

July 2022 Vol. 2 No. 2

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The Texas District News

GWRRA Texas District Newsletter

"Friends for Fun, Safety, and Knowledge"

From the District Director

Good Afternoon!

The last time I wrote one of these, I was discussing our upcoming trip to Wing Ding and how excited we all were. The prospects for being with friends, for having fun, and for finding out where the next Wing Ding would be, was all at the forefront of our minds. All I can say is, "holy crap!" I never expected the shocker we were in for.

First, the cold hard facts. GWRRA International has been dissolved. The official last day of GWRRA as an international organization and Arizona Home Office comes to a close on July 31, 2022. The Home Office is closing down and with it organizational structures below. The financial final day will be December 31, 2022. All members will get a prorated refund of their dues and Rescue Plus fees at the end of August. Wing World magazine will conclude its final printing also in August. As far GWRRA international as concerned, 2022 is the last and final Wing Ding. There is still much we need to find out about the accounting of GWRRA. Conflicting information was passed around at the rally, So there will be more to come regarding the old organization.

As to the why this happened, it's not that difficult to see. The organization had gone from 80,000 members down to 10,000 over the years. While they stopped creating lifetime members that did not have to pay any dues (old Life), many of the new life members grew monthly. The dues for those new life members were substantially lower, and with decreased membership abroad, GWRRA was soon to reach the point where it would be losing money. This along with the advanced age of our founders, the future was looking bleak at least from an International Association point of view. International had become quite top heavy, and a drastic change had to occur.

As to the future, almost immediately at the end of the speech announcing the shutdown, District Directors, and Chapter Directors all began discussing how we felt about what we just heard. The almost immediate conclusion was that international perhaps wasn't really needed. If Chapters continue to meet and ride, nothing needs to change at The view was and is a all. simplification of the whole idea of GWRRA. The pieces were coalescing almost immediately into something that focused on the members and Obviously much riding. deeper discussion would have to occur regarding status, training, tax insurance and the lot, but at least for immediately after the the time announcement, everyone was coming up with a plan.

The unexpected twist: the next day, Anita Alkire, the former president of our organization, spoke to the groups

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purpose? This past week Anita announced the change. organization's new name chosen by herself and a close group of advisors "Eagle Wings Motorcycle Association". A new logo was designed and put on the new Facebook page. But little else has been shared officially. It would not do the new organization any justice to dabble in rumor and speculation, which is about all the Facebook page has been over the first few weeks. It is time to take a deep breath and wait for more concrete news or opportunities for discussion.

So what do we do now? Simply stated, we don't do to discuss the possibility of a recreation of the anything different. Texas chapters should continue to international association, under a new name, under a socialize. We should take every opportunity to ride, as leaner structure with less of the original offerings of weather permits. Until we get a concrete decision on membership, and a more simple purpose of riding and what to do with a chapter funds (this is the property of socializing. There wasn't much to go on, or really the chapter and most importantly the chapter anything to decide off of, but for all of us who were members), we should do nothing extravagant. I will surprised by the announcement, this was a potential continue to share information as it is known, so that idea worth entertaining. Was it to be a new we can Individually, and collectively decide what opportunity to rebuild our association to be leaner and affiliation if any we will choose about the new more focused, and perhaps appeal to a wider variety EWMA. no matter what we choose, if we stay of riders, a younger range of members, and a renewed together, and continue to ride together, nothing has to

Talk to you all soon.

Dan and Donna Rymarz **Texas District Directors** txdd@gwrra-tx.org (469) 669-9191

Gold Wing Road Riders Association

founders Paul Hildebrand and Shirley Stevens-Garcia announced during Wing Ding 43 opening ceremonies that the organization will be closing. American Honda is saddened by the news and thanks the GWRRA for its dedication to one of Honda's most iconic models.

Founded in 1977, the GWRRA grew through the heyday of motorcycle touring to the point that it eventually had approximately 80,000 members in 53 countries, and with over 800 active chapters managed by 4,000 volunteer leaders. Headquartered in Phoenix, Arizona, the GWRRA has called itself "the world's largest single-marque social organization for owners of Honda Gold Wing/Valkyrie motorcycles," and it adopted the motto "Friends for Fun, Safety and Knowledge."

A dedicated, family-like group that published its own magazine (Wing World, whose September issue will be the last), the GWRRA worked hard to improve the image of motorcycling and prided itself in being a notfor-profit, non-religious, non-political organization whose members covered a broad spectrum of backgrounds, but who were unified by a love for owning and riding Honda's legendary touring model, Reprinted with permission of Rider Magazine. the Gold Wing.

