

INTEGRITY Honesty, truthfulness, honor, veracity, reliability, uprightness, are just a few of the listing in my thesaurus. The Officers Guidebook specifically mentions integrity twice.

First as one of our Core Values: *“Honesty, Integrity and Commitment are the key character elements in developing trust and respect within our Association.”* The second

mention of integrity is under the Code for Standards of Conduct for GWRRA officers:

“This code has been adopted to promote and maintain the highest of standards for association service and personal conduct among its officers. Adherence to these standards is necessary and will further serve to assure Member confidence in the integrity and fairness of all GWRRA officers.”

I have heard integrity defined as “Doing the right thing even when no one is watching”.

When we take an oath or sign a Memorandum of Understanding in GWRRA it is integrity that guides us in completing our duties or conducting ourselves in a manner we

agreed to. Our fellow GWRRA members judged us on how we “Keep Our Word.” If the

Officers Guidebook lists a particular manner of operation or a program has a specific requirement, it becomes obvious if we do not live up to our oath or signed agreement.

An example; qualifying for Level IV in the Rider Education program, wearing the patch,

even attending the Level IV breakfast at the rally and then not wearing all the required

safe riding gear. Another example; Accepting an Officer position, signing the Memorandum of Understanding, taking an oath (often in front of other members), wearing the

patch, then displaying behavior that is contrary to what you agreed to.

Participating in a program, and/or accepting an officer position just for the benefit or prestige (just to wear the patch) does not display integrity! You are highly visible and

will be observed. If you do not live up to your oath and/or agreement, your integrity is in

doubt and your honor in question. If your integrity is in doubt, so is your honesty. Without

integrity and honesty, you cannot have the trust or respect of the membership. As officers and members, we should conduct ourselves with honesty and integrity at all times.

There are always convenient excuses for not doing the right thing. “It too hot to wear all

that equipment,” “no one is looking so I will just take a short cut this time,” etc. When

you give your word (oath or signature) you must follow through, old fashion but essential to establishing and maintaining members trust.

Honesty, Integrity and Commitment are the key character elements in developing trust and respect within our Association.