

Red Knights International Firefighters Motorcycle Club® Inc.



Europe Association
Office of the Secretary
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Minutes of the Board Meeting February 18th 2017 Giessen Germany

Participants: Tom Hoedjes (President)
Jan van Herck (Vice-President)
Tom van der Kley (Treasurer)
Stefan Streif (Secretary)

Excused: Michael Pfortner (Road Captain)
Rolf Mühlemann (Quartermaster)
Gery Jansen (Webmaster)

Guests: Pierre Halleux (Regional Director 7) was coming at 16:45h

1. The President opens the meeting at 12:40 h and welcomes everyone.
2. Short Briefing to President from all:
 - The treasurer reports that he has some feedback from a couple of members about the prices for visiting the EU-Convention. Some young members tell him it's too expensive to visit the EU-Convention if they must pay the convention dues and the dues for hosting in a hotel or a room. They would like more to rest on a cheap campground and have a big fire in the night...
The Board discussed this item and means that it is in the opportunity of the organizing chapter how this event is arranged. The board will make a proposal for the agenda at the president meeting in September 2017. It suggests to the organizing chapter to make two prices: one is all included and the other will only include the EU- Meeting and the gala dinner. In case of the second opinion, to organize the sleeping place is in the responsibility of the participant.
 - Some members are asking about a main EC-Convention Patch. Jakke tell the board about the first EU-Convention and show one of these. Now the QM should find out the price to produce these patches. The layout he will find by asking chapter France 1.
3. Information from Region 7
 - In an open letter the International Board informs the members about the idea to give the daily tasks of the Treasurer, the Secretary and the Quartermaster to a hired administrative assistant. This assistant shall be paid from the salary of Treasurer, Secretary and Quartermaster. Every Chapter-President will be receiving a "survey monkey" email for vote about this idea.
For Questions about this item in Europe the President of the European Association or the actual Region 7 Director are the only addresses for qualified answers.



- Every Year the Regional 7 Director has \$ 1'500 to spend to the Chapters. \$ 500 will go to the organizing Chapter of the European Convention. The other \$ 1'000 will be reserved for any Multichapter-Events. Every Chapter can call this money by the Region 7 Director. The rules say that the Chapter must pay back the money if it has a financial profit from this event.
 - Richard “Spike” Ostiguy, the Vice President of the International Board likes to visit the European Convention 2017.
 - Between June 24th and July 2nd, the "Ride for Forgotten Hero" will start in Belgium, crossing France, Switzerland, Italy, Germany and go back to Belgium. There would be several bikers who like to visit members of Bluelight-Organisations who was injured in the line of duty. If a Chapter knows a person such this, the president will contact Pierre "Warthog" Halleux. He also has more information about this event.
4. Elections 2017:
- Regularly in 2017 the Vice President and the Treasurer are to elect for the next period of two years.
 - Jan van Herck (Vice President) and Tom van der Kley (Treasurer) declare they are ready for a next period. They will send their candidature to the Election Committee before March 20th.
5. Changes and Amendments SOG EU Ass.
- The SOG-Item about the election of Board-Members is ready to vote in 2017. President and Secretary would prepare the final wording and take it on the agenda of the President Meeting 2017
 - There is one new item to discuss: Its exist the question if a chapter who will organize the European Convention can become money from the European Association if the same chapter not has paid the volunteer dues. There are two suggestions to discuss. First say that the money becomes the chapter if it has paid the voluntary dues last three years. The second opinion means that a chapter who don't pay the voluntary dues is in bad standing and only chapters in good standing can call the money from the European association. The Board will discuss this in May and create an issue for the Agenda of the President-Meeting.
6. Status MAL's
- After the last Convention, the MAL-Representative as send out a mail to all MAL's an asked for response. Only three MAL's send him back an answer. So, it is not a good motivation to invest some effort in this group.
7. Ongoing Finances by Treasurer
- The finances are in good standing. From the money, the European Association has spent € 600 to Belgium 4 for organizing the European Convention 2016 and € 70 for the funeral of Padre.
- 8 EU Association (Who paid the volunteer dues?)
- Today the volunteer dues 2017 are paid by:



- Austria 2
- Belgium 3
- Germany 1
- Germany 2
- Germany 6
- Germany 8
- Germany 10
- Switzerland 1
- Switzerland 3

9. Status Iron Butt and how to go on

- 17 Members participate at the "Iron Butt" Award in 2016. The Secretary has some problems to send out the patches because more than the half of applications are not complete. For next year, he likes to create a new internet form.
- In 2016 first time, we have some golden awards. Now we must create a new patch for the next higher level. The Solution will be a patch with a golden star and next year with two and more...

10. Website and Google Calendar

- The board thinks that the calendar or the dates of the events need more coordination. It should not be that one weekend we have two or more chapter events in different Country and the next two weekends is no event. So, the chapters have to coordinate their events once per year.
We can do this at the European Convention, at the end of the President-Meeting or at another separate conference. The board will ask all Presidents at the upcoming President-Meeting; Sparks and Sergeant send out a "survey monkey" email (doodle) for the presidents with this item.

11. Visiting International Annual Meeting Syracuse 2017

- Pierre Halleux, Tom Hoedjes, Jan van Herck and Rolf Mühlemann will visit the International Annual Meeting 2017 at Syracuse NY

12. Merchandising

- Several members report that they have problems to contact the European Quartermaster. They send emails and don't become an answer or an acknowledgment of receipt. One Chapter reports that they have received a packet with patches but they have never become a bill although they asked several times. Also, members tell the officers that it is very complicate and uncomfortable to order some items. The correct way is unclear.

Sparks will discuss this points with Imperial. Dutchy has to take away the European Ordering Form from the website and build in a link to the International Quartermaster. In future, we will build a new European Ordering Form for the European Patches and Items. This form first goes to the Treasurer and he tell the QM to send out the items if the money is paid. For direct sales, the QM will have a separate cashbox.



13. Varia

- TomTom likes to make some rules for ride outs. The Board means that the existing rules are clear. The Roadcaptain of the organizing Chapter is in charge. For ride outs at a European Convention, the RC of the European Board will be in charge and he must be contacted from the RC of the organizing Chapter in advance.
- The European Chapters of the Green Knights like to have contact with the European Red Knights. Sparks will send them a letter with our contacts.
- In the moment, the Board has one nomination for a "Red Knight of the Year" 2016. The deadline for other calls is June 20th 2017.
- Switzerland 1 has bought an "Office 365 Home" Account. This account includes five profiles with one terabyte of cloud space each. One of this profiles CH1 spend to the European Association for archiving all documents and photos.
- The International Board has elected two new Assistant Grand Tour Award Manager, one for Europe and one for Australia and Asia. This was not the meaning of the European Board before the candidature of Sparks. The new Assistant Manager has no competences. He will be only a step more to become the award and there is no increase in efficiency and speed. The Region 7 Director will talk about this again in spring meeting of the International Board.

14. Next Board Meeting will be held at May 6th 2017, 10:00h at Andelfingen, Switzerland

The president closes the meeting at 11:15 h on February 19th 2017

For the protocol: Stefan "Sergeant" Streif