

Greetings Gyros,

To all our Canadian members, I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving!

We are in the final stretch of 2020 and oh what a year it has been. This year has brought about its fair share of challenges, but it has also given us great opportunity to reflect. While there are many things we have missed out on in 2020, one thing I've heard time and again is members miss being able to shake each other's hands.

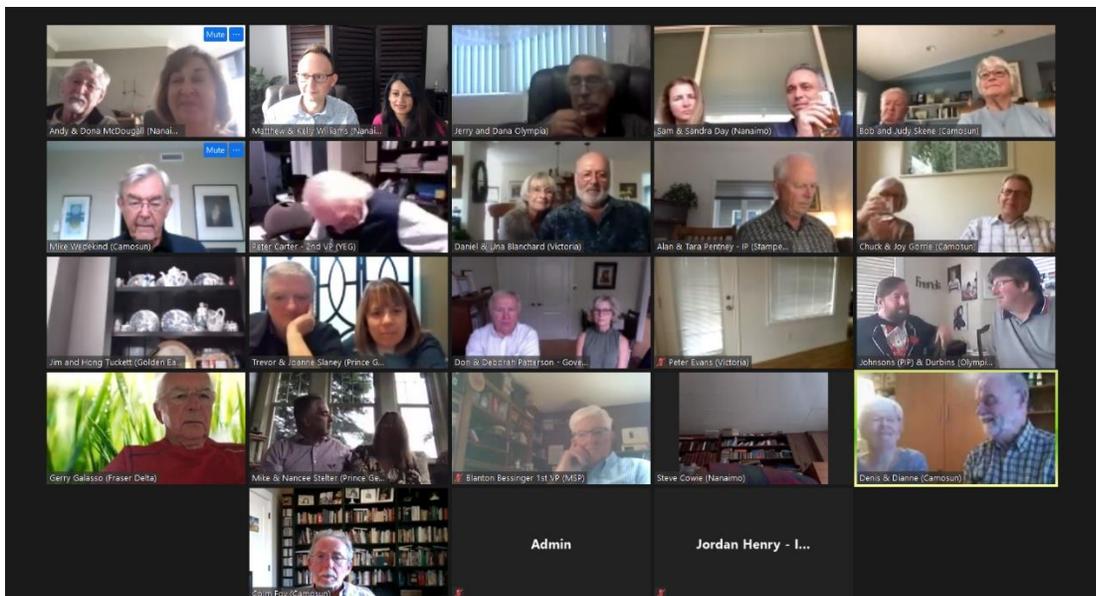
This seemingly simple gesture has deep roots in society and in our clubs. A handshake signifies trust as well as connection, two essential components of friendship. It is how we welcome new members, how we celebrate each other's successes, and how we say hello to our friends. For now, we must do our part in practicing physical distancing and temporarily adopting elbow bumps, however as soon as it is safe to do so, I look forward to seeing you and shaking your hand.

### Our First Virtual Convention

This year we held our first ever Gyro District IV Virtual Convention. Holding a virtual convention had some unique advantages:

- Everyone could participate! We were able to meet new friends from around the District, including those that may not have been able to physically travel.
- There were no line ups at the bar and for most, their favourite drink was available.
- No one could tell if you were wearing pants! Well.... at least until you stood up.

We did our best to keep to a normal convention schedule of events, including a business meeting (AGM), Lady's Tea, hospitality time, and a formal evening. It was new, it was different, and it was a lot of fun.



Our First Virtual Convention

At our formal evening we announced a new District IV award, the **Chris Randall Lifetime Achievement Award**. Chris passed earlier this year, having been a Gyro for 53 years. Chris joined the Victoria Club on November 7, 1966. He has served as Club President, received the Merit Award in 1989, served as District IV Governor (1990-91), and International President (1999-2000) during his 50+ years in Gyro. He received the Gyro Honour Key in 2001 and the Ed Steinbacher lifetime achievement award in 2006.

Chris was a true Gyro, and while he will no longer be at our conventions in person, his spirit of friendship will live on through this award. Attached to this bulletin is some additional information on the award as well as a nomination form.

The inaugural recipient of the Chris Randall Lifetime Achievement was PDG Bob Skene. Prior to the convention, Judy Randall was able to present the award to Bob and Judy Skene in person. Congratulations Bob and Judy!



*From left to right: Judy Skene, Bob Skene, Judy Randall*

### **New District Executive**

That same evening we were pleased to announce our new District Executive.

John Overall (Victoria) will continue to keep us secure online, being ever vigilant against the malicious attempts of the hacking syndicate known as “Rotary”. Thank you, John!

Colm Foy (Camosun) has graciously agreed to stay on as our Secretary, donating his gift of the written word which is outshined only by his ability to tend to his blueberries. Thank you, Colm and Wanda for another year of service!

Mike Wedekind (Camosun) has officially joined our team as District Treasurer, having previously served as Acting Treasurer. Mike has proven to be more than up for the task with his great instincts, solid work ethic, and an eye for detail. Congratulations and welcome to Mike and Gail!

Trevor Slaney (Prince George) has been installed as our new Lt. Governor. Prior to being installed, Trevor and his wife Joanne stepped in to help with planning the convention and ran

the award section of the evening. They have been eager to assist and will make a wonderful addition to the leadership team. Congratulations and welcome Trevor and Joanne!

