



GWRRR
New York District
January 2011
Northeast Region



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News from National

Greetings,

Going into the New Year, all of the programs of GWRRA are gearing up to make the experience of membership even more fun and fulfilling. There are several changes of positive nature coming for the Rider Education Program and I would like your input on one of them at this time.

There are numerous members who have contributed greatly to making GWRRA Rider Education a leader in the motorcycle safety community. My thoughts are to recognize these individuals by accepting and placing the elected individuals into the newly created Rider Education Hall of Fame.

Nominations would be sought much in the manner that the Educator of the Year award is chosen. Letters of nominations would be accepted, with the successful candidates being chosen by a panel of Educators from all levels. Having input and approval of the final selection would be the Chairman of the Board, Director of GWRRA, and Director of Rider Education.

The initial class would consist of no more than (3) inductees, with each year seeing (1) new inductee. The announcement of the selection will be made at the Masters Breakfast during Wing Ding. The honoree would receive a very nice plaque denoting his admission to the Hall of Fame, as well as having their photograph hung in a place of honor at the Home Office in Phoenix. There would be a listing of the Hall of Fame members in the monthly Wing World.

As I would like to initiate this honored program with the coming Wing Ding, time is of the essence. Please respond to me with your comments and suggestions, as well as nominations. All nominations should be received no later than March 15th, 2011.

Thank you for your continued support of the Rider Education Program.

Gene and Betty Knutson

International Directors, Rider Education
Gold Wing Road Riders Association

News from the Northeast Region



From the Region Trainers

Dottie Bahrenburg

December is the Season of Hope

It is December already. Snow will soon be on the ground and our motorcycles are tucked safely in the garage. The holiday season is upon us and many of us are making our Christmas lists. We are all hoping for something that will make our bikes even more beautiful and efficient or make us more visible.

We all have hopes and dreams of the future. Hope is a powerful source of energy. Hope charges our spirit and draws us forward to a better tomorrow. Hope helps us see beyond the problems to the possibilities. Hope stretches us and energizes our continuous growth and development.

A leader brings hope. That doesn't mean putting on rose-colored glasses, painting on a happy face, and avoiding problems. Highly effective leaders help others deal with the reality of current problems by focusing their attention on what is possible. They use the dream of what could be as a magnet to draw everyone forward.

December is that time of year when we think back and remember all of the good roads and good times we experienced during the year. December is also a time to think ahead and make our wishes for the coming new year.

Our hope this year is that we can work with our leaders within GWRRA to build a stronger organization. Our hope is to maximize fun and learning for all of our members within the Northeast Region. Our hope is to show our appreciation of the many hours our volunteer leaders have given GWRRA. Our hope is to offer additional help and support for our Districts and Chapters. Wow! Listing our hopes and wishes sounds a lot like making New Year's resolutions.

Thinking about your New Year's resolutions? Here's a quick list of ideas for leaders. The list includes a few of the standards, but aims to inspire some new ideas for each of us:

- Physical Fitness – Whether it's weight loss, increased exercise or dropping a bad habit, this standard is important for leaders to maintain stress levels.
- Listen More – Find yourself speaking more than you listen? Commit to listening a greater percentage of the time.
- Succession – Too many leaders let real succession planning wait too long, if they do it at all. Why not start the new year right with specific steps to ensure strong succession planning throughout the organization? Your first job should be to find your replacement.
- Planning – Does everyone reporting to you have a strong, specific

and measurable action plan? If you're not growing the organization, who is? Perhaps this is the year to really tackle the matter.

- Communication – Often, as leaders, we forget that people benefit from different mediums of communication. Perhaps this year is a good time to ensure your messages are spoken, and written.
- Responsiveness – Is your inbox volume out of control? Haven't cleared that voicemail in a long time? Try setting aside an hour a week or a daily block to review and respond to your messages regularly.
- Strengthen Relationships – How well do you really know your members? We want to help those we care for and support. This year, maybe we need to make more time to build relationships.
- Serve More – Of course, I had to suggest this one. This year, why not commit to asking yourself regularly, "how will this decision / action / message serve the organization better?"



Happy Holidays everyone! I hope you have a wonderful holiday with friends and family. And, yes, I am hoping you have a nice surprise under your Christmas tree!

Dottie Bahrenburg
Region Leadership Trainer



MEP Coordinators
Mike & Nancy Mandell

Membership Enhancement Program

What is it all about, and how does it affect me?

The changes have been announced, programs are in place, the excitement is building, we are excited and you should be also.

Is it about power/control/prestige? NO, it is about TEAM work, it is about everyone working together towards a common goal:

To attract new members, to keep our existing members and have Fun while achieving these goals. What has changed?

1. Understanding the benefits in creating a proactive Membership Enhancement Team that will assure the growth of our organization.

