

WING WISDOM

**GOLD WING ROAD RIDERS ASSOCIATION
LEADERSHIP TRAINING DIVISION**

From the Director's Chair

By CJ and Bo Karcanes, Leadership Training Division Directors

Happy New Year to each and every one of you. Bo & I send out our very best wishes for the best year ever in every facet of your lives. May this new year bring you joy and good fortune in every way possible.

We sure hope that you tried the “5 positive things” exercise last month and are now trying to incorporate them into your everyday life. If you haven’t, there is still time. Go ahead, give it a try. You may find that it helps. Most importantly, it can’t hurt.

As we start this new year in GWRRA, we in LTD are very excited. 2007 was a great year for us - not just because we delivered more Horizons Programs than ever before, but because we are beginning to see the Timeline For Training being utilized/followed across the organization. Yes, there are still some Regions and Districts that are only just beginning. The really good news is that not only our officers, but now some of the members, are starting to ask for this seminar or that program to be delivered. Many members are even starting to ask for “cluster” or “localized” training sessions. This is very encouraging news, and Bo & I are truly excited to be able to report this progress. Oh sure, it is a little step, but it is a very important step. Remember the old proverb, “even the longest journey starts with the very first step.” We feel that LTD has now started on that journey and, though we know it will take several years before every District & Region is fully operational within the Timeline, we get closer to that goal with every individual seminar, ½ day Seminar Session and full Program that is delivered.

Bo & I would like to take this opportunity to thank every one of you for your hard work and dedication over these past 2 years. It was your effort and support that made this milestone happen. With your continued support, we shall see many more successes.

“Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other.”

~ John F Kennedy



Leadership Training —

**A Service To The Officer,
A Benefit For The Members**



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Goal Setting

By Amy Peterson, Newsletter Editor

Whether you've made New Year's resolutions to change something in your life, or you're looking at things within your Chapter/District/Region, goal setting is the best place to start if you want to achieve them.

You typically know the final product/effect desired, so start there and work backwards. What does the end result look like? What are the specifics? It is also important to consider the challenges you may face along the way. What are they, and how can you avoid or overcome them?

Looking at your goal may be a bit daunting at first and often results in procrastination. When you break it down into quarterly, then monthly, weekly (and sometimes daily) activities needed to stay on track, those guidelines begin to look a little more feasible. Think about walking a mile, for example. It takes more than one step to get there, so the key becomes actually taking that first step! Then you keep stepping one foot ahead of the other until you've walked a block, and another block and a third. Perhaps listening to your favorite songs or sharing the walk with a friend so you have someone to talk to makes the time pass even quicker. In the same way, consider what things you can do throughout the year to ensure your goal achieving success like involving mentors or friends, finding an accountability partner to keep you motivated, taking classes, etc.

Remember to use the SMART method to create clear goals:

Specific: What will you do? How will you do it? Be very precise!

Measurable: How will you know you have achieved it?

Achievable: What resources will you need to accomplish the goal? What obstacles do you anticipate along the way, and how will you avoid or work through them?

Realistic: Can you reasonably expect to accomplish this goal based on your abilities? (A little stretch is always healthy motivation for change!)

Timely: Set a timeframe or deadline to accomplish each goal (and for each of the steps toward that goal).

Once you write down your goals, this simple action increases your commitment to those goals and significantly increases your odds of success. Keep the goals visible and review them often. It's perfectly acceptable to make adjustments along the way too.

Best wishes for achieving your goals and much happiness in 2008!



“State each goal as a positive statement.”

~ Mind Tools

Thoughts from Region J

By Larry and Barbie Fowell, Region J Trainers

Region J is a truly international region, having both Canada and the United States included (Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, Alaska, Yukon). From our side, there seems to be a greater difference than in any other region. When we became Trainers and started to talk about LTD in our region the response was, "What is that? What do they do? Who are they? What is it you want from us?" A few said, "We don't need that." They realized after a few seminars that we did have something to offer. There was a purpose for the LTD information, and we did bring forward knowledge for all.

