

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!!!

Dear Friends,

As of this writing, the holidays are all wrapped up and we hope they were happy and healthy for all of you. In December we attended the Region A officers conference in Georgia, where we experienced great camaraderie and learned a great deal. Even though we generally feel enthusiastic about our work for the safety of our members, these get-togethers stimulate a burst of energy and resolve to do an even better job.

Ron Lantz led off the group of speakers, speaking for the Region. He mentioned one statistic which made us really think. The percentage of Region A members enrolled in the Rider Ed program is only 45%. It turns out the percentage for Florida is only a little higher, and we feel that is too low. We would like to see that when new people join G.W.R.R.A and a chapter, they also make the commitment to safety which puts them at Level One. We will be working very hard in 2007 to make a significant increase in the number of members who are at least at Level One.

At the conference the District Directors reported on many areas, including District rallies, growth, recruiting and retention, rider ed programs and leadership training. The goal for Leadership Training is to have all CDs trained over the next three years.

Although all districts have areas in which they'd like to improve, the total picture for G.W.R.R.A is a positive one. We personally,

being fairly new on the district staff, are continuously amazed at the number of dedicated people who have spent years and years working for the organization. Congratulations to all of you who have given so much of yourselves.

In addition to the other speakers at the Georgia conference, Ray Erikson, Region MAD Coordinator updated us on the MAD program. The program will be coming under Rider Ed, with Jim and Linda McGinnis acting as District Coordinators. The plan is for them and the chapter liaisons to speak to community groups to help them become more aware of motorcycles.

Jim Hodge, our International Operations Director also spoke enthusiastically regarding the status of Region A. As always, listening to Jim makes you want to jump up and accomplish things. Thanks, Jim! He congratulated Mississippi on their 10 % growth since Katrina. What an amazing accomplishment, and they put on a rally too. That's an example we can all look up to. Jim praised all the dedicated workers in Region A, and we can all take his words to heart.

We are beginning the New Year with our CD conference, and we hope you are all reading this there. Along with those New Year's resolutions, let's resolve to dress properly when riding, maintain our bikes well, and make sure all activities we plan are safe and fun. Happy New Year everyone.

Let's make new friends in 2007 and ride safe.

Joe and Jan Mazza
District Educators