"We would like to thank our members, vendors and advertisers for 45 years of unwavering support," said Abel Gallardo, COO of GWRRA. "We truly could not have made it this far without all of you. To our ridereducation program, we cannot begin to place a number on the lives touched by your efforts. To our leadershiptraining and motorist-awareness programs, thank you for educating our members, officers and public to keep our riders safe and enjoying the ride."

The GWRRA will officially close on July 31. In the interim, it will offer prorated refunds on prepaid memberships.

"For nearly five decades, the GWRRA has set the powersports standard for a grassroots organization based on a single model, and Honda will be forever grateful for the enthusiasm the club's members demonstrated and generated for the Gold Wing," said Bill Savino, American Honda Senior Manager of Customer Engagement. "While the GWRRA's closure is undeniably the end of an era, we want to make sure their members and all Gold Wing enthusiasts know that Honda remains committed to the Gold Wing model and these customers for years to come."

TEAM GWRRA

Directors of GWRRA	Jere and Sherry Goodman	540-623-0447	JereGood@aol.com
Director of GWRRA University	Lorrie Thomas and Dan Clark	N.A.	lorriemthomas@aol.com
Director of Membership Enhancement	Dan and Mary Costello	732-535-2867	mep.director.gwrra@gmail.com
Director of Motorist Awareness	James and Freida Clayson	N.A.	james.clayson@gmail.com
Director of Finance	Randall and Janet Drake	N.A.	financedirector@gwrra.org
Director of Rider Education	Susan and George Huttman	828-368-2249	director-re@gwrra.org
Executive Director Overseas	Alessandro Boveri and Mariarosa Bruzzone	39-33-537-0468	alboveri@gmail.com

Information contained in this list is correct at the time of printing. To see a current list, visit: http://gwrra.org/nationalofficers.html.

TEXAS DISTRICT OFFICERS

District Directors	Dan and Donna L. Rymarz	469-669-9191	txdd@gwrra-tx.org
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Assistant District Directors	Lyle and Sheri Altes	512-415-1920	txadd3@gwrra-tx.org
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Patches	Donna L. Rymarz	469-669-9191	patches@gwrra-tx.org
Photographer	Donna L. Rymarz	469-669-9191	txdd@gwrra-tx.org
District Educators	Leo and Margaret Smith	757-753-3715	txed@gwrra-tx.org
Assistant District Educator Medic First Aid Coordinator	Leo and Margaret Smith	757-753-3715	txmfa@gwrra-tx.org
Membership Enhancement Coordinator	Gary Wheatley	713-859-6589	txmec@gwrra-tx.org
University Coordinator	Randy and Kathy Reese	512-744-3635	txduc@gwrra-tx.org
COY Coordinator	Lyle and Sheri Altes	512-415-1920	coycoordinators@gwrra-tx.org
Couple of the Year	Tom and Dawn Sprague	858-755-6071	txcoy@gwrra-tx.org
Motor Awareness Coordinator	Sheri Altes	512-415-1920	txma@gwrra-tx.org
Ride Coordinator	Sam Belinoski	936-582-0077	txrides@gwrra-tx.org
Vendor Coordinators	Dawn Sprague	512-844-6033	txvc@gwrra-tx.org
Webmaster	Tom Sprague	858-755-6071	webmaster@gwrra-tx.org
Newsletter Editor	George Augustas	972-226-3845	nle@gwrra-tx.org

Information contained in this list is correct at the time of printing. Last update: 25 March 2022

