



**Red Knights International Firefighters Motorcycle Club ® Inc.**  
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Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

2016 has been a very eventful year in the world of the Red Knights. We've had some amazing times and our fair share of sadness, including the loss of 13 Red Knights in Region 1, who we shall all fondly remember. Unfortunately, one of those was our gentle giant, Donald Parker, II. Don was the son of Founding Father Donald Parker. He was also an amazing and kind human being who was loved by everyone almost as much as he loved.

OK, let's get back to happy thoughts. Numerous events were held within Region 1 during 2016. I got to see many of your smiling faces at Americade, and had so much fun on my second trip, that I'm going back again for 2017! Keep your eyes open for some upcoming special Red Knights offers for those attending the 2017 Americade, including discounts and the possibility of a Red Knights only boat cruise.

The 2016 Yankee Rally was held in Wildwood, NJ and a great time was had by all. Despite the some rain, rides took place, games were won and music was played. We only had one casualty, a plastic garbage can destroyed by the helmet clad head of WV 8 member Casey Fields during Human Bowling. The very First Yankee Rally had an attendance of 323 and 2016 had 320. The 2017 Yankee Rally is being held in Rutland, VT. Anyone care to guess how many will be in attendance? Knowing the Vermont State Association, this event will be beyond compare and you won't want to miss it! For more information, check out <https://www.facebook.com/YankeeRally2017/>.

I attended the Spring, Summer and Fall International Executive Board meetings. The Spring and Fall meetings were held just outside of Baltimore, MD and the Summer meeting was held at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells, WI during the International Convention. Your International Executive Board works very hard during these meetings to ensure our organization runs the best it can. Of course, we are always open to ideas from our membership. Feel free to send your ideas or suggestions up the chain of command.

I also had the opportunity to attend the NY State Association meeting in July and heard all the amazing plans they have in place for the 2017 International Convention to be held in Syracuse, NY. There will be rides, tours (including the baseball Hall of Fame), whitewater rafting and lots, lots more! For more information, check out <https://www.facebook.com/groups/848124028574435/> or contact the NY State Association President, Julie Carlson, at [julesldyl@aol.com](mailto:julesldyl@aol.com).

During 2016, I averaged 10 hours per week for an estimated 520 hours dedicated to Red Knights business. Although this time is not always fun, it has definitely been worthwhile and I am truly proud to be your Region 1 Director. I hope you all have a very Happy New Year and I look forward to serving you in 2017.