



WING WISDOM

Gold Wing Road Riders Association
Leadership Training Division Newsletter



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Your Leadership Training Division International Staff:

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Words from the International Directors

In a study of ninety top leaders from a variety of fields, leadership experts Warren Bennis and Burt Nanus made a discovery about the relationship between growth and leadership: “It is the capacity to develop and improve their skills that distinguishes leaders from their followers.” Successful leaders are *learners*. And, the process is ongoing, a result of self-discipline and perseverance. The goal each day must be to get a little better, to build on the previous day’s progress.



To Lead Tomorrow, Learn Today. Leadership is developed daily, not in a day. The secret of success in life is for a person to be ready for his time when it comes. What a person does on a disciplined, consistent basis gets him ready, no matter what the goal. Basketball legend Larry Bird became an outstanding free-throw shooter by practicing five hundred shots each morning before he went to school. Demosthenes of ancient Greece became the greatest orator by reciting verses with pebbles in his mouth, and speaking over the roar of the waves of the seashore—and he did it despite having been born with a speech impairment. The same dedication is going to work to make you a great leader.

The good news is that your leadership ability is not static—no matter where you’re starting from, you can get better. That’s even true for people who have stood on the world stage of leadership. While most presidents of the United States reach their peak during time in office, others continue to grow and become better leaders afterward, such as former president Jimmy Carter. Some people questioned his ability to lead while in the White House. But in recent years, Carter’s level of influence has continually increased. His high integrity and dedication in serving people through Habitat for Humanity and other organizations have made his influence grow.

There is an old saying in boxing: Champions don’t become champions in the ring—they are merely recognized there. That’s true. If you want to see where someone develops into a champion, look at his daily routine. Former heavyweight champ Joe Frazier stated, “You can map out a fight plan, or a life plan. But when the action starts, you’re down to your reflexes. That’s where your roadwork shows. If you cheated on that in the dark of the morning, you’re getting found out now under the bright lights.” Boxing is a good analogy for leadership development because it is all about daily preparation. Even if a person has natural talent, he has to prepare and train to become successful.

One of this country’s greatest leaders was a fan of boxing: President Theodore Roosevelt. In fact, one of his most famous quotes uses a boxing analogy that I would like to leave you with this month:

It is not the critic that counts, not the man who points out how the strong man stumbled, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena; whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs and comes short again and again; who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions, and spends himself in a worthy cause; who, at best, knows in the end the triumph of high achievement; and who, at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat.

We commend you for the work you do as a Trainer in the Gold Wing Road Riders Association, and support all of your efforts as you continue to help our Members grow and develop their skills.

The schedule for seminars to be presented at the 2004 Wing Ding will soon be developed. **To All Region and District Trainers**—please consider helping present some of these seminars in Grapevine, Texas. Give some thought about what you can share with our Members, and contact us with that information. We will definitely be contacting you in the near future!

Join us in welcoming the following people to the Leadership Training Division, and provide help, share your ideas, and encourage them whenever you can:

Tom & Beverly Richardson, Missouri-DT (CI) hawk252@socket.net

(DT = District Trainer; CI = Certified Instructor)

Remember to *"Promote the Experience - Share the Excitement"*.

Steve and Carolyn Cotton
International Directors – LTD

***"The first responsibility of a leader is to define reality.
The last is to say thank you.
In between the leader is a servant."
- Max De Pree***

The Curriculum Corner

Holiday Greetings Fellow Trainers,

Over the past couple of months several people have remarked to me about the overlap or duplication that exists between some of the programs in our LTD Curriculum. And they are absolutely right. In some cases it is obvious, for example the Newsletter seminar is in both Knowledge Enhancement and Member Orientation or the Delegation seminar is in both Leadership 2000 and Knowledge Enhancement. More often the duplication is more subtle. A lot of what is given in the Chapter Finances seminar under the Knowledge Enhancement program is also covered in the Expectations unit of the Horizons program. And many of the points of the Listening Seminar under Knowledge Enhancement are repeated in the several seminars that deal with Communications – Chapter, Couple and so forth. The obvious, whole seminar duplication we will eliminate by re-structuring the curriculum.

As part of this re-structuring, we plan to balance the size of the programs a bit more evenly. For example, we will remove Problem Solving from Knowledge Enhancement and leave it in Life Skills. But the repetition of

items, ideas and philosophies is something that we cannot and should not eliminate. Yes, we will try to hold it down a bit but good ideas and principles need to be stressed several times for them to be driven home. Please bear this in mind as you review your seminars and send in your comments for revisions.

