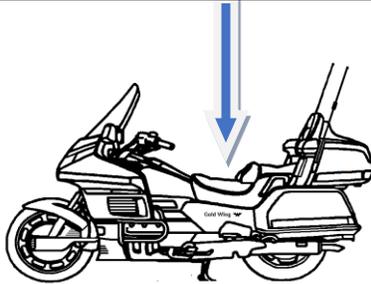


From the Director's Chair



May, 2020

Just sitting here, trying to think ahead and finding it difficult. This was written the day after Easter. As you recall, we celebrated Easter in our homes, watching it snow all day. Most of us looked out of our windows with disbelief that it looked as though we were back in February.

I was lucky, most of the snow has melted off the driveway, it's just the sidewalk leading to the house that is icy. It wouldn't be so bad, if it weren't for the 60- degree day we enjoyed the day before. Well so it goes.

I hope that everyone that wanted to ride, was able to get out. Hopefully the weather will finally turn towards spring and bright sunny days. I know how difficult it is to stay at home, and not get together as we are accustomed to doing.

Joanne and I still regret not being able to join everyone at Giuseppe's for our last dinner social. From the photographs, it appears that everyone had a great time together. Given time, we will eventually get back to normal --- old normal, new normal, approximate normal, temporary normal – take your pick. Unfortunately, it is just going to take some time.

As time goes on, we will try to get together for informal rides. When possible, we will announce those a few days before the scheduled departure. If we stay apart when we are re off our bikes and don't bunch up, we should be fine. We will ask that everyone bring their own picnic lunch. With luck and a little planning we can find a place with some picnic tables where we can spread out and enjoy. Even though all us Minnesotan's know how to handle "cabin fever" this is getting ridiculous. We all desperately need our "wind therapy!"

I would also like to again thank Scott Neurauter for setting up our virtual breakfast meeting last Saturday. It was great to connect with everyone who dialed in. Scott did is best to entertain us with funny hats and several different computer filters. The best – and it was hard to pick – was the motorcycle ride filter; although they were all fantastic. It felt good to talk with everyone, **almost** as good as being at breakfast together and having fun.

In the meantime, stay safe and healthy! We will keep you posted as things continue to evolve.

Bruce and Joanne



It's May and that means *Motorcycle Awareness Month*. What can we do to make motorists and others aware of us and our motorcycles you might ask.....

See and be seen! Being the District Educator, I know Level IV isn't for everyone. That said I personally am a believer in All The Gear All The Time (ATGATT) because, to be honest, it's saved me a couple of times. I wear my bright jacket during the day and I also try to wear bright colors and reflective if we ride at night. And, being Gold Wing Riders, we usually have plenty of lights on our bikes, too!

Do you have a Hi-Viz jacket that you wear all the time? Or maybe a Hi-Viz helmet? Scott just got both a new jacket and a new helmet and WOW, I couldn't believe how much both had faded from all those miles in the sun! I hadn't noticed it but I guess, when you wear something all the time, you may not notice that it's faded.

Unfortunately, bright colors and lights still aren't a guarantee that you're going to be seen by that driver that's distracted for some reason. If you notice a distracted driver, get away from them as quickly as you can. We all have seen telltale signs of a distracted driver; some weave within the lane (sometimes outside the lines), some keep looking down in their lap others are talking on their phone...hands-free or not. Just because someone is hands-free...that doesn't mean they're not distracted.

With the current situation, we're all experiencing a little uncertainty as to whether we'll be enjoying each other's company soon. Keeping my fingers crossed we get to see everyone soon – I miss you all!

Be safe out there!

Joy Mattson
MN District Educator