

BELOW IS THE TIMES AND AGENDA FOR THE BOARD MEETINGS

RKIFMC BOARD MEETING October 18 to October 20, 2015 Baltimore, MD

PRESIDENT

1. Meeting called to order 1:05 pm on October 18, 2015
2. Moment of Silence for those who have passed
3. Opening greeting from President
4. Roll Call

Chris Gadway, President
Jack Jarvis, VP
Bill Snodgrass, Secretary
Scott Ryan, Treasurer
Gil Rekken, Region 5
Pierre Halleux Region 7

Matt Mattera, Region 1
Leo Patry, Region 2
Tim Reinard, Region 3
Joey Powell, Region 4
Joe Connors, Region 6

Guest: Amy Gilliland (PA 24)

Welcome to new Board Members (Matt and Pierre)

5. Rules of meeting (50 minutes with 10-15 break)
6. Regional Reports:
 - *Region 2, Problems with History Book, problems with web site, working with 3 possible new chapters*
 - *Region 3, working with Wisconsin on convention, met with PA on convention, problems with state picnics, will be discussed in Executive Session*
 - *Region 6, web site, need search engine on web site, Fire and Iron strong in the west, Brothers Keepers growing in Texas, no other FD motorcycle clubs allowed in Ok. Fire and Iron in CA. Private fire companies in AZ. All programs are doing well.*
 - *Region 4: 343 ride, NC State Assoc meeting, met with VA, 911 ride in LA for 2016; Dixie in Ocean City 2016 and in 2017 will be in Raleigh, NC. Personal problems within chapters between members are being told to work it out at the chapter level.*
 - *VP: MAL program is going strong, applicants' go to Jack, concerns with Australia, going to visit Australia in 1st week of December for Charlie's Ride. Move MAL to membership on web site*
 - *Region 5: Western Rally for 2016 to be held in Valley City, ND, Rally for 2017 will be on BC Island*

- *Treasurer: dues notices sent out, updated map on web site, sent out request on face-book to see what people think, Scott is using Google maps, it shows chapter, chapter members, MALs.*
- *Region 1: Attended 1st funeral (VT 2), Yankee Rally, 2016 Yankee Rally in Vineland, NJ. Feedback about the book, very pushy, email issues, some emails sent to him are not coming to him.*
- *Region 7: 4 new chapters, history book is not going over with the chapters, Pierre has purchase the CD and the book and he will show to the chapters to get interest, and a new chapter within the 25 mile radius (BE 8) was approved.*
- *President: members need to read and research web site, what works for one region may not work in another region. He will not answer questions regarding questions/issues in regions; it is the Regional Director's duty to deal with these questions. Attended the European Convention. Contacted the International President of Knights of Inferno regarding a twitter account that is being managed by Peter Rufener (Pesche), about him releasing the account that is in our name. Our email server receives between 27k and 35k emails daily. When we receive a notice about emails not been sent or received, sent notice to Chris and Kitty. Roger and Kitty are working on problems. When send information (new chapters package, insurance certificates, checks, patches, etc.) use Priority mail.*

7. Convention Reports: *Given in Regional Reports*

8. Adjustments to Agenda:

- Move Texas to Region 4
- AL 14 Issue

THE FOLLOWING WERE CARRIED OVER FROM THE 2015 SPRING MEETING

9. Business Plan Review (ALL)

Discussion on what do we need and not need. President, VP, Secretary and Treasurer to work on a proposed financial plan for investment, to be presented to the International Board at the spring board meeting.

Motion 2015-030 was made and passed to archive the RKIFMC business plan.

Secretary and Treasurer advised to get electronic copy of Roberts Rules and place on their laptops.

10. Chris showed power point for a new organization flow chart on this subject that was based on number of chapters/members. This would have a President, Executive VP, three Regional VP, Secretary, Treasurer and 10 Regional Directors. Good discussion on this idea which would take some time to develop to a point to present to the membership.

Power Point is to be sent to Board members for review and comments and review at the Fall Board meeting was to be submitted by Chris.

Chris showed power point on possible of new organization flow chart and led discussion. We will work to have this finished at the Spring Board meeting and have it ready to have the membership vote on this at the 2016 ABM. We will discuss how to make the membership know that this is coming and a vote will be needed.

