



Gyroscope

The Official Publication of Gyro International

<https://gyro.org/>

Volume 103, Number 2

Dedicated to Friendship and Fun

Spring 2021



Major Albert N. Sinicrope, USAF, (Ret.)
June 30, 1938 – April 17, 2021



EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

President
Alan Pentney
75 Sierra Morena Manor SW
Calgary, AB T3H1S9
apentney@telus.net

First Vice President
Blanton Bessinger
fbessinger@comcast.net

Second Vice President
Peter Carter
peter.carter@shaw.ca

Immediate Past President
Ted Shewchuk
Box 1013
Red Lake, ON P0V 2M0
shewchuk.gyro@gmail.com

Secretary -Treasurer
Mike McNally
88 Green Forest Court East
Amherst., NY 44501
wmcn2@gmail.com

Gyro International
1096 Mentor Avenue,
Painesville, OH 44077-0489
Ph: 440-352-2501
Fx: 440-352-3882
Em: sheila@gyro.org
Web: <https://gyro.org/>

Table of Contents

Executive Council Listing ----- Page 2
 District Governors Listing ----- Page 2
 Table of contents (what you are reading now) ----- Page 2
 Al Sinicrope ----- Page 3
 President’s Message ----- Page 3
 Incoming President Message ----- Page 5
 Notice of the AGM ----- Page 5
 International News ----- Page 7
 Awards ----- Page 7
 The Virtual Convention & AGM ----- Page 10
 District News ----- Page 16
 Club News & Past Events ----- Page 17

Canton
 Victoria
 Nelson

The Humour Page ----- Page 18
 Victoria celebrates 100 years ----- Page 19
 From the Editor ----- Page 20
 Welcome New Members ----- Page 21
 Our Silent Friends ----- Page 22
 Publication Deadlines ----- Page 23
 Future Conventions ----- Page 23
 International Convention & AGM ----- Page

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<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1pqfzl6N8zoHjvKGaQFbKp8FLtBK6OWfa?usp=sharing>

About the Cover:

Al Sinicrope,
Past International President
June 30, 1938 – April 17,
2021

District Governors

District I Governor Timothy Wright Sr. 440-759-0173 timothywrightsr@aol.com	District IV Governor Matthew Williams 250-933-5600 matthew@kellyandmatt.ca	District VIII Governor Derm Jackman 250-365-3127 dermj65@gmail.com
District II Governor Daniel Blohm 563-249-4206 drblohm@gmail.com	District VI Governor Harold Bernard trudy.harold@bellaliant.net	District IX Governor Mike Eisner 626-705-2715 theoetherm@aol.com
District III Governor Daniel Bliss 705-768-5733 lindano@live.com	District VII Governor Derek Hay 204-257-1420 ext 2 hay.family.58@gmail.com	District X Governor Steve Anderson 239-673-9159 stevegyro4@comcast.net



Major Albert N. Sinicrope, USAF, (Ret.)

June 30, 1938 – April 17, 2021

Al Was Past President of Gyro International, 2005-2006, which led to many friendships across North America. A dedicated and conscientious contributor to this century old Fraternity of Friendship, he served in all his Club Offices, and in District leadership as Governor before being selected as an International Officer. His presence was felt as a Past President, and his wise council was continually sought for determination of important issues to the organization.

Al was a native of Meridian CT. Major Sinicrope was a decorated military veteran whose honors included the Distinguished Flying Cross, and the Meritorious Service Medal having flown 95, F-4 combat missions. He earned his Bachelor's degree in History and Government from Boston University. All enlisted in the USAF after graduation and earned his Silver Navigator Wings in 1962. He served his country for more than 20years including tours in Vietnam, Korea, and other overseas duty stations.

While in the service he earned an MBA from the University of Arkansas. Major Sinicrope retired honorably at MacDill AFB in 1982. He went on to attain a teaching certificate from the University of South Florida and went on to teach history at Webb Middle School for 10 years.

Al was deeply involved with the Presbyterian Church choir for decades. He also sang with the Herold's of Harmony Barbershop chorus, and the Tampa Oratorio Singers. His active civic life included coaching his daughters Skyway Little League teams.

Al is predeceased in death by his wife of 50 years, Beatrice B. Sinicrope (Bea). He is survived by his wife Elsa, 3 daughters, Sister Beverly, four grandchildren, and two nephews.

God Speed, Fellow Gyro.
(submitted by Steve Anderson)

Outgoing President's Message

By Alan Pentney

Just over a year ago I stepped into the role of President of this fine organization with little fanfare due to the cancellation of the 2020 Victoria Convention. Now we have learned the 2021 Winnipeg Convention is not going to occur, but in its stead a first-ever virtual Gyro AGM is planned for the morning of June 26, 2021 followed by installation of the elected officers in the evening. This message is to recognize the many persons that made this past Gyro year a success and to identify changes and accomplishments that were made to advance Gyro as an organization of choice for persons seeking fun and friendship.

We all are aware of how the Pandemic forced us to change how we managed our lives – and we are tired of hearing of it, but I want to note that Gyro's everywhere kept their clubs going in spirit if not in practice. Many Clubs adapted to "Zoom" meetings to socialize, to have speaker presentations, to do business meetings, to have parties and to hold ceremonies for officer installations. Governors did the same in Districts and the Gyro Executive/Board also held monthly meetings. This new option for fellowship has potential going forward for members to join events when shut-in at home or to hold business meetings when a typical restaurant venue is not suitable. The virtual meeting has resulted in better attendance, not to mention the savings on a person's food and beverage tab!

My recognition of those that made the past year memorable begins with a thank you to my wife

Tara, who encouraged me to take on this role 3 years ago. Since then, her support and advice helped me immensely and the late dinners and changes to our personal plans was a sacrifice. After two years of isolation, we now are charged up to go to as many gyro events as possible in the next few years to meet up with our old friends and make new friends.

I want to thank the District Governors and Lt. Governors for their diligence this year on the Board of Governors “team”. Governors were diligent in produced Bulletins this year and attending monthly Board meetings where significant business was conducted. I have tried to keep members informed of Board activities in a newsletter on our website, but I wanted to highlight a few of many accomplishments as follows:

- Budgeted a subsidy for Zoom meeting subscriptions.
- Created orientation videos for District and Club Officers.
- Solicited a dozen past Governors to provide Coaching for Club Officers this Fall.
- Surveyed Clubs on Gyro priorities.
- Reduced per-capita fees for the coming year by \$20.
- The Technical Committee:
 - created many generic and updated Club websites where no website existed or to replace sites that had not been maintained;
 - upgraded the website to make it more user friendly and informative, including a Club Resources site, business cards and Certificates of Appreciation for members; and
 - is finalizing a password protected Member’s Portal that will replace the current cumbersome Database.
- The Membership Committee:
 - investigated member perks;
 - Revised the new members kit and made it downloadable; and
 - embarked on a survey of members to determine how to increase membership – targeted initiatives will result.

Retention of members is critical so one of our objectives this past year was increased communication at all levels by multiple means. To this end I want to thank Derek Hay of the Winnipeg Club for producing the Gyroscope that is posted on our website. His volunteer work also significantly reduced expenses. With in-person gatherings imminent I en-

courage you to provide stories to Editor Derek of how you are celebrating in the coming months as restrictions are lifted.

Special recognition also goes to Ken Baker as he ends ten years as the volunteer Financial Administrator. His oversight of our finances has been invaluable. Similarly, I want to thank Matthew Johnson for his inaugural year as Parliamentarian following in the footsteps of Chris Randall – his sage advice on legal matters and process was a tremendous help this past year to the Board and to me personally.