Chapter Staff as of April 23, 2022

Chapter	Area	Chapter Leadership	Contact Info
Е	Tyler	Director = <u>Kaufman, Karen</u>	636-485-4319
		Treasurer = Martin, Tom	
<u>G</u>	Tomball	Director = Deluke, Joe & Tammy Assistant Director = Norwood, Brian Membership Enhancement = Larry & Sally Dresch Treasurer = Stan Brown Ride Coordinator = Greenway, David	713-498-3201
<u>G2</u>	Greenville	Director = Wiggins, Jim and Barbara Assistant Director = Open Membership Enhancement = Barbara Wiggins Treasurer = Augustas, George Ride Coordinator = Wiggins, Jim and Barbara	903-217-4066
<u>H</u>	San Antonio	Director = Griffin, Keith & Milligan, Paula Assistant Director = Open Membership Enhancement = Smith, Dan Treasurer = Charles Fleming Ride Coordinator = Charles Fleming	210-478-8928
Ţ	Orange	Director = Kimbrough, Randy Assistant Director = Jeanis, Charles & Kathy Membership Enhancement = Dorothy Thomson Treasurer = Pierson, Debbie Ride Coordinator = Open	409-201-1955
<u>K2</u>	Castroville	Director = Michael Pineda Assistant Director = Open Membership Enhancement = Open Treasurer = Charlotte F Ride Coordinator = Open	210-707-8411
<u>M</u>	Arlington/ Mansfield	Director = Smith, Leo & Margaret Assistant Director = Schoenthal, Chris & Lynn Membership Enhancement = Seguin, Jeff Treasurer = Greenwood, Mark Ride Coordinator = Hasiak, Patrick	757-753-3715
<u>M2</u>	Spring	Director = Gresak. Scott & Linda Assistant Director = Open Membership Enhancement = Gresak, Linda Treasurer = Andrew Woodward Ride Coordinator = Tim & Kathy Bryan	281-386-7800
<u>O</u>	Austin	Director = Burnett, Ken & Terri Assistant Director = Jim & Deedee Evans Membership Enhancement = Winfield, Robby Treasurer = Winfield, Patricia Ride Coordinator = Ken Burnett	512-497-1259

Chapter Staff as of April 23, 2022

Chapter	Area	Chapter Leadership	Contact Info
<u>O</u>	Austin	Director = <u>Burnett, Ken & Terri</u> Assistant Director = <u>Jim & Deedee Evans</u> Membership Enhancement = <u>Winfield, Robby</u> Treasurer = <u>Winfield, Patricia</u> Ride Coordinator = Ken Burnett	512-497-1259
<u>P</u>	Granbury	Director = Roberts, Christie Assistant Director = Wheatley, Gary Membership Enhancement = Eftink, Ken & Becky Treasurer = Graham, Jeff Ride Coordinator = Eddie Roberts	817-279-3928
<u>R</u>	Dallas/ Fort Worth	Director = Walker, Don & Karen Assistant Director = Rymarz, Dan & Donna Membership Enhancement = Walker, Karen Treasurer = Moody, Bill Ride Coordinator = Rymarz, Dan	817-821-4388
<u>S2</u>	League City	Director = Newman, Scott & Debbie Assistant Director = Cox, Steve Membership Enhancement = Koerber, Beth & Tom Treasurer = Scholes, Jim & Genie Ride Coordinator = Open	281-534-1864
<u>T</u>	Killeen	Director = Soto, Jose & Celest Assistant Director = Open Membership Enhancement = Open Treasurer = Brooks, Tim & Young Ride Coordinator = Open	646-258-5308
<u>U</u>	San Antonio	Director = Hay, Scott Assistant Director = Open Membership Enhancement = Burke, Shonale Treasurer = Morales, Maria Ride Coordinator = Shared	210-414-7288
W	Ft Bend Harris County	Director = Shah, Ashar Assistant Director = Open Membership Enhancement = Gottlieb, Glenn Treasurer = Suzanne Neal Ride Coordinator = Coleman, Robert	248-227-2816
<u>W2</u>	Waxahachie	Interim Director = Rymarz, Dan Assistant Director = Open Membership Enhancement = Open Treasurer = Byler, James Ride Coordinator = Open	469-669-9191 972-679-3944

GWRRA – Friends for Fun, Safety and Knowledge

The news during opening ceremonies at Wing Ding 43 was a shock to all. GWRRA as we know it will cease on December 31, 2022.

But let us look at the motto that has been our creed for so many years.

Friends:

We've made plenty. At every rally we would attend, every chapter meeting we would join, our friends are ever present. Even without a formal organization, we will still have our friends.

Fun:

We ride motorcycles. Two wheels, three wheels, all different brands and models. We will still ride, and we will still have fun.

Safety:

Despite the fact we will no longer have educators (chapter, district, region, national) to inform us, share suggestions, or just to tell us how it is, we are the safest riding establishment that has ever existed. Few if any groups will ever be safer.

Knowledge:

Equally minded riders/volunteer instructors will still be available to assist in the continued quest for better riding awareness. While these options will most certainly be fewer and far between, let us not forget that knowledge has to be improved, challenged, and increased constantly, or it vanishes.

Friends for Fun, Safety and Knowledge - Not just a motto, but a riding mindset for a long time to come for us all.