2. National - Region - District and Chapter Member Enhancement Coordinators' will be officers within the G.W.R.R.A, organization. M.E.C.'s will be a part of the "core" Team within their respective areas.
3. Region M.E.C.'s will be appointed by national with concurrence of the Region Director. District M.E.C.'s will be appointed by Region M.E.C. with D.D.'s concurrence. Chapter M.E.C.'s will be appointed by D.M.E.C. with C.D.'s concurrence.
4. The National, Region and District M.E.C.'s will be responsible for overseeing the Chapter of The Year and Couple of The Year Programs and with appointing Coordinators for these very valuable programs. In addition they will oversee and appoint an Area Report List Coordinator that will receive the membership list from national for their respective area and break it down and forward it to the appropriate districts and chapters. The M.E.C.'s at District and Chapter levels should contact the people on the list and report back up the chain (chapter - district - region) of the outcome of the contact. All area report lists will be sent to D.D.'s - A.D.D.'s - Trainers - Educators - M.E.C.'s. The Chapter A.R.L should be sent to the C.D., A.C.D., chapter M.E.C. and Chapter Educators. This should help to correct cracks in the communication where members and potential members are not called by phone and contacted thru e-mail. The reaching out by numerous people will show the members we really care.
5. Newsletters and website also fall under the Member Enhancement Program. If there is an area that needs attention, make certain you contact the appropriate director to formulate corrective action and develop a solution as a TEAM. Supporting the M.E.P. is everyone's job, finding new members and keeping our existing membership is the answer to a healthy chapter. Proof of a thriving chapter is measured by our member's level of involvement and having FUN.

Together these concepts support the G.W.R.R.A. core concept: Friends for Fun, Safety and Knowledge.

"The more involved we get, The more Fun we have"

Mike & Nancy Mandell
N.E. Region "B" Membership Enhancement Coordinators





Couple of the Year Coordinators

Mike & Nancy Mandell

Region Couple of The Year Program

“Get involved”

This is the time of year when you're Chapter Director's will be considering who they should honor with the prestigious title “Chapter Couple of The Year” . It is the only position within G.W.R.R.A. that we truly earn; we prove ourselves worthy by our actions, attitudes and achievements. It is your “friends” that select you to represent the chapter.

The Couple of The Year Program is recognition based and is a way of saying “Thank You” to a very special man & woman within the chapter, district and region.

The C.O.Y. Program is fun and very rewarding for the participants, chapters and our entire membership.

The program builds chapter camaraderie as well as pride and offers another reason to participate in the Visit-A-Chapter Program as you and your couple travel from gathering to gathering.

When you are selected for this position make sure you say “of course” it is an honor to serve as your Chapter Couple. You will never understand just what an honor it is until you bear the title “Couple of The Year”. Regardless of how much you have done for your chapter in the past, your level of participation and energy will increase simply as a result of your pride. The “connection” that is established between Chapter Couples is everlasting, the bonds will be with you wherever you go within G.W.R.R.A.

Participating in the selection process at the District level and on into the Region is a very rewarding experience, one you will never forget and always cherish.

If you are fortunate enough to be selected to represent your region you will be rewarded with the pleasure of participating in the International selection Process, and what an experience it is!

Being selected at the level you are participating in is not everything, the experience of being involved is priceless. There is nothing within G.W.R.R.A. that will offer you as great an opportunity to make lifelong friends as well as raise your level of self-esteem. You will find yourself among some of the most wonderful people our organization has to offer.

Do not pass up your opportunity to make more friends and have more Fun taking part in this wonderful program. The manual for the Couple of The Year Program is available on the national G.W.R.R.A. site, go to the main site, click on Member Enhancement Program, scroll down to C.O.Y. and press print. You will have all the information about

the program as well as the scoring process at your fingertips.

You will be the cheerleaders at every function you attend and will have FUN promoting the Couple of The Year Program as well as the entire G.W.R.R.A. Ride Safe!

“The more involved you get, the more Fun you will have”

Mike & Nancy Mandell
Region “B” Member Enhancement Coordinators
Region “B” Couple of The Year Coordinators

Happy Holidays All

On behalf of the entire Region Membership Enhancement Program Team we would like to wish all of our friends and extended G.W.R.R.A. family a very Happy Healthy Holiday season.

We look forward to seeing all of you at many of the fun filled events that are being planned for the 2011 calendar year. The very first will be the Md. District “Winterthing” scheduled for January 27-29th . Ride Safe! Have Fun!

Happy Holidays,
Your Region M.E.C. Staff “Here to serve you!”



Northeast Region
Tim & Anna Grimes – Region Educators

501(c)4 Reporting

There seems to be quite a bit of confusion when it comes to ensuring that all of our activities are reported correctly and that we meet compliance with 501(c)4. First, let me assure you that you do not have to drastically change the way you are currently reporting your activities. There are a couple of minor changes that you should be aware of, but, for the most part, continue with business as usual.