11. Each Board member is to take one section of the By-laws and review and comments, be ready to discuss at the October meeting.

Each Board member went over the section that was assigned to him. After review, all sections were emailed to the bylaws committee (Amy Gilliland). She is to work with her committee and submit a draft for review. It is our goal to be able to present this to the membership at the 2017 ABM for voting to accept.

PRESIDENT

12. Officers responsibilities;

Discussion on Directors Responsibilities and when something in their region becomes a much bigger issue. Does it need to be addressed by President or Executive Board as a whole?

We need to have better communications up and down the chain of command. When members contact the President with issues, he advised that he refer questions on issues to the Regional Directors. What works for one chapter may not work in another region. He requested that all Board members do the same.

13. Chaplain definition and terms;

When the International chaplain position was created there was no definition of term of office nor how to replace. While Bill is still on the board, it is appropriate to set these guidelines so he can have a say in setting them.

Motion 2015-031 was made that the appointment of the International Chaplain will reviewed annually at the Fall Board Meeting.

Motion 2015-032 was made to appoint Bill Snodgrass as International Chaplain for the period 2015-2016.

14. Region 8;

Although I do not recall the exact #'s Australia and New Zealand seem to have more chapters and members than when region 7, Europe was formed. Survey also suggested it is time to create.

To be reviewed at the Spring Board meeting. The Executive Board is working the new organization chart with the possibility of taking to the membership for a vote at the 2016 ABM. A copy was shown to the Board and discussion was held with additional ideas discussed. The Executive will work on this to be shared with the Board before the Spring Board meeting. Please submit ideas and comments to the President.

15. Association responsibilities;

It appears that some associations are placing themselves into an “authoritative” position. Possibly Europe/Australia for example. How do we treat?

The Association is not meant to enforce rules because it does not have any authority, the chapters run their business and the chapters run the Association. The Association’s main purpose is promote comradery, fun and to set up multi chapter events and to find a chapter to host an association yearly event. The Regional Director’s job is maintaining control of the Association.

When it comes to filling positions on the Association Board, these needs to be done by election but can be filled by appointment for the remainder of the term.

Leo is to write guidelines on the duties of the Association. If a country wants to have an association, they are to submit the request to the Regional Director, who will submit the request to the International Secretary.

Jack: Australia, at this time the Association President and the Regional Representative are the same person. Our suggestion is that this needs to be two different persons. In the future, we need to have a Regional Director for the South Pacific. This is something that we are working on with the new organization chart and will take to the membership for approval.

16. Report on Harris Connect;

Discussion on feedback, #'s of people participating and report on special sections

As of October 10th, 2997 responses, 892 books have been ordered, 1178 members have submitted an essay, to date 275 photos have been submitted.

Each Board member must have page to Chris by Wednesday, October 28, 2015, on the position(s) you have held. Outlining the duties of their position.

17. Non-Profit

Discussion on setting up a non-profit company i.e. “Red Knights Memorial Foundation”, feasibility, purpose, advantages/disadvantages.

Discussion on setting this up in the future. Something to think about and to research. Could be added into a in a financial plan. Tim volunteered to do research on this. No action at this time.

18. Communications committee;

Newsletter editor resignation, replacement.

Discussion on replacing the editor, Discussion on reasons for his stopping down. Board members need to submit items for the newsletter in a timely manner.

Chris will make contact with David. Chris is to contact the Communications Chair to start the search for a new editor.

19. Under current bylaws, an EMT only can be chapter / association president and on the board. Is this a Loophole? Does the board feel it needs to be brought to membership?

Discussion on allowing an EMT and/or Medic to be President or Vice President to serve on the International Board, Association or Chapter. As it is the intent of the International that only firefighters hold these positions, Scott will write an amendment to bylaw 3:02 to be submitted to the by-law committee for review.

SECRETARY

20. SOG Section 12:02, guide lines on steps to follow.

After proposal for SOG was discussed, MOTION 2015-033 was made and passed by the Board. SOG manual is to be updated and submitted to the Board and the web master for updating the web site.

21. Read motion 2015-029E into minutes.

This was done by the Secretary

TREASURER

22. Financial report and proposed 2016 budget

Discussion, review and approval of budget. A copy is on file with the Secretary. Board determined it is best to have the President, Vice President, Secretary, or Treasurer attend the European Conferences with the Treasurer attending in 2016.

