

APRIL 2015



# INSIGHT

ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF OUR  
VOLUNTEER OFFICERS WORLD WIDE.

*focus*

ED PORTER, EDITOR

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#### Assistants=Assistance

**This equation is very true and when you add knowledge, experience and support to the package, it becomes very important to your success and the success of your Chapter, District or Region.**

**Isn't one of our first duties when accepting a new appointment in GWRRA to target our replacement? It makes good sense that we need that assistant in place as soon as possible. That single form of "Assistance" will make your new position so much smoother for everyone concerned.**

**We have been asked several times, "Can we have more than one Assistant?" Absolutely YES! In fact, you may need more than one if your Chapter enjoys a large number of participants, or in your District or Region you cover a large amount of real estate.**

**In these cases, it is impossible for one person to be an effective leader. We encourage all Directors to equip themselves with one or more good Assistant Directors – this is a crucial ingredient in your Core TEAM recipe.**

**Besides mentoring your new Assistant to know your job**

**in general, assign some specific duties and responsibilities and help them be accountable. Be sure and “share the spotlight” with your Assistants whenever possible – remember, one of our best “paychecks” is spelled recognition, recognition, recognition. The time that you invest personally in helping to mentor and coach this Assistant will give you a 10-1 return on investment and make your job a lot easier and more effective.**

**Now, if your “Assistant Director Tree” hasn’t blossomed yet this year, don’t worry, you are surrounded by lots of good Members who are just waiting to be asked personally by you! As you have probably experienced when you stand in front of a group and ask for Volunteers, the hands just don’t go flying up, in the service it was “don’t hold your hand up and don’t let them know your name.” A private, or semi-private, personal invitation will go much further when asking someone to “serve.” It’s also a time to share your vision so they know what they are being asked to do.**

**Many years ago, our Assistant Chapter Director was asked to step up as the Chapter Director - he then asked me to be his new Assistant – I had never served in operations before and had very little background in GWRRA. He promised to help train me and guide me wherever I needed it and hearing that I swallowed my reluctance and said “Sure, I would love to be your Assistant.”**

**So take a good look at your Members in your Chapter, District or Region and make that personal request to them. Let them know you really want them in that position and that you’ll help them every step of the way along the road to success for them, you and your Chapter, District or Region.**

**Our goal, with your assistance, is to have all open Assistant positions filled by the time we get to Wing Ding in Huntsville in September. Please don’t forget to ask your Appointing Officer for assistance, it needed.**

**Thanks you for all that you do for our Members, we sincerely appreciate you all!**

**Ray and Sandi Garris  
Your Directors of GWRRA**



**Director and the Assistant at its finest!**



## Why Chapter Visitation Works For Everyone

When the GWRRA Chapter system was designed and established way back in 1977, it was envisioned that the Chapters would mutually support each other by attending each other's gatherings and social events. The concept was sound and promoted a healthier Chapter life when Members rode to other Chapters events and participated in them. Like one hand washing the other, Chapters that supported each other socially and financially were healthier and more robust, attracting new Members and providing a solid social foundation for the existing Members. This also served to keep the Chapters generally uniform in working within the GWRRA guidelines and not functioning as autonomous clubs.

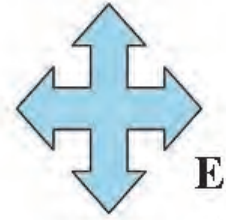
Over the years it seems that we've drifted away from that original concept, with Chapter visitation becoming less important and less practiced. Many Chapters that are otherwise fairly successful don't visit other Chapters on any regular basis. Once the habit of not attending other Chapters' events becomes ingrained among the Members, it can prove difficult to get them interested and motivated again.

I'm not suggesting that the majority of Chapter rides should be to other Chapter events, but when holding your monthly Team meetings, that you consider scheduling at least one visitation with a Chapter in your District. It could be a Chapter gathering or other social event like a poker run. If your Team and the Members seem to support the concept, then consider scheduling more than one visitation per month. Once the habit of visiting other Chapters becomes a part of your regular routine, I think you and your Members will find it rewarding. It's FUN!

One thing is for sure, the day will come when your Chapter will want (or need) to host a fundraising event and to make it successful, you'll need other Chapters to attend and support it. The best way to ensure that happens is to have a well established track record of supporting your neighbors. Good neighbors make good friends.