The second “team” that I want to thank are my brothers on the Executive Council. We are very thankful that Secretary Mike McNally was strong enough to fight off his medical challenges and resume his role. First Vice President Blanton has been a “rock” to me as we worked through issues and he took on the Membership Chair at my request. Membership is our number one priority that required special attention because there are no easy solutions to declining membership in any organization. Second Vice President Peter Carter took the Chair of the Technical Committee which had run into some roadblocks. His seemingly endless energy and ability to multi-task led to many of the accomplishments I mentioned previously. It was very gratifying to ask for information to be posted on the website and it was done in no time. Past President Ted Shewchuk was a good mentor for me and always provided a sober second thought. I thank them all for the synergy we had to provide the leadership our members deserve.

To the members of the Technical and Membership committees I thank you for your contributions to continually improving the organization and I want to single out Peter Pollhammer and thank him for his on-call service for many years as he retires from being our Database Administrator.

To the many Club Officers and members that I had the pleasure of interacting with by phone, email, newsletter and Zoom I very much appreciated your advice, inquiries and support. In many ways I had a much different and perhaps more rewarding personal experience with the membership than previous Presidents.

To Sheila Kucera and Gloria Kostelnik in our Headquarters, I extend my appreciation for their help to me and for all the work they do behind the scenes to make the organization operate properly and provide excellent service to members and clubs.

For the coming year I am enthusiastic about supporting the incoming Executive officers as well as the Board of Governors in my role as Immediate Past International President.

It has been an honor and a privilege to be Gyro President and I look forward to seeing you at Gyro functions in the near future.



Greetings!! from the Incoming President By Blanton Bessinger

president@gyro.org

Hello to all Gyros! I hope you will keep reading, to allow me to introduce myself and my wife, Bonnie, to you. We are still 'virtual' in our contacts. I plan to have some visits in the coming year, but our next in-person convention will be in June, 2022. My term will be over at that meeting.

I joined Oryg Club of St. Paul, MN, in 1998. It had been formed in the 1960s by young men whose fathers had established the St. Paul Club years earlier. And, full circle, a dozen of those older members



were merged into Oryg 15 years ago. With the reverse spelling of "Gyro", the new club was stated to be an "organization of respectable young gentlemen" with "no noble purpose". Its purpose was friendship and fun. We met many new friends, and deepened relationships with existing friends. The friends who invited us to join 23 years ago are still close today.

Bonnie's and my personal careers were in health care in St. Paul and Minneapolis. She was a neonatal nurse practitioner (advanced care for premature infants) for the last 15 years of her 35 year nursing career. I was a pediatric cardiologist, with time spent on faculty at the University of Minnesota Medical School, then a decade in private practice. The last 15 years of my career, I served as executive medical director for Children's Hospitals and Clinics of MN.

My early Gyro career involved attending many bi-monthly lunch meetings, and most of the monthly parties with our ladies. I began attending district meetings 15+ years ago, starting when a close friend was installed as Governor of District VII. In 2014 I was asked to be part of District leadership. Terms were two years, thus I was involved there for six years. As new Lt. Governor, I attended my first International meeting. There were still annual and interim meetings then. Wonderful opportunities were present to expand our friendships in Gyro. We went to meetings from Halifax to Vancouver, from Buffalo to Reno, from Phoenix to Savannah (in the state I grew up in before moving to MN 50+ years ago). And, now, here we are. 1st Vice President in 2020, and President in 2021. Well, that's enough biography. And I hope to learn about many of your lives going forward.

All of us are faced with the problem of decreased membership. It's our #1 priority. It has been for years, but many of our clubs are "ageing out". We also have club loss at times, when a club membership believes an overall connection is not needed. Gyro was founded on the structure of an international organization in the United States and Canada. I view Gyro International as the organization in its entirety. I see three circles of friendship. The first circle is the individual club. This is where the new member joins. However, he is also joining the second circle, the district organization and its opportunities, and he is joining the third circle, the overall organization and its opportunities at the international level. It is not one level (club) against the others. "International" is not the executive council. We all

are international. There are opportunities for members at all three levels. The district and international level are there to support the clubs' providing the new member with a breadth of experiences, hopefully enhancing his engagement with Gyro.

Hopefully, we are on our way out of the real differ

ent world of the past 15+ months. Tremendous upgrades have occurred this past year in the technology support for clubs through the website of our organization. We will be able to find other Gyro members with similar interests in other clubs. But we need to get back in the business of face-to-face friendships. We'll be with older friends, but there will be many individuals looking for new opportunities to be part of an active group of men, who, along with their ladies, are dedicated to the idea that fun, fellowship, and friendship are keys to a happier and longer life.

I consider it a very high privilege to serve as your President for the coming year. I pledge myself and the other council members to do all we can to support our clubs, districts, and organization. Please join with me in this effort. Contact me if you have ideas or suggestions that will help the organization remain the source of friendship it has been for all of us, and to be a similar source for many new members to come.

A tribute to Al Sinicrope Submitted by Steve Anderson

High Flight

by John Gillespie Magee

Pilot - Royal Canadian Air Force

Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of Earth
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling
mirth

Of sun-split clouds, – and done a hundred things
You have not dreamed of – wheeled and soared and
swung

High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there,
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung
My eager craft through footless halls of air...
Up, up the long, delirious burning blue
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace
Where never lark, or ever eagle flew –
And, while with silent, lifting mind I've trod
The high untrespassed sanctity of space,
Put out my hand, and touched the face of God.

Never Forget Your Friends Submitted by Larry Duba

A newlywed young man was sitting on the porch on a humid day, sipping ice tea with his Father.

As he talked about adult life, marriage, responsibilities, and obligations, the Father thoughtfully stirred the ice cubes in his glass and cast a clear, sober look on his Son.

"Never forget your friends," he advised, "they will become more important as you get older." "Regardless of how much you love your family and the children you happen to have, you will always need friends. Remember to go out with them occasionally (if possible), but keep in contact with them somehow."

"What strange advice!" thought the young man. "I just entered the married world, I am an adult and surely my wife and the family that we will start will be everything I need to make sense of my life."

Yet, he obeyed his Father; kept in touch with his friends and annually increased their number.

Over the years, he became aware that his Father knew what he was talking about. In as much as time and nature carry out their designs and mysteries on a person, friends are the bulwarks of our life.

After 70 years of life, here is what he, I and you will have learned:

Time passes. Life goes on. Children grow up.

Children cease to be children and become independent. And to the parents, it breaks their heart but the children are separated from the parents because they begin their own families.

Jobs / careers come and go.

Illusions, desires, attraction, sex....weakens.

People can't do what they did physically when they were young.

Parents die but you move on.

Colleagues forget the favors you did. The race to achieve slows.

But true friends are always there, no matter how long or how many miles away they are. A friend is never more distant than the reach of a need, intervening in your favor, waiting for you with open arms or in some way blessing your life.

