

## *Wheeling Wheelmen December 2021*

Greetings Wheelmen,

Welcome one and all to the Wheeling Wheelmen Bike Club. While 2020 was a somewhat quiet year, our members returned to cycling in 2021 with gusto. The club hosted 254 rides and our members logged 114,009 miles. The top three male riders were Paul LeFevre (4910 miles), Johannes Smits (4833 miles) and Alex Halamaj (3372 miles). The top three female riders were Emily Qualich (4833 miles), Jeannie Siewert (2566 miles) and Betsy Burtelow (2519 miles). Our top three ride hosts were Paul Levere who led 35 rides followed by Johannes Smits with 34 rides and Neal Barge who led 34 rides. The Tuesday and Thursday Bakery rides starting at Willow Stream and the Sunday short ride starting at Long Grove continue to be the most highly attended rides, averaging 22 riders per ride. All and all, an impressive 2021 season! For cold weather riders, the club continues to provide a Show and Go from Willow Stream on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday through mid-March at 10:00 am. Many riders return to Deerfield Bakery after the ride to enjoy a hot beverage and a sweet roll. If the weather is too cold, individuals enjoy a walk through the neighborhood or through Buffalo Creek Forest Preserve. Or, just come eat, drink and enjoy the camaraderie of the group.

In terms of the 2022 bike season, the Board is hard at work planning an engaging, enjoyable biking calendar. We are also working on programs for the February and March club meetings and should be able to report information by the end of December. While Covid restrictions are still a concern for public schools, we hope to secure sites for the St. Paddy's ride at Wauconda High School and the Harmon

Hundred at Wilmot High School. Speaking of the Harmon, we need a HARMON HUNDRED HOST! Don't think about it, just step right up and we will assist in your transition to this vital club position. We also recognize there is a strong interest in a club jersey and hope to have information on that issue soon.

One final note, the newly elected Board consists of the individuals listed below. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out and speak with anyone of us. Our goal is to provide the best riding season possible for all members. Don't forget you can visit our website at <http://wheelmen.com/> to learn more about our club.

Deb Wilson – President

Neal Barg – Vice President and Ride Chair

Johannes Smit - Treasurer

LeeAnn Nelson – Secretary

Mary Jean (MJ) – Publicity

Scott Assmann – St. Pat's Ride Chair

Let's keep those bikes rolling,

Deb Wilson