Chapter Educators should fill out a Monthly Report ([N 6 Rider Education Activity Report Rev 4_30_08.doc](#)) and submit it to the District Educator. A copy, of this report, should also be made available to the Chapter Director. The Monthly Report needs to be submitted, to the District Educator, in a timely fashion. It is recommended that the Chapter Educator submit this report within a week following the Chapter Gathering. The report should contain all Chapter activities that occurred during the period since the last Chapter Gathering. In the event that the Chapter **does not** have a Chapter Educator, the Chapter Director should be providing the Chapter information to the District Educator. **The Chapter Monthly Report needs to be in the hands of the District Educator no later than the last Monday of each month, but should be sent within a week of the Chapter Gathering.**

The **District Educator** receives the Chapter Activity Reports and consolidates them into one report to be sent to the Region Educator. A copy, of the District Report, should also be made available to the District Director. In the event that a District does not have a District Educator, the District Director should gather the information, from the Chapter Activity Reports, and provide the District Report to the Region Educator. The District Report should be forwarded to the Region Educator as soon as possible after the information is received from the Chapters. The Region Educator **must** have the District Reports no later than the **last business day of each month**.

The **Region Educator** will consolidate the information received from the Districts into one report that is sent to the National Director of Rider Education. This report is due on the first of the month. It is imperative that the Region Educator receive the District Reports in a timely fashion in order to submit the Region Report to National on time. The Region Educator will ensure that the Region Director receives a copy of the Region Activity Report. As you can see, by consolidating information from the Chapters, at the District level, and the Districts, at the Region level, the information “rolls up” to finally reach National. This process only keeps us in “compliance” as long as everyone contributes to the chain.

A question has been asked as to how the District or Region accounts for activities that are strictly District or Region functions. These functions can be Staff Meetings, picnics, fun shops, etc. These activities should be reported at the appropriate level (District or Region) and added to the accumulated activities of the Chapters or Districts. The form to use to document District or Region specific activities is the **Motorist Awareness Quarterly Report Form** ([N23MAQuarterlyFormRev1_10.doc](#)). Information from this form should be transferred to the N.6 Rider Education Activity Report and added to the accumulated information from the Chapters or Districts (as required). The Motorist

Awareness Quarterly Report Form should be attached to the Monthly Report and a copy supplied to the District or Region Director. In this way, District or Region activities have documentation for compliance purposes. It should also be noted that the Motorist Awareness Quarterly Report Form needs to be provided to the District or Region Motorist Awareness Coordinator so that their records can be maintained. This form has only been in existence since January 2010 and few people know that it is available. I realize that the information, provided in this article, may be a little hard to digest. Please feel free to contact me directly with any questions. I will be happy to guide you to the correct path for compliance.

Tim & Anna Grimes
Northeast Region Educators





GWRRA Region B CPR/- - FA Trainer
Keith and Elanie Price

CPR - First Aid

The Gift of Life

Reciprocity

There are two ways to become a Medic – First Aid Instructor for GWRRA. The first method is through the normal Instructor Course that we talked about last month. The other method is called “reciprocity”. It is for those members who are currently certified CPR / First Aid Instructors through another agency such as American Red Cross or American Heart Association. These people do not have to take the full day MFA Instructor Course. However they still must take one of the MFA Basic courses within the prior 6 months to becoming a MFA Instructor. The purpose of this requirement is to give the Instructor an insight into the differences of the MFA course and courses presented by their other agency. Reciprocity applicants must also pay the same fee (currently \$65) as every applicant. This fee covers the cost of their Guidebook and their first two year’s certification. They must also pass the MFA Knowledge Review with a score of 80% or better and present their first Basic Plus class while being proctored by a certified Trainer. Simply put, this method saves them from sitting in a classroom for the day. It is important to note that reciprocity is for current CPR / First Aid Instructors only. It is not used for those with a medical background such as MD’s, RN’s., EMT.’s or Para Medics The purpose of the Instructor Course is not to teach the applicant CPR or First Aid, but to show them how to present the MFA classes to volunteer rescuers.

Special Offer

I fully realize that time spent at our Conventions is precious. Normally the Care-Plus course (the re-cert.) is presented at conventions. However our Region desperately needs additional MFA Instructors and those new instructors MUST first teach the full Basic-Plus course. I would ask those of you who are considering taking a MFA class at any of the Region’s Conventions this summer to sign up for the full class if it’s being offered in conjunction with an Instructor course. As an incentive I am going to offer the full, Basic-Plus class for free when it is held in conjunction with a MFA Instructor class. That’s a \$20 saving per student! You’ll be also helping GWRRA, your Region, District, and the members trying to become Instructors. They are volunteering time, effort and money to help you and save lives!!!

Give the Gift of Life!

Thanks

Keith Price

From the District Director

Hello GWRRA NY,

2011. A new year full of new possibilities.

Hopefully your Chapter is using the dead of winter to plan its ride and event schedule. Please list your rides and events on the Interactive Calendar on our District website. This will help other Chapters and Districts enjoy your "possibilities". A few of our NY Chapters did not participate in using this valuable tool in 2010. Those that did use it found it very helpful. Contact Suzette at gwranydd@gmail.com if you need help listing your events on the Interactive District Calendar.

A huge "possibility" for our District is the 2011 Bi-State Convention. We have an excellent facility in an area surrounded by great riding. All the events except the Rider Education range will be held "on-site". We have an excellent team of people working on this Convention. We plan to build on the successes of the previous two Bi-State events, while trying some new ideas. We plan to start off on the evening of Wednesday, August 10 with a "welcome buffet" and packet pickup for those attendees that pre-registered. We also plan to begin some of the events on the morning of Thursday, August 11 instead of the usual afternoon start. Of course, there will be a good assortment of Leadership Training and Rider Education courses, along with the usual assortment of fun things that you have come to expect.

