

GYRO DISTRICT IV EXECUTIVE

DISTRICT IV Interim Convention Business Meeting

Virtual Zoom - May 29, 2021

Minutes

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:00 by Governor Matt Williams

Invocation and Remembrance: Past District Governor, Andy McDougall, performed the Invocation and called on members to name those club members who had died or who were seriously ill and, hence, in their thoughts.

Recognition of Dignitaries and Executive Officers: Governor Matt Williams reported that all Executive Officers were in attendance; he also welcomed Club members who were not delegates or Presidents. Past International Presidents in the House were recognised and thanked for their presence, as were all the Past District Governors present.

Greetings from Gyro International – Governor Matt noted the online presence of International 1st VP Blanton Bessinger.

Roll Call and List of Proxies

The following clubs were represented:

Club	President
Albernis	Mark Zenko
Bellingham	<i>Closed</i>
Camosun	Mike Wedekind (DIV Treasurer) + Colm Foy DIV Secretary
Fraser/Delta	Don Patterson (Delegate)
Golden Ears	<i>Absent</i>
Kamloops	<i>Absent</i>
Kelowna	Dennis Denney
Kitimat	Steven Revell
Nanaimo	John Nielsen + DIV Governor Matthew Williams
North Shore	Alban Leduc
Olympia	Matt Johnson
Penticton	<i>Absent</i>
Prince George	Paul Williams + DIV Lt Governor Trevor Slaney
Sidney	Denis Moffatt
Tacoma	Dan Durbin
Vancouver, BC	Doug Mackenrot
Vancouver, WA	<i>Absent</i>
Vernon	Bruce Holmes
Victoria	Steve Ingle

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Also in attendance:

Blanton Bessinger	1 st VP International
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In addition, during the course of the Business Meeting, about a dozen Gyros who are not District IV Board members from various clubs logged in, as they are encouraged to do, to listen to the proceedings and comment on issues where they felt it appropriate.

Acceptance of 2020 Vernon Convention Minutes

Moved by Denis Moffatt (Sidney), seconded by Mike Wedekind (Camosun). Adopted.

Greetings and information from Gyro International

International 1VP, Blanton Bessinger (ORYG Club [St Paul MN]) brought greetings from International, expressing the view that District IV was one of the most active of all the Districts. He congratulated clubs for their activism in keeping Gyro going through very difficult times. Indeed, the main objective and concern of the International leadership is membership

Only one club failed to pay its 2020 dues, which was also a good sign for the organisation overall.

He reminded the District that the 2021 (virtual) International Convention would be held on June 26, including the Annual General Meeting (that is mandatory according to the Constitution) and emphasised that all Gyros were welcome to attend. This, he said, was the case for all Gyro International Conventions and suggested that Clubs make more effort to ensure that Gyros understand this.

The next International Convention will be held in the birthplace of Gyro, Cleveland, Ohio, from June 26-30.

Matters Arising:

Treasurer Mike Wedekind reported that all clubs in District IV are in good standing.

Reports:

- **Secretary** (Colm Foy): There was very little to report, since all Executive meetings had been held virtually, but the minutes had all been recorded and distributed.
- **Treasurer** (Mike Wedekind): The books have been updated and regraded, thanks to work by Doug Mackenrot, who also prepared the interim statement. The District is in very good shape, with CAD40,000 and USD 9,000 in the bank at derisory rates of interest (0.65%).
- **Webmaster**: (John Overall [Victoria]) no report at this time

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- **Past District Governor** (Don Patterson): not much to report except the creation of a digital constitution for the District that could be updated in real time and will be brought up-to-date in the course of 2021/21 (see below).
- **Lieutenant Governor** (Trevor Slaney): prior to taking on that role had only had experience in his own club (Prince George). It was a shame that travel had been restricted by the pandemic but he hoped that gradual easing would allow him to visit more clubs and ease himself into the job.
- **Governor** (Matthew Williams): he remained enthusiastic, despite the strange year we have all been living through. There was a lot of forward momentum in the District and the judicious use of Zoom had helped to maintain it by making contact, at least on one level, even easier than in-person meetings. It had facilitated, for example, sharing of guest-speaker performances between clubs, so Gyro has gone forwards, despite the challenges.

Other business

- [Prince George District Convention \(September 24-26, inclusive\)](#)

LTG Trevor Slaney reported that preparations were ongoing and an MC had been selected, a venue had been booked in the perspective of a final decision on whether to go ahead, or not, in mid-July. The conditions to be met were opening of the US/Canada border and up to 150 allowed to gather at the venue (according to BC PHO).

- [International Database – Members’ Portal](#)

The new system is much more modern and accessible than the existing database. Hence, it will be much more relevant to the needs and wishes of Gyros, with increased security. A complete, working version is in existence and will begin trials shortly.

- [2022 and subsequent conventions/interim conventions](#)

The Executive is currently looking for volunteers for the 2022 Interim Convention and Convention; no clubs have actually come forward at this stage. Trevor Slaney (LtG) suggested that those clubs that had been obliged to cancel future conventions because of Covid could simply push their participation forward and host future conventions.

- [Budget](#)

The Finance Committee voted unanimously for a zero-dues year on the basis of very healthy accounts and the agreement by the Lt Governor to base his activities on unused funds from previous Governors. Hence, this will be reflected in the District budget to be finalised in June.

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- Digital Constitution (see PDG report, above)

Having a digital Constitution means that any alterations voted by the District can immediately be included in the official version, which brings up the question of whether the Constitution needs to be modernised and updated. For this purpose, it was proposed to establish a “Constitution Committee”, which was approved by acclamation. The following Gyros present volunteered to join the new Committee:

- Mike Wedekind (Camosun)
- Peter Evans (PDG, Victoria)
- Steve Revell (Kitimat)
- Matt Johnson (PIP, PDG, Olympia)
- Don Patterson (PDG, Fraser Delta)

- Bulletin

It was reported that the District Bulletin, while seemingly welcomed by DIV Gyros, had failed to attract participation from Clubs, leaving the Editor with no material and little motivation. It was felt that the best way to help her was a Committee of Gyros who would solicit material for the Bulletin from Clubs. However, at this time, there were no volunteers.

- Club Health – to Zoom or not to Zoom?

A lively discussion took place over the positive and negative experiences of adapting Gyro friendship to the conditions imposed on us by the Covid-19 pandemic. Experiences were very different, with some Clubs reporting poor “attendance” at Zoom meetings, while others found their members fairly enthusiastic. It all depended on *how* Zoom was used, rather than *if* it was used.

As for Executive meetings, reactions were fairly positive and it was thought that Zoom could provide a way of reducing costs, if that was deemed to be more important than the camaraderie of in-person Executive meetings. The same argument applied to Conventions. Consensus subsided in the idea of “hybrid” meetings, where some could participate in person (to be encouraged for Conventions), while others could “Zoom in”.

- Election of a Lieutenant Governor

PDG Don Patterson revealed that the selection committee had had a wide and interesting field to choose from and had hoped to locate a suitable candidate from Washington State, since the last US Governor, who was Dan Durbin. However, the successful candidate from a very worthy field was Marc Dumais, PP, Camosun.

Future events for District IV

- The 2021 Convention will be held in Prince George 24-26 September 2021

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- Volunteer clubs are requested for the 2022 and subsequent conventions/interim conventions.

Adjournment

Sidney (D. Moffatt) moved the adjournment, seconded by the Nanaimo (John Nielsen). The motion was accepted unanimously at 11:49.