

Region 1 Director Convention Report

I don't know about you, but 2021 is flying by! We're already over halfway through. Unfortunately, this year wasn't quite as great as we hoped it to be. The 2021 Yankee Rally was cancelled, as was the 2021 International Convention in St. John, New Brunswick, Canada. My fingers are crossed, as I'm sure yours are as well, that these are the last cancellations. Big plans are in motion for the 2022 Yankee Rally in Plattsburgh, NY. I'm sure NY 50 will hit it out of the Adirondack Park!

Just like every year, as there is no stopping time, we've lost several members within Region 1. Please keep our Heaven One members' families in our prayers, as well as involved in our Red Knights family. Also, be sure to make time to visit the Red Knights Memorial and Memorial Hall in Boylston, MA. If you've never been, it is an emotional experience, to say the least. While you're there, check out the brand-new seal at the Red Knights Memorial. Thanks to the hard work of Peter Stone and the rest of MA 1, the seal has been replaced by the same company who installed the original. The original seal survived for 14 years but was showing its age with cracks and fading. The new seal is bright, new, and we all hope it will last another 14 years or more. The Red Knights Memorial and Memorial Hall would not exist without the donations you all make to the Red Knights Memorial Foundation. Just a thought, please consider the Red Knights Memorial Foundation as the charity of choice for your Chapter's next benefit event.

There have been some events held this year. Although not in Region 1, the Region 4 Dixie Rally was held in Culpeper, VA. This was the largest attended Dixie Rally ever! This was also possibly the largest attended Dixie Rally by Region 1 members ever! The hosts did a great job and all in attendance had a blast. Speaking of Rallies, have you ever been to one? If not, you owe it to yourself to go! I don't know of anyone who has ever attended a Rally and said, "Yeah, that wasn't any fun." In fact, I finally met in person, NJ Chapter 19 President Ernie Berthold this past September. He had been a Red Knight for 15 years but had never attended any Red Knights events outside of his chapter. A few of us spoke about the various events and how much fun they were. This year, Ernie attended his first event, the Dixie Rally. I can say, with confidence, you will see Ernie at every future event he can manage to attend. He's become a regular on the weekly Sunday Night Zoom and has seen the bigger picture of this amazing organization. Step outside of your comfort zone and you will learn how vast this organization is and how much it can be enjoyed. You don't have to go far; you can start out by attending another Chapter's benefit ride/event or go to your state picnic. There is so much out there for you to enjoy!

This year has been a bit busier than last, and I've averaged approximately 10 hours per week managing Red Knights business. Most of the International Executive Board was able to attend the Spring Board Meeting in Baltimore, MD from April 14th to April 17th, 2021. Those unable to attend due to travel restrictions attended via Zoom. The minutes from this meeting are on the Red Knights International website. Just click "About", then "Board", and finally "Meeting Minutes". Our next scheduled meeting is August 19th to August 21st, 2021. In between, we have met regularly via Zoom to improve communications within the International Executive Board.

As you all should know, this year there is a contested election for Region 1 Director. As voting is ongoing, we won't know the results until August 21st, 2021. Therefore, as no one knows the future, this may be my last report to you all. If so, I would like to express to you it has truly been an honor to be your Region 1 Director. The past 6 years have been challenging, but extremely rewarding. Life has thrown plenty of curveballs, but through it all, my Red Knights family has been with me. I've met some amazing Red Knights along the way, and I greatly appreciate all the input you have given, regardless of it being praise or criticism. No matter the outcome, you will continue to see me at many events, as you have over the past 6 years. Just like Ernie Berthold, I'm hooked! Please ride safe, and as always, Red Knights Forever!