

WING WISDOM

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

Before You Present the Horizon Program...

By David & Kathy Orr, Leadership Training Division Directors

To all Instructors:

How many of you have said, "The Horizon Program is my favorite class to teach in all of Leadership Training!" We have heard it said in many districts, many times. It is our favorite too! In the many years the Horizon Program has been presented, many ideas and changes have been incorporated in the series. It has evolved from what was originally written. In 2009, we are updating the program so that it better reflects the organization and today's membership of GWRRA. We will be adding new exercises and games, and updating core areas where necessary. Please read the following to have a better understanding of what the Horizon Program is intended to accomplish.

The Horizon Program was initially developed to train Chapter Officers. The basic information in the older versions refers to "your" chapter. The five modules in the program are intended to give the Officer the tools necessary to become a more effective leader. This program can also be used as a recruiting tool for future Chapter Officers and Staff, but that is not the only goal for this series. In the new version, we are working to improve the core training. In addition to providing a seminars that can explain to the participant what a Chapter Officer is, they will include more about the many elements of Chapter Life available to all members. A more knowledgeable membership will be more interested in the workings of the Association. The Horizon Program is a vehicle that opens up opportunities for members to get involved in many areas of GWRRA.

Many areas contribute to the overall experience of the Horizon Program, and all should be considered. Preparation is the key. If you are in charge of coordinating a Horizon Program, you must be completely aware of the program content in its entirety.



Leadership Training —

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



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Before You Present the Horizon Program *(Continued)*

This includes all announcements publicizing the event, arrangements for training rooms/hotels, distribution of accurate address/directions and point of contact information, coordinating printing of all handouts, food and beverages, and (most importantly) each lesson plan. The Horizons Program is a vehicle that opens up opportunities for members to get involved in many areas of GWRRA

Many areas contribute to the overall experience of the Horizon Program, and all should be considered. Preparation is the key. If you are in charge of coordinating Horizons, you must be completely aware of the program content in its entirety. This includes all announcements publicizing the event, arrangements for training rooms/hotels, distribution of accurate address/directions, and point of contact information, printing all handouts, food, beverages, and most importantly, each lesson plan. You never know if something unexpected will happen and you might have to fill in and teach one of the five modules.

When the Horizon Program is presented, it is strongly recommended that any Instructor presenting this series have attended a Horizon Program as a participant first. While not possible in all cases, the best experience for the members results when this is the case. Utilize only the most experienced Instructors for Horizon Programs, as it is usually the first exposure to Leadership Training most attendees have. Be creative. Have high energy. Make the experience educational, interesting, and above all FUN!

Where you conduct the Horizon Program also adds to the optimum experience for the members. Location for the series should be considered in light of the following: a hotel conference room at a host hotel for the day and a half presentation is the best option. Food, such as pastries or fruit for breakfast and lunch on Saturday, are best provided on site. Consider your attendees that have issues with sugar and fats and provide alternatives for them. Drinks such as coffee (remember decaf), water and soft drinks should be available. The first day is a long day, so candies or snacks should be available for the attendees throughout the day to help keep mental engines running. If lunch is not provided and food costs cannot be handled by the District or Region, then you may ask for a small donation from each person in advance and food can be purchased and provided onsite. You can also have attendees bring a bag lunch. Last choice is for attendees to leave and acquire lunch off site. If you do this, make sure restaurants are within a few miles of the site so traffic or service issues do not affect your ability to keep to your schedule.

While FUN is a key element in each Horizon Program, some members may not be comfortable with some of the games and exercises, especially those that bring a team front and center. Let the participants know that if there is anything they are personally not comfortable with, and then it is ok to speak up and simply observe only. We would rather that they get the formal training portion than nothing at all. Let's face it, some folks are quite shy and it takes longer to get to a comfort level with some of the activities. Make sure that there is a balance between these types of exercises and the more passive competitive exercises.