As I write this article, we are in the process of finalizing the deal on the room rates. I am sure you will be pleased when you see the details. If the announcement is not out by the time you read this, expect it soon.

Of course, we will need a lot of help to make this Convention a success. Several New Yorkers have already stepped up to Coordinator positions, and New Jersey has agreed to handle a few more of the "big jobs". As the planning continues over the winter, we will be asking the NY Chapters for help.

There are several changes in our GWRRA structure coming in 2011. Several of them will be unveiled at the District meeting on January 8. Chapter Teams will need to keep an eye on their e-mail inboxes as well. A lot of the new "stuff" will be distributed via e-mail.

Speaking of our NY District meeting, here are a few notes to help everyone prepare:

- We plan to do an "around the room" session in which the CD's will be asked to name 2 things that their Chapter does that work well. It could be details on the ride schedule, communications items, winter activities, or similar things. My intent is to bring out the best ideas so that all may benefit. If the CD's and ACD's can't attend, I ask that a substitute person bring your responses, or that you e-mail them to me.

- Since our meeting is earlier than usual, many Chapters will not have their end-of-year bank statements on hand. Please bring your Financial Report Cover Sheet, Financial Report, and Equipment List anyway. Have them filled out as much as possible. District Treasurer Kathy DeGross and I will review them to ensure that the correct forms are being used and that they are filled out correctly. Once your end-of-year statement is available you can finish your reports and mail them to me.

Looking forward to seeing you at the District meeting!

Paul and Suzette Wood
GWRRA NY District Directors

From the District Educator



***NY District
Rider Education 2011***



Happy New Year NY District. 2010 was a banner year for NY District Rider Education. We held more classes than we had in many years and had a significant number of members signed up to the Levels Program.

We will discuss 2011 at our District meeting January 8th, but I will share my outlook here for everyone. These are my objectives.

First, I want every NY District chapter to have a chapter educator. Not only is that a GWRRA mandate, every member is owed that resource. As your District Educator I will provide all chapters the support and resources to achieve this objective.

Secondly, I would like all chapters to strive even harder to enroll all active members in the Levels program. For a bit of encouragement, I will provide Level III patches free to all NY District members advancing to Level III for the first time during 2011. Any member will have the ability to go from signing up, accumulate 5000 miles, complete a rider education course and complete a CPR/first aid course during 2011.

Thirdly, let's recommit to dress for the crash. As we are enjoying the non riding time of the year, what better time to shop for the new gear. It gets better and better all the time. I know, I need a new jacket oh and my helmet is now 5 years old, so time to shop for a new helmet.

Lastly in full support of Keith and Elaine Price I am asking all members to support the Medic CPR/first aid program. Most importantly, we need several new instructors. This is a great way to give back to our members.

Al and Emily Stahl
Your Educators

From the District Trainer



We are pleased to be your District Leadership Trainers for 2011. To give you a little background, I (Eileen) am a life member (Chapter NY-N) and Master Tour Rider and have been riding motorcycles for about thirty years. Currently I have a 2007 dark red metallic 1800 with a pink pig on the luggage rack. His name is Harley (LOL). Tim has been riding for 8 years and rides a 1995 green 1500. I am the serious one and Tim is the one having FUN (blowing a whistle is his specialty – one of these days someone is going to _____ (your choice on finishing the sentence)). We have been able to attend many functions this summer and love meeting the people and having FUN. We were Couple of the Year for Chapter NY-N for 2010 and agreed to be Couple of the Year for 2011 for Chapter NY-N.

The District meeting will cover OCP updates for 2011. If unable to attend, the updates will be sent to you and you will have to send back a note saying you read the updates. If we happen to miss you, please drop us a note at gwrri.ny.dt@hotmail.com and we will send you a package. Also covered will be Understanding and Planning for 501(c)4 Compliance and Understanding the IRS 990n e-Postcard. We will let you know how easy it is to keep and maintain our 501(c)4 ruling. All of us do it (we just need to document it). Oh, by the way, I'm talking about rider education – to our members and the public.

Also, we had sent out a plea previously for people to become instructors. Our goal is to get more people trained to become instructors and present seminars. GWRRA has seminars on: leadership, member orientation, life skills, chapter life and the horizons program. There is even a seminar on "How to Have Fun at a Rally"! During the winter is a perfect time to get out of the house, get together with good friends and take the Instructor Development & Certification Program (IDCP). Once you take the IDCP, you need to teach a seminar (we have the Bi-State rally coming up) to become certified. The winter is a fine time to get together for a seminar and a meal or oh my goodness – ice cream!

We have people on Long Island who are interested (we will be working with them) and we would REALLY like someone from the western and central parts of the state to become certified. We will work with you on setting up training locations (we took our training in our church and there were no lightning bolts) so anything is possible. Drop us a line.

As a reminder to the Chapter Directors and the Treasurers, it is the end of the year and the following items are due: Cover Sheet, Financial Statement, Equipment List (even though you may not have any equipment), Bank Statement and the 990n e-Postcard. AND remember, typed or use BLACK INK!!! If you need any help please drop me a line at gwrri.ny.dt@hotmail.com .

