

Wing Wisdom

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From the Director's Chair

Thought to ponder: A Gift Rejected

A lady in a faded gingham dress and her husband, dressed in a homespun threadbare suit, stepped off the train in Boston, and walked timidly without an appointment into the Harvard University president's outer office. The secretary could tell in a moment that such backwoods, country hicks had no business at Harvard and probably didn't even deserve to be in Cambridge.

"We'd like to see the president," the man said softly. "He'll be busy all day," the secretary snapped. "We'll wait," the lady replied. For hours the secretary ignored them, hoping that the couple would finally become discouraged and go away. They didn't, and the secretary, growing frustrated, finally decided to disturb the president, even though it was a chore she always regretted. "Maybe if you see them for a few minutes, they'll leave," she told him. He sighed in exasperation and nodded. Someone of his importance obviously didn't have the time to spend with them, and he detested gingham dresses and homespun suits cluttering up his outer office.

The president, stern faced and with dignity, finally strutted toward the couple. The lady spoke, "We had a son who attended Harvard for one year. He loved Harvard. He was happy here. But about a year ago, he was accidentally killed. My husband and I would like to erect a memorial to him, somewhere on campus."

The president wasn't touched. He was shocked. "Madam," he said, gruffly, "we can't put up a statue for every person who has attended Harvard and died. If we did, this place would look like a cemetery." "Oh, no," the lady explained quickly. "We don't want to erect a statue. We thought we would like to give a building to Harvard." The president rolled his eyes. He glanced at the gingham dress and homespun suit, then exclaimed, "A building! Do you have any earthly idea how much a building costs? We have over seven and a half million dollars in the physical buildings here at Harvard."

For a moment the lady was silent. The president was pleased. Maybe he could get rid of them now. The lady turned to her husband and said quietly, "Is that all it costs to start a university? Why don't we just start our own?" Her husband nodded. The president's face wilted and fell in confusion and bewilderment.

Mr. and Mrs. Leland Stanford got up and walked away, traveling to Palo Alto, California where they established the university that bears their name, Stanford University, a memorial to a son that Harvard no longer cared about.

You can easily judge the character of others by how they treat those who they think can do nothing for them.

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From the Director's Chair *(continued)*

That "Thought to Ponder" was a lot longer than any I have shared with you before, but it really drove home a point that we all must be aware of as we train our fellow members. And that point is *don't prejudge any of the members*.

Just because a volunteer has never managed people in their "real world" job doesn't mean that they don't have people skills aplenty. Conversely, just because someone has been a manager for a medium to large-sized company doesn't mean that they already have people skills. I can't tell you how many times the quiet, reserved spouse or the gruff, tough "Big Guy" has pleasantly surprised me. Keep your mind and ears open and let the members teach you while you are teaching them. We all have a lot more to learn so enjoy it.



I'm happy to report that six out of eight US Regions and one Canadian Region submitted their 1st Quarter Training reports - and they were all on time. Region F is still actively searching for a Region Trainer and Region A may still get one to me. Canadian Regions J & L are probably still thawing out from the big winter freeze that our friends up north have every year, so maybe 2nd Quarter will be better for them. My sincere thanks for the hard work and dedication that you display by plowing through the drudgery of the quarterly report. Just a brief word of advice to make your jobs easier, you don't have to report Rider Ed or MED seminars via the LTD Report.

Bo & I still need volunteers to help us make new friends at the LTD booth at Wing Ding. Here is how the schedule stands as of now:

	Monday 7/3	Tuesday 7/4	Wednesday 7/5	Thursday 7/6
9am-11am	CJ & Bo	Region K		
11am-1pm		Region B	Region N	LTD Mtg.
1pm-3pm	Region D	Region H	Region E	closed
3pm-5pm	Don Norris			closed

We would sure appreciate some more help. Remember, anyone from LTD can volunteer, not just the Region Trainers. As a volunteer, you'll get a coupon for free ice cream and a nifty badge for your hat or vest. And, best of all, you'll get our undying gratitude and a big "IOU" which can be redeemed at any function that Bo & I attend around the country. So hurry and sign up before those last five slots are taken.