Since we are one of the newest Region Trainers, I must say that there is a great desire to learn and we are experiencing some resistance also. Now I come down to change and how we dislike it (even if we know we need it). Change becomes the enemy of routine. Change can enhance our character and our perceptions. When you bring forth change, you must be willing to adapt yourself in two ways: A.) To the reaction of those that resist the change; and B.) For those that desire and acquire the knowledge.

This is like being the coin of a magician flipping gently in the air. You must always keep your enthusiasm and the excitement in your nature and voice. As the people learn, they see what you have brought them and what they can dine upon. When you get resistance, you must deal with it using great compassion and understanding, not fighting or conflict. This would only build a wall between you and the person you want to reach.

As you teach the knowledge, the ones that will resist the most will usually become your greatest supporters once they see the advantages that you bring. Which would you choose to be - an eagle or a crow? The eagle is beautiful and can soar high. Stop and think for a moment. The eagle has battled extinction as it has difficulty adapting. The crow might not be great to look at or soar high, but it adapts to each situation fairly easily and will likely never be extinct. So with these thoughts and the support that we have, how can we not take the LTD message to a whole new level and light the world on fire?

We hope everyone has many great moments in training and a very prosperous, happy New Year!



"Change starts when someone sees the next step."

~ William Drayton



Attitude

By Patty and Don Hoffman, Region B Trainers

Have you really ever sat down and thought about your attitude and the attitude of those around you? Charles Swindoll wrote the following regarding attitude:

"The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on my life. Attitude, to me, is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness or skill. It will make or break a company, church or a home. The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change our past. We cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the string we have, and that is our attitude ... I am convinced that life is ten percent what happens to me and ninety percent how I react to it. And so it is with you ... we are in charge of our attitudes."

When I read the above, I thought about it and came to the following conclusion. My attitude and the attitude of those around me are very important to me. I have seen many friendships fall apart because of attitude.

Just the other day I had to return an item to the store from which it was purchased. On the wall behind the customer service desk was a poster that read "Attitude is Everything." I questioned the clerk and she said that her manager brought it in one day. The manager said that she wanted each clerk to read it at least once a day and to remember that their attitude can and will be the deciding factor in whether a customer returns to their store or not. I also believe that, as a customer, my attitude toward the clerk will be the deciding factor as to how I am served. In the same way, the attitude of each Officer and Chapter member will be the deciding factor as to whether a new member or even an existing member will return to the Chapter.

The following is a list of positive words that can be used to describe attitude:

Active - Is your Chapter active? Do you plan rides and activities for your membership

Trust - Does your Chapter trust you, or do they watch and criticize?

Thriving - Is your Chapter growing or is your membership getting smaller?

Interesting - Are your Chapter gatherings interesting or boring?

Treat - Are you treating your Chapter members as you would like to be treated?

Unique - Are you using your own ideas, your staff's ideas or are you using the ideas of the Chapter members. Are you taking the credit for the success of a planned activity or giving credit where credit is due?

Desire - Do you have the desire to see your Chapter succeed and grow?

Enticing - Do you end your Chapter gatherings or activities with your Chapter wanting more?



If you can truthfully answer "yes" to any of the above questions, then I feel that you and your Chapter are on the road to success.

By The Book - Asst. Chapter Directors

By Dale Wingrove, Region H Trainer

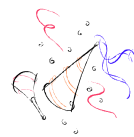
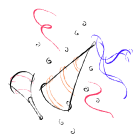
The "By The Book" articles are intended to help familiarize Volunteer Leaders and GWRRR Members with the guidelines, policies, procedures, and information contained in the GWRRR Officer's Guidebook (OGB). Any quotes or references to topics contained in our OGB should not be taken "out of context." A copy of the Officers Guidebook can be found at www.gwrra.org. Click on the Info Exchange tab then click on Officers Guidebook.



