

**From the desk of the International Couple of the Year SW Territory:**

**It was just this last May 1<sup>st</sup> 2019 that Joan and I got the honor of being named the GWRRA International Couple of the Year S.W. Territory. We have been on the road visiting other Districts and will continue though our reign. Our first stop and the first public announcement came at our own Chapter LA-M Mudbug Rally on May 4<sup>th</sup> when the Louisiana District Directors made the announcement to those that attended.**

**A couple of weeks later on 15 May we found ourselves in Paris, TX at the Texas District Rally and met with the Texas District Directors Jim and Alvalin Woodul. We got to reunite with Former International Couples of the Year, Steve and Carolyn Cotton of Oklahoma and Randy and Kathy Reese of Texas and of course Jim and Reba Berry of Louisiana. We learned a lot from the previous couples and their willingness to pass their wisdom on help us make it.**

**We then in June made it to our first Alabama District Rally in Eufaula, Alabama on a beautiful lake. We met several old friends and the International Couple of the Year S.E. Territory Carl and Cathy Williams. Jim and Sue Jackson, the previous Region A Directors were there and gave us a great welcome. We have promised Rick we would come to one of his Region A Rallies for a long time, so we finally made it to Alabama. We also got to have a very nice visit with our Team GWRRA, Director MEP Larry and Penny Anthony, who happen to be our boss for MEP as MEP Team Assistants. KZ and Terry the District Directors of Mississippi were also there, and we had a nice visit. Frank and Linda Teasley the District Directors of Alabama had an extremely fun Rally.**

**In July we were off to Olney, Illinois at the Holiday Hotel. We met with the District Director Mary Adams. She introduced us to the International Couple of the Year N.W. Territory Don and June Detwiler who turned out to be extremely fun and we spent many hours with them getting to really know them. We saw Jere and Sher the new Directors of GWRRA, who came over to say hello to us. As you may remember Jere and Sher were at our last Louisiana District Rally. We got to meet Steve and Diane Gottschalk the MEP Team Assistant N.W.**

**Steve and Diane just happen to be one set of the judges for the International Couple of the Year that judged us.**

**Don and Cheri Walloch the Assistant District Directors of Wisconsin were also there and joined us for supper, along with Don and June.**

**At the close of the Illinois Rally we travelled down the New York Turnpike into Syracuse and then south on I-81 to our home town of Cortland, NY to visits some of our relatives and to stay a few days with my cousin.**

**Then it was time to travel down to southern NY to the New York District Rally in Tioga Downs Casino, in Tioga, NY. The District Directors Ted and Janice Zamorski greeted us and put on a real riding Rally. There were several guided rides each day in every direction. On Saturday the International Couple of the Year N.E. Territory showed up to the Rally, they are Bob and Liz Fowler. We had several conversations and had lots of laughs with them. At closing ceremonies and closing dinner we set with Bob and Liz and the present International Couple of the Year Rick and Debbie Warmels. It is not hard to figure out why they were chosen last year, they are a wonderful couple and true ambassadors for GWRRA. We stayed around until Sunday and the Chapter PA-R Directors, Dennis and Barb Smouse, which was only 15 miles down the road to the west and 2 miles across the border invited us to their Chapter Gathering. Also joining us was Bob and Liz Fowler. This was one of the most original and fun Chapter Gatherings we have been to. We laughed for almost an hour. Thank you Chapter PA-R. It is not many Chapter Gathers that can say that two of the reigning International Couple of the Year visited their gathering on the same day.**

**So during our few trips we have got to meet all the International Couples of the Year for 2019, several past International Couples of the Year for the past 5 years, several District Directors, and the Director of GWRRA.**