As always, Bo & I really want to thank each of you for all that you do for the members. We know how hard it can get at times; people cancel at the last minute, your director wants you to hold down costs just when the programs start taking off, and a whole host of other issues that you have to deal with. We just can't say it enough times; Thank You!

Keep Safe and Keep Training,

CJ & Bo Karcanes
LTD Directors

"If the power to do hard work is not talent, it is the best possible substitute for it."

- Former President James A. Garfield

Potential New Special Interest Group

There will be a Red Hat Society “Meet and Greet” on July 3, 2006 from 9am-10am in Nashville, TN as part of Wing Ding events. This will be the first step in the consideration process for establishing a new special interest group (SIG).

Please contact Con and Marti Lavendar at conlavendar@hotmail.com if you are interested in attending.



**“Success is
99 percent
failure.”**

- Soichuro Honda

Take 5 - New Food For Thought

These “Take 5” articles are intended to provide information that can be presented by chapter members at monthly meetings or social events to help promote the Leadership Training Division and its programs. The hope is that chapters will enlist the help of members to share the information to make it a FUN and interesting new experience.

The human brain is primed to seek out and respond to new information coming from the outside world that is different from what it expects. These “surprises” increase brain activity, and different parts of the brain become involved. In fact, brain imaging studies have shown that brain activity actually declined when activities became routine and automatic.

So how do you add some variety?

- ◆ Walk the dog on a new route. (Yes, you can teach old dogs new tricks!)
- ◆ If you normally have a bagel and coffee for breakfast, try something else like oatmeal and juice or herbal tea.
- ◆ Change the setting on your radio alarm or tune into a different television show you never watch.
- ◆ Vary the order you use to complete normal routines. For example, get dressed *after* breakfast, or put the *left* arm in your jacket first.

Much more “brain power” is exerted for unique or novel activities. What can you do differently today?

Amy Peterson
Region E Trainer



By The Book – Rally Season

The “By The Book” articles are intended to help familiarize Volunteer Leaders and GWRRA Members with the guidelines, policies, procedures, and information contained in the GWRRA Officer’s Guidebook. Please feel free to reprint these articles in Region, District and Chapter newsletters.



This is a reprint of a September 2003 By The Book by Former Region H Trainer, Harry Dollarhide. This article is offered again because it is excellent coverage of the subject:

WHAT IS A CD TO DO WITH “FREELoadERS?”

During a recent training event, the discussion turned to Members who do not routinely participate, yet show up for Chapter events that are “free”, i.e., a meal or party that is paid for with Chapter funds.

The discussion was NOT talking about Phantom Members; rather dues paying Members in good standing that only showed up for the freebies. This was a point of contention for other Members who did routinely participate in Chapter events. They felt the Members who only showed up for freebies had not contributed to 50/50 and other Chapter fundraisers all year long yet reaped the benefits. After some discussion we determined that the Chapter officers had contacted the “freeloaders” and eliminated personal and/or work related reasons why those Members did not attend functions all year long. The Chapter officers were satisfied that there was no apparent reason why the “freeloaders” did not routinely participate.

The discussion continued and centered on how the Chapter Officers should deal with these “freeloaders.” Some at the training event took a hard line approach and wanted to somehow stop these “freeloaders” from participating in the freebies. However the group consensus was that they take no action that would further drive these Members away from the Chapter. Rather their attendance at freebie events should be viewed as an opportunity to bring these Members into active participation with the Chapter. Numerous ideas surfaced to that end and were discussed in detail. The “freeloaders” should not be viewed as such, rather as Members who for their own reasons chose not to routinely participate. It is the officer’s responsibility to meet the Members needs and encourage participation in Chapter events. Remember we are all Members of GWRRA and choose to participate in a Chapter. As GWRRA Members, we may legitimately participate in more than one Chapter.