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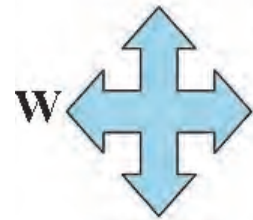
## Deputy Directors



*A continuous guide for the  
Betterment of Regional Operations*

**If you have not participated in a Chapter visitation in a long while, please give it some thought. I think you'll enjoy interacting with your fellow GWRRA Members in other Chapters and maybe get some ideas that would work with your Chapter. Thanks for listening...**

*Bob & Nan*



## What makes a good Leader?

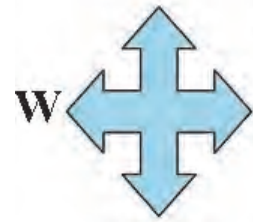
Well now that you are outfitted with your pins, patches and lil dangly things, the question is are you outfitted to be a good leader? It doesn't matter what position you are leading in, what does matter is, are you passionate about your leadership? Are you excited about what you are being asked to do? Does everyone feel and see that from you?

Adjectives and some nouns that we hear about good leaders are: passionate; caring; inclusive; enthusiastic; intense; cheerleader; willing; knowledgeable; trailblazer; organizer; mentor; adviser; guide; guru; supporter; teacher; counselor; innovator; ok and maybe even crazy, lol! Comments are: always there for us; cares about what I think; a mama duck; a member's leader; paints a really FUN picture; ready and willing to help; conducts a great meeting; FUN to be with; excellent trainer; good listener; good rider and, oh, so creative.

What you notice from the words or phrases is that usually it's about how you make us feel! It's emotional and can that be a can of worms sometimes. You might be saying that is "girl talk", not really, some of the best leaders I know are men and I would say many of those words and phrases about them.

Me, I'm a Mama Duck, or so all my ducklings have told me. I am watching out for my "peeps" (the Members), making sure they are doing well, staying involved, staying included, going where they need to be going (according to me, hehe) and always letting them know that I care. That's me, that's my leadership. Am I passionate about GWRRA? Absolutely and it seeps through what we do!

What have you heard about your leadership? This is a personal time to assess the kind of leader you are and what you want to be. Sometimes it's a matter of putting people around you that compliment your talents and other times it's putting people around you who do the things that you don't do naturally. Is a leader born or educated? I personally think it's a little of both. You have a God given talent/personality and you can, through training and self-discovery, enhance your talents, develop new ones and hone the ones that are weak. No



**one expects a “perfect” leader, we can’t even tell you what that looks like, but you know the fire that burns in you, now you just need to share it.**

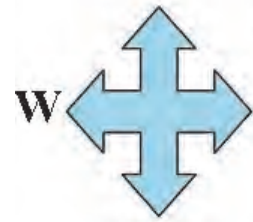
**So what does it mean to be passionate? I believe it’s when something so excites you that you can’t help but share it with others. In fact to not share it just isn’t understandable. I once said to a Member, “are you going this weekend?” and the Member replied with “I don’t know” to which I replied “why not?” I then went on to explain why they should go and they have gone on this ride with us every year since because they had so much FUN! I might add that “Intimidator” was also thrown around about my leadership style and since I admire Dale Earnhardt Sr., the true “Intimidator”, I’m ok with that one too!**

**Ultimately, sharing the FUN is really what it is about and when we do that we build memories. So if your Chapter has been around a while, like mine, what can you do when you hear the Members say “been there done that”? That statement frustrates me! So you’ve been there....with me...with them? Then let’s go, let’s build a memory together and let’s bring some more friends with us. See, it’s not all about you. So many times at a social function we start talking about a trip, day trip, overnighter or trip to rally or Wing Ding, and what happened and all those who went start sharing their memories and those who didn’t go listen and dream. It’s those that are dreaming that we need to build memories with and even if they have been around a while it doesn’t mean they have been there or there with you. I want to go for a ride, so what if I’ve been there before, let’s go tackle that twisty a little differently than last time, or test out something new on the trike or bike. Let’s just experience our friends! Let’s make new memories!**

