictured:

- Mercedes van den Bossche (BEL2)
- Derlene Czaja (IL23)
- Gerlinde Dahlitz (GER10)
- Clifford Eldridge (MA2)
- Thomas Etzle Jr. (PA15)
- Robert Fournier (QC3)
- Shaun Halfacre (NY28)
- Martin Ray Jones (OK4)
- Felix Laporte (MA3)
- Thomas Underhill McCabe (NB8)

MARRIAGES

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEWLYWEDS!



Jörn and Tanja
Germany 12



CW and Suzanne
North Carolina 22

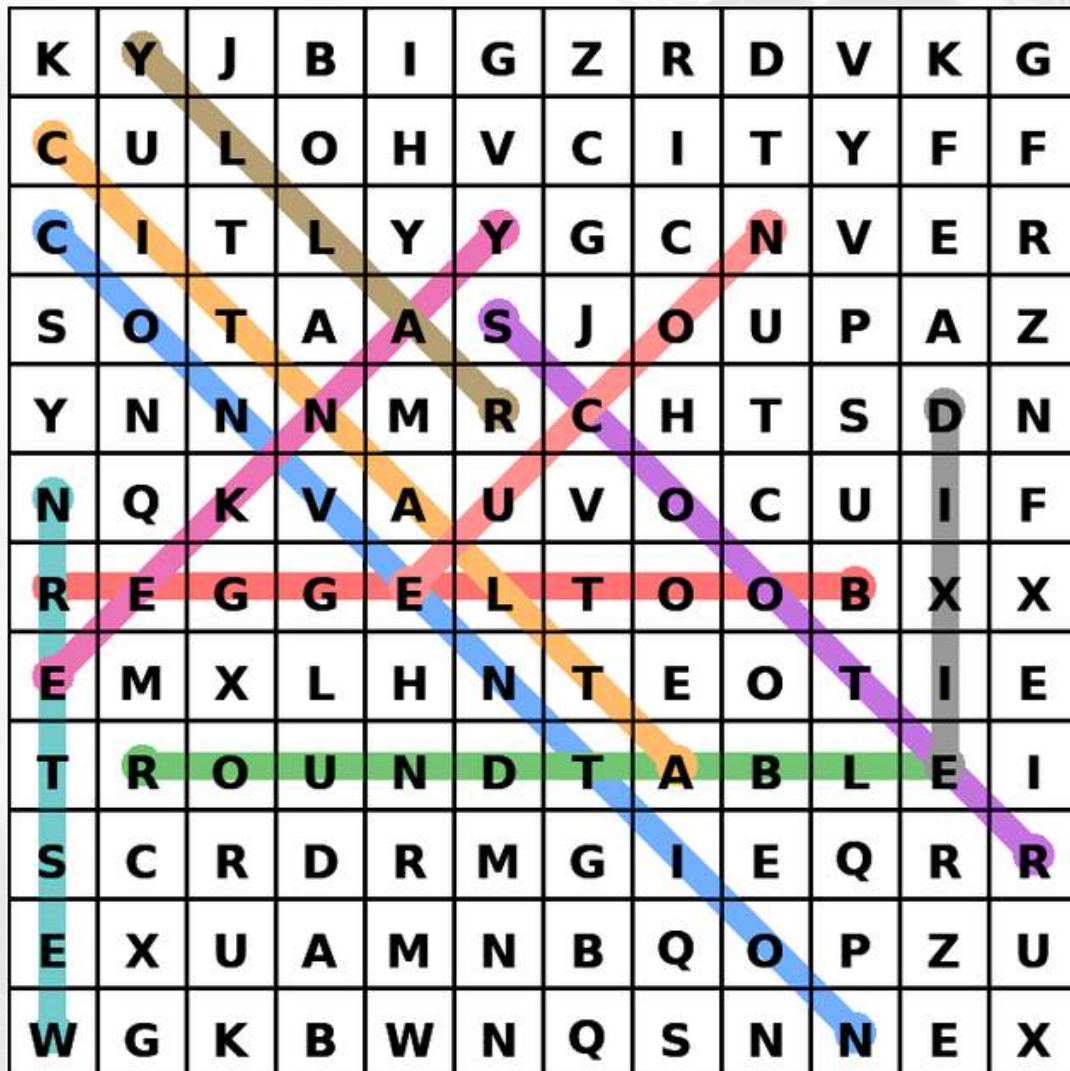
BIRTHS

NEWEST JUNIOR MEMBER!



Elsie Rose (NY25)
Grandpa: Steven Tekulsky

ANSWER KEYS



ANSWER KEYS

Newsletter Quiz Answers:

Thanks for playing!

- 1) How many new members joined the Red Knights in 2025? **Over 925**
- 2) During the 2026 Yankee Rally, what famous racetrack did Red Knights ride around three times? **Watkins Glen International Speedway**
- 3) Ontario and Quebec Red Knights participated in what memorial weekend for the second time? **Canadian Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend**
- 4) Proceeds from Washington 2's 9/11 Memorial Ride support what type of scholarship fund? **A Fire Science Scholarship Fund at SCC**
- 5) Germany Chapter XII donated 555 euros to support what community transportation service? **CitizenBus Eschede or BürgerBus Eschede e.V.**