This question arose from the discussion; “If the Chapter has a limited budget and numerous “freeloaders,” should we charge only the “freeloaders” to attend while not charging other Chapter Members who routinely participate?”. The general consensus was that if the Chapter had funding problems it should not be putting on a free event in the first place. While you might limit participation at freebies to Chapter Members, the “freeloaders” had indicated their desire to be participants in that Chapter and should be considered as part of the Chapter.

**“A short pen
is better than
a long memory.”**

- Confucious

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*“My strength
lies solely
in my tenacity.”*

- Louis Pasteur

By The Book *(continued)*

Bottom line, do not think of Members who do not actively participate as “freeloaders,” rather as Members who have indicated they consider your Chapter as their home Chapter. Their lack of participation is your challenge. If after your best efforts, they choose to continue only limited participation in the Chapter that is their “right” as Members of GWRRA. After all Members, do not have to participate in a Chapter.

Being positive and pro-active achieves more than a negative, confrontational approach.

Officer’s Guidebook: Section H-3 MEMBER’S OBLIGATION

Please remember that there is special rapport between officers and Members. This rapport is based on a common interest, a bond, a respect for one another that is unique and must be protected. There are no “formal” ties; rather, the participants must WANT to take part. As long as the officer has a desire to lead and the Members want to take advantage of the benefits they are due, everything is as it should be. Another pitfall to avoid is the “implied obligation.” Our Members have NO obligation to participate, volunteer, or take advantage of our association. To an extent, consider GWRRA as a buffet—the Members have a wide variety of palate pleasing temptations from which to choose. You may wish to “package” the “benefits” to entice participation, to offer rewards of recognition, but NEVER imply an obligation.

David Barham
Region H Trainer

A Riddle . . .

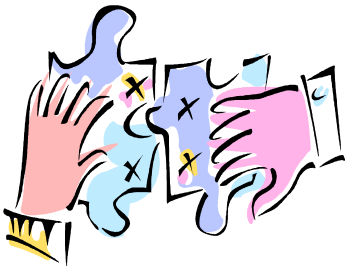
[Bits & Pieces for Salespeople—Volume E Number 6]

I am your constant companion. I am your greatest helper or heaviest burden. I will push you onward or drag you down to failure. I am completely at your command. Half the things you do might as well be turned over to me and I will be able to do them quickly and correctly.

I am easily managed—you must merely be firm with me. Show me exactly how you want something done and, after a few lessons, I will do it automatically. I am a servant of all great people and, alas, of all failures as well. Those who are great, I have made great. Those who are failures, I have made failures.

I am not a machine, though I work with the precision of a machine plus the intelligence of a person. You may run me for profit or run me for ruin—it makes no difference to me. Take me, train me, be firm with me, and I will place the world at your feet. Be easy with me and I will destroy you.

Who am I? *I am habit!*



Training Calendar

There is always room for more events to be listed here so please continue to e-mail details of upcoming training events to amysescape@aol.com. (This list is forwarded to update the Events link in the Leadership Training portion of the GWRRA website.)



JULY 2006

7/3-7/6: Check the Wing Ding schedule for dates and times for your favorite seminars.

AUGUST 2006

8/12-8/13: Horizon Program in Morrilton, AR (Region H). Contact Larry and Brenda Penepent at 479-858-7188 or pilot-1@cox.net.

OCTOBER 2006

10/21: Knowledge Enhancement Program in Springfield, MO (Region E). Contact Tom and Beverly Richardson at 314-606-4498 or hawk252@centurytel.net.

NOVEMBER 2006

11/10-11/11: Horizon Program in Warrenton, MO (Region E). Contact Tom and Beverly Richardson at 314-606-4498 or hawk252@centurytel.net.

*"As long as
you're going to
think anyway—
you might as
well think BIG!"*

- Donald Trump

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