Don Patterson (Fraser Delta) received some much-deserved thanks from the membership as he transitioned to Immediate Past District Governor. Don faced unprecedented challenges in his term and used this time to examine and re-strengthen the foundation of our District. Thank you, Don and Debbie for all that you've done and continue to do for Gyro!

### **Founder's Night / Our History**

I'd like to extend my gratitude to all of the presidents who are working hard to arrange a safe and fun Founder's Night. Whether it's in person or virtual, it is an important night for all clubs, celebrating the founding of our Gyro Fraternity as well as paying tribute to its Founders.

In reflecting on not only the history of our fraternity, but also that of his club, Nanaimo's historian Steve Cowie recently began creation of a series of slideshows, highlighting the Nanaimo club's first 100 years. I thought this was an excellent idea and one worth sharing. Videos such as these showcase how far we have come and how much we have to be proud of. Every club has their unique story and I hope this inspires others to tell theirs.

Gyro Club of Nanaimo – First 100 Years: [Click Here](#)

### **Connecting in New Ways**

The decision to holding our convention virtually was made quickly and largely out of necessity. While the event itself was a success, this also demonstrated the importance of being creative, adapting to the situation, and finding new ways and reasons to connect. Some clubs are trialing "hybrid-meetings", combining in person and ZOOM meetings in a single evening, others have started calling trees to stay connected to their members.

This is a great opportunity for us to share and build on each other's ideas. I ask that you submit any ideas you may have for new and interesting ways to connect to : [ideas@district4gyro.com](mailto:ideas@district4gyro.com). Idea's will be compiled, added to our website, and sent out in the next bulletin.

### **Governor's Bio**

For those that I have not yet had the pleasure of meeting, a brief bio on myself and my family.



*From left to right: Matthew, Alexander, and Kelly Williams*

My wife Kelly, our son Alexander (7), and I live in beautiful Nanaimo. In 2019, I sold my company Affinity Managed Services, which I co-founded and co-lead for 7 years. My background is in systems architecture, network design, and cyber security.

Kelly and I discovered Gyro in 2011 and it immediately connected with us. We've had the incredible opportunity to serve under 5 Governors in the roles of District Secretary / Webmaster, travel throughout the district, and meet many new friends. In 2016, we took on the roles of President/First Lady of the Nanaimo Gyro Club with a focus of having fun, increasing communication for both members and ladies, and getting the name of Gyro out into the community. In 2018, I was asked to chair the Gyro International Technology Committee and in 2019, I became Lt. Governor of District IV.

Having grown up in British Columbia, I love spending time outdoors and hiking our local trails. In my spare time I enjoy playing airplanes with my son and spending time with friends and family.

### **Upcoming Events**

While dates may need to shift to ensure health and safety of our members, planning is underway for our District and International events. Events are currently scheduled as follows:

District Interim - Nanaimo, BC	May 14-16, 2021
District Convention - Prince George, BC	September 2021 (date TBD)
International Convention - Winnipeg, MB	August 4-8, 2021

A friendly reminder to those attending any of these events. Please be sure to give a big Gyro welcome to out-of-town visitors. This is a great opportunity to meet new friends and reconnect with ones from the past.

### **Closing Thoughts**

The first official meeting of our organization was held on June 24, 1912, during which a constitution was presented and accepted, even though the club had no official name at the time. On January 7 the following year the name Gyro (suggested by new member Jimmie Hubbell) was adopted. It was drawn from the word "gyroscope", symbolizing the ability to maintain a desired course and attitude regardless of outside influences.

Since this time, there have been several major events, which have changed the world. Members have suffered through World Wars and Depressions, but also celebrated achievements in civil rights and space exploration. We've connected the world in ways that would have been unimaginable to our founders, however through it all we've maintained our desired course and attitude. For all that has happened, nothing has changed regarding the importance of friendship and the value of Gyro.

Yours in Gyro Friendship,  
Matt Williams – Governor, District IV

# Nominations for the District IV “Chris Randall Lifetime Achievement Award”

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## The Award:

Be it resolved that Gyro District IV establish an award to be known as “The Chris Randall Lifetime Achievement Award”, which may be presented annually at the District IV Convention.

## Procedure:

1. Anyone from Gyro District IV who is in good standing may nominate a candidate for the Award. The name of the candidate together with any background information and other data supporting the nomination must be received by the Secretary at least 45 days prior to the start of the Annual District IV Convention.
2. Upon receipt, the Secretary will circulate the nominations and supporting data, including pertinent information among the members of the Awards Committee.
3. The members of the Awards Committee shall review and consider all nominations for the Award and select the recipient of the Award for presentation at the next Annual Convention. The Executive Council and Awards Committee may elect not to present an Award in any given year.
4. The successful nominee shall be notified by the Secretary at least 30 days in advance of the Annual District IV Convention so that he can make arrangements to attend the Convention to accept the Award in person.

## Criteria:

1. The purpose of the Award is to honour a Gyro who has not only made significant contributions to District IV in the current year, but who has also unstintingly given of his time, efforts, and love in perpetuating the Fraternity.
2. Has been a member for over 25 years.
3. Has, literally, offered a “lifetime” to the success of Gyro District IV.
4. Achievements in business, community, or government affairs **shall not** be considered.

## The Award:

The Gyro District IV’s “Chris Randall Lifetime Achievement Award” shall contain the following information:

- Gyro Logo
- “The Chris Randall Lifetime Achievement Award”
- “Presented to” with recipient’s name
- “In recognition of outstanding contributions and perpetual service to Gyro District IV”
- Date