Sam Belinoski District Ride Coordinator

Coming Events

Date	Chapter	Event	Location	Contact/E-Mail	Phone
September 9, 10	*KS*	Transas District Trainy		Kathy and Denny Chestnut culkath@gmail.com	N.A.
October 28–29		Oklahoma District Rally Oklahoma District Rally		John and Shawn Irons <u>Ironsline3414@gmail.com</u>	405-747-4618

This information is provided for the convenience of Chapter G2 members. Information is obtained from the Texas District web page and other sources. No warranty is made with respect to the accuracy of any information on this page, the calendar pages, or any other page in this newsletter, and the staff of Chapter G2 shall not be held liable if any information is incorrect. You are advised to verify the accuracy of this information prior to attending any listed event. This information is subject to change without notice.

Membership Enhancement Coordinator By Gary and Becky Wheatley

Where do we go from here as an organization or is there an organization, I keep asking myself? Before Wing Ding, it seemed, everything was rolling along with our biggest rally coming up, anticipation of what is coming up that is new.

The day had come where we as a group got together and it was time for KSU traveling to Shreveport, LA from home. We arrived and went through registration, welcoming dinner, then here we are, Opening Ceremonies. I am assuming everyone was in anticipation as to where Wing Ding was going to be next year, as I was, and here it came seeming like a bomb shell—GWRRA as we knew it was shutting down!!!!

So here we are, I ask again, where do we go from here? We must be patient and support Anita in all that she needs. Think about it, where would we be if she had not stepped up and took on this challenge? We all have a choice to either stay and hear what they have in mind going forward or go off on your own. Negative accusations and false information get all of us nowhere. Let's just see what they have, who knows, it could be better.

GWRRA National is no more, so there will not be any more ARL's sent out to the chapter MEC's. We will have to decide how every chapter as we know it grows. Too many questions for now, like they said, Patience for now, please!!!

Gary Wheatley TX DISTRICT MEC cell or text txmec@gwrra-tx.org

Notes from Director of Rider Education Zoom call Monday July 18, 2022

Leo Smith, Jr. —GWRRA Texas District Educator

Last Monday many District Educators from across the information/records on line. US met with the Director of Rider Education, Susan Huttman for updates about the future of The Rider Education Program in the midst of the unsettled disposition of what we once knew as GWRRA. Despite what (if any) new structure evolves, despite whether you as a rider or co-rider choose to ride with a group, with a couple of friends or by yourself, safety should always be the forefront of any vehicle operator's mind. All the District Educators we've talked to agree that the training we have had through GWRRA programs; University courses, The Levels Program, as well as practice and experience should not be pushed under the rug and forgotten about. Although National Headquarters in Phoenix, AZ will shut their doors on July 31, 2022, as of now the Rider Education Program will continue to do business with a few changes:

- * Rider Education and University courses can still be presented until the end of the year by instructors whose credentials are current.
- * Insurance for Rider Courses will continue until December 31, 2022.
- * Class lists of participants should continue to be sent to the District Educator, however processing may take longer to show up in an individual's record now since the Rider Education database has been switched to "read only" and information can no longer be entered at District level
- * District Educators will forward the information to the person assigned to oversee that particular section (i.e. Rider courses -ARC & TRC, Co-Rider seminars, CPR/MFA courses, University courses, etc.)
- * Individuals will still have access to view their own

Levels applications will still be accepted and processed-

N.7 Level I-III

N.9 Level IV, Mater Tour Rider/Co-Rider, Senior Master, Grand Master and Life Grand Master

N.10 Levels data update

N.33A Level I, II,III and Master Retirements Request NO FEES WILL BE COLLECTED for any of the above EXCEPT FOR POSTAGE to send patches or pins if an individual desires them. Again, processing may take longer than than before due to the District Educators not being able to update the database on the District/state level.

All of us are hoping that the Rider Education program or something very similar will continue as a new structure develops. We are grateful for all instructors past and present who have worked hard to help fellow riders, co-riders and evens folks outside the organization be more aware of the importance and practice of safety. We are grateful for all riders, coriders, their friends and family who take the knowledge and skills attained through programs like this seriously. I think all would agree that knowledge and practice of safety skills can make a more enjoyable and fun ride.

