

BY THE BOOK

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Region H Trainer

The “By The Book” articles are intended to help familiarize Volunteer Leaders and GWRRA Members with the policies, procedures, and information contained in the GWRRA Officer’s Handbook. Any quotes or references to topics contained in our OHB should not be taken “out of context”. Please feel free to reprint these articles in Region, District and Chapter newsletters.

GWRRA since its conception has maintained a non religious, non political stance. Since the OCP has been implemented some of our members are acting like they did not know GWRRA held a non religious policy. The OCP did not change the policy we are just making everyone aware of what GWRRA policies are. The moto of our association remains to be “**F**riends for **F**un **S**afety and **K**nowledge”, this has not changed and we will always focus to make our members our number one focus. The following article is taken from the Officers Handbook page D-8.

RELIGION

GWRRA is purposely designed to be free of religious persuasion and ceremony. This is not because the Association is opposed to religion but religion is, and should be, a personal choice. No Member should be compelled or forced by virtue of their attendance at a GWRRA function to participate in a religious ceremony that may be in conflict with their own beliefs. If for some reason it is determined that prayer is appropriate, make it a moment of silence so everyone in attendance can offer their thoughts in their own way. If worship services are offered at GWRRA functions, they should be announced in advance and denoted as “optional” on the event program and staged in a separate location for those who “want” to attend. This discussion pertains to all levels of GWRRA.

VOTING

A GWRRA Chapter is designed to operate as a politically free, educational, social unit of our Association. As Officers, it’s our responsibility to maintain this environment. If we have “voting,” two things will happen. First, Chapter Members assume the responsibility which lies with the Chapter Director; and second, it starts the process that will lead the Chapter out of the GWRRA Chapter concept and back into the club format, resulting in the loss of GWRRA Chapterhood. If we don’t do any “voting,” what about the times when a decision needs to be made and you need input from your staff and the Members? How do you reach a decision if you don’t call for a “vote?” There’s a very simple way to do this. We survey our Staff and our Chapter participants for their opinions, ideas, desires and find the consensus of the group. You should get all the input and advice you can, weigh it with what you know about GWRRA procedure and policy, then make your decision. A decision that will give the Members what they want! Most of the time, your decisions will be in agreement with the majority of your Staff and/or Members, but there will be times when you will need to explain why your decision can’t be a certain way. This is where your leadership ability will really count. This is where you will really need to know and understand how GWRRA operates and be able to convey this information to your Members so they will understand your decision. Sometimes, decisions may be proper but not popular—explain well! There will be times when you won’t feel you have enough input to make a good decision. That is when you need to call your District Director. If necessary, they have the Region Director to depend on. Although the District or Region Directors may not always be able to solve a particular problem for you, they often can help find information to provide you with input that should help you resolve the issue. This discussion of voting pertains to all levels of our Association.

**Learn Something New.....
Then Teach Someone !**