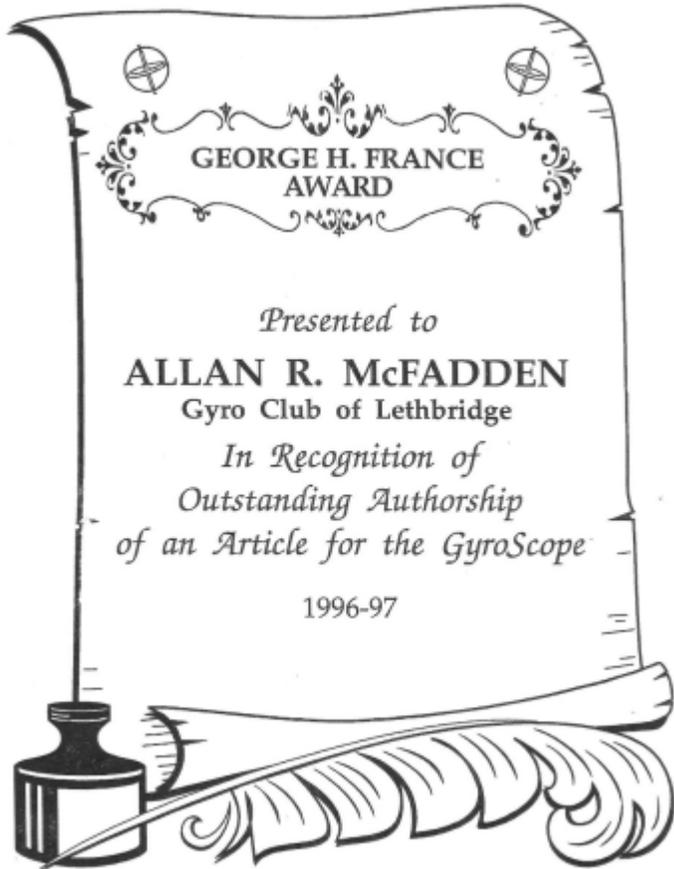
When we started this adventure called LIFE, we did not know of the incredible joys or sorrows that were ahead.

We did not know how much we would need from each other.

Love your parents, take care of your children, but keep a group of good friends.

Stay in touch with them but do not impose your criteria.

International News



Gyroscope Submissions Award (George H. France)

This is your chance to win one of Gyro's many awards. All you have to do is submit an article for publication in Gyroscope. Every article published is reviewed. The Gyro Submission Award is for Excellence in GyroScope submission. This award is named for the long-time editor and publisher of the GyroScope magazine, it is awarded for its outstanding written and thought-provoking content aimed at the betterment of Gyro. The winner is selected solely by the International Secretary-Treasurer.



2020 – 2021 GYRO INTERNATIONAL AWARDS	
MEMBER NOMINATED AWARDS	
Award Name	Recipient
Edward "Ed" Steinbacher Lifetime Achievement Award	Harold Bernard PIP D-VI, Truro Nova Scotia
	Ken Baker PDG D-VIII, Calgary Alberta
CLUB AND DISTRICT NOMINATED AWARDS	
Award Name	Recipient
Norman L. "Bud" Mitchell Gyro of the Year Award	Matthew Williams Governor D-IV Nanaimo British Columbia
Merit Award via Club	Lowell Gist PDG, Fresno California
	James Vaughn, Fresno California
Merit Award via District VII	Glen Hamilton PDG, Nor-West Club Thunder Bay Ontario
	Bill French, Nor-West Club Thunder Bay Ontario
Merit Award via District VIII	Peter Carter PDG, Edmonton Alberta
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AWARDS	
Award Name	Recipient
Honor Key Award	Ted Shewchuk PIP D-VII, McKenzie Island Club, Red Lake Ontario
George H. France Award for Gyroscope Excellence (Best Article)	John Cobb, Stampede City Club Calgary Alberta D-VIII
Best Website	St. Catharines Ontario, D-III
Best Club Bulletin - Small	Caloosa Florida, Steve Anderson D-X
Best Club Bulletin - Medium	Sherwood Park Alberta, Scott Brisbin D-VIII
Best Club Bulletin - Large	Camosun British Columbia, Colm Foy D-IV
Best Governor Bulletin	Derek Hay, Governor D-VII
Best Club Expansion - Small	Peterborough Ontario D-III
Best Club Expansion - Medium	San Jose California D-IX
Best Club Expansion - Large	Nanaimo British Columbia D-IV

Merit Awards Granted to Nor-West Club members

In May 2021 the District VII Executive nominated two members of the Nor-West Gyro Club in Thunder Bay Ontario for Merit Awards. Normally this is news for a Club Bulletin or even the District Newsletter, but the circumstances of the nomination were unique and justify further publication in the Gyroscope.

This story began in June 2019 when the executive of the Nor-West Club proposed that the 44 member Club leave Gyro. The logic used was that the members participated in regular dinners but had lost interest in interacting with other two clubs in Thunder Bay or with clubs in the District. Most of the club executive took the unusual step of advising the members that 15 of them would be resigning their positions and would be starting a new club that would not be affiliated with Gyro International.

One of the club members, Past District Governor Glen Hamilton, did not support this plan. He wanted to preserve the history and tradition of a club that was chartered in 1971. He knew that the true value of Gyro cannot be quantified in terms of dollars for a membership fee. He consulted with the District Governor of the day, John Barber of the Port Arthur Club and worked closely with club member Bill French to strategize on preserving the club.

Club members were then advised that a new executive would be elected at a meeting of the members that wanted to remain in Gyro. As a result, the 29 Gyro members elected Bill French as President. They were determined to demonstrate their resilience, so they organized a District Convention to celebrate their 50th anniversary. Unfortunately, the convention had to be cancelled in 2020 due to the Pandemic.

The leadership efforts of Glen and Bill saved the Nor-West Gyro Club and for that they were each approved to receive the Merit Award, one of the most prestigious Gyro awards for exceptional service to Gyro. A presentation will be made at a club gathering when restrictions are lifted, hopefully in the fall. Congratulations on a well-deserved award.

Merit Awards Granted to District-VIII member

On June 26, 2021 at the Gyro International Annual General Meeting, it was announced that Peter Carter, 1st Vice President of Gyro International, was the recipient of the International Merit Award based on the talents he has used to implement change in his Club, District VIII and Gyro International to continually improve the organization for the benefit of all members.

Peter balanced work, personal and Gyro activities for many years until he retired and then he accepted positions on the executive for the Edmonton Gyro Club – even as he was past president, he accepted a position on the District VIII Executive as Lt. Governor and within a year of stepping down as immediate Past Governor, he accepted a nomination as second Vice-President of Gyro International. This was not Peter seeking positions – he was the best man for the positions with his reputation preceding him and brought much more than advice to the executive groups he joined.

As a member of the District executive, in addition to typical duties, he was instrumental in updating the District Website to provide improved information on District history and helped solve a corruption problem. He then worked with the Edmonton Club to host a District Convention in historic Drumheller area and performed the MC duties at the annual banquet.

When Peter joined the International Executive Council as 2nd VP his experience with financial matters and websites were drawn on. He immediately accepted the position of Chairman of the Technology Committee with members from across North America. The result was immediate positive changes in the appearance of the website with new formatting and updated content on the website pages and documents. His election to office coincided with the COVID pandemic affecting the ability of Clubs to meet. As a result, Peter piloted his personal Zoom platform account to host Board of Governor meetings, District meetings and offered to help all Gyro Clubs to host meetings. This led to him promoting a budget item for clubs to purchase their own Zoom accounts for club meetings and events. He then took up a challenge by the President to update all District and Club websites – the primary means being the creation of a generic website for clubs that did not have the talents or resources to set

up a website but wanted a presence for new members.

Peter Carter is a true Gyro. He is always in good humor and enjoys meeting new and old friends equally. He has had an influence on Gyros throughout the organization that truly justifies receiving the Gyro Award of Merit. The District VIII executive collaborated with the International Technical Committee in making the nomination for this worthy recipient. He will be receiving the Award at a gala gathering in Edmonton on July 29 on the occasion of the Edmonton Club's 100th Anniversary. Congratulations Peter!

Harold Bernard Receives Lifetime Achievement Award

On June 26, 2021 it was announced at the 2021 Gyro International Virtual AGM that Harold Bernard, PIP was joining the stellar group of Gyros that are recipients of the Gyro International Ed. Steinbacher Lifetime Achievement Award.



Harold has been a member of the Truro Gyro Club in Nova Scotia since 2000, serving as Club President from 2002 to 2004. He served as District VI Governor for two terms from 2004-2006 and he

was elected as President of Gyro International for 2011-2012. In 2007 he received the Award of Merit which he wears with great pride & humility.