**Leaders need to always be mentoring; we also always need to be scouting for the next leader. We feel who we are looking for; we see them in our minds eye. To encourage that next leader may mean putting your arm around them and starting to do things with them. Start sharing your passion, your knowledge, and your vision. Then ask them to consider, no pressure, just consider. Don’t take your arm off of them, they aren’t there yet, keep encouraging, mentoring and keep asking. It will be time soon. When it is, be sure to let them know you’ll be in the wings encouraging them, coaching them when they ask and**

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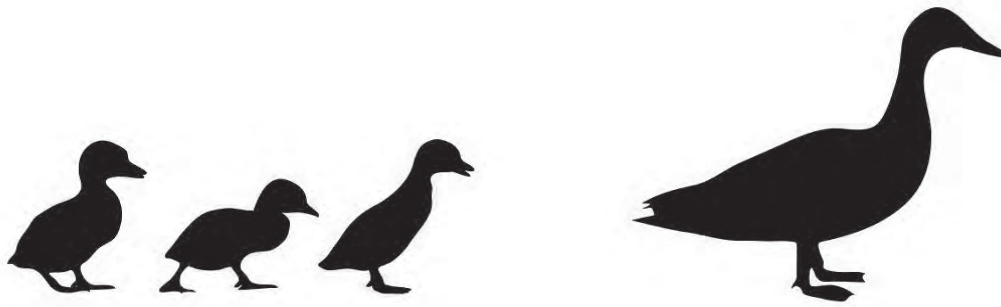
## Deputy Directors



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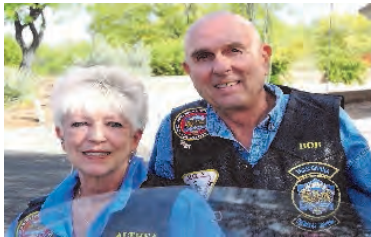
**always willing to help them out and do what they need.**

**When you decide to step away, sometimes you'll hear that leader say "I'm going to be a JAM" and they mean that in a most positive way but it is more often than not received in a negative way. So help me out, it's a set of letters we use so maybe they need new meaning, Justifiably Awesome Member; Justifiably Ambitious Member; Justifiably Awesome Motivator; Jenuinely Authentic Member (yes I know it's spelled genuinely but that doesn't work for me); Put your thinking caps on for me and email some ideas: [jralkire@cox.net](mailto:jralkire@cox.net) and put in the subject line: GWRRA JAM. I'll share your thoughts next month. Thanks!!!**



*Anita & JR*

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## **Say Hello to the new Members of the Rider Education TEAM**

**Bob and Althera Berry, and Karen and Ricky Frazier have joined the Rider Education TEAM as the new Directors and Region H Educators. Karen and Ricky have been in GWRRA since 2005. They have served in numerous roles including Chapter Director, Chapter Educator, District Educator, and in addition to becoming Region Educators are the current Region Medic First Aid Coordinators. They are both Medic First Aid Instructors, University Trainers and Level IV Master Tour Riders. And they are both riders of their own trikes.**

**They are stepping up to replace Sam and Anita Belinoski as outgoing Region H Educators. They did an outstanding job of promoting the Rider Education Program for GWRRA and Region H. Loads of thanks go to Sam and Anita for their service and outstanding contributions to Rider Ed.**

**To anyone who has been around GWRRA for any length of time, Bob and Althera Berry are familiar faces in the Rider Education Program. As of April 1 this year, they are our new National Director of Rider Education. Bob & Althera have served GWRRA in a variety of Rider Education positions including Chapter, District, and Region levels. During his 10-year term as Director of Rider Course Programs, Bob and his team produced one of the world's finest Rider Education opportunities for our Members and developed outstanding working relationships with the Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) and other motorcycle training associations. This was done in an effort to bridge cooperation and continuity in training. He is continuing that effort with training facilities overseas as part of his current role of Assistant Deputy Director, Overseas Training. This is a position he will hold concurrently with his new appointment. They are Master Tour Riders and Bob was inducted into the Rider Education Hall of Fame in 2011. He is a GWRRA Master Instructor-Trainer, a Master University Trainer, and a Motorcycle Safety Foundation Rider Coach.**

**It is because of this experience and proven leadership that Bob & Althera have been asked to return to a GWRRA leadership position for 3-5 years to create the next levels of Rider Education and coordinate those initiatives with TEAM GWRRA goals for education and training.**

*Bob & Althera*



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## **DRILL TEAM DIRECTOR Jim Graybeal**

