

Here we are again at the end of another year. 2019 has been a great year for the Red Knights, especially for Region 1. This year's Yankee Rally was held in Boylston, MA and focused on the Founding Fathers of this great organization. Without Colin Mackey, Bob Bourassa, Ed Wright, Roger Wentzell, Dave Hamilton, Bob Goulet, David Hunt, Jon Tripp, Don Parker, Jack Pierce and Norm Beausoleil, this Club may never have been started. Their idea has turned into an incredible organization that I like to call family. The 2019 Yankee Rally committee should be proud of their endeavor to honor our Founding Fathers, job well done!

Region 1 stepped up again in 2019, as the New Hampshire Red Knights hosted the 2019 Red Knights International Convention in Lincoln, NH. Loon Mountain Resort was the setting and what a beautiful show it was! If I'm not mistaken, this was the second most attended Convention in the history of the Club, and I didn't hear of anyone who was disappointed. Honestly, if you were disappointed, it was your fault. There was plenty of fellowship, fun, food and FIREWORKS! Yes folks, the fireworks display was incredible. The view of the fireworks over the big top tent, with Loon Mountain as the backdrop was beautiful. I'm pretty sure toward the end of the over 20-minute show, the sky was literally on fire. I heard Past International President Chris Gadway remark, "There won't be a moose around for miles!" If you missed this year's Convention, you missed a great time. But don't fret, there is always 2020 in Laon, France!

During the 2019 International Convention, we heard from Past International President Chris Gadway as he addressed the crowd at the Saturday night banquet. He thanked everyone for the honor to serve the membership for 9 years. I can say, I personally learned a lot from Chris throughout the years and believe I am a better leader because of his example. Thank you, Chris, for all you did for the Red Knights! It was an honor to serve with you! Our current President Joey Powell took over and I'm excited to work with him and move forward to a bigger and better Red Knights.

Sadly, we have had plenty of moments of mourning throughout 2019. For those of you who have lost a member/friend/family, my prayers are with you. Heaven One continues to grow in membership as time ticks on. As I said in last year's end of year report, please don't forget the families of those who have gone before us. The Red Knights were a part of their lives, and we should do everything we can to make that continue and support them.

Since Convention, the newly redesigned International website is up and running, as are reservations at the Red Knights Memorial Hall. It is my honor to serve on the RKMf Executive Board on alternating years with the Region 2 Director. This year is my year and I will be more than happy to assist you in making a reservation to stay at our Red Knights Memorial Hall. It is very simple to do, just go to www.redknightsmc.com, click on Memorial Foundation and select "Reserve Memorial Hall". There are instructions and Frequently Asked Questions provided. If you have any questions, you may email memorial@redknightsmc.com.

Speaking of our Red Knights Memorial and Red Knights Memorial Hall, I thank all of you who have made donations to the Red Knights Memorial Foundation. We've raised a considerable amount already, and some, like Norm Beausoleil with his Jack Daniels fundraiser and Bob Binnall with his Founding Fathers patches, have really helped out a lot! With that said, we still need your assistance. Many of you do amazing work raising funds for so many worthwhile charities. I hope you will consider assisting your own brothers and sisters by holding a fundraiser for RKMf. In addition, if you shop on Amazon, as many of you do, you can go to smile.amazon.com to raise money. This is still Amazon, only a

small portion of your purchase is donated to a charity of your choosing. I, personally, have chosen the Red Knights Memorial Foundation as my designated charity. That way, every time I buy something through smile.amazon.com, a small portion of my purchase is donated to RKMf and helps us to pay off the mortgage, maintain the property, and ensure that the Red Knights Memorial continues to serve as a beautiful place for our past and present membership.

As we enter 2020, a brand-new decade, I wish you all the best and a very safe year. Let's make the "Roaring 20s" of the 21st Century the best decade of the Red Knights! As I've said in the past, and I will continue to say, a wise man once told me that you get out of this club ten-fold what you put into it. If you put in nothing, don't be surprised when you get back nothing. Until next time, ride safe and Red Knights Forever!

Matt Mattera

Region 1 Director