This month's article comes at the time of year when new staffs are being formed all over the organization. Last month's article was about choosing your staff wisely. Now we will talk about the Chapter Director's (CD's) right arm and successor, the Assistant Chapter Director (ACD). Based on recent changes involving tenure, the word term should be inserted its place. Some CD's may be looking at this change as an easy and quick way out. The purpose of the elimination of the tenure program was to be able to keep good productive CDs longer than the 3 years that the tenure program limited them to. In the *Officer's Guidebook* (OGB) segment below, I have underlined a sentence that should be taken to heart. A good CD should not appoint someone to just fill the position of ACD. A good CD will not rush the choice of ACD. It is best to consult with the District Director and take time to make sure they are appointing someone to take over as CD. The following segment can be found on Page D-7 of the *OGB*.

THE ASSISTANT CHAPTER DIRECTOR (ACD)

The status and role of the Assistant Chapter Director is very important to the chapter. They must receive final approval from the District Director. This gives the Assistant Chapter Director official officer status. You and your District Director should do a lot of discussing about prospective Assistant Chapter Directors. The choice should be made with the thought in mind that the Assistant Chapter Director may be the next Chapter Director. Anyone accepting the role of Assistant Chapter Director should be willing to step into the Chapter Director position upon completion of the Chapter Director's tenure. Your Assistant Chapter Director should be heavily depended upon, and considered almost as you would a "partner" in the operation of the chapter. Your Assistant can do many things that you would normally do, including conducting Meetings and if need be, staff meetings in your absence. The Chapter Director has final approval on all decisions relating to the operation of the chapter, and if your chapter staff is functioning as it should, then you will become more like an administrator to the chapter, giving directions to coordinate a smoothly operating chapter where everyone feels a part. In fact, your job, as Chapter Director should consist mostly of educating, informing, training coordinating and directing the chapter through the Assistant Chapter Director(s) [Yes, you can have more than one Assistant Chapter Director in a large chapter] and chapter staff. The more you make the Members feel an important part of the decision-making, the better operating, more enthusiastic, fun-to-be-in chapter you will have. So, use your Assistant Chapter Director as an extension of yourself. They should function in that capacity under your direction just as you function under the District Director's direction. If they are to be the next Chapter Director then you owe it to the Assistant Chapter Director and your chapter participants, to provide all the training and experience possible.



Training Calendar

Please send the details of your upcoming events to Editor Amy Peterson at amysescape@aol.com. This information is also published on our division's site, so let us help you spread the word!

January 2008

1/26: Horizon Program in location TBD, GA (Region A). Contact Dave Aikens at aikensdl@cox.net.

February 2008

2/2: Instructor Development & Certification Program in Maysville, GA (Region A). Contact Dave Aikens at aikensdl@cox.net.

2/16: Horizon Program in location TBD, GA (Region A). Contact Dave Aikens at aikensdl@cox.net.

2/23: Knowledge Enhancement Program in Maysville, GA (Region A). Contact Dave Aikens at aikensdl@cox.net.

March 2008

3/8: Intermediate Leadership Skills Program in location TBD, GA (Region A). Contact Dave Aikens at aikensdl@cox.net.

3/15: Instructor Development and Certification Program in Decatur, IL (Region E). Contact Bill Cook at iowacooks@aol.com.

3/28-3/30: Horizon Program in Tacoma, WA (Region I). Contact Bill Ellis at bbellis@olypen.com.

3/29: Intermediate Leadership Skills Program in Surry, British Columbia (Region J). Contact Larry or Barbie Fowell at bmcle@telus.net.

August 2008

8/9: Advanced Leadership Skills Program in location TBD, GA (Region A). Contact Dave Aikens at aikensdl@cox.net.

8/23: Instructor Development & Certification Program in location TBD, GA (Region A). Contact Dave Aikens at aikensdl@cox.net.



*Training
is
FUNdamental!*



4th Quarter 2007 Reports Are Due

Please use the December 2006 version to submit your report of Leadership Training Division activities. Contact your Region Trainer or Amy Peterson (amysescape@aol.com) if you need an electronic version of this form.

Whether any training was conducted or not, we still need a report from *each* district and region covering the October 1, 2007—December 31, 2007 time frame. Thank you for your help and timely response!

District Trainers: Please forward your report to your Region Trainer by **January 5th**

Region Trainers: Please forward your report to CJ Karcanes (karcanes@surry.net) by **January 10th**.



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