Together WE accomplish more,

Eileen and Tim Guile

From Your District Membership Coordinators



Discussion during our District Meeting



Our District meeting will be full of good information coming in from all directions; Membership Enhancement is no different for 2011. I will be presenting a power point slide presentation addressing the need for a Chapter Membership Coordinator in each and every NY Chapters, having a dedicated personal narrowing their effort and focus primarily on membership will greatly alleviate the amount of work resting on our Chapter Directors. I have prepared a generic welcoming letter to be sent to all our new Members inviting them to your Chapter activities with contact information. Also Appearing on our monthly Membership report list are our prospective Members, a separate letter has been typed up to invite them as well. By making better use of our volunteer's time we can accomplish more. These are just a few bits of information for you folks to think about before January 8. Who do we count on to help us out in this regard? Of course a Chapter volunteer who can set aside a small amount of his or her time to help out their Chapter, by doing so not only do you help your Chapter but also your District , Region and National as well. These New volunteers will receive the full membership listing twice a year with monthly updates. Interested? Let your CD know so we can move forward as soon as possible.

Facts under Membership Enhancement

Feedback from National; we all know it has been a real issue but some "facts" were a big surprise! Did you know that 50% of our members have been here 5 years or less? That means that (Nationally) the argument 'been there done that" does not hold water. With 1/2 of our members new to the organization it should be an opportunity for some new ideas for things to do at the Chapter level to maintain interest. National does an exit

survey and the number 1 and 2 reasons given to dropping membership are something we cannot do much about-- #1 sold bike, #2 health reasons, #3 was cost and financial issues. It was not clear if the cost issue was the 50/50's, charity drives and similar "good works" emphasis that some Chapters place on their members or the "economy". It is something for all of us to think about. Membership Enhancement has a plan they are going to try with more details to follow.

Brushing up on Unassigned Zip Codes

UNASSIGNED ZIPCODE LIST – The Unassigned zip code list is a tool for District Directors to use. He/she should monitor the unassigned zip codes. A zip code is placed on the Unassigned Zip Code list when a new Member joins GWRRA and their address zip code is currently not assigned to a Chapter. All unassigned zip codes need to be addressed. In some instances the zip code cannot be assigned to a current Chapter and there may not be enough Members to start a Chapter, but these individuals need to be contacted so they will feel important to the GWRRA family. A District Director is the only person authorized to contact Home Office and have unassigned zip codes assigned. However, he can use the help of Chapter Directors and Chapter Membership Enhancement Coordinators working together to assist him with compiling this information. Utilization of these tools by Chapter Directors and Membership Enhancement Coordinators, by making personal contacts, can make a difference in whether New and Prospective Members become involved in Chapter Life. Membership is the “Lifeblood” of GWRRA! The continued growth will ensure the life of GWRRA for a long time in the future. Always keep in mind that these reports contain personal Member information and it cannot be stressed enough to safeguard them only those who have signed a Memorandum of Understanding.

Chapter of the year program

I'm sure you heard about it before, but as always we one more volunteer to coordinate and take charge of this program at our District level. If you are up to the challenge let us know, here is initial information to get you acquainted with this, more information is currently posted on our National Website at <http://med.gwrro.org/choy/choy.html>

History and Purpose; The Chapter of the Year program was created and designed to stimulate Chapters to strive for excellence within their respective District and Region. Upon doing so, Districts, Regions, and National will recognize and honor those Chapters who have achieved excellent results throughout the year. At the end of each year, each District and Region will review the best of the best and give recognition and honor accordingly. Then prior to Wing Ding, National will review the Region's Chapter of the Year selections and select one Chapter to receive the honor of GWRRA Chapter of the Year.

**Pete and Marielle ST-Amour
NY District Membership Coordinators
Northeast Region ARL Coordinators**

From District Public Relations



Do you believe it we are already into 2011-a year that promises exciting new beginnings. A favorite saying of mine is “Divine Beginnings for Divine Endings.” I trust NY District had a wonderful and joyous Christmas.

Into the New Year, we welcome the new officers who bring with them a breath of fresh air, new ideas, new thoughts, and new plans and as chapter members please give your new directors your support and input.

I came across an article entitled “The Worst Words to Say at Work” or a meeting or just normal everyday conversation.

“Some words and phrases are often used to buy time, avoid giving answers, and escape commitment. If you use these words and phrases yourself, take a scalpel and cut them out of your thinking, speaking, and writing.

“TRY” (Like Nike’s slogan-with a check mark and JUST DO IT)

“Try” is a weasel word. “Well, I’ll try,” some people say. It’s a cop-out. They’re just giving you lip service, when they probably have no real intention of doing what you ask. Remember what YODA says to Luke Skywalker in “Star Wars”: “Do or do not—there is no try.” Take Yoda’s advice. Give it your all when you do something. And if it doesn’t work, start over.

Put passion into your work, and give it your best effort, so you can know that you did all you could to make it happen. So if the outcome you were expecting didn’t come to fruition, it’s not because you didn’t do everything you could to make it happen. It just wasn’t the right time for it or it wasn’t meant to be.