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Before You Present the Horizon Program *(Continued)*

A recommendation also found to be successful is when the District Directors are also Instructors. If they are available, have them teach the last module – The Officer - Couple. This will give newer members the opportunity to “rub elbows” with their District Directors and allow the Directors to share some valuable insights into the importance of maintaining their own personal relationships. It also imparts to the attendees the idea of “sharing” the responsibility and FUN of the Officer role with their significant other.

As you prepare to organize and present the Horizon Program, pause and give some thought as to what is about to take place. We have seen this program significantly affect members and enhance their experience in our association. From attendees that have gone from being new members to leading Chapters, Districts, Region, and even Division Directors, the Horizon Program has had a positive and long lasting impact on our association. Prepare, prepare, prepare, and then plan to give what may be the most important modules you may give as an Instructor. Who knows, you may be preparing the next District, Regional or Division Director for their responsibilities.

Most importantly, never ever lose sight of the FUN. It is the most important thing to accomplish in everything we do in Leadership Training. Let us know if you have ideas or questions to make the Horizon Program the BEST it can possibly be. We want to know about your successes and what has worked well. We want to hear from you!

“The best leader is the one who has the sense to surround himself with outstanding people and the self-restraint not to meddle with how they do their jobs.”

~ Secrets of Effective Leadership

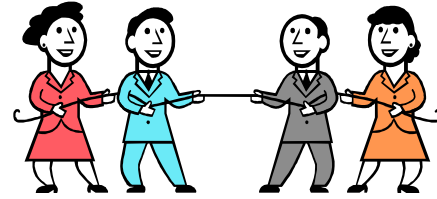
Monthly Memory Tip

This month’s tip is to **organize the information** you want to remember. Researchers have found that information is organized in our memory in related clusters. You can take advantage of this by structuring and organizing the materials you are studying. Try grouping similar concepts and terms together. Perhaps you group together the names in your Chapter that all have the same color motorcycle. This grouping technique provides an additional cross reference when you’re trying to retrieve the information from your brain’s file cabinet.



Resolving Conflict

By Ed and Ann Nahl, Assistant LTD Directors



This month we conclude our series on conflict. We’ve discussed the various causes of conflict, how people choose to deal with conflict, and why people dislike conflict. Now we can look at some techniques to deal with conflict in a positive manner.

There is a very important relationship that must be addressed when dealing with conflict. There is a strong bond between fairness, wants, and integrity. At some time in your life you’ve probably heard a child say, “That’s not fair,” when they didn’t get something they wanted. Fairness is not the same thing to all people. Fairness is not quantifiable and often requires negotiation to arrive at a place where both parties can agree on just what is fair. To get to the issue of fairness, both parties must clearly communicate their wants.

Being able to communicate and share your wants is essential in resolving conflicts. Once each party understands what the other wants to achieve in resolving the conflict both can take steps to come to an agreement and determine if the solution is fair.

Integrity comes into play, especially when you have done something that is wrong or you may have hurt the other person in some way. It takes personal integrity to do what you can to right the wrong or apologize if you have done something hurtful to another. Acting quickly is also necessary; do not let too much time pass or the act will seem insincere.

Deciding how to tell someone something that may upset them takes some skill. You can be passive, aggressive, or assertive. Each method can be represented by five pairs of activities. How far you go in either direction describes the response.

Direct	Indirect
Honest	Dishonest
Appropriate	Inappropriate
Respectful	Disrespectful
Focus on my feelings/reactions	Focus on others’ feelings/reactions

The passive response is high on indirect and dishonest, and focuses on others’ feelings while appearing to be appropriate and respectful. In an aggressive responses, direct and honest is paired with inappropriate and disrespectful while we focus on our own feelings. The assertive (and best) response is direct, honest, appropriate, and respectful while striking a balance between my feelings and others’ feelings.

To conclude this series on conflict let’s look at the ten most common pitfalls to avoid when dealing with someone who is upset. Because we all have a fight or flight reaction we will often become defensive when faced with an upset person. However, reacting will only serve to escalate the situation and does not serve to settle the situation.

Let It Be You!

