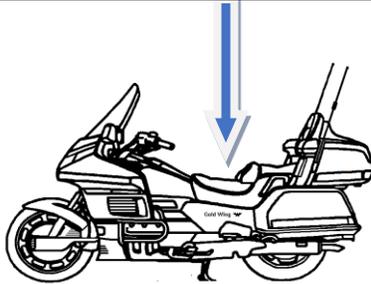


From the Director's Chair



January, 2020

Looking Back – And Forward

January is off and running. Don't know about you, but Joanne and I are looking forward to a more enjoyable year, since last year's riding season was filled with five trips to Midnight Motorcycle. Each time I was there, my trike remained for needed installation of a new electrical part, due to a short in the system. As close as I can calculate, I was unable to ride for over 6 weeks. (C'est la vie)

For us, much of our 2019 was focused on learning what it means to be effective chapter directors while also trying to identify and organize activities that all our members – with their very different needs and preferences – would find fun and engaging. As you have probably also noticed, the end of year is typically a time when members of the leadership team recommit to their existing responsibilities, move on to different leadership roles or decide that it is time for a break.

Now, as we look forward to this new year, we need to ask for your help. To ensure the chapter's success, keep it running smoothly, and make our activities as much fun as possible **for everyone**, we need involvement and contributions **from everyone**. Five years ago, when we first joined GWRRA, we noticed that much of the work of keeping the organization going seemed to consistently fall to the same people. While some things have changed in the past five years, some things have not. As Members and especially as Chapter Directors, we are incredibly appreciative of those members who are willing to take on tasks or leadership positions simply because there is no one else who is willing to do so. At the same time, we recognize that, after many, many years, some of those individuals may want or need—and certainly deserve -- a break from some of the responsibility.

It is also apparent to us that the shortage of resources is consistent throughout the organization; currently there are several open positions within the District as well as in individual Chapters. Every time someone from a Chapter steps up to help out the District, it creates another gap at the Chapter level. If those gaps go unfilled long enough, the result is closure of a Chapter. We feel that we are speaking for the entire Chapter team when we emphasize that “we truly can't do it all.”

We currently have many needs within the Chapter, including assistance with ride planning, administrative requirements, leadership, event planning, membership recruitment and enhancement, etc. To prevent burnout, some larger Chapters are able to spread these tasks across many members or an entire committee; as membership shrinks this is no longer an option for smaller Chapters.

As we plan for 2020, it is our hope that each of you will take a moment to look at what you might do in 2020 to support the Chapter and help it grow. Remember that keeping the organization healthy and stepping up goes beyond the members of the leadership team – it truly is a responsibility shared by every Chapter Member. If you are someone who makes resolutions or sets goals at this time or year, it is our sincere hope that you will include the Chapter in your goal setting by identifying just one thing you can do in the coming year to become more engaged in and supportive of Chapter activities and responsibilities. From the national level to the Chapter level, recruitment, retention – and engagement – are absolutely essential if we want our organization to survive and thrive in the future.

We wish everyone in Chapter N a healthy and successful 2020 and a great riding season. Our fun, safety and knowledge are all magnified when we work together.

Coming Chapter Activities

1/4/2020 – January Breakfast Meeting and Level Up Seminar – 10:00 a.m. Cowboy Jack's - 2801 Southtown Drive, Bloomington, Mn. 55431 (952) 955-8137. Please note time and location change!

1/9/2020 – January Dinner Social – Sgt. Peppers, 930 Helena Avenue North, Oakdale, Mn. (651) 738-7052

1/18/2020 – Feed My Starving Children Service Project - FMSC 990 Lone Oak Road, Suite 136, Eagan, Mn 55121. Sign-up will be on the FMSC website – <https://www.fmsc.org/join-group?joincode=MPENWX>

1/26/2020 – Sunday Funday Theater Matinee (Flaming Idiots) at Black Dirt Theater with dinner at Me and Julio after the show.

2/9/2020 – Sweetheart Dinner – Mancini's – 531 7th St. West, St Paul, Minnesota 55102 - [Sweetheart Dinner](#)

District Educator Newsletter



Happy New Year from our house to yours!

We hope everyone had a wonderful New Year's Eve and enjoyed a quiet day off on New Year's Day. I know I had a couple of quiet days as Scott was up north enjoying his other set of handlebars since there's enough snow there to do that! They can keep it up there as far as I'm concerned! It's also hard to believe that another year has come and gone and it's now 2020!

I'd like to announce that I have been appointed to a new position within GWRRA. My new title is long - Team GWRRA Rider Education Program Assistant – I'll have to shorten it just a bit so it fits on the page! And yes, Scott will be standing right beside me in this new endeavor. Many of you know that we have been each other's right-hand person (and many times left hand as well) over our many years and positions held within this great Association! We both look forward to continuing to serve you in both our current and new role.

We would like to take this opportunity to mention the upcoming Fun/Training Day on March 21st. You'll see more information on this event next month and will hear more from Eric Purdy, the District University Coordinator. Please go to the University website (gwrradot.com) and select the Tools and Resources drop down...click on class list and see what interests you most. You can text Eric 218-348-5825, or email him at epurdy@charter.net. We will be sure to keep you posted as this develops, but for right now, please put it on your calendar. Also feel free to reach out to me with ideas. I can share with Eric.

Till next time, stay safe out there!!

Joy Mattson

MN District Educator