



Greetings

Greetings fellow Gyros. It has been another crazy year. As we approach Thanksgiving here in Canada, we remind ourselves to be thankful. We have our health, our families and our friends. Yes, the world has changed but we will be together again. Until then, we have to do what we can to keep safe, stay connected and maintain the strength of our friendships and our beloved fraternity.

Convention Update

Well, it was another virtual convention this year. Our Committee in Prince George was working hard to pull off a fantastic "Welcome Back" Gyro party. Alas, we finally had to pull the plug. Disappointment is not a strong enough word. We were incredibly sad.

However, while I was feeling sorry for myself, I attended the business meeting on Saturday morning September 25, and our Club reports restored my faith in the Spirit of our District 4 Clubs. From virtual bingo to phone call trees to backyard BBQs, there was no end to the creativity and innovation as Clubs worked to stay connected while staying safe. Keep it up District 4!

New District Executive

At our Virtual Convention on the evening of September 25, Gyro International President, Blanton Bessinger, installed the following as your new District 4 Executive:

- a) John Overall (Victoria) continues as Webmaster.
- b) Colm Foy (Camosun) continues as District Secretary.
- c) Mike Wedekind (Camosun) continues as District Treasurer.
- d) Marc Dumais (Camosun) was installed as our new Lt. Governor.
- e) Matt Williams (Nanaimo) became Immediate Past District Governor.

Thank you to all who stepped up to lead the District. I have already relied heavily on several of you and will continue to do so. And thank you Matt (and Kelly). If Joanne and I can accomplish even half of what you guys have been able to accomplish, our District will be well served.

Upcoming Events

Founders Night - On Tuesday evening, October 12th at 7:00 pm, the Camosun Club is hosting a Virtual Founder's Night. We will toast the founders of our fraternity and then Past International President, Alan Pentney, will give a presentation on the recent Membership Survey. You do not want to miss this event. See Zoom link below.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88937306916>

District Interim Convention - Nanaimo has stepped up to host what we hope will be an in person interim convention in around April 2022. Exact dates to be determined.

International Convention - Back to the birthplace of it all, Cleveland Ohio, June 2022.

2022 District 4 Convention - Prince George will try again. September 2022. Exact weekend to be determined.

District 4 Bulletin

Wanda Ollis, spouse of District 4 Secretary, Colm Foy, generously offered to help us design and edit a District 4 Bulletin. And the first edition, Winter 2020, was spectacular. Please review it again.



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But we need a committee to help Wanda if this is going to continue and we need content. Please step up if you have time. Please email me at tslaney@slaneyrandall.com or Wanda at wanda.ollis@outlook.com to volunteer.

Installations

I know the world is crazy, but our District 4 Clubs and their leaders are strong. All of our 18 clubs will be transitioning their leadership if they have not already done so. My first order of business as Governor is to coordinate the attendance of myself, Marc, Matt or other past District Governors to conduct Club Installations, either virtually, or in person.

To the Presidents of our 18 Clubs, please send me an email at tslaney@slaneyrandall.com and let me know your plans for your Club's Installation.

Governor's Bio

From left to right in the picture above are: my daughter, Julianne; my son, Tyler; my wife, Joanne; myself and my daughter, Jennilee.

Joanne and I were introduced to Gyro in February 2002. I cannot believe it has been almost 20 years! Tyler was an infant and the twins were toddlers. Joanne and I were born and raised in Newfoundland and grew up in a very small town. We went to Saskatoon, Saskatchewan so I could go to Law School (planned), and so that we could have twin daughters (surprise!). We came to Prince George in 2001 to start my law career and then Tyler came long. I have owned and run my own practice since 2007 and Joanne is my office manager, Jennilee is a legal assistant, Julianne cleans the office as she works her way through university, and Tyler has law school plans himself and may even want to work with his old dad one day. It truly is a family business.

Prince George has been good to us, and Gyro has been good to us. Gyro gave us the opportunity to establish deep roots in our new community and to form strong friendships that have grown for almost two decades and will continue for life.

I became the president of my Prince George Club in 2014 and really began to enjoy Gyro beyond my home club after Prince George hosted the District 4 Convention in 2015. The connections we made as we started travelling led to my recruitment and now I am proud and honoured to be District 4 Governor.

Closing Thoughts

The very first time I ever met Matt Johnson, (Past International President, Past District Governor, Merit Award) he found out that I was as passionate a Blue Jays fan as he was a Mariners fan. That evening, having just met us, he and Lisa invited us to Seattle that next summer to watch the Jays when they visit the Mariners. For one scheduling reason or another we have never been able to take them up on this, but we hope to do so one day. However, that immediate unsolicited and generous offer is one of those "Gyro" moments I will never forget. This Club is special.

Tonight, I write this bulletin with a heavy heart. The Mariners played the Angels today and the Jays played the Orioles. Game 162. Last game of the season. October 3, 2021. And both the Jays and the Mariners had a chance to make the playoffs with wins, combined with a loss by either of the Yankees or the Red Sox. Alas, it was not meant to be. Two gyro hearts broken.

If anyone else out there is a baseball lover, I urge you to join the "Baseball" Social Group in the member's portal that I started tonight. While there, think about joining another social group... chefs, wine lovers, hikers, music lovers etc. Or start your own.

Geography, borders and travel restrictions may keep us physically apart, but we are united by our love of Gyro and our common interests.

Until we meet again, stay safe.

Yours in Gyro Friendship,

Trevor Slaney

Governor District 4