His career in education can partly explain how he rose through Club and District ranks to be elected as 3rd vice-president of the Executive Council within 8 years of becoming a member. When you meet Harold, you realize he is more than an educator. His positive attitude and his ability to encourage others to be the best they can be is infectious and makes people want to work with him to make Gyro better at all levels.

While on the Executive Council he helped create training material for club officers and create policy and procedure manuals. Later he worked on the New Era Committee that created resources for clubs between 2012 and 2014.

Harold's greatest achievement has been to nurture leaders for the betterment of the organization and at the same time be a friend to all. He goes out of his way to identify future Gyro leaders and then provide encouragement and advice during their journey. He is active in his club in Nova Scotia which is at the extreme East side of Canada, yet he and his wife Trudy take time to always attend International Conventions.

We wish we could have made the presentation in person, but it was still a great forum for the presentation with Harold expressed his surprise and appreciation to the 57 participants from across Gyro in the online meeting.

Ken Baker Receives Lifetime Achievement Award

On June 26, 2021 it was announced at the 2021 Gyro International Virtual AGM that Ken Baker, PDG D-VIII was the recipient of the Gyro International Ed. Steinbacher Lifetime Achievement Award. Ken was very appreciative and commented that "It was even more special to receive this award at the same time as his good friend Harold Bernard." In the 26 years Ken has been in Gyro, he has used all his talents to help his fellow members, his Club, his District and Gyro International.

He joined the Gyro Club of Calgary in 1995. Since then, he served as Club Treasurer and President as well as District VIII Governor in 2011-2012.



He also acted as District Secretary Treasurer for one term and as Treasurer for several terms under different Governors after being Governor. He even found time while being Treasurer to be the point man on food, beverage and accommodations with the host hotel for three District Conventions in Fairmont BC. He enjoyed the planning and the success of a fun event where Gyros could renew friendships and make new friends.

Over the past 25 years he and his wife Ann have attended many conventions, both District and International at their own expense even though he held the position of Financial Administrator for Gyro International. This title was created specifically for him in 2014 because starting in 2011 he volunteered to train headquarters staff on the full use of the QuickBooks accounting package. This evolved to remotely assisting them with bookkeeping and the production of financial records. The Secretary-Treasurer position for Gyro International did not have to worry about the Treasurer aspect since Ken was taking care of it. He was diligent in managing the currency exchange rates between the Canadian and American bank accounts. He essentially created the annual Budget for the Executive Council and explained the financial health of the organization at Board and Annual General Meetings so that all could understand.

After ten years in the Financial Administrator position, Ken is now stepping down in July 2021. However, he is offering to train his successor even though he is currently President of the Calgary Club again and to no one's surprise he is also Chairman of the 2021 District VIII Convention to be held in Calgary in September.

Ken's devotion to Gyro is unwavering and his hard work over so many years has accomplished much to make Gyro a great organization. Thank you Ken and Congratulations!

Gyro International 2021 Virtual Convention

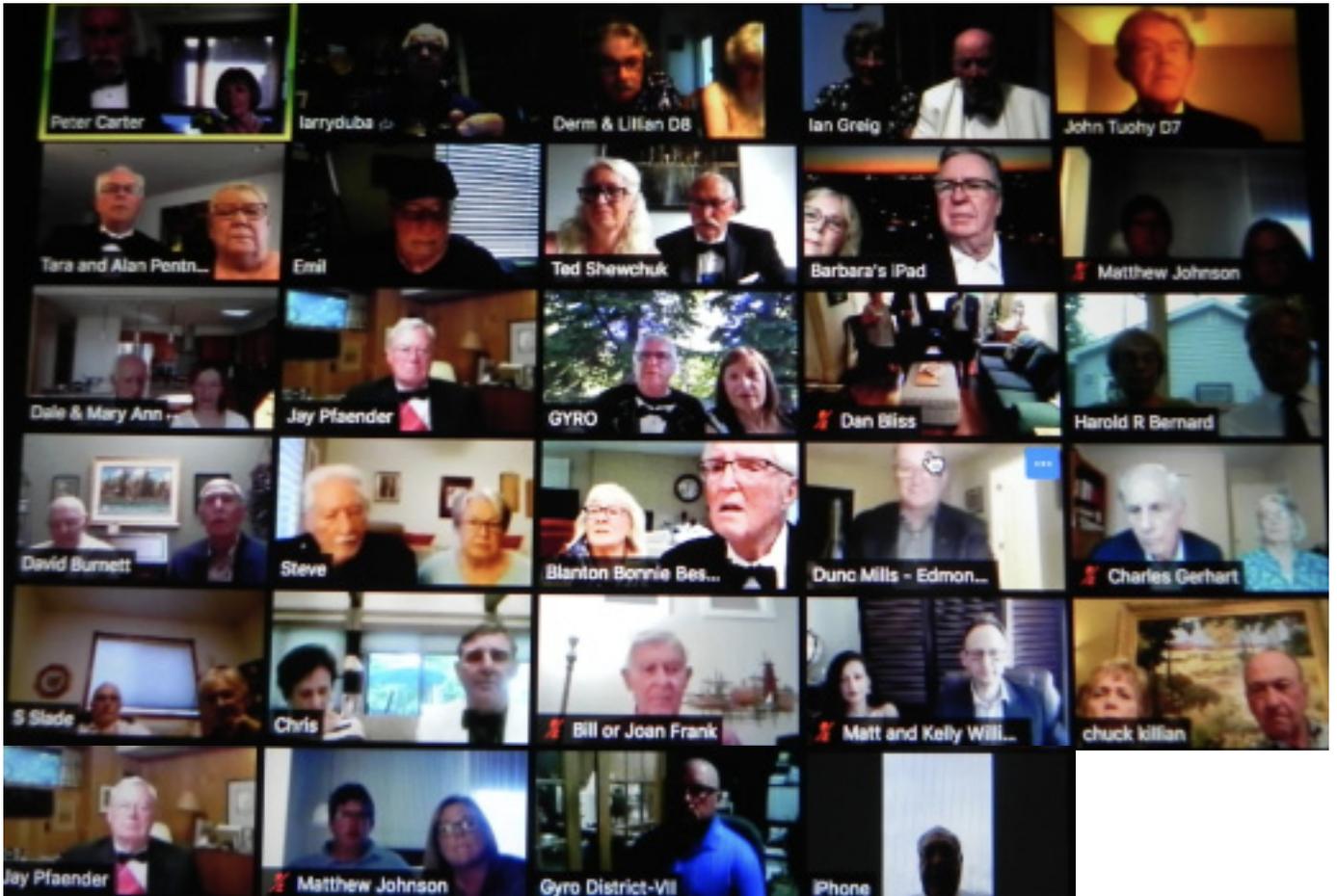
Submitted by Alan Pentney

On April 22, 2021 the Winnipeg Convention Committee advised Gyro International that the Border restrictions and other local related virus restrictions led to a decision to cancel the 2021 District and International Convention slated for August 4, 2021. The news was disappointing but understandable. As a result, arrangements began for conducting annual convention business through virtual Zoom meetings.

A. Convention Business

Typical business events in chronological order at a convention consist of:

- Executive Council (EC) meeting the day of or before convention registration. The EC is charged with all the business arrangements including the Installation Banquet program. It also is responsible for the operation of the organization within an annual Budget.
- Past District Governors (PDG) meeting – This is a meeting of all past Governors at the convention (usually about 25) to formulate consensus on current issues and provide advice to the upcoming Board meeting.
- Board of Governors (BOG) meeting – the Board consists of the 9 District representatives (usually the Governor and Lt. Governor) and 5 EC members. Convention attendees may observe the meeting. The BOG has authority to make certain business decisions.
- Governors meeting. This is a meeting that occurs during a recess of the BOG meeting so that Governors can discuss topics in-person in a committee setting.
- Training and Information Seminars.
- Nomination Committee Meeting where the members of the Executive Council and candidates for the 2nd Vice President position are interviewed by the Past International Presidents (PIP).
- Annual General Meeting (AGM) for Clubs to attend and vote on business as well as the elec-



Above—The Installation of the 2021-2022 Executive council

Below—The Executive Council and officers at the Annual General Meeting—Viz video conference



tion of EC officers. Some awards are presented to Clubs.