Ride Safe, Ride Smart! Leo Smith Jr **GWRRA TX District Educator** txed@gwrra-tx.org

The District Educator Report Form is no longer required and is hereby discontinued. —Editor



Gold Wing Road Riders Association

2022 KANSAS DISTRICT RALLY

"Aloha from Kansas"

September 9 - 10, 2022 Independence, Kansas

Host Motel: Appletree	Rooms blocked until August 27, 2022 Room Rate: King \$65 + tax 2 Queen Beds \$75+ tax					
201 N. 8th	Street ence, KS 67301			s: (620) 331-55		751 tax
	Please Print					(antional)
Address:		Gty_			State:	Zip
Email:			Phone:			
Your Chapter	Your District		Miles	to Rally (if ridin	g)	
	Grand Prize drawings will b	e Saturday	evening durin	g the dosing ce	eremony	
	50/50 Drawin	igs on Frida	y and Saturda	y evening		
		QTY	PRICE	TOTAL		
	GWRRA Life Member		\$25.00		_	
	GWRRA Member		\$30.00		_	
	Non GWRRA Member		\$35.00		_	
	One Day Pass Member		\$15.00		_	
	One Day Pass Non Member		\$20.00		_	
	District Director		Free		_	
	District COY/IOY		\$15.00		_	
Master Level IV #	#					
Are you an Officer	in GWRRA (any level)? You	rtitle				_
Are you a current "	Couple of the Year"? Chap	pter	Distric	ct		
I/we agree to hold any loss or injury t property that I/we	harmless GWRRA, Kansas District o self or property by reason of pa damage.	GWRRA, ar articipation	y co-sponsorin in this event.	ng organizations I/we agree to a	and any pro assume respo	perty owners for onsibility for any
Rider Signature:				Date:		_
Co-Rider Signature	: <u></u>			Date:		-
	ole to GWRRA Kansas and mail wi			KS 67206.		

For additional information contact Kathy or Denny Chesnut at culkath@gmail.com or flitcrew@aol.com





FUN Friendship Rides



*Give A Ways

*Seminars

*Games

*Vendors

*Business Bingo

*OHP Safety Course

*CPR/First Aid

*Medallion Hunt

*Ice Cream Social

*Lighted Parade

*Vendor Poker

*\$500 for Grand Prize

*Potato Bar

*\$500 in Drawings

*Preplanned Rides

Host Hotel is the Fairfield Inn & Suites 3405 N. 14th St. Ponca City, OK. Phone number is (580) 765-3000. Rates go for \$69.99 + tax for rooms. Give code GWRRA for reservations.



For Rally registration, go to gwrraokla.org and make checks payable to OKLAHOMA DISTRICT. Mail to Jeannie Smith, PO Box 140485, Broken Arrow, OK 74014. Must pre-register by October 15, 2022.

Oklahoma District Rally October 27 – 29, 2022 Ponca City, OK City Central Bldg. 400 E. Central Ave. Ponca City, OK 74601 Rider: GWRRA # DOB: Co-Rider: GWRRA # DOB: Co-Rider: Co-Ride

GWRRA Life Member		\$20.00	
GWRRA Member		\$30.00	
Non-GWRRA Member		\$35.00	
Closing Banquet Meal Ticket (per person regardless of	age)	\$17.00	
Children under 12 attend rally for free (+ fee for meal).	NO MEAL TICKETS WIL	L BE SOL	D ON SITE
Level IV Luncheon (Must be current and list number.)		\$5.00	
Rider Master # Co-Rider Master #			
Level IV Luncheon (Not current)		\$10.00	
CPR/First Aid (Friday 9-12am)		\$25.00	

50/50 Tickets Thursday 10/27/22 (Per Stretch) \$10.00 50/50 Tickets Friday 10/28/22 (Per Stretch) \$10.00 50/50 Tickets Saturday 10/29/22 (Per Stretch) \$10.00 \$500.00 Grand Prize (Per Stretch) \$10.00 GRAND TOTAL\$

TICKET SALES (MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN)

















Make checks payable to: OKLAHOMA DISTRICT - Mail to: Jeannie Smith PO Box 140485, Broken Arrow OK 74014 Must preregister by October 15, 2022

Any questions contact John & Shawn Irons OK DD email: lronsline3414@gmailc.om or 405-747-4618

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GWRRA	4
-	111
	N ILA

I/We agree to hold harmless the GWRRA, co-sponsoring organization, and any property owners for any loss or injury to self or property to which I/we may become involved by reason of participation in this rally. I/We also agree to assume responsibility for any property which I/we knowingly damage.			
Rider:	Date:		
Co-Rider:	Date:		