



**RED KNIGHTS  
INTERNATIONAL FIREFIGHTERS  
MOTORCYCLE CLUB®  
Boylston, Massachusetts Est. 1982**

Office of the Region 1 Director  
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Brother and Sister Red Knights,

Region 1 consists of:

- 8 States
- 98 Chapters
- 2,678 Chapter Members
- 36 Member at Large
- 2,714 Total Members

Since my last convention report Region 1 has transferred 21 members to the Heaven One chapter and I ask that we as a club keep them all in our thoughts and prayers.

It's been one year already of my two-year term as your Region 1 Director, and what a year it has been. Region 1 has seen members leave and members join, we even lost a couple of chapters, but have formed new ones along the way.

Last September we as a club had our International Convention for the 1<sup>st</sup> time outside of North America and what is there to say, except thank you Austria. Even though the International Board was in meetings for most of the convention, we did take a day to relax and tour the beautiful country and a visit to Dachau, a German Concentration Camp and dinner in Berlin. Memories that will live forever.

As Regional Director I have a semi-annual Region 1 State Rep meeting (Oct & March) in Boyleston, Mass. Here we sit around the table listening to the concerns of each state and try to work things out amongst ourselves. We go over the By-Laws and SOG's, seeing if there is something we can change or bring to the Board to make things easier for the members. And as I have learned, you maybe doing what you feel is best for this organization and the majority agrees, but someone will try to knock you down, But we still try.

I have attended State meetings in New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts and New Hampshire. These meetings I must say were professionally done. Yes, we agree to disagree on a lot of issues, but at the end we enjoy each other's company.

At the April meeting of the New Jersey State Association, I was honored to have been presented with the New Jersey Red Knight of the Year Award, better known as the "Barry Stires Award." I have been speechless before, but to have tears of joy streaming down my face was a first. There are 417 members in New Jersey and to be chosen for this award means a lot.

I was invited to so many different events held by chapters and Associations throughout the region, that sorry to say, I had to pick and choose and missed only a few.

As I mentioned earlier we transferred 21 Region 1 members to the Heaven 1 Chapter for which I personally attended 8 services and several chapter meetings to present a Flag & Angel Coin to the family. This is one job I really don't like, until you see the appreciation of the grieving families face, which then makes it all worth it.

As Regional Director it is a duty to attend the International Board meetings when possible, whether it is in person or on Zoom. It is my job to make sure all information is relayed back to my Regional Reps, so they may distribute

**"Loyal to Our Duty"**

## RED KNIGHTS INTERNATIONAL FIREFIGHTERS MOTORCYCLE CLUB

it you their chapters. Well, I have attended 100% of the meetings and all information has been passed on in a timely manner.

The 2024 Region 1 Yankee Rally was held in Keene, New Hampshire and what a great success and most enjoyable time. There were 341 Red Knights in attendance at this Rally, which included 5 Self-Guided rides and 5 Guided Rides. The guided rides included a ride to the Telephone & Fire Museum, Dinner & Dessert, Parade through Keene, NH, the rededication of the Red Knights Monument in the Veterans Cemetery in Boscawen, NH where we were honored to listen to speeches from the New Hampshire Governor Chris Sununu, Red Knights VP Norm Beausoleil, NH State Rep Colin Nelson and myself. Then of course the ride to the Red Knights Memorial in Boylston, MA. We learned that the New Hampshire charity for this event was Donate Life, an organization that helps families of those that lost someone, but also saved a life by donating their organs so someone else may live. We heard some touching stories from those that received organs and from families that lost loved ones but made a difference toward others.

Our Saturday evening dinner and Sunday morning breakfast was supplied by Tempesta Restaurant/Bar, which is located in the host hotel. I personally spoke with the owners of the restaurant, and they stated that they were sorry that each night the restaurant and bar had closed early, but the Red Knights would be welcomed back anytime.

Our Next Yankee Rallies are set:

- 2025: Bangor, Maine
- 2026: Finger Lakes Region, New York
- 2027: Tentative – Connecticut

I might be the Region 1 Director, but I need to speak about the 2024 Dixie Rally that was held in Statesville, NC.

Back on May 16<sup>th</sup>, I was heading to Boylston for a funeral service that was to be held on May 17<sup>th</sup>, then on to another one on May 18<sup>th</sup> in Maine. Well, my trip up north got cut short, due to an incident at the Dixie Rally. My son was involved in a motorcycle accident and suffered some injuries that aren't known just yet. I turned around and started to head home. I immediately made a phone call to try to get the Red Knight funeral services covered. It took only one call to make sure a Representative was there to honor our fallen. I contacted my wife who was home and at work and then someone at the Dixie Rally that could give me more information. I was told that my son was awake and able to move his extremities but complained of severe pain in his back. He was taken to Baptist Hospital Wake Forest in Winston-Salem, the Regional Trauma Center. Several Red Knights stated they were going to stay with him until I got there (a 12-hour trip.) Throughout my trip I spent about 10 hours on the phone with Red Knights that were at the rally and others that were not, but word does travel fast. They were just concerned about me and making sure I was taking my time to get there safely. Well, I arrived at the rally hotel at 2:00AM and to my surprise I was met by a group of Red Knights that waited for me to get there.. They gave me some updates about his condition which turned out to be a broken back. After a couple hours of sleep, I headed to the hospital to see that he was doing okay except for the pain in his back. Red Knights from all over were calling, texting, and visiting my son and myself in the hospital. They were even making sure I was okay with what had happened. Well, the Dixie Rally came to an end and the members headed home, but the calls of concern kept coming. My son was finally released from the hospital but told not to travel home for several days. The Dixie Rally hospitality still continued as we were told that he and I would not be staying at a hotel but will stay at a Red Knights house until he is ready to travel home. We may have different opinions and argue once in a while, but when a Red Knight needs help, they don't even have to ask..

WE ARE FAMILY.. RKFFRK

“Loyal to Our Duty”