

Wing Wisdom

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From the Director's Chair

Thought to ponder:

*"To do a common thing uncommonly well brings success."
- Henry John Heinz*

Hello Again Team,

Here we are almost half way through 2006. How are you doing in your journey toward the goals that you set for this year? What's that you say? You didn't actually set any goals - at least none that you wrote down and shared with anyone? Shame on you! Don't you practice what you preach?

Guess what, you really aren't alone. I have to confess, I would have been guilty of the same omission if I hadn't been invited to speak at last year's International Operations meeting in Ft. Wayne. That was just the push that I needed to make me set down some 2006 Goals for the Cottons, Bo & I to begin working toward. I shared them with all of the Region Trainers and others in attendance at our LTD Staff Meeting during Wing Ding along with the 2005 LTD Curriculum Update disk. There were also published in this newsletter for reference.

Here they are again:

2006 Leadership Training Division Goals

- ◆ Continue to expand training opportunities for general members
- ◆ Continue to add seminars to the "Library" of Seminars (continue conversion to Active/Animated Power Point format)
- ◆ Expand the implementation of the "Training Timeline" to at least five additional regions
- ◆ Deliver 15 Horizons Programs, at least one to be given Internationally
- ◆ Direct the delivery of at least five Instructor Development & Certification classes; at least one to be given Internationally

Bo & I sincerely hope that many of you took these LTD Goals and created some action plans and objectives of your own to bolster and support them. Actually, we know that some of you did because we have accomplished some of them and are working toward others. Three of the five regions that "signed up" to adopt the Training Timeline have made significant strides so far, and this fall will see them fully on board.

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From the Director's Chair *(continued)*

We are on our way to delivering even more than 15 Horizons Programs given the pace and plans so far. One of them was delivered in Canada – let's have a cheer for hands across the border, as this was delivered by the Trainer from Region B. We are adding six new seminars to our curriculum in the '06 Curriculum Update, which will be distributed at Wing Ding. And with a little bit of luck, maybe we'll have a few more before the end of the year.

All in all, we'd say that LTD is on track to meet or exceed our 2006 Goals. But we'd certainly like to hear from you about where you stand with regard to your plans and objectives. The next International Operations Meeting is being held in Nashville just before the start of Wing Ding. We sure would like to "toot YOUR horns" at that meeting by telling everyone about the things that you have done.

So won't you all please take a few minutes and put together an e-mail detailing your accomplishments to date. Please put your thinking caps on and get your **inputs to us no later than June 15th**. It has been your activities and success that enabled us to negotiate the some of the changes that we have made (locally created Horizon Workbooks, free Horizon hanger bars for our members, a new LTD web site, etc.), so please send me more ammunition for future use.

While we are asking for things in preparation for Wing Ding, please let me ask for two more things. First, would each of you Region Trainers please submit your second quarter **Training Activity Report by June 20th** instead of July 10th. This will allow me to report two quarters worth of activity instead of only one for 2006 during the Ops Meeting. And second, (here comes the begging again, folks) we still have **three time slots at the LTD Information Booth that need to be filled for Wed. July 5th (9-11 am, 1-3 pm and 3-5 pm)**. Bo & I will cover the first slot on Thursday and we are making arrangements for someone from one of the SIG's to cover the booth while we are in our big meeting.

Speaking of that, we certainly hope every one of you that plans to attend Wing Ding will join us for the LTD Awards and Planning Meeting. There will be games, prizes, fun and brain-picking, but mostly fun. All members of the LTD Team are invited, and that includes ALL Instructors, District Trainers and Region Trainers, past and present. Y'all come now, Y' here!

Keep Safe and Keep Training,

CJ & Bo Karcanes
LTD Directors

Another thought to ponder:

Success the Disney Way says:

*Have Fun. You're never truly a success until
you enjoy what you are doing.*



*"If you believe
in yourself,
so will others."*

- Graham Greene

Take 5 - Why Leadership Training?

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.

“I’m too busy.”

“I’ve been through these courses for work.”

“Training is boring.”

“There aren’t any problems in our chapter/district.”

“I’ve been in a similar position with a different organization.”

Has one of these thoughts kept you from taking advantage of one of the many benefits of your GWRRA membership? Hopefully you have the opinion that there is always something new that can be learned. Either way, I hope you will consider the possibilities for a moment.

Each presenter has different experiences and a different communication style. Each of our brains also has information filters that choose which facts and details are remembered. What does that mean to you? You may hear the same seminar information presented by the same person twice and recall different details from each seminar. The discussion and message in one seminar, or the experiences and background of the presenter, could change your experience - even if those two seminars have the same outline and content notes.

When I provide training seminars or programs, I seem to learn new ideas or information from the discussion that I can share with other members in future training opportunities. Most instructors have shared similar observations with me over the years as well. GWRRA members have a variety of experiences, ideas and interests. These backgrounds all help our association to become better and continue to grow ... but only if those thoughts and experiences are shared.