**Thanks everyone for the warm welcome to this new old position as GWRRA Director of Drill Teams. I have agreed to return for up to 2 years, to help maintain some continuity between the last Director and the next. Obviously, my first responsibility is to help find my replacement. Anyone interested? Are you ready for a new job? Let me know! Or, maybe an Assistant Director.**

**Second, within the areas of responsibility of the Drill Team Director are the Amazing Team Challenge, which I introduced to the riding membership several years ago, the Top Gun Challenge--now at least 25 years old, and the Drill Teams, which have numbered from 3 to about 11 through the years. All are highlighted at Wing Ding every year, and are growing in popularity.**

**Not only do these events require a number of Volunteers to set up and run, they offer a learning opportunity to all Rider Education Members, past, present and future. This is a learning opportunity to observe all phases of the event, from planning to set-up (cone placement, chalk lines, starting and stop points, direction of travel), to running the event, to tabulating the results, to awards to the winners. As has been preached to all of us for so many years, hands-on experience is the best for almost everything....**

**None of the instructions for these events are written in stone. They are meant to be modified to fit any riding learning situation. Once the exercises are set up, they will be the same for all who ride them. That is the beauty of this learning opportunity. You can take that knowledge back to your friends and Members to consider use in Chapter, District and Region events, fun, easy competitions, bike games (Anita likes those), and open practice sessions. Top Gun practice. Team Challenge practice. What is the key to proficient riding skills? (See above for a little hint.)**

**You do not need to call or register for any of these learning opportunities at Wing Ding--just show up--please. If enough show up to learn, we can even have an on-site Q & A session.**

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There will be more info in the next *Insight* eNewsletters between now and Wing Ding. I will welcome any and all 'insights', comments, suggestions, and even complaints from any who want these events to be the very best we can make them.

Just to take some of the pressure off you, remember, you do not have to practice all the time--only when you are on the bike, alone or with someone.

Thanks for listening, and 'til next time.



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# Membership Enhancement Program

*A continuous guide for the Membership Enhancement Program*



**Ray & Sandi Garris, GWRRA Directors, Bob & Karla Greer, MEP Directors, and Mike & Shirley Prince, MEP Asst. Directors for Chapter of the Year, are pleased to announce that Oklahoma Chapter X, Stillwater, OK, of Region H, have been selected as the 2014 GWRRA International Chapter of the Year. The Chapter Directors are Steve & Marie Wilson and the OK Chapter X Chapter of the Year Coordinators are Bill & Linda Stevens. Congratulations to all the Chapter participants and the voluntary leaders of OK Chapter X.**



Oklahoma Chapter X



Marie & Steve Wilson, OK Chapter X Chapter Directors



Bill & Linda Stevens, OK Chapter X Chapter of the Year Coordinators

**We would also like to announce that Florida Chapter 1-A, Tampa, FL, “The A Team”, of Region A, was 2014 GWRRA International Chapter of the Year First Runner Up. FL1-A’s CDs are Nan & Bob Shrader and that Chapter’s Chapter of the Year Coordinators are Tina & Paul Lewis. We congratulate them for being selected as the first runner up and appreciate their involvement in the Chapter of the Year Program.**



Florida Chapter FL1-A



Nan & Bob Shrader FL1-A Chapter Directors



Tina & Paul, FL1-A Chapter of the Year Coordinators

**We would also like to thank all the other Chapters, Districts and Regions that actively support the GWRRA Chapter of the Year Program.**

**We encourage everyone to participate in the Chapter of the Year Program. A**

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# Membership Enhancement Program

*A continuous guide for the Membership  
Enhancement Program*



**Chapter does not have to score very many points if they are the only Chapter in their District to submit a Chapter of the Year packet. Once you start looking into this program you will see that your Chapter is probably already doing some, if not most, of the activities. The only other requirement is to document those activities and submit a Chapter of the Year packet to the District.**

**We will be having a Meet and Greet at Wing Ding 37 in Huntsville, AL. This is for everyone and not just current and past Chapters of the Year. If you want to meet and hear from some of the Chapters that have participated and won in the past, please join our Meet & Greet in Huntsville. The date, time and location will be in the WD37 seminars schedule when it is published.**

**If you want to learn more about the Chapter of the Year Program, we will be having one or two Chapter of the Year Seminars at WD37 also. Please join us, take notes and ask your questions.**

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