Just a brief note to all about the most recent Operations procedural changes to year end paperwork. Please be sure to update your presentation materials to include the new Financial Report Cover Letter and the Chapter Equipment Inventory Form. These are very necessary and critical items so it is most important that we get in lock-step with the Operations Division and tell all existing and future officers about these changes. Remember, we are only as valuable as we make ourselves.

Here's wishing you and yours the very Merriest of Holidays and a Joyous New Year. Stay happy and keep training.

CJ & Bo Karcanes
Region 'N' Trainers

***"If you have a great ambition, take as big a step as possible in the direction of fulfilling it.
If the step is only a tiny one, don't worry if it is the largest one now possible."
- Midland McAfee***

The Officers Guidebook

One of the most important sources of information for our association is the Officers Guidebook. There are no clear "guidelines" as to who should and should not have access to it. When we were first asked to become Assistant Chapter Directors in 1999, and had accepted, we were provided with only a copy of section D by the Chapter Director. This section was titled "ESPECIALLY FOR THE CHAPTER DIRECTOR." What we didn't know was what else was contained in the guidebook. We expected there were at least 3 other sections (A, B, and C) but didn't know what was contained in them. When we finally received an entire Officers Guidebook with sections A through H (plus section "I" which was *forms*), we were amazed to find out that there was no confidential, top secret, covert, off the record, not to be disclosed, restricted, hush hush, classified, private information contained in the guidebook. We immediately read the entire guidebook, cover to cover (except the forms) twice. The information provided in that guidebook helped us understand GWRRA, its principles, and its purpose much more clearly than the multitude of tidbits we had received from GWRRA members along the way. Some information provided by various members along the way was a bit skewed or even simply wrong. Reading the guidebook for ourselves was like getting it "straight from the horse's mouth." The largest effect of having and reading the guidebook was removing the uncertainty and fear associated with assuming an Officer position. What we needed to know to be successful was right in front of us, and it was neither complicated nor difficult. Having said that, there are two points that are both important yet independent from one another as it relates to the Officers Guidebook.

First, the guidebook should be shared among members, not just officers. One mechanism that this is being done in Region H is through articles written by the Region Trainer (formerly Eddie Mauterer and currently Harry Dollarhide) titled "By the Book." These articles, published monthly, discuss specific topics in the Officers Guidebook, and explain their use, relevance, and/or utility. Unfortunately, it is suspected that the number of GWRRA members that access the District and Region Newsletters is limited. We would recommend that Chapter Directors encourage their Newsletter Editors to access this article on a monthly basis and reprint it in their own newsletter. (Note: feel free to reprint any district, regional, or national article in your Chapter Newsletter – but please make sure to include the "credits" – that is, who wrote it and from where you obtained it.) Additionally, we encourage Chapter Officers to share the Officers Guidebook with interested members and staff. This will help in two ways. First, it will eliminate misconceptions as to what GWRRA is all about, and second, it will help prepare staff and members with the knowledge and confidence to eventually assume greater responsibilities within a chapter. Keep in mind - the Guidebook consists of, for the most part, *guidelines* which are suggestions based upon experience. These guidelines are not etched in stone, and may be modified, enhanced, or otherwise improved in the spirit of "Friends for Fun, Safety, and Knowledge."

Second, in GWRRA, there are only a few POLICIES. They are:

- 1) GWRRA has licensed the use of the “trademarked” “GOLD WING”, “WING” and the “WING DESIGN” from American Honda Motor Company and its use must meet the standards, specifications, and quality established by the licensor (American Honda). Regions, Districts, and Chapters may use these trademarks in compliance with the agreement.
- 2) GWRRA “Marks” cannot be used to generate income without approval from the Executive Director and a license agreement in place with GWRRA. Officer use of “Marks” for newsletters, web pages, etc. do not need approval. (See details and listing on page G2 of the Officers Guidebook).
- 3) The National Logo cannot be subordinate to any other; the only official back patch is the 10” National LOGO. For Chapter identification, with approval of the District Director, a 4” (or less) chest type logo patch may be used. Chapter patches must have at least one of the following on the patch: “GWRRA” or “Gold Wing Road Riders Association”, or helmeted logo.
- 4) GWRRA cannot 1) sell alcoholic beverages, 2) profit from the sale of alcohol beverages, 3) distribute as an award or prize, any alcoholic beverage at a GWRRA event, 4) encourage its use by advertising its availability or causing it to be available at GWRRA events
- 5) Only the Home Office may solicit from American Honda, and all direct contact with American Honda is handled by the Home Office.
- 6) There are also policies regarding Grievance and Officer removal.