International Board Meeting Dates are April 13-17, 2015, August 17-20, 2015, October 19-23, 2015

REGION 1

23. Bylaw proposal book – This should be written in same font and color for all parts, except strikeouts for selections being removed. Example: Massachusetts proposals in 2015 were highlighted in red. (Matt)

Secretary only puts what is submitted to him, he cannot make any changes to anything submitted by members. The reason we show if we endorse a by-law change or not is so the members know what the board is thinking.

The Board has agreed that all proposals are to be the same font and the same color when submitted to the Secretary for posting. The by-law committee has been advised of this.

Amy Gilliland was approved as the By-Law Chairperson for 2016. Laptop that was returned from Tom Delboi was given to Amy by the Secretary.

***TABLED** to spring meeting on if the Board will endorse or not and the reasons why on all by-law proposals.*

24. Americade Letter from Bob Hollner (attached) – I would like to discuss the Internationals representation at this important event and discuss travel expenses related to it. (Matt)

Discussion on sending a Board member to attend this event. Each Regional Director is allowed to attend one event in his region. While we support this event with funding, the discussion to assist the Regional Director to attend this event as an additional event was not to.

25. Bylaw Section 2:01

Part II, b. Potential solution to current issue with Chapter Members wishing to become an MAL and Chapter President will not give approval. I will present my idea at the board meeting. (Matt)

The rule is shown in By-Law Section 2:01 B. If the membership wants this change, it will take a by-law proposal that has to go to the membership for approval.

26. There was a WA 2 report on Motorcyclists with Red Knight member.

Matt listened to his and did not find anything wrong with it.

27. B Life Matt wanted to discuss the possibility of life memberships for all past International Board members

Motion 2015-035 making the following life memberships for the following and their wives:

Richard Ositiguy, Michael LaBlane, Phil Jordan, Kent Armstrong, Joy Ellis, Peter Coskie, Charles Clarkson, Joe Conroy, Steve Chappell and Graham Clark. These awards will be presented at the 2016 Annual Convention.

REGION 2

28. Advised the Board that he would be going to Florida for the winter.

REGION 3

29. He has some proposed changes for Section 3 of By-Laws

These were submitted to the new by-law chair for research

30. Electronic voting on by laws

There are many questions regarding allowing the chapters to vote electronic on by-law proposals. This need to be researched more. The By-Law Chair is directed to research this and report back to the board.

31. Appropriate patches etc. on vests, how do we state “language associated with 1% patches not acceptable”?

In 2004, after discussion the board decided that patches on the back of the vest must be in good taste. TMLA that has language that is associated with the 1% world is not approved. Many members have memorial patches, chapter patches/flags from other

RKMC chapters on the back of their vest. As long as they are in good taste, they are allowed.

REGION 4

32. I think we need to talk about dress code for meetings at the International convention. We are not in sink and we look very unprofessional. This has happen the last two years.

It was agreed that each Board members is to bring a white long and short sleeve dress shirt to the convention.

The Executive Board needs to follow the guide lines of SOG Section 3:03 as for the uniform. The patch that states International Officer is limited to the 4'' bottom rocker that is worn with the 4'' RKMC patch. The larger patch, which states "International Officer", has to be removed. The Secretary is to advise the past Region 7 Director that it needs to be removed. Motion 2015-036 was approved to deal with this issue.

33. The chapters need to handle their personal problems not the board. We are having too many calls about personal issues. We, the board do not need to make the decision on personal matters. If two people do not like each other then they need to handle it not us.

If they do not understand how it should be done here it is.

In its simplest sense, **decision-making** is the act of choosing between two or more courses of action. In the wider process of problem-solving, **decision-making** involves choosing between possible solutions to a problem. **Decisions** can be made through either an intuitive or reasoned process, or a combination of the two.

The chapters need to handle their personal problems and not bring to the International. If this cannot done, maybe this is not the club for the member(s). If the chapter contacts the President, VP, Secretary and Treasurer, they are to be told to contact their Regional Director. The Regional Director is the voice of the Board to the chapter/member. If they do not like the answer given to them, they can follow the grievance procedure with the International. But they must follow the chain of commands.

34. Move Texas to Region 4:

Region 4 is to handle. This may be addressed under the proposed new organizational structure, if presented and approved by the membership.