“WHATEVER” (this word drives me nuts)

This word is a trusted favorite of people who want to dismiss you, diminish what you say, or get rid of you quickly. “Whatever,” they will say as an all-purpose response to your earnest request. It’s an insult and a verbal slap in the face. It’s a way to respond to a person without actually responding. When you say “whatever” after another person has said his or her piece, you have essentially put up a wall between the two of you and halted any progress in communicating. It’s a word to avoid.

“Maybe” and “I don’t know”

People will sometimes avoid making a decision-and hide behind words and phrases like “maybe” and “I don’t know.” There’s a difference between legitimately not knowing something and using words like these as excuses. Sometimes during a confrontation, people will claim not to know something or offer the noncommittal response “maybe,” just to avoid being put on the spot. If that seems to be the case, ask “When do you

think you will know?” or “How can you find out?” Don’t let the person off the hook so easily.

“I’ll get back to you”

When people need to buy time or avoid revealing a project’s status, they will say, “I’ll get back to you.” And they usually never do. If people say they will get back to you, always clarify. Ask them when they will get back to you, and make sure they specify the day and time. If they don’t, then pin them down to a day and time and hold them to it. If they won’t give you a day or time, tell them you’ll call in a day or week and follow-up. Make sure you call and get the information you need.

“If”

Projects depend on everyone doing his or her part. People who use “if” are usually playing the blame game and betting against themselves. They like to set conditions, rather than assuming a successful outcome. People who rely on conditional responses are fortifying themselves against potential failure. They will say, “If Bob finishes his part, then I can do my part.” They’re laying the groundwork for a “no fault” excuse and for not finishing their word.

There are always alternatives, other routes, and ways to get the job done. Excuse makers usually have the energy of a slug and the spine of a jellyfish. You don’t want them on your team when you’re trying to climb Mt. Everest.

“Yes, but...”

This is another excuse. You might give your team members suggestions or solutions, and they come back to you with “Yes, but...” as a response. They don’t really want answers, help, or solutions. You need to call the “Yes, but...” people out on their avoidance tactic by saying something like, “You know, Jackie, every time I offer you a suggestion you say, ‘Yes, but....’ which makes me think you don’t really want to solve this problem. That’s not going to work. If you want to play the victim, go right ahead, but I’m not going to allow you to keep this up.” After a response like that, you can be assured that the next words you hear will not be “Yes, but...”!

“I guess....”

This is usually said in a weak, soft-spoken, shoulder-shrugging manner. It’s another attempt to shirk responsibility—a phrase that is muttered only when people half agree with you but want to leave enough leeway to say “Well, I didn’t really know....I was only guessing.” If you use these phrases, cut it out of your vocabulary.

We’ll see....”

How many times did we hear our parents say this? We knew they were buying time, avoiding a fight or confrontation, or really saying no. It’s better to be decisive and honest by saying, “I need more information. Please present your case or send me the data—both pro and con—so I can make an informed decision.” That way, the interested parties will contribute to an in-depth, well-researched “verdict.”

This excerpt came from “Surviving the Toxic Workplace” (McGraw-Hill, 2010), by Linnda

Durre, a psychotherapist, business consultant and columnist.

The Adopt-A-Platoon has gone well this year. Maryanne Faranda & Jon Smith has put a lot of time and work, to make it happen. From the local school, the 4th and 5th grades made cards for the troops of the adopted platoon and they will be sent with the stockings. Many donations, both items and cash were received and with the bargains Maryanne was able to get, the stockings will be over flowing. Congratulations to Maryanne and Jon Smith for a successful project. Hats off to all members of Chapter N who assisted in this project as well. It just goes to show you how one idea can bring so much happiness and belonging to our military personnel.

Please remember the District Meeting at the Holiday Inn and Convention Center in Syracuse on January 8. I will see all of you there. Until then I wish you and yours a very blessed New Year.

*Linda L. Waterman
Public Relations Coordinator*

From the District COY

Happy New Year everyone! This year will be special...after all it begins on 1-1-11!

This time of year is always exciting as we begin planning for fun for the coming year. The anticipation of great riding keeps our spirits up while our bikes are hibernating in the garage. We are looking forward to 2011 and planning great rides and lots of visits to friends.

Ed and I would like to thank everyone for the many cards and prayers sent our way due to the death of Ed's dad. The last few weeks have been difficult for our family and we really appreciate so many of you being there for us. Thank you.

We look forward to seeing many of our friends at the District meeting.

Ed and Dottie Bahrenburg
District Couple of the Year

From the District COY Coordinators

**Happy New Year
from the
NY District Couple of the Year Coordinators**

We hope that all of our GWRRA friends had a wonderful Holiday Season with friends and family. The New Year brings with it an opportunity to get your chapter members involved in more GWRRA programs and events. The Chapter Couple of the Year program can do just that.

