



WING WISDOM

Gold Wing Road Riders Association
Leadership Training Division Newsletter



Volume X, Issue 3

March 2004

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Words from the International Directors



We want to thank you for the tremendous response about presenting seminars at Wing Ding XXVI in Grapevine, Texas July 4-8, 2004. This is a time for the Leadership Training Division to provide presentations and seminars to a large number of Members in the Gold Wing Road Riders Association family. **Region Trainers, District Trainers, and all Certified Instructors:** We can still use a few more people, so consider this your personal invitation to pick your favorite and best presentations to share with everyone this year at Wing Ding. If you are going to attend this year's activities, drop us a note concerning what programs you can do, any particular day(s) you desire, and the approximate time you need. We are

trying to step out of the box this year by having two seminar lengths: a 1-hour session, or a 1 and one-half hour session. Some people have mentioned needing a little more time- we aim to fulfill that request this year. We would also like you to have an opportunity to help work at the Leadership Training booth sometime during the week. Think about helping with this, and drop by the booth when you get there - we will have a sign-up list.

Trust is the foundation of leadership. To build trust, a leader must exemplify these qualities: a) competence, b) connection, and c) character. People will forgive occasional mistakes based on ability, especially if they can see that you're still growing as a leader. But they won't trust someone who has slips in character. In that area, even occasional lapses are lethal. All effective leaders know this truth. PepsiCo chairman and CEO Craig Weatherup acknowledges, "People will tolerate honest mistakes, but if you violate their trust you will find it very difficult to ever regain their confidence. That is one reason that you need to treat trust as your most precious asset. You may fool your boss, but you can never fool your colleagues or subordinates."

Retired General H. Norman Schwarzkopf points to the significance of character: "Leadership is a potent combination of strategy and character. But if you must be without one of them, be without strategy." Character and leadership credibility always go hand in hand. The role of character always has been the key factor in the rise and fall of everything. And one can be sure that we are no exception to this part of history. We won't survive because we are smarter or more sophisticated, but because we are—we hope—stronger inwardly. In short, character is the only effective bulwark against internal and external forces that lead to disintegration or collapse. Character makes trust possible, and trust makes leadership possible.

No leader can break trust with his people and expect to keep influencing them. Trust is the foundation of leadership, so strive to always be your best. That will continue to make the Gold Wing Road Riders Association the great group of people we enjoy to be with.

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

Steve and Carolyn Cotton
International Directors – LTD

Curriculum Corner

Strategic vs. Tactical, Long Range vs. Short Range – sounds a lot like a military manual. Well, how about Detailed vs. Outline – still doesn't sound a whole lot like GWRRA now does it? But it should! I'm talking about PLANNING, and how important it is for us as Trainers in LTD to practice what we preach. We have all heard that saying about "people don't plan to fail, they fail to plan". I use it in several of the seminars that I give throughout the year, and I'm sure many of you do too. But let me ask you to be very honest, not with me but with yourself; how many of you have put together a written, specific and measurable training plan for your region or district? I'll bet I hit home with more than one or two of you, didn't I.

And now for the good news, its not too late!! As soon as you finish reading this month's edition of this newsletter, grab a clean sheet of paper and start building your plan to deliver training to the members in your area. Once you have your thoughts and ideas down on paper, share them with the other Trainers that you know and even more importantly, share them with the Instructors in your region/district. Then comes the fun part; get their feedback and start re-writing your plan again and again until all of you are satisfied with it. Does all of that sound vaguely familiar? It should because that's what we tell CD's to do with their chapter staff. If it's good enough for them, it sure should be good enough for us.

There is a very good reason why Rider Ed seems to be out ahead of LTD. They are better organized and work together. Rider Ed has a table at every rally to promote what they do (and to sell raffle tickets to raise money for their programs). Have you ever noticed that Educators from other districts are often sitting at those tables, helping out and just communicating? In the business world they call it "networking", and in GWRRA we call it socializing. Whatever you call it, it builds a real bond between Educators. Maybe its time we started doing something like that in Leadership Training. If you agree, ask you District or Region Director if you can set up a table at the next event and hand out copies of the curriculum. You could even get creative and make up a flyer to advertise your next Horizons Program or Saturday Workshop. Get a merchant to donate something to give away as a prize and sell tickets. Not only will you raise some money for LTD, but you are giving the members what they love most - a chance to win something. Please believe me, Gold Wingers love to take a chance on winning something – anything. I've been told Wingers will buy a chance on a cow patty, just chrome it and mount it on a plaque (just kidding-maybe).