35. Issue in AL 14 :

There is an issue between chapter members. Region 4 Director is to advise the chapter that need to be handled at the chapter level.

REGION 5

36. Advised the Board he would be going to South Texas for three months during the winter.

REGION 6

37 A Go to meetings

Using "Go To Meeting", suggesting of electronic monthly meetings with all Board meeting. Discussion is that this will not work at this time. Maybe some time in the future.

37 B Cost hotels for the of Wisconsin Convention

Reviewed the Manual for Hosting and decided to keep the goal for the rooms at \$125.00 per night. This is the goal for the hosting chapter/association to work for. We understand that this may not be possible in some areas.

REGION 7

38. Nomination of International Convention 2020 in Europe (Pierre)

a. Austria

b. France

i. Proposition from the European Board

Pierre showed a video of the proposal for holding the 2020 Convention in Laon, France, which is the location the European Association has decided to host the convention. As the membership was told at the ABM, the location would either be in France or Austria, the decision was left up to the European Association to decide where it would be held.

39. Designation of European Country Representatives (Pierre)

a. We chose the Country Rep for multi chapters countries (Austria (2), Belgium (7), UK (4), France (3), Germany (9) and Switzerland (4).

The Board agreed to treat the countries of Europe as states/provinces for the purpose of them having Representatives. Pierre is to submitted names to Secretary

40. Reference of Country (State) association in Bylaw and SOG (Pierre)

- b. At various places in the Bylaw and SOG, we find associations of states and provinces but no Country. I propose that we consider that "State" = "Country".

Corrections are being made in the by-laws to add Country. The By-Law Chair was advised to add this wording.

- 41. Problems encountered by the implementation of PC given by the previous Regional Director (Pierre)
 - a. To use the PC provided by TomTom, because it was set in German, I had to create another session windows in English. Therefore, the PC remains partly in German and I do not have access to previous data mails
 - b. I propose that we return the PC to TomTom (which is Chairman Communication Committee) and acquire a PC that is installed in English only.

Laptop that was returned from Tommy Hines was given to Pierre by the Secretary.

- 42. Paramedic inside Firefighting system (request from member) (Pierre)
 - a. Top rocker « Firefighters" - possibility to have « Paramedic" (1:04 A Uniform - Vest)

After discussion, it was agreed not to have top 10'' rockers with the wording Paramedic.

- 43. Problem with application in German (feedback from German member and Dutch member) (Pierre)
 - a. no same information (uncompleted in German),
 - b. no same price (less 5 \$US)
 - c. Problems with another talk in Europe (Dutch: on the Red knights Folder we don't have include Dutch language).

The Secretary is to advise the webmaster to remove the MAL in Germany from the web site. Only MAL application on the web site is to be in English.

- 44. Restricting Red knights Facebook pages to Pesche. (Pierre)
 - a. This point is a request of TomTom following remarks from Pesche about the post of the Visit of the Ambassador of Switzerland at Sumiswald.

Chris has been in contact with the International President of his new chapter (Knights of the Inferno) regarding this issue. Pesche is not allowed to use the Red Knight Facebook account as he is no longer a member.

- 45. Life Saving Awards

Discussion that we need to have a committee with a chairperson for these awards. Region 1 Director is to be the Chairperson for 2015-2016. The chairperson is to be assigned on rotating bases. Submit all information to the Awards Committee Chairperson.

Motion 2015-037 was made and approved dealing with this appointment.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: October 20, 2015
Start at 8:00 AM, All Board Members Present

Two Personnel issues were discussed.

Executive Session Ended at 10:15 AM

General Meeting was call back into session at 10:30 AM

46. After Executive Session, Motion 2015-038 was made by Chris

47. Each member was asked to give their comments on the meeting and any way the meeting could be improved.

48. Jack advised the Board that he would not be seeking re-election to the position of Vice President. Jack stated it is his intention to seek the position of International Secretary and ask for the Board's support.

Bill advised the Board that he would not be seeking re-election to the position of Secretary nor to any other position on the Board. He would continue to serve as the International Chaplain if requested by the Board to do so.

Leo advised the Board that it his intent to seek another term as the Region 2 Director.

Joe advised the Board that at this time he is undecided if he will seek another term as the Region 6 Director.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:10 PM

Submitted by:

Bill Snodgrass
Secretary