- Installation Banquet for EC officers and some awards are presented to Gyro members.

Between all of these gatherings are opportunities for fun and fellowship as provided by the Host Committee or on your own with Gyro friends. Most members understand the balance of business and fellowship that occurs at a convention and know about the benefits of having a governing body that manages operational expenses of running an office, a database and website, while interacting with 72 clubs and 9 District executives.

B. 2020 Convention Cancellation

With cancellation of the Victoria convention June 9 – 13, 2020 it was decided by the EC that it was timely to change officers in June with succession of EC members according to the Bylaws. This was because of a lack of knowledge on how to hold a virtual AGM with clubs able to vote.

C. 2021 Virtual Meeting Arrangements

With the 2021 convention not able to be held the EC began planning for a Webinar based AGM to ensure that the constitutional requirement was met, and that Clubs were able to attend. This led to the following Schedule of Events on-line.

1. April-May – Recruitment of a Webinar Host and preparation of material
2. May 27 – 30-day advance distribution of AGM meeting material and Registration of Club Delegates and observers to the AGM.
3. June 5 – Nomination Committee Interviews
4. June 9 – EC meeting and submission of BOG reports
5. June 16 - Pre-AGM BOG meeting
 - Status of Club in arrears
 - Review April 30, 2021 Financial Statements
 - Review 2021 - 2022 Budget
 - Approval of Convention Hosts for 2023 and 2025
 - Election of Randy Tarrier PDG D-I of Powell OH Club as Director on the Betterment Fund Board of Directors.
6. June 26 – Zoom Webinar AGM - in the Morning
7. June 26 – Officer Installation Ceremony – in the evening

D. Annual General Meeting (The Gyro Constitution calls this a Convention)

The AGM commenced June 26, 2021 at 11:00 am Eastern time on a Zoom Webinar hosted by a firm known as GetQuorum based out of Toronto. The moderator, Aisling, was located in Ireland. Her patience was admirable as she worked with the attendees over the next 3 hours.

Attendance included the following:

Clubs (one Delegate each)	31
Governors (voted for absent Clubs)	9
Executive Council Panel	5
Observers / Club members	18
Total -----	63

Interestingly this is about the same number that attended the 2019 Convention in Reno.

AGENDA OVERVIEW

Meeting Called to Order by President and Chair, Alan Pentney. He called on Ted Shewchuk, IPIP to conduct the Invocation and Moment of Silence for members that departed this past year – with special reference to Al Sinicrope, Past International President who recently passed away.

Roll Call was conducted by Secretary Treasurer Mike McNally with each Club identifying one delegate to carry their votes. The votes for clubs that did not attend reverted to their District Governor. The use of Zoom Webinar technology made interaction different (less personal) than on a typical zoom meeting.

Standing rules governing the AGM were announced by Parliamentarian Matthew Johnson with an acknowledgement to his predecessor Chris Randall of the Victoria Club who passed on since the Reno Convention.

Minutes of the last AGM in Reno in 2019 were approved by the Delegates with no old business to be addressed. This was no surprise as there have been approximately 18 Board meetings since then.

The President's Report included the observation that this first Virtual AGM was historic and had potential to be used at future conventions to supplement in-person attendance. He commented on the positive experience Executives had when interacting with numerous Club officials during this year where club activities were restricted by the pandemic. He commended Governors for their diligence in com-

municating to Clubs and attending Board meetings monthly. He also expressed appreciation for teamwork the Executive Council had with Vice President Blanton Bessinger chairing the Membership Committee, Vice President Peter Carter chairing the Technology Committee, Past President Ted Shewchuk providing advice, Secretary Treasurer Mike McNally running the business operation and all the EC members and advisors including Matthew Johnson and Ken Baker advising on issues and planning for improvements. Emphasis was placed on the importance of membership and opportunities as we emerge from the restrictions. In addition, a recent report on a member survey will provide guidance for new initiatives in the coming year. The Governor and Executive reports will be attached to the AGM minutes and placed in the new members Portal in due course.

The **Financial Statements** were accepted as prepared. The **Budget** as adopted by the Executive Council and Reviewed by the Board of Governors was presented by Financial Advisor Ken Baker with additional expenses explained by the Chair. Noteworthy items were:

Revenue

- Revenue from Club per-capita fees of \$70 was identified with a rebate of \$20
- Total budgeted revenue, including sales of goods, was \$82,152.
- The rebate was approved by the Board of Governors in January based on a decision to reduce a surplus accrued in the 2020 -2021 fiscal year.

Expense Explanations

- The database expense is related to:
 - Database Administrator position moving to a contractor and portal work.
 - A security assessment and security measures for the website and portal.
 - Portal enhancements for Social Group interactions.
 - Virtual Meeting Streaming - assessment of need and implementation cost.
- Executive Travel is for potentially 6 District Conventions
- Membership expense is the first allocation in many years and is related to:
 - Workshops facilitation to take Membership Survey recommendations to Implementation Plans with identifiable action steps such as:
 - Development of recruitment tools like marketing video, topic spe-

cific videos, handouts, improved social media presence etc.

- Set up Virtual Clubs and organization wide presentations.
- Examine benefits of organizational changes on recruitment and retention.
- Change focus to Organizational Management.
- Club Officer Training and Coaching – Resources and workshops.
- Independent assessment of specific club successes
- Office Building Expense increase this year for a large tree removal.
- The website expense is to retain contractors to address:
 - Modernizing the website with better imagery to illustrate our purpose, recognize diversity and have a stronger club focus.
 - Highlighting benefits of membership in visual and descriptive ways.
 - Linking website to other social media and ensuring it is mobile.
 - Improving organizations appeal to targeted demographics.
 - Assisting District and Club website administrators.

The budget was accepted with a projected loss of \$20,848 from adequate unrestricted assets.

The **Technology Committee Report** was presented by VP Peter Carter. He outlined the success of the Committee's **Sub-Site Web Hosting Program** with 24 Clubs and Districts participating, and an additional 24 Clubs participating in the **Generic Page Website Program**; both of which are provided by Gyro International at no cost. He also mentioned the exciting new **Members Portal** - which replaces the cumbersome Database – which recently had a soft launch to the Governors and Club Presidents and Administrators. The intended launch, to all, is July 10. Peter, also, expressed his appreciation to the Committee members for their efforts for the good of Gyro.

The Membership Committee Report was presented by VP Blanton Bessinger. He identified that the member discount card had been shelved but three subcommittees had been working hard on initiatives with the most recent being receipt of a report on Membership options. He thanked the committee members and commented that their enthusiasm and dedication was infectious.

Future Conventions:

- 2022 – Governor Tim Wright and Convention Chair, provided a video with a taste of what was going to be offered in Cleveland next year with the theme being Welcome Home – where Gyro Started.
- 2023 – The Winnipeg Club Committee Chair Derek Hay, invited all members to the international Convention and to celebrate their District V-II 100th Anniversary.
- 2024 – District III Governor Dan Bliss is planning to identify a location for a Convention in the coming year.
- 2025 – Ted Ewanchuk, President of the Sherwood Park Club in District VIII was pleased that their Club had stepped forward and been accepted as a Host.

