



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

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To my Red Knight Family,

Wow, the 2025 year is in the past already as we look forward to all new adventures in 2026. Region 1 has slightly gone down in numbers, with the loss of 3 chapters, and the adding of 13 members to our Heaven One Roster.

Region 1 now consists of:

8 States
95 Chapters
2657 Chapter Members
29 Members at Large
2686 Total Members

As Regional Director it is one of my duties to attend meetings, not only with the International, but with the Region 1 State Reps, State Meetings and when possible, the Chapters. So, this past year I attended all 3 In-Person International Board Meetings along with all the Zoom Meetings that were held. I also attended 2 In-Person State Rep meetings in Boylston along with State and/or Chapter meetings in Maine, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut and Vermont bringing back to the Region One membership information as to what is happening not only Internationally, but locally throughout the Region. I am sad to say that I personally attended 7 funerals where I presented Memorial Flag and Angel Coin to their families.

With all the meetings, funerals and supporting State and Chapter events, I have traveled over 15,000 miles in my car along with around 5,300 miles on the bike. With these travels, we are sometimes entitled to mileage reimbursement (especially for funerals.) With this I have made several donations toward the principal mortgage on Memorial Hall totaling this year just over \$1,200. The majority of these donations were made honoring the name of the deceased member whose funeral I attended.

Here in Region 1, we have had two changes in our State Representatives as we welcome Blue Kelloway from New Hampshire and Brian White from the great state of Maine. But in welcoming these individuals we needed to say goodbye to others that served. Especially Colin Nelson of NH, as he represented the state long before I served as Regional Director. I need to thank all my

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Representative for the job, time and effort they put in working to make this organization the best they can. So, Thank You also goes to Chris Rogers (NJ), Tim Tordoff (NY), Ryan Peebles (VT), Tom Gill (CT), Kevin Martin (MA) and Rick Waterman (RI).

As most of you all know by now Region 1 has what we call a “Mayday Fund” which is used to help any Region 1 member with a small monetary donation in their time of need. Well, this fund is still actively moving forward as we have sold out of our original 1000 commemorative coins and recently purchased 200 more.

The year started off with a bang as New Jersey held their annual After Christmas Party in February, which was hosted by Chapter 20, in Branchburg, NJ. This annual event seems to be getting to be more like a one-night mini rally, as they hosted RK members from 4 different Regions in the United States.

The 3rd Annual Red Knights “Steak Night” which was held in May, at Baker’s American Bar & Grille in Monroe Township, NJ was again a great success. Attended by Red Knights from NJ, NY and PA. This annual tradition is starting to grow as other chapters and states are getting involved.

The 2025 Yankee Rally in Bangor, Maine was perfectly planned and well attended with 285 Red Knights from all over North America. I can even say that not one of the attendees were disappointed at the Saturday evening dinner as we were all treated to whole Maine Lobsters or a New York Strip Steak with all the fixings. We even secured our next several Yankee Rallies as we head to the Finger Lakes Region of New York for 2026, Mystic Connecticut in 2027, Jay Peak Vermont in 2028.

June and July turned out to be busy months with several events planned as I attended Maryland Chapter 7’s first annual Poker Run and their state picnic in Galena, MD. The New York State picnic which was held at the NYS Fireman’s Home in Hudson, NY was well planned out as we paraded our bikes out for all the residents to see. The annual Give a Child a Christmas event hosted by NY 28 was another great success as we took a scenic ride through parts of New York. The month ended with the New Jersey State meeting and picnic in Phillipsburg, hosted by NJ Chapter 5.

August was a lot of fun as it started off with the New York Chapter 33, Shoot and Scoot charity event and ended with our annual Convention.

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This year I had the honor of having not only my wife at the International Convention in Peoria, Illinois, but my daughter, daughter-in-law and my 3-year-old grandson Jake as well. All I can say is he is now hooked. The way he was welcomed, not only by the Red Knight members, but by the Peoria Fire Department, who actually invited him back to the firehouse for lunch and a tour.

September was interesting as I was invited to attend the Vermont State Meeting and Picnic in Danville. I am just so glad I drove the car as it rained for most of the day and I mean heavy rain. But, as always, it turned out to be a very productive day. And I got to meet more Red Knight members. One week later I rode to Plattsburgh, New York for Chapter 50's Annual Squirrel Ride which included a beautiful 90+ mile ride through the mountains. The month ended with a New York State meeting, which was held by NY Chapter 11, in Lake George.

October and November were again another busy month as my travels took me to Massachusetts for their State Meeting and then off to Maine for their State Meeting and elections for State Representative. The month ended with New Jersey chapters 5, 19, 31 and 33 riding in the Passaic Valley Annual Christmas Parade which just happened to be one of the coldest nights at just over 30 degrees. Yes, cold but fun.

This past year, at home, was relatively quiet as we normally end up with Red Knight guests several times a month. But this year we only hosted 19 and some of them were repeat customers. All I can say is visitors can always count on a cozy bed and a pillow with a piece of chocolate on it.

I spend on the computer an average of about 10 hours a week on Red Knight business, whether it's getting information out to my state reps or handling an issue on my own. This of course does not include the numerous phone calls I receive which are pretty much daily. I will never turn away anyone looking for answers or just want to talk.

So, as I close my report, I would hope everyone enjoyed their Holiday Season as we look forward to a happy and safe New Year

God Bless and Ride Safe

Ken "Moonshine" May
Region 1 Director

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