

It's Convention time already? Thank you to the members of Region 1 for allowing me the honor to serve you. This first term as Region 1 Director has been an eye opener, to say the least. I'm not sure if I should be honored that no one else ran against me, or saddened that I'm the only silly one willing to do this. On a serious note, I promise to continue working hard during my second term.

We have lost many members throughout the year. Please keep all of their families in your thoughts and prayers. Do your best to keep their family a part of our family.

Since my last report, we've had one heck of a good time in Region 1. The 2017 Yankee Rally was held in Rutland, VT by the Vermont State Association. From all accounts, they did an incredible job! This was the largest Yankee Rally to date, with 354 Red Knights in attendance from all over Region 1 and beyond. The 2018 Yankee Rally will be in Clifton Park, NY and is being hosted by NY 29 and assisted by NY 12. Dates and hotel info will be available very soon. The 2019 Yankee Rally will be held in Boylston, MA and hosted by MA 15.

Many Red Knights also attended the 35th Annual Americade in Lake George, NY. The Americade organizers were kind enough to give us a free space at the Expo. So, for the first time at Americade, the Red Knights had a tent to give out info for potential members. We averaged 15 interested persons per day ranging from Canada to Florida. Five days at the expo, that's about 75 potential new members! That doesn't even account for the many people who stopped various Red Knights walking down Canada Street so they could get more info about the Red Knights. The Wednesday ride hosted by NY III was once again an excellent time. It was topped off by stopping at the Hague Market in Hague, NY. The owner of which, Jim Rypkema, was robbed and shot 7 times in April. The Red Knights stopped by to show our support and Jima and his wife couldn't have been more grateful. The Thursday Dinner at the Lake George Firehouse, hosted by NY 12, was also a great time. There were lots of chapters selling their wares, members mingling and good eats to round everything out. Americade continues to be one of my favorite events. This was my 3rd year in a row and next year I'm going to do everything I can to make it 4 years in a row.

I average approximately 12 hours per week responding to various emails and phone calls. In the remaining months of 2017, I will do my best to meet more members of Region 1. I am always available to help you and answer any of your questions. My email address is region1@redknightsmc.com. I will also be attending the Fall International Board Meeting in Baltimore, MD on October 26-28, 2017. All members are welcome to attend the meetings. If you'd like to know where and how, please let me know.

In closing, I would like to wish the New York State Association the best of luck in hosting the 2017 International Convention and thank them for stepping up to this massive responsibility. I urge all members to attend the Annual Business Meeting that will be held on Saturday during Convention. You will learn a tremendous amount about our amazing organization. It is open to

all members, but only Chapter Presidents, or voting delegate, may vote. For all attending, please enjoy yourselves and get to know your fellow Red Knights brothers and sisters. That is my favorite part of convention, meeting family from all across the world. If you've never attended a convention, I urge you to make plans to attend a future convention. It is totally worth it!

I wish you all the best and please remember, ride safe. RED KNIGHTS FOREVER!

Matt Mattera

Region 1 Director