Resolution

The Winnipeg Club moved a Resolution as follows:

Gyro International shall set aside each year a percentage of each members yearly dues to International, for the purposes of funding their annual convention and annual general meeting; and that said monies are to be kept in a separate fund (on the books) with cap of \$5000. This cap can be increased by board of governor's consent if need be, but that cap cannot be reduced once set.

Gyro International shall only use this fund to assist the Gyro club hosting the convention to cover any expenses incurred with the hosting of the convention and annual general meeting on behalf of Gyro International and all Gyro member clubs.

The Resolutions Committee recommended that the Resolution not be adopted as conventions have historically not needed a subsidy; the proposed fund amount had no basis; the fund could sit unused; and creation of a fund could interfere with the annual budgeting process.

Derek Hay of the Winnipeg Club noted that the cost of hosting an event has increased over time and his club was anticipating a significant hosting deficit while trying to keep the registration costs low enough to attract attendees. The fund would be applied to actual costs for meeting rooms and associated expenses.

The Motion to adopt the Resolution was defeated. It was noted by the Chair that the Executive

Council had budgeted funds for the Winnipeg Convention and could commit to budget funds for future conventions if the host provides a demonstration of need with a proposed budget.

Awards were announced as chosen by the Executive Council for Best Gyroscope article, Governors Bulletin, club bulletins, best club website and for clubs recruiting new members. A special District VIII nominated Merit Award was announced for Peter Carter for his exceptional work as Technology Committee Chair including work on the Club, District and International websites as well as Zoom meetings. In addition, other award recipients that are usually identified at the Convention Banquet were announced. These were Harold Bernard and Ken Baker who both received the Edward "Ed" Steinbacher Lifetime Achievement Award for over 20 years of service to the organization at all levels and Matthew Williams as Gyro of the Year for his work on the Technology Committee member Portal and Database. There are separate articles in this Gyroscope on some of the awards announced and there is a complete listing of all awards issued this past year in three categories. Everyone should look for opportunities to recognize leaders and those who go out of their way to make Gyro better. Perhaps someone's efforts are not award worthy, but the Gyro website has several certificates that can provide recognition.

Elections

Peter Evans PDG D-IV and a member of the Victoria Club, was elected to the Board of Trustees with a three-year term. The Board oversees the Betterment, Memorial and Honorarium Funds.

Ted Shewchuck IPIP as Chair of the Nomination Committee presented a motion to elect a slate of Gyro International Officers which was unanimously supported:

- President – Blanton Bessinger
- 1st Vice President – Peter Carter
- 2nd Vice President – Dan Durbin

Dan Durbin is the new member on the EC. He is a 12-year member of the Olympia and Tacoma Clubs in District IV. He is a PDG and has been a regular attendee at District and International conventions for many years. He has a B.Sc. in Business Management and works as an IT Manager in the health care field.

Installation Ceremony

At 8:00 pm Eastern time on June 26 the 101st Gyro International Installation Ceremony began on a Zoom meeting platform with Past International

President Ted Shewchuk as Master of Ceremonies. Approximately 25 members were present, mostly with spouses. It was nice to see nine Past International Presidents.

Following introductions and a moment of silence for past members The Installation Oaths of Office were sworn in the following order:

- Alan Pentney for the Office of Immediate Past International President
- Peter Carter for the Office of 1st International Vice President
- Dan Durbin for the Office of 2nd International Vice President
- Blanton Bessinger for the Office of International President



The installations were followed by a rousing rendition of “Cheerio” fortunately on a recording by Peter Carter, so that we sounded good while muted!

New Officer Dan introduced and thanked his wife Missy for her support in beginning the 4-year journey through the EC chairs. He committed to supporting the principle and ideals of Gyro to advance membership given that he is on the younger end of the demographic scale. It is anticipated that his IT talents will benefit the Technology Committee as well.

Second Term Officer Peter thanked his wife Eileen Kuhl for being understanding as he was chained to the computer all year. He was proud of the work done by the Tech Committee – and he should be - as well as the Council and Board accomplishments.

Past President Alan gave an Exit Speech thanking the Governor and Executive Council teams he worked with who “did good work” as well as special advisors he leaned on, but reserved special

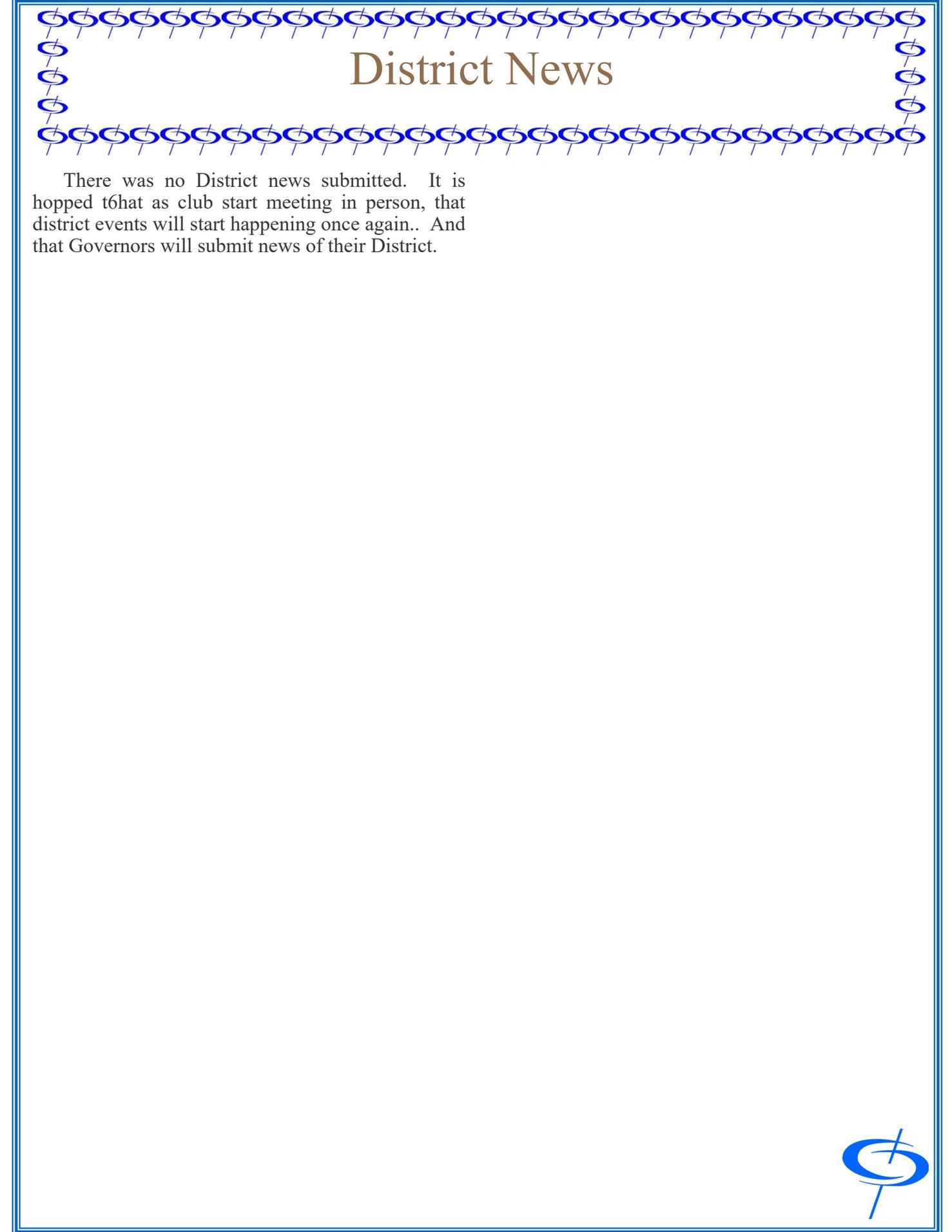
thanks for his bride Tara, who supported him and catered to his needs around the estimated 50 zoom meetings he was on in the past year.