We are proud to announce that NY-H has bestowed the honor of Chapter Couple of the Year on Garry and Shirley Sauls. They have been involved in Chapter H for a number of years and are past chapter directors. We are sure that every New York Chapter has a deserving couple. **Remember....** This is an honor and the chapter director or a committee can give this honor. It seems to be a misconception that the couple needs to be asked or volunteer. As we have said in previous articles, there is no obligation for your Chapter Couple to participate in the District Selection process. That is an entirely a personal choice.

If your chapter has already selected a **Chapter Couple of the Year**, please e-mail us their names and contact information (home address and phone #). We want to welcome and congratulate them on receiving the honor.

Again it is our hope that **all NY District GWRRA Chapters** will award the **honor of Chapter Couple of the Year to a deserving couple** in 2011. As your District Couple of the Year Coordinators we are here to help your chapter and/or Chapter Couple of the year in any way we can. Be it by answering your questions or providing you with more information on the Couple of the Year Program. Please feel free to contact us at rikelley@localnet.com or call at 716-772-7807 (home), 716-830-9569 (cell).

Be Safe and Enjoy the Ride!
 Bob & Sandy Kelley
 NY District Couple of the Year Coordinators

Around the District

Chapter Websites

Chapter C	http://sites.google.com/site/gwrranychapterc/Home
Chapter D	http://gwrra-ny-d.org/
Chapter F	
Chapter G	http://www.tiptopwebsite.com/gwrra
Chapter H	http://www.highwayhobos.com/
Chapter K	http://www.chapter-k.com/
Chapter L	https://www.myfamily.com/ requires logon, contact gowsav@myfamily.com
Chapter N	http://www.gwrra-ny-n.org/
Chapter R	
Chapter T	http://www.gwrra-ny-t.org/
Chapter U	http://mysite.verizon.net/imtruble4sure/
Chapter W	http://www.gwrra-nyw.org/
Chapter X	
Chapter Y	http://gwrranewyorkchaptery.shutterfly.com/



+ Gold Wing Road Riders Association

New York District Meeting

January 8, 2011

- ***It's time to have Fun with GWRRA in New York!***
- ***There is a great deal of new information from Region & National!***
- ***This is your first chance to meet your new Team Members and promote your events for 2011!***
- ***It's an opportunity to keep your OCP certification current!***

Who should attend: Chapter Directors, Assistant CDs, Rider Educators, Treasurers, Membership Enhancement Coordinators, Chapter Couples, and any other interested members

When: January 8, 2011 from 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Where: Holiday Inn Syracuse/Liverpool (Exit 37 off I-90)

Lunch Buffet: Baked chicken, Tortellini Alfredo, Tossed Salad, Roasted Potatoes, Chef's Choice of Vegetables, Brownies/Cookies

Meal Cost: \$16.71 per person, two people free per Chapter

Hotel Information: See Attachment

Mail a check from your Chapter by December 15, 2010, made out to GWRRA NY District, along with your list of participants, to:

Kathy DeGross, 337 County Route 11, Lot 3, West Monroe, NY 13167

Make sure to list attendees from your Chapter and their positions

Name	Position



Holiday Inn Syracuse/Liverpool
441 Electronics Parkway
Liverpool, NY

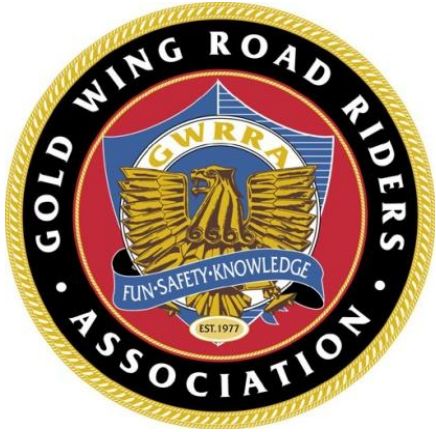
(315) 457-1122

Exit 37 off I-90



**When reserving your room, mention
that it is for the NY District Meeting.
Room rate is \$92 per night plus taxes**

OFFICER CERTIFICATION PROGRAM



The Officer Certification Program (OCP) is a training and certification program administered by the Leadership Training Division, for current and prospective GWRRA officers and interested members. Participants will explore what GWRRA is all about, how it is structured and why it operates the way it does. You will learn about GWRRA finances and the IRS, time and stress management, managing conflict & problem resolution, and much more. Participants will gain tools, information and confidence to enhance the GWRRA experience.

Come join the FUN and learn more about GWRRA.

When: Saturday, January 15, 2011, 9AM – 6:00 PM
Sunday, January 16, 2011, 9AM-1:00PM *
Where: Prince Kitchens
11800 N Main Street
Glen Rock, Pa. 17327

Instructors will be Jan Sterba and Dan & Mary Costello

Lodging within 5 minutes of Prince Kitchens:

Holiday Inn Express 140 Leader Heights Road York, Pa. 717-741-1000
Midway Motel 211 N Main Street Loganville, Pa 717-428-1466
Hampton Inn 1000 Far Hill Drive New Freedom, Pa 717-235-9898

Please register by email no later than December 15, 2010 to Jan Streba (jansterba@aol.com). Or, send your registration information by snail mail to Jan Sterba: 304 Anchor Street, West Hazleton, PA 18202

Name: _____ GWRRA# _____

Address: _____

Phone # _____ e-mail: _____

District _____ Chapter _____

Position: _____ The

From the Maryland District

Maryland District will be sponsoring its annual convention, [WinterThing 2011](#), on Thursday, January 27th thru Saturday, January 29th at the Clarion Resort Fontainebleau Hotel in Ocean City, Maryland. This year's theme is Renaissance. Attached is the schedule for this year's merriment. Please ensure maximum distribution of this notice. If you or your members have not already registered, please do so at your earliest convenience so that we can make sure there is enough Fun to go around. More information and details of this great weekend can be found on the [Maryland District Website](#).

