



# Gyroscope

The Official Publication of Gyro International

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Volume 103, Number 2

Dedicated to Friendship and Fun

Spring 2022





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*About the Cover:*

Secretary-Treasurer and past International President Mike McNally

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

### District Governors

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## W. Michael McNally - Past International President

November 10, 1953 – May 25, 2022

Mike McNally, Secretary-Treasurer of Gyro International since January 2019, left us too soon this May. In the summer of 2019, he was diagnosed with a rare, small-cell neuroendocrine cancer. He fought it bravely with numerous chemotherapy treatments and operations. His family and those that were close to him adopted the hashtag #mcnallystrong (check it out online) to promote awareness of the disease. This included an event to raise funds for the cause held in March 2020 where Mike was presented with the Edward Steinbacher Lifetime Achievement Award by Gyro President Matthew Johnson.

Born in Buffalo, he was raised in Clarence NY and earned a bachelor's degree from New England College in Henniker, N.H. He began a career in banking and in time became an officer with Goldome Bank and Goldome Realty Credit Corp. and eventually a Financial Planner.

His father Wayne was a member of Gyro International, where he and his wife became friends with Gyro member Don and Beverly Heath, parents of Cynthia Heath. Cynthia and Mike met at a Christmas party in 1980 and were married June 5, 1982. Mike joined Gyro in June 1983 at the age of 29 when his father-in-law became International President. Wayne and Don encouraged Mike to not just join but to be involved and to take an active part in all the club, district and international activities of Gyro.

Mike was up to the challenge as he became a Director of the Buffalo club and served three terms as President. Next, he became Governor for District III in 1991. Mike was then elected to the Interna-

tional Executive Council in 2010 and then International President in 2013. During his tenure on Council, he was instrumental in the evolution of the New Era Committee which produced several resources for Clubs to have fun events and recruit members. Changes were also made to streamline the organization.

In 2006 he received the Gyro Merit Award for exceptional club service and in 2011, he received the prestigious Buffalo Club, Don Heath Award, for going above and beyond in service to Gyro. In 2015 he was awarded the International Honor Key; given for distinguished and unselfish service, with such services bringing honor to, and respect for, our fraternity in the national/international field. The award was unique in that he found the actual Key awarded to his Father-in-Law; PIP Don Heath had been recycled to PIP Ab Nightingale, so he was awarded that Key with Gyro history created.

During his years in Gyro, he regularly participated in multiple International and District III Conventions. He was co-host of the 2015 International Convention in Buffalo that was one of the best ever held despite a fire alarm sending everyone down many flights of stairs to the parking lot in their pajamas.

Mike was tremendously proud of his three daughters, Meghan, Kaitlyn and Shannon as well as his two sons-in-law Robert Badding Jr. and Brian McArthur who have carried on the McNally – Heath Gyro tradition by becoming members of the Buffalo Club. Let's hope grandchildren Trip and Finnegan will be able to enjoy Gyro like their



## From the President ---- By Blanton

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Here we are, done with another annual general meeting, and installation of new officers, and both were virtual for the second year in a row. I opened my remarks at the AGM with the admonition I had received in medical school, “the hours and days will drag by, but the years will fly.” That certainly rings true today, as I realize I was just writing the “incoming” message a year ago. I believe that our Gyro International organization had a good year. New members taken in from May 1, 2021 to April 30, 2022 (the fiscal year) numbered 119! This was in spite of the effects of the pandemic in both countries. Our overall membership level, of course continued to decline, mostly due to ageing, and a few small clubs deciding they were not able to continue. This emphasizes that we have to continue to find ways to recruit new members. The amount of effort by the membership committee over the past two years had been huge, and its work will continue into this new year. The real effort, though, has to be at the individual club level, with current members recruiting new friends. There are several tools available, all easily found on the International website, but the initiative has to be with each of us for our own club.

Much more information is available in various reports from the membership committee, technology committee, governance task force, officers, governors, and individual contributors in this Gyroscope, on the website, and often in direct email communication. If any member is reading something and wants/needs more information, he should contact that author, or his club president, or his district governor, or the international officers.