President Blanton will have the shortest tenure on the Council since he skipped the 2nd VP position. He gave an excellent presentation on the circles of friendship at different levels in Gyro and identified he would be appointing Peter as Technology Committee Chair and Alan as Membership Committee Chair. He also expressed his appreciation for the support he receives from his wife Bonnie.

Ted Shewchuk concluded the presentations with a heartfelt thank you to his wife Annwyl as well as a thank you to all of the officers he worked with over his five years on the Council. He noted that the last year was the most productive he had seen and encouraged the new executive to keep up the good work.

A discussion broke out on awards with Harold Bernard describing an amusing award he received many years ago from Emil Baijot and Larry Duba titled the “The Seminarist Award” for training Excellence. Then Ian Greig asked about the whereabouts of the “Keep the Fun in Gyro” award. Steve Anderson retrieved it and displayed it in all its glory. He committed to awarding it in the winter perhaps at a possible District 10 convention in February. Several persons were interested in attending like we did when an interim was scheduled. Dan Bliss proposed that it coincide with the Homestead NASCAR race in Florida. The event concluded with a majority agreeing to meet in Cleveland next June.





District News

There was no District news submitted. It is hoped that as club start meeting in person, that district events will start happening once again.. And that Governors will submit news of their District.



Club News & Events

Canton Club Events

After experiencing the lockdowns because of Covid and no personal get togethers, some of us were able to meet at Tinseltown Cinemas for a movie at the end of March. This was reported in the brief April Newsletter.

We had a club meeting at the Massillon K of C April 8th in person, not on zoom. Yes, we all wore masks and practiced social distancing, but what a pleasure to see our friends in person for a change. We hope this trend continues in the future.

81st Anniversary and Installation Party

On April 17 we held our 81st Anniversary and Installation Party.

Before, our installations were done in January, but two installations had to be pushed back because of bad weather the night of the scheduled event.

One year our officers were installed at the February club meeting until a more formal event was held. This year the club changed the installation month to April to coincide with our anniversary celebration.

The party was held at Chateau Michelle. Before the guests arrived, District Governor, Dr. Tim Wright, met with the incoming club officers to discuss matters concerning the district and Gyro as a whole. It's good to see our district officers meeting with our clubs in this manner.

The party was a BYOB, (not bring your own Bob, that was up to Lee and Barb), because the club no longer sponsors it's own bar. We had plenty of time to visit before dinner was served. There were appetizers consisting of Swedish meatballs, sauerkraut balls, and veggies with dip.

Our Emcee, Dick Miller, introduced our guests, Dr. Tim and Sandy Wright and then asked Chris Snyder to lead the club in "Hello Gyro". Afterwards, Linda Snyder spoke to the club about Jim France and his illness, Chris gave the invocation and dinner was served.

Dinner was buffet style with the restaurant staff serving. We had our choice of sweet corn, red skin potatoes, California medley with cheese, baked chicken, ham, roast beef, and a roll with butter.

After dinner, the installation of officers took



Clockwise from the left: Dr. Tim Wright, Ken Emsweller, Ken Heil, Mark Jarrard, J.D. Dawson, Joe Schott, Larry Finefrock

place. Governor Wright was installing officer. Installed as our new club officers were Ken Emsweller, President, J.D. Dawson as 1st Vice President, Joe Shott as 2nd Vice President, and Mark Jarrard as Secretary Treasurer. Then our outgoing President, Larry Finefrock was installed as Chairman of the Board. Ken Emsweller then gave his remarks as incoming President. He then presented Larry Finefrock with a plaque acknowledging his service as president and the past president's pin. Larry then gave a talk thanking the club for their help during his term as president. Larry included in his talk an inspired description of Gyro written by our late friend Bill Anthony. He finished with "Hello Gyro".

Victoria

It's been a few years since the Victoria Gyro Club had regular editions of Gyrotoria and during Covid it became evident that we needed Gyrotoria as an important communications tool for the Club. This is particularly true in our 100th Anniversary year when we have been unable to meet.

The Victoria Gyro Club was admitted into membership of the International Association of Gyro Clubs on April 8, 1921.

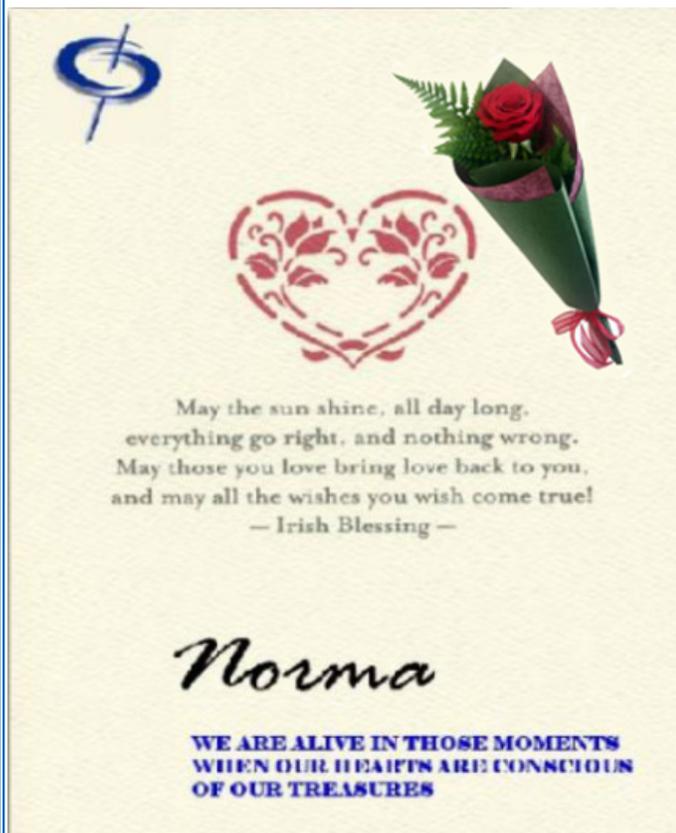


The Club's anniversary received extensive coverage in the local Victoria newspapers. The occasion was also marked by a segment on local television's CHEK News which was broadcast live from the Gyro Park. President Steve Ingle and Past President, Pete Evans, provided a detailed history of the Club's 100 years and also how the Gyro Park at Cadboro Bay was established.

The TV broadcast was followed later in the evening by a Zoom call attended by 32 members and spouses. A toast was proposed by President Steve to our Club's 100th Anniversary.

Covid-19 has had a significant impact on the operations of the Club as we have not held our face-to-face dinner meetings or several of our normal Club activities. However, some activities have continued with a few Gyros meeting for coffee outdoors each Tuesday morning; the Cordova Bay golfers playing each Wednesday; Past President Gary Leitch heading up bike rides on Fridays; and virtual card games being played by 2 – 4 members. President Steve continues to send out a daily quiz, and has been doing so for the past 7 months.

We look forward to a much more positive Fall season as Covid 19 restrictions are loosened. Our bi weekly dinners are scheduled to restart in September after 18 months hiatus.



Nelson Gyro

The Nelson Club has been down completely for the last 14 months as a large group but small individual groups have been maintaining our friendship through Golf, Skiing, Walks and Coffee groups all while maintaining our Covid Protocols issued by the Province which at times has been difficult as everyone can relate too.

One event the Executive did decide to do was on Gyro Ray Neumar's suggestion during an Executive meeting walk was to purchase roses and deliver along with a personally printed card for each of our ladies as well as the partners of our deceased Gyros. These were delivered by the Executive on Valentines day and seemed to be greatly appreciated on a very cold windy February day in Nelson and surrounding area.