Many participants in programs like the 2-day Horizon Program start building friendships that strengthen as they reconnect at rallies and events throughout the year, exchange e-mails and phone calls, celebrate birthdays, etc. Sometimes, there are bonds created between participants that last a lifetime. In other seminars, staff and members can meet each other in person and share ideas or concerns, and even find resources in case they need help or want to bounce ideas off someone else in the future.

There have been new seminar topics added to the LTD curriculum in the past year, and there is always room for more. Your ideas are important and always welcome. The more you know, the better it gets. The more you participate and share your experiences with us, the better the Leadership Training Division gets!

Amy Peterson
Region E Trainer

***“Live and work
with integrity
and everything else
is a piece of cake.”***

- Pat Salvatore



By The Book – Good Judgment

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.



How do we learn to exercise good judgment?

Good judgment is a big part of good character. Becoming thoughtful decision makers goes beyond conscience formation (directly teaching what's right and wrong and why). Developing our decision-making skills means applying certain questions or "tests" that can be used to evaluate any given behavior. Should I continue to debate an unpopular subject with a Chapter Participant? How can I come to a win-win situation?

The following steps can guide decision making:

1. **Consider alternatives:** What are alternative ways of trying to deal with this problem?
2. **Weigh consequences:** What are the likely good and bad results of the different alternatives for the people who would be affected, including you?
3. **Identify values:** What moral values are involved? Which ones are most important?
4. **Make a decision:** Which course of action does the best job of respecting the important values and is likely to produce the greatest good and least harm for those affected?
5. **Seek advice:** What person(s), such as Chapter Directors, District or Region Staff, etc., could I ask for help in deciding what to do in this situation?

The last of these questions, concerning advice seeking, is important. If we are wise, we don't make important decisions — especially about tough problems — without seeking counsel from at least one person whose judgment we respect and hopefully has knowledge of the topic.

We should also be aware that important decisions require a clear mind and a calm emotional state. They shouldn't be made when we're tired, stressed, angry, or upset in any way. In addition, they shouldn't be made in a hurry. We will almost never regret taking more time to make an important decision. We may very well regret not taking enough time.

The essential factor in difficult situations is good judgment – practical wisdom. Good judgment is a product of good ethics, breadth of experience, and nuanced moral sensitivity, rather than a mechanical application of rules.

“Good judgment is usually the result of experience. And experience is frequently the result of bad judgment. But to learn from the experience of others requires those who have the experience to share the knowledge with those who follow.” --Barry LePatner (*To Engineer is Human: The Role of Failure in Successful Design*)

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“A hero is simply someone who rises above his or her own human weaknesses, for an hour, a day, a year, to do something stirring.”

- Betty Deramus

By The Book *(continued)*

From the *Officer's Guidebook*:

JUDGEMENT

“As you know, GWRRA is not a “voting” organization that allows politics to play a role in its management style. However, that does not relieve an officer of the responsibility of making informed (popular, if you will) decisions in the conduct of his “business.” At all times, the best interest of the Membership has to be the guiding force when the officer’s judgment is called upon.

Whether a meeting time and place is being sought or a ride is being organized, you MUST appeal to the Members...the location has to be selected based on proximity to the Membership; the day and time arrived at after consideration of convenience (do a great many potential attendees work second shift, weekends, etc.?); the rides must take into consideration differing styles and preferences (speeds, distance to stop, etc.).

Don’t be afraid of temporary setbacks...we learn more from these than from success. Experiment, be creative...be willing to move the meeting place and time...have three groups depart on rides (those that ride in excess of the speed limit and go from gas tank to gas tank; those that must stop every fifty miles for refreshment (or the discharge of same); those in between the other two), etc. Be flexible! Use your judgment and Member input to guide you.”

David Barham
Region H Trainer

2nd Quarter Reports—Due June 20th

Region Trainers: It’s important that your training reports covering activity from April 2006 through June 2006 be submitted to CJ Karcanes by June 20th so results can be compiled prior to Wing Ding. Please reference the Trainer’s Handbook page 46 for a copy of this report.

LTD Web Site Reminders

Mentoring moments, training tips and other helpful information is being added to the LTD web site for your use. From the www.gwrro.org home page, select “Additional Links & Information,” then “Leadership Training.”

“Temperament we are born with, character we have to make; and that not in the grand moments...but in the daily, quiet paths of pilgrimage.”

- Baldwin Brown



Training Calendar

Now is the time to be publicizing your fall training opportunities for maximum exposure. Please continue to e-mail details of upcoming training events to amysescape@aol.com. Keep in mind that this list is forwarded to update the Events link in the Leadership Training portion of the GWRRA web site for all members to view



JULY 2006

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

AUGUST 2006

8/19-8/20: Horizon Program and "Training Buffet" (variety of seminars) in Morrilton, AR (Region H). Contact Larry and Brenda Penepent at 479-858-7188 or pilot-1@cox.net.

OCTOBER 2006

10/6-10/8: Horizon Program in Clover, WI (Region E). Contact Michael and Lynne Mischker at 920-779-6779 or wingman915@sbcglobal.net.

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.

"A leader is someone who helps improve the lives of other people or improve the system they live under."

--Sam Houston

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