I wish to express my deepest gratitude for the opportunity to be part of this great organization. It started 25 years ago with me and my wife being asked to join the ORYG club in St Paul, MN. Two couples we had known in our work at the Children’s Hospital told us about Gyro. Both of them had already been members 20+ years. We found new friends that now we have known a long time. An additional benefit was there were people in the club that we already knew, and those friendships became even more meaningful. That “inner circle” of friendship became and remains the most important. However, in addition, our sponsoring friends emphasized the “middle” circle, the connectedness with the other clubs in our district. This spread out

opportunities of meeting more people in friendship, getting to know clubs in the Minneapolis/St Paul area, and clubs in Thunder Bay, Winnipeg, and Red Lake Ontario. That circle got even wider, the “third circle” of friendship, the overall international organization. We participated in meetings from Halifax to Vancouver, Buffalo to Phoenix. The “connectedness” of the clubs made for instant and lasting friendships. As I say, somewhat teasingly, “hey, most of best friends are Canadian” and “I’m from Minnesota, the southernmost province of Canada.”

I congratulate Peter Carter as he is now President. He and his team of Daniel Durbin, 1st VP, Mike Eisner, 2nd VP, and Matt Johnson, Sec/Treas, will well serve the Gyro clubs and members in this coming year. I’m lucky to still be a part of the group, as the immediate past international president serves on the executive council.

Best wishes to each and every one of you.

## Incoming President’s Message By Peter Carter

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It is indeed an honour and privilege to be the 102nd President of Gyro International; and to be the 3rd International President from the Gyro Club of Edmonton. My wife, Eileen, and I look forward to our year ahead!

The past two (2) years have certainly flown by, as I served as your 2nd Vice President and 1st Vice President, under the leadership of Past President Alan Pentney and Immediate Past President Blanton Bessinger, respectively. Thank you, gentlemen, for your tireless contributions for the Good of Gyro and for your willingness to share information as I learnt the ropes for the President’s position!

It has also been a rewarding experience to have simultaneously been the Technology Chair and to have been able to work on the redesign of the Gyro Website; and to have launched the Sub-Site and Generic Web Page Programs - we now have 45 Clubs taking advantage of these programs. It has, also, been rewarding to have helped launch the new and improved Members Portal – which was the result of the ingenuity and time commitment of Matthew Williams. After 10 months of operation, we have developed some exciting refinements and enhancements that will be launched later this year, in Ver-

sion 2 of the Members Portal, by Derm Jackman our new Technology Chair!

I now look forward to working with the new Executive Council: 1st Vice President Dan Durbin and his wife Missy; 2nd Vice President Mike Eisner and his wife Bonnie, Immediate Past President Blanton Bessinger and his wife Bonnie, and our new Secretary/Treasurer Matt Johnson and his wife Lisa Kay.

These past two years have been hard on all of us, because of the COVID Pandemic, however, I believe it has shown us all: just how important friendship REALLY is, in our daily lives. So, the 2022/23 Executive Council will continue to focus on increasing the membership of Gyro! Watch for the upcoming announcements under the new Membership Chair, Mike Eisner and Co-Chair Larry Duba!

I may not be well known to many of our Gyro members, but hopefully the contributions that I have been able to make over the past two years are an indication of my commitment to Gyro, because I BELIEVE in this wonderful organization and everything that it stands for! So, please do not hesitate to reach out to me with your ideas and suggestions.

With fingers crossed, I hope the Covid Pandemic will soon be behind us so the Winnipeg Convention, scheduled for 2023, will become a reality and Eileen and I will be able to meet many of you, at that time, if not before!

Yours in Gyro Friendship  
Peter



## Gyro Mentoring & Leadership By Larry Duba

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### Background

Each person is influenced and mentored by many people including their parents, friends, teachers, and leaders in organizations that they belong to; and it is important to listen and learn from them. In my case, my parents were very influential in my upbringing. My mother became a leader in many organizations, and I learned from her a very important thing: When you join an organization, it is very important to read the Constitution and Bylaws of that group, so you will be able to act accordingly.

### Need For Gyro Leaders

During the past several years, it has been difficult getting members to serve as Club Officers, District Officers and International Officers. Each position has a few different requirements and responsibilities. It is important for a mentor to provide the individual the important job responsibilities to the prospective officer.

### Training For A Leadership Position

I believe it is important for a new Club member to get involved in a committee shortly after he has joined the club. During this time, the individual should be told that no one would have to perform a job without support of other members of the Club. One great committee that would be very beneficial is the Activities Committee. In my Club we found it beneficial to have two couples work together to organize a fun activity. It could be a day or overnight activity. The two couples get to know each other and create a stronger friendship. Of course, successful clubs have a variety of activities. These events are a positive opportunity to invite non-Gyros to attend. Once others see the fun that we are having, they will ask how to join the group.

Once, the member has served on a committee for a year or so, hopefully the person would serve as Club Secretary or Treasurer. If the person seems ready to