By Amy Peterson, LTD Editor

Each and every day, someone is going to schedule some meaningful time with their friends. Someone is going to enjoy an enriching experience with family. Someone is going to decide to improve their relationships. So why not let it be you?

Someone is going to set a goal to read each day for the next year. Someone is going to become a lifelong learner. Someone is participating in a seminar to improve their life and skills. So why not let it be you?

Someone is going to decide to eat smarter to improve their health. Someone will join an aerobics class or make a commitment to walk every morning with a neighbor. So why not let it be you?

I think that by now you can get the point: every day people are improving their lives. Whether you do or not doesn't matter to those who do. They are going to do it regardless. It is simply a matter of a decision being made. Let that person be you!

You may be asking "How?" Let's cover the very simple actions.

The first and most important action is to make a commitment to yourself. Do you want to improve or stay the same? The decision about what you will become is made each and every day. The choice is yours.

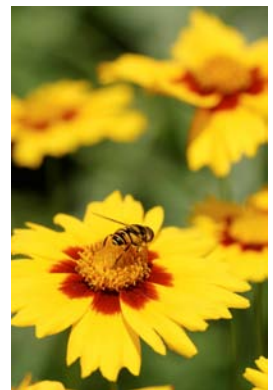
The second action is to make a plan. It doesn't have to be a long, intricate plan. It can be simple: save a dollar a day, walk a mile a day, read a page of a book a day. These are all examples of simple plans with achievable goals.

The third action is to begin to act. All of the great ideas become stale and useless without action. People who act on their dreams and ideas are the select few who gain better health, wealth and wisdom.

Someone has made the decision to improve a part of their life. Someone is going to develop a plan that will take them into the future. Someone will act today. Let it be you!

***"Even though
you're
on the
right track,
you'll get
run over
if you just
sit there."***

~ Will Rogers



Training Calendar



Please send the details of your upcoming events to Assistant Directors Ed and Ann Nahl at enahl@cox.net. This information is also published on our division's web site, so let's work together to spread the word!

March 2009

3/7: Chapter Skills Program in Perry, GA (Region A). Contact Dave Aikens at aikensdl@cox.net.

3/12-3/14: Member Orientation Program in Kissimmee, FL (Region A). Contact Doug and Sandy Gray at flatrainer@cfl.rr.com.

3/14: Intermediate Leadership Skills in Morganton, NC (Region N). Contact John Williams at 828-687-9868 or williams4822@bellsouth.net.

3/28: Intermediate Leadership Skills in Kernersville, NC (Region N). Contact John Williams at 828-687-9868 or williams4822@bellsouth.net.

3/28: Intermediate Leadership Skills in Goldsboro, NC (Region N). Contact John Williams at 828-687-9868 or williams4822@bellsouth.net.

3/28: Life Stills in Vancouver, BC (Region J). Contact John and Leslie Wait at 604-669-9248 or lesliewart@shaw.ca.

May 2009

5/1-5/2: Horizon Program in Sebring, FL (Region A). Contact Doug and Sandy Gray at flatrainer@cfl.rr.com.

June 2009

6/11-6/13: Planning a Chapter Event, Helpful Information for New Members, and Remembering Names in Hiawasse, GA (Region A). Contact Dave Aikens at aikensdl@cox.net.

August 2009

8/1: Intermediate Skills Program in Dawsonville, GA (Region A). Contact Dave Aikens at aikensdl@cox.net.

8/15: Intermediate Skills Program in Perry, GA (Region A). Contact Dave Aikens at aikensdl@cox.net.

8/29: Advanced Skills Program in [TBD], GA (Region A). Contact Dave Aikens at aikensdl@cox.net.

LTD News & Reminders

- ◆ First Quarter 2009 Training Reports are due in April. Training reports are to be to Region Trainers by April 5th, and Region Trainers are to have all reports submitted to David and Kathy Orr by April 10th.
- ◆ Former Region H Trainers, Harry and Joan Dollarhide of Newalla, OK, have been appointed as Region H Directors. We wish them well in their new role and appreciate their continued dedication and enthusiasm!



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