Familiarity with the Officers Guidebook, in our opinion, is one of the largest opportunities this association has for increased participation, preparation of future officers, and continued growth.

John & Bonnie Simonick
Texas Trainers and Assistant District Directors

*“Some of the best things in life aren’t things.”
- Linda Ellerbee*

Building A Healthier Self-Esteem

It is easy to feel overwhelmed trying to balance all of the things you want to accomplish each day. Joe Hill’s book *In Pursuit of Success* offers some suggestions about maintaining a positive attitude and feeling good about yourself while navigating along life’s journey. Perhaps one of these ideas will make a difference in your thinking throughout the next month or so...

1. Stop comparing yourself to anyone but you.
Take a break and be easy on yourself for a change. You can’t do everything as well as everyone else, but there are some things that you do well and better than others. Remember...you don’t have to be the best to be successful. You simply have to *try* to do *your best* to be successful.
2. Learn how to take a compliment with sincerity.
By not acknowledging a compliment graciously, you put yourself down and may insult the person that is complimenting you. If you said “good job” to a friend or coworker and they responded with “no big deal” or “I was just lucky, I wish I could do that all the time,” how would this comment make you feel? Don’t be afraid to take some credit where credit is due. The next time someone gives you a compliment, try saying a simple “thank you” and leave it at that.
3. Become a “giver” not a “taker.”

Helping other people may be considered the essence of successful living. Being needed, and having a feeling of being needed, is a basic requirement of our psychological make-up. There is a special feeling that you can receive as a result of giving to others. Unfortunately, sometimes there is not enough of this stimulus in our lives. Dr. Norman Vincent Peale addressed this topic with the following phrases: “If life isn’t giving to you, you aren’t giving enough to it. The more you give, the more it gives back to you. This is a law of life.”

4. Don’t kick yourself when you’re down.

You are more susceptible to negative thinking and feelings of low self-esteem when you are feeling down. At that critical time, pay more attention to how you feel about yourself and avoid beating yourself up over the little things. Instead of wasting your energy thinking “I can’t do anything right,” try thinking of the good things you have going on. We were each born with the capacity to do well. Look for the “good” in you!

5. Confirm the good qualities that you already have.

Try writing down everything that you do well on one side of a piece of paper. Be sure to include your good qualities, feelings and accomplishments in this list. Next, write down the things that you don’t do well but would like to improve on the other side. Remember...don’t compare yourself to anyone else but you. After you’ve completed your lists, focus your energy on the things you do best and put them to work for you. As for the “don’t do well” list, pick one area of improvement at a time then review your good qualities to determine how your strengths can help you!

6. Use the power of your mind in a positive way with positive affirmations

Short statements like “I can do this” or “I’m getting better every day” can be a powerful way to build a healthy self-esteem. Just saying the words is not enough, though. They have to be said with emotion and conviction out loud. Try writing down two or three positive affirmations of your choice and post them in locations where you will see them often. Vehicle dashboards, cupboard doors, bathroom mirrors and daily planners are always a great place to start reminding yourself!

7. Allocate some time to do what you’re good at and enjoy doing.

Don’t spend a large portion of your life doing things that you constantly have to work at to be good. What do you do well? What do you enjoy doing other than work? Whatever it is, do it often in order to build yourself a healthy self-esteem. It will help you balance the things you are good at and the things that you need to improve or change.

8. Be a person of action.

Do you measure yourself and your success by your actions? You should. The worst thing that you can do when you’re feeling down is sit around and do nothing. It is what you do - your actions at home, in your work, and in your relationships - which determines how you feel about yourself and how successful you become. Do something. Anything! Try something new and exciting! Break out of that comfort zone and the same old routine. Don’t be afraid to try something new.

My personal thanks to all of your efforts as volunteer leaders in this organization this past year. Best wishes to you and your family this holiday season!

Amy Peterson
Region E Trainer

Suggestion of the Month

If you have a training event planned that may be convenient for members in a nearby state, please share the details with the District Trainer and/or Director of that state (whether they are in your region or not). There may be Members closer to that event than something being held in their home state.

*“Dreams come a size too big so that we can grow into them.”
- Josie Bisset*

Quarterly Reports Due

Just a reminder that quarterly reports for October 2003 through December 2003 are due to Steve Cotton by January 10, 2004. Please reference the Quarterly Activity Report form on page 45 of the *Trainer's Handbook* if you have questions regarding the content of these reports.

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***Thank you for your training efforts in 2003.
Have a safe and happy holiday season!***

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