A picture of the Rose and card are attached. Sometimes a very small gesture can go a long way amongst friends.

Humour Page(s)

Garage Door

The boss walked into the office one morning not knowing his zipper was down and his fly area wide open.

His assistant walked up to him and said, 'This morning when you left your house, did you close your garage door?'

The boss told her he knew he'd closed the garage door, and walked into his office puzzled by the question.

As he finished his paperwork, he suddenly noticed his fly was open, and zipped it up.

He then understood his assistant's question about his 'garage door'

He headed out for a cup of coffee and paused by her desk to ask, 'When my garage door was open, did you see my Jaguar parked in there?'

She smiled and said, 'No, I didn't. All I saw was an old minivan with two flat tires..

Hearing Aid

A man was telling his neighbour, 'I just bought a new hearing aid.

It cost me four thousand dollars, but it's state of the art.. It's perfect.'

'Really,' answered the neighbor . 'What kind is it?'

' Twelve thirty..



Victoria Gyro Club members volunteer their time to develop Gyro Park on Cadboro Bay in Saanich in the early 1950s. (Courtesy Victoria Gyro Club)

Victoria Gyro Club celebrates 100 years of friendship, building community

Club planned to mark centennial with an online meeting

By **DON DESCOTEAU**
Goldstream Gazette

*Used by permission
Submitted by Gord McFarlane*

The Victoria Gyro Club's legacy lives on in the namesake park that is the gem of Cadboro Bay.

And as the club celebrates its centennial this year, it remains focused on socializing, learning and giving back to the community where they can.

"It's really about fun and friendship," said new president Stephen Ingle, an 18-year Gyro member who led an online celebration of the 100th anniversary on April 5.

When he and his wife moved here from Salt Spring Island 22 years ago, they had many business connections but few, social contacts.

"In this day and age, and we're noticing it with COVID especially, people who are moving to this general area are finding it very difficult to find a group of people just for friendship," Ingle said. "Gyro is a wonderful conduit for that."

He recently asked several senior club members to list their favourite Gyro experiences. Without exception, he said, the fun, friendship and camaraderie were highlights, along with members' support of each other and their families in times of need.

While Gyro was formed as a men's

club and continues as such, Ingle said members' partners play an active role in creating the social fabric of the club, as well as enjoying their own gatherings.

Public health restrictions prevent the club's bi-weekly dinner and guest speaker meetings, and coffee get-togethers, but members continue to meet online.

Through the decades, the club has fundraised for various projects, including providing equipment to the Children's Foundation of Vancouver Island and the Island Prostate Centre. Ingle notes members are under no obligation to raise funds or volunteer.

The club's biggest and longest-lasting initiative is Gyro Park.

Under president Wilf McGregor in 1953, the club acquired 4.4 acres from the estate of Mary Goward. In 1954, after

members prepped the marshy waterfront property, the club donated it to Saanich for what would become known as Cadboro Bay Gyro Park. The seawall was completed that summer and Gyro volunteers helped finish the park. Two members with construction skills built the original bath house and caretaker's quarters.

The park remains popular with families, with its sea monster sculptures, upgraded playground and beach access.

The Victoria group has roughly 50 members and is one of three Gyro clubs in the region, spawning the Camosun club a number of years back, and more recently a Sidney contingent.

Seeing the Gyro International Convention it planned to host in 2020 cancelled due to COVID restrictions was disappointing, Ingle said. With meeting in person on hold for the foreseeable future, he still envisions brighter days ahead as members continue to support each other in the spirit of friendship and camaraderie.



Victoria Gyro Club member George Barr stands beside the club's Victoria Day parade float in the late 1950s. The trailer carried a sign advertising the Gyros' popular hole in one fundraiser game, which raised money for the purchase of Gyro Park lands at Cadboro Bay. (Courtesy Victoria Gyro Club)

From the Editor ...

REMEMBERING



James A. (Jim) France 1942-2021

31 year Editor & Publisher of our Gyroscope & 2011 recipient of the Gyro Lifetime Achievement Award

Many of you will remember Jim as a long time editor of the Gyroscope Magazine.. I can remember reading his work from the day, when my father as a member.. I only hope that I am living up to his standards.—Derek Editor.

membership stats	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
D-I	279	273	269	250	236
D-II	192	191	171	150	143
D-III	353	335	310	303	303
D-IV	578	574	544	505	484
D-VI	121	117	114	69	64
D-VII	239	239	248	229	222
D-VIII	341	323	313	317	315
D-IX	143	137	138	135	135
D-X	68	65	41	45	34
D-XIII	6	2	2	0	0
INT'L. Assoc.	32	32	29	28	25
	2352	2288	2179	2031	1962

We are opening up

I'm not sure who each district is doing in regards to getting slightly back to normal Gyro functions & events. In District-VII I know that the American clubs have been holding in person meetings for the past two months. IN Canada, this is a different story as the 3rd wave of the pandemic swept through Ontario & Manitoba shutting down the provinces completely. No visiting of any kind, even family unless they resided at the same address. But by the end of June, this had eased up, and we can now see 10 people outdoors in a public area. I have also been reading that the Canada/US border might be opening up in July. So, that Governors and Gyros can once again visit their friends across this line drawn between our two countries.. And friendship can once again be extended and shared.

If your club is now doing physical meetings, please let your governor know, so that he can put this into his Governors Newsletter. He needs something to write about.. Gyro activity has been zoom this and zoom that. It is so nice to finally be able to offer and handshake to a friend. And outside of Gyro to be able to hug a friend. It's the personal touch that I miss the most. Well, that and adult conversation. Facetime, Facebook messenger and zoom with the grand-kids, while nice and all, is just not what we need to keep our mental health in check.

Until next quarter and a new issue,



Fact:
Male friends are more loyal than female friends

Member/Country	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
U. S. Members	1127	1097	1030	967	928
Canadian	1197	1157	1118	1036	1009
Japanese	6	2	2	0	0
Int'l. Associates	32	32	29	28	25
Total Members	2362	2288	2179	2031	1962

Welcome New Members

Club	Member	Sponsor
Madison	E. Edward Linville	Bob Keller
Marion	Matthew B. Bayles	Todd Hunt
Caloosa	Dave R. Stokley	Steve Anderson
Caloosa	Richard Leister	John Bint Steve Anderson
Marion	Louis W. Zeller	Todd Hunt
Stampede City	Dave Pilkington	Stuart Chalmers
Stampede City	David Ray	Brian Stein
Dixon	David Deets Dustin Vock	

Members we have lost

CLUB	MEMBER
Canton	Benjamin F. Lozier
Intl. Associate District 4	Robert T. Emery
Nanaimo	Jack Johnstone
Gasparilla	Albert N. Sinicrope
Camosun	Ed Kustan
Intl. Associate District 10	Lawrence Reg Leebby
Dixon	Larry Taylor
New Glasgow	Donald W. Cameron
Canton	James A. France
McKenzie Island	Daniel Wesolowski

Deadlines for the next GyroScope
 March 20, June 20, September 20, December 20



Conventions

To learn more <https://gyro.org/conventions/>

DISTRICTS

- District I Convention
- District II Convention
- District III Convention
- District IV Convention Prince George Sept 24-26
tslaney@slaneyrandall.com
- District VI Convention
- District VII Convention Virtual Sept 11, 2021
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86598559279?pwd=M0ZxNXpkT1BjVDI2UTNhUzd2SUpXUT09>
- District VIII Convention Calgary September 23-26, 2021
Deerfoot Inn & Casino
..... ken.baker65@gmail.com
<http://district8.gyro.ws/index.php/district-conventions/>
- District IX Convention



INTERNATIONAL

- International & District VII - Winnipeg..... August 4-8, 2021
<https://2021international.gyro.org/>
- International & District I— Cleveland.....2022