So there is my message, folks. Put together a Training Plan and share it throughout your region and then start building some "esprit de corps."

Take care and keep training,

CJ Karcanes
Region N Trainer

"The reason most people never reach their goals is that they don't seriously consider them as believable or achievable."
- Denis Waitley

1st Quarter 2004 Reports Due

Reports for January 2004 – March 2004 are due to Steve and Carolyn Cotton by April 10, 2004. There are forms on page 45 of the *Trainer's Handbook* or you can send an e-mail to cotton01@swbell.net with the same information.

***“You do not need to know how you’re actually going to achieve a goal when you set it.
Just repeatedly visualize the desired result, and the “how” will open up to you.
- Vince Pfaff***

By The Book

This is a reprint of a May 01 By The Book by Former Region H Trainer, Eddie Mauterer. This article is offered again because it is excellent coverage of the subject:

ME AND MINE - Yes, there actually is a section in the Officer's Guidebook that is titled "Me and Mine". And, for a section that is only two paragraphs long, it is one of the most important sections for Chapter Directors. Unfortunately, even though many will read this section, most totally miss the real understanding of this section. These two paragraphs lay out the essence of what a Chapter Director's job really is.

Pardon me, but this is one time when I must quote sections of the actual text in the Officer's Guidebook. It actually says it best: "Remember that you are providing a service for the Members of GWRRA. Selfish and possessive attitudes have absolutely no place in this environment. While it is not a grievous error to refer to the chapter as "Mine," it is the first step down a path of many pitfalls. The primary obstacle you will encounter on this path is one of possession. Your concern for the participants becomes clouded by the "Me AND Mine" syndrome."

"The only way to avoid this dilemma is to keep the convenience of the Member first and foremost in your mind. ... Your role is to serve the Membership!"

As a Chapter Director, your actual role should be one of a "coordinator" not a "director". Your primary function is to coordinate activities for the Chapter participants. Don't loose focus that this is a hobby. People want to enjoy activities that involve riding their motorcycles and being with their friends.

Too often Chapter Directors and their staffs get caught up in working on activities that they want to do and not what the Members are interested in doing. They end up planning activities that the Chapter participants are not interested in. Eventually, the Chapter participants become disinterested and attendance at meetings and activities begins to decline.

This may be a bit of a reality check. But, please take a moment and think about it. Are you doing what the Members want or are you trying to impose what you want to do on the Chapter?

Submitted by Harry Dollarhide
Region H Trainer

***“The essence of health is an inner kind of balance.”
- Andrew Weil, M.D.***

Self Talk (Part 1)

What adults tell us as children has an incredibly important effect on us. It forms what we believe about most of what is going on around us, and almost everything that we come to believe about ourselves. Some of our “programming” is obvious. Most of it has been more subtle. Our experiences, our acceptance of what we heard from others, and what we told ourselves became the foundation for the mental programming which directs us today.

Every day each of us receives an endless stream of commands, directives, controls, and expectations from others. Everything around us nudges, demands, or persuades. Even as adults we are bombarded with influences, most of which we are not even aware since our subconscious is filtering out what it feels is important.

Unfortunately, studies suggest that as much as seventy-five percent of everything stored in our subconscious minds is counterproductive and works against us. So how can you erase the negatives and replace it with a new, healthy, productive kind of programming? All you have to do is learn how to talk to yourself.

You will become what you think about most. The brain believes what you tell it most. The more we believe about something, the more we will accept other ideas which are similar. The more files we have in our mental filing cabinets, which tell us something about ourselves, the more we will attract and accept other thoughts and ideas which support and prove what is already stored in our files. The more you will think about yourself in that same way, the more you will believe that it is how it really is. The mind works that way because the brain always tries to tie a new thing you think to something you already believe.

It is our programming that sets up our beliefs, and the chain reaction begins. In logical progression, what we believe determines our attitudes, affects our feelings, directs our behavior, and determines our success or failure:

1. Programming creates beliefs
2. Beliefs create attitudes.
3. Attitudes create feelings.
4. Feelings determine actions.
5. Actions create results.

As planning continues for the remainder of 2004, I encourage you to think about things you may want to change in your life. Make a list throughout the coming month, then we'll discuss a plan of action next month to help you make it happen.

Expect the best,

Amy Peterson
Region E Trainer