

2020 is finally over with!! I'm sure you are all just as happy as I for that. Sadly, however, 2020 claimed some of our brothers and sisters. Please take a moment to pray for those we've lost, and especially for their families. Please be sure to keep their surviving families involved in our Red Knight family.

So, what did we actually get to do in Region 1 in 2020? Well, the NJ State Association After Christmas Party was held in January by NJ 33 and was a huge success. Multiple chapters from multiple states within Region 1 and well beyond were in attendance. A few states were able to have state meetings and/or get together/picnics, to include NY State Association, NJ State Association, VT State Association and the best run state association that isn't a state association, MA Red Knights. I'm glad to see some events were able to take place and everyone was safe in doing so. Sadly, the Yankee Rally was cancelled due to Covid-19 concerns. We also learned at the end of the year that the 2021 Yankee Rally was also cancelled. I am currently working with the State Reps of Region 1 to work out a plan for the 2022 Yankee Rally.

This has been my fifth year as Region 1 Director. Although this year was filled with a lot of fear and anxiety, I will also say it was filled with a ton of ingenuity and willpower. Many of you took the bull by the horns and improvised, adapted and overcame. For that, I'm very proud of all of you. From Zoom meetings, to socially distanced outdoor meetings, you all found a way to be active and productive in a very difficult year. Give yourselves a big pat on the back, you deserve it!

I averaged about 5 hours per week performing Red Knights business. A lot lower than in the first four years of my tenure. However, the International Executive Board held monthly Zoom meetings for most of the year, which helped quite a bit in maintaining the management of this great organization. We unfortunately did not have a Spring or Summer Board Meeting, as Covid-19 had other plans. Seven members of the International Executive Board attended the Fall Board meeting in person at the Red Knights Memorial Hall in Boylston, MA, with five others attending via Zoom. This was a challenge, but I give credit to all my fellow Board members, as it went pretty smooth. A few of us were able to arrive early and helped out by performing some landscape maintenance, cutting down some trees, splitting the wood and stacking it for future visits. A huge thanks to Jeff Hamburg and Rick Oliver of MA 2 for their assistance and again to Rick for bringing his splitter.

As far as Region 1, honestly, I got nothing else. I pray, for all of our sakes, that 2021 will be a much better year. To all of you, please stay safe, stay healthy and of course, Red Knights Forever!