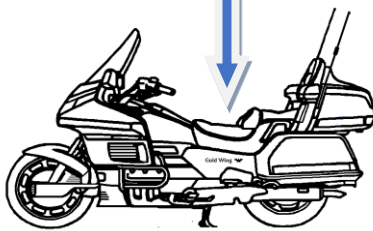


From the Director's Chair



June, 2020

Should Our Motorcycles Wear Masks?

Our apologies for going for the easy topic this month. When that is the most important thing affecting – well, everyone in the world – it is a lot easier to use Covid-19 as a topic instead of trying to think of something else that is actually somewhat important to everyone.

However – there is a point to the question. Lately, we have all seen photos of statuary and iconic figures wearing masks. I'm pretty sure Mary Tyler Moore is now wearing a mask as she tosses her hat. I also remember seeing the scales of justice lady at the Supreme Court also wearing a mask – now she's blind and can't taste or smell.

Our point is, that these images are memorable because they are “out of the ordinary”. While we probably don't need masks to keep ourselves and our cycles safe when we are riding, we DO need something that makes us stand out. A statue with a mask now stands out instead of blending into the background that we are used to seeing every day. That is also the point of standing out when we are riding. As four-wheel drivers, we are all prone to only seeing things that “stand out” from the ordinary – especially if there is something like coronavirus on our minds as we drive. Couple that distraction with some fog, low light or other driving challenge and it is a potential recipe for disaster that has nothing to do with the virus.

Although Motorcycle Safety Month is over, it's still important to make “being seen” a focus as we enter the summer riding season. While riding can be a great stress reliever right now, remember to stay safe ON the bike as well as OFF.

BTW – Governor Walz has directed that, for the remainder of the year, on the 19th of every month, flags will be flown at half-staff on all government buildings to remember all the lives lost to Covid-19. When we see this reminder Bruce and I intend to take a moment to consider not only the **potential** contributions that have been lost, but also the importance of the **past** contributions those we lost made to us, to our communities and to our nation. We hope you also take a moment to reflect.

Stay Safe!!!

Bruce and Joanne Carlson

Chapter Directors – Minnesota Chapter N

District Educator Newsletter



I hope everyone is holding up during this crazy time of uncertainty. Your health, both mental and physical, are two of the most important things. I hope you are safe and healthy. For those on the front lines, whether Nurse, Doctor, Lab Tech, First Responder, Janitorial, Housekeeping; the list goes on... thank you for your dedication!

Many of you have likely heard of a fairly new position created at Chapter Level, the Chapter Skill Enhancement Advisor. It's a mouthful so many refer to it as the CSEA. Below is the position description and a link to the page. It would be great to see more CSEA's in the Chapters so please let me know if you or someone you know is interested. I'm more than happy to help any way I can.

CHAPTER SKILL ENHANCEMENT ADVISOR (from the Officer's Handbook)

<http://gwrra.org/oconnect/index.html>

The role of Chapter Skill Enhancement Advisor (CSEA) is to proactively support Member/Participant by providing them with information they can consider on ways to become skilled, prepared, and safer riders and co-riders.

Encouraged Responsibilities

- Serve as an example by being actively engaged in the Levels Program.
- Monthly, or as often as possible and weather permitting based on Members interest, put on an on-bike skills day with skill practice, bike games for riders and co-riders.
- Team with the Chapter Ride Coordinator to promote the importance of best riding practices at chapter gatherings, rides, and events.
- Utilize the quarterly Chapter Levels Report provided by the District Educator to support the Members and assist them in achieving milestones and earning recognition.
- Communicate directly with the District Educator to advocate for classes and courses to serve any chapter participant with an interest in progressing in the levels program, becoming a more proficient rider, and being better prepared to respond to emergency situations.

Qualifications and Skills

The Chapter Skill Enhancement Advisor:

- is not an officer; and the position is not mandatory.
- has a basic knowledge of the GWRRA Rider Education Program

- is appointed by the Chapter Director
 - is interviewed by the District Educator
 - completes a Confidentiality Agreement
 - is a current Level II Rider or Co-Rider
 - receives guidance and support from the District Educator
 - communicates with the District Educator directly, keeping the Chapter Director in the loop
- to assure the needs of the chapter participants are met. Remember, the Chapter Skill Enhancement Adviser is an active participant on the Chapter staff and primary direction comes from the Chapter Director.
- does not have access to the RE database and relies on the District Educator for the information.

Goal: To provide the membership with the basic support needed to participate meaningfully and successfully in the GWRRA Rider Education Program at the Chapter level.

Thank you for all you do. Be safe out there when riding!

Joy Mattson
MN District Educator