



Michigan District

Region D "The Great Lakes Region"

"Friends for Fun, Safety and Knowledge"



March 3, 2010

From: Larry Terryn
Interim Michigan District Director
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To all Michigan Chapter Directors and Officers,

First let me introduce myself, I am Larry Terryn, part of the Transition Team and interim District Director. I have been a Member of GWRR since 1983 and have filled many roles in the officer network. I have been an ACD, CD, Michigan District Director 87-91, Region D trainer, Michigan Wing News Editor, National Member Enhancement Director, and most importantly, Member. I only bring this up so that you can understand why I was one of the Michigan Members selected to be on the Transition Team. The other Members of the transition team, Mike Stiger, Bob Lorenz, Audrey Holmes, also have deep-based experiences as GWRR Members. There is no doubt that Michigan's cohesiveness has suffered over the last few years because of rapidly changing leadership. The charter of the transition team is to bridge the gap from where we are today to the time a new District Director is appointed and trained and can assume the leadership role in Michigan. It is our goal to do this with as little disruption to the Chapters and Membership as possible. We will also continue to support the new District Director for as long as he/she sees fit. I ask for your patience and support as we work through this.

With all that said, we want you to know that, without taking away the importance of any other officer or staff position; the Chapter Director is the most important officer to the Chapter Participants in our association. Members look up to you for guidance and leadership. It is your knowledge/leadership/attitude that sets the tone for the Chapter environment. GWRR has grown and matured over the years and continually has sought ways to enhance the Membership experience. Some Members have enjoyed "just" being a Member and enjoying Chapter life while others found enjoyment in leadership roles. We realize that being in a leadership role is not an easy task, for some it is easier than for others based on their non-GWRR experiences. To help all our members have the skills/knowledge to be a more confident leader, GWRR has continuously developed tools to help the volunteer leader/member. One such tool is the new OCP (Officer Certification Program); it is designed to give the Officer the knowledge/history/understanding of how GWRR works.

I also want you to know the role the District staff plays in the officer network. The District staff's main purpose is, upon request, to assist Chapter Directors in any operational requirement they may need, (filing forms, 990N, new officer paperwork, etc). Their job is not to run a Chapter, which is your job; we are here to assist you. Another task the District Staff does is to coordinate District-wide events such as the District Rally or Wingless Weekend; Since all Chapters are involved in these it is more prudent for the staff to coordinate these activities, with Chapter involvement, than ask one Chapter to accept the burden. The third main task for the District staff is to provide the guidance, training, knowledge, and history, etc. it takes for you and your Chapter Participants to have a fun-filled experience as a GWRR Member.

After discussion with the District Staff and Transition Team we felt it was most beneficial to plan a combination OCP training session and District-wide Officers meeting on the same weekend. I won't kid you, it will be a very jammed packed weekend, but we felt it was the most cost and time management effective way to provide the training and have a meeting of the Officers. This would preclude the need for the scheduled section meetings this spring and thus open up an additional weekend for all to enjoy. We also felt it was an excellent opportunity to have all the officers get together and enjoy each other's company. This weekend is planned for April 17th & 18th. Basically the agenda will be OCP 8am to 6pm, dinner break, District Officers meeting in the evening, OCP Sunday 8 am till 1pm with the completion of District meeting Sunday afternoon. More exact information will be coming out in a separate communication.

An additional word about the OCP: I have to be honest with everyone, when I first heard about the OCP, my first reaction was "now what do we have to do" as I am sure many of you have had the same feelings. I will also have to admit that after reviewing the material in the OCP training handbook, I was pleasantly surprised at the content and material inside. I think you will find this training a truly meaningful experience and the material is down to earth useful stuff.

I would add that the purpose for the OCP is to get all Directors on the same page as to the history of GWRRA, why we are what we are, set the expectations of CD's as to what GWRRA can provide, define the role and importance of CD's to the organization, and establish the independence of Chapters while developing a level of commonality for Member experiences. The OCP is not about telling a CD what to do or how to do it but will enable them to better understand and therefore prepare for leading a Chapter as best benefits the Members of that Chapter.

As with any leadership role there do exist some responsibilities to the Members as well as to the organization. The OCP will allow CD's to better understand these and relate these to their own experience within their Chapter. This is not about telling Chapter Directors how to do their job but to provide tools for them to do their job better and more enjoyably, have fun doing so and to increase their knowledge. We strongly encourage you to plan on attending.

I want all Michigan officers to know that Michigan is and remains a part of Region D and that all normal chains of communication are in effect.

Sincerely,
Larry Terryn
Interim Michigan District Director

Mike Stiger
Bob Lorenz
Audrey Holmes
Michigan Transition Team