Sidney M. Spunt
smspunt@comcast.net
 GWRRA MD District Trainer
 GWRRA MD District Webmaster
 GWRRA MD-A Webmaster

2011 Maryland Winterthing Schedule			
Time	Activity	Responsible Chapter / Instructor	Room
<u>Thursday - January 27, 2010</u>			
1:00 - 3:00	Set Up		Lobby
3:00 - 5:00	Early Registration	District Staff	Lobby
7:00 - 9:00	Ice Cream Social	Chapter L	Room 311, 317
<u>Friday - January 28, 2010</u>			
All Day	50/50 Sales	Chapter A, K	
8:00 - 4:00	Registration	Chapter I	Lobby
8:00 - 5:00	Hospitality Room	District Staff and CD's	Hospitality Room 318
8:00 - 4:00	Rider Ed Booth	District & Chapter Educators	Lobby
10:00 - 11:00	Couple Of The Year Reception		Conference Room 2, 3
12:00 - 6:00	Massage Therapist		Room 317
12:30 - 2:00	Bingo	Chapter H	Downstairs Ballroom
2:30 - 4:00	Wii Bowling Competition	Chapter B	Conference Room 4
8:00 - 4:00	SMART Simulator	MVA	Conference Room 6
2:30 - 3:30	Motorcycle Insurance - Do's & Don'ts	Rider Insurance	Conference Room 1
2:30 - 3:30	Chapter Structure & Organization	Bob Ahearn	Conference Room 2
2:30 - 3:30	Motorist Awareness	Al General	Conference Room 3
2:30 - 3:30	Understanding Area Reports	Mike Mandel	Room 311
4:00 - 5:00	Goldwing Maintenance	Paul Zublionis	Conference Room 1
4:00 - 5:00	Vacation Photography	Al & Jackie General	Conference Room 3
4:00 - 5:00	Membership Retention	Rick Brown	Room 311
4:00 - 5:00	Line Dancing Instruction	Ken & Lois Ingram	Downstairs Ballroom
7:00 - 11:30	Costume Contest / Awards / Dance		Downstairs Ballroom

Winterthing Schedule continued on the next page...

Saturday - January 29, 2010

All Day	50/50 Sales	Chapter A, K	
8:00 - 4:00	Registration	Chapter J	Lobby
8:00 - 4:00	Hospitality Room	District Staff and CD's	Hospitality Room 318
8:00 - 4:00	Rider Ed Booth	District & Chapter Educators	Lobby
8:00 - 4:00	SMART Simulator	Phil Sause, MVA	Conference Room 6
9:00 - 12:00	CPR/First Aid Recert	Ken Trass, Tim Grimes	Conference Room 1
9:00 - 10:00	Chapter Newsletters	Doug Walmsley	Conference Room 2
9:00 - 10:30	Stump The Mechanic	Dan Kenney - Motovation	Conference Room 3
9:30 - 10:30	RV / Camping SIG	Ray Hartman	Room 311
10:00 - 4:00	Massage Therapist		Room 317
10:30 - 12:00	Bingo	Chapter H	Crystal Ballroom 1
10:30 - 12:00	Motorcycle Crash Scene Response	Sidney Spunt	Conference Room 2
11:00 - 12:00	Co-Rider Seminar		Conference Room 3
11:00 - 12:00	Motorcycling for the Mature Rider	Hampton & Sharon Conway	Room 311
1:00 - 3:00	Street Smarts / Ask The MVA	Phil Sause, MVA	Conference Room 1
1:00 - 2:00	Couple Of the Year / Chapter Of the Year	Mike Mandel	Conference Room 2
1:00 - 2:30	Team Riding		Conference Room 3
2:00 - 3:00	Stress Management	Dottie Bahrenberg	Room 311
3:00 - 4:00	Planning a Chapter Ride	Sidney Spunt	Conference Room 1
3:00 - 4:00	Sign Language 101	Gail Garner	Conference Room 2
3:00 - 4:00	Accessorizing Your Motorcycle	Jim Zervelous - Chrome World	Conference Room 3
3:00 - 4:00	Rider Ed Levels 101	Tim Grimes	Room 311
2:00 - 3:30	Wii Bowling Competition	Chapter B	Conference Room 4
3:45 - 5:00	Race Car Derby	Chapter H	Conference Room 4
6:30 - 8.:30	Banquet		Crystal Ballroom
9:00 - 12:00	Party by the Pool		Poolside

Sunday - January 30, 2010

8:30 - 11:00	District Staff Meeting	District Staff and Chapter Directors	Conference Rooms 2.3
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