



Red Knights International Firefighters Motorcycle Club ® Inc.

Office of the Region 1 Director

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It was January 28th that I received a call from the Executive Board stating I was elected to fill in as the Region 1 Director for the remainder of our past Directors term. After which I received a congratulatory call from Mass-2 Vice President Rick Oliver, my opponent.

The Board decided that I was to be officially sworn in on February 1st, but I felt it was best that I attend the funeral of a NY 43 member. So, I was sworn in on the 2nd of February and from there all I can say is “Wow”.

I met with our Vice President Spike Ostiguy the weekend of February 3rd to the 5th in Boylston and received my official duties. The first few weeks were more of learning the workings of this organization and I would like to thank not only Spike for his help but Michael Woods our International Secretary, for helping me get adjusted to a new way of life. Yes, I had an idea of it, but it goes deeper than I thought, and I love the challenge.

In just the five months since my appointment Region 1 has transferred 5 members to the Heaven One Chapter and I was able to attend 4 of those funerals and present the Flag and Angel Coin to the families. I was also able to visit a NY member that was seriously injured and burned over 80% of his body. I am happy to say he is recovering and doing great. He even attended this year’s Yankees Rally.

March, I hosted a Region 1 State Rep meeting in Boylston which was attended by 6 State Reps. It was not only great seeing everyone again, but we were able to discuss what is going on in each of the states and what we need to do as a group to continue to grow stronger.

As most are aware, Region 1 has a “Mayday Fund” which is used to help any Region 1 member in times of need. To date this fund has helped 15 individuals with a monetary gift. So, if you see a Region 1 coin for sale, know that the money is going to help a Red Knight.

I attended state meetings in New Jersey, New York, and Massachusetts, along with several chapter events. It’s nice to say that when Red Knights need to get together for a purpose, they normally have a good showing. And two come to mind, a New York Chapter held a fund raiser for one of their own. Just a simple \$15.00 spaghetti dinner. Well, it raised just over \$18,000. Another was a Ride/Bike Blessing to raise money for a local Burn Center, which brought in approximately \$20,000.

The Dixie Rally which was held in Pell City, Alabama and hosted by Chapter 4 was a great success. The International Board held their spring meeting there just days before the start of the rally. What a great opportunity for the members to meet the Board and ask questions.

Not to be out done, New York 30 hosted this year’s Yankee Rally in the Finger Lakes Region of NY. It was a record-breaking rally with the final attendance at 409 Red Knights. So, for those of you that have never been to a Rally, here’s your chance. Next year’s Yankee Rally will be in beautiful Keene, NH.

I personally have been busy working about 2 hours a day on Red Knights business. Mostly while the wife is at work, (it's quiet.) My phone rings at least twice a day with a Red Knight on the other end, and sometimes those calls can last for hours. But, as I said in the beginning, my phone is always on no matter the day or time.

In closing, I would like to thank several individuals that I know without their help and support I would not be here writing this letter. New Jersey 19 President Ernie Berthold, New York State President Frank Nastro, and Mass State Rep George Colby for their continued help and support through the entire process. My beautiful wife Laura, who has endured the most, eating dinner, watching a movie, getting ready to go out somewhere and the phone rings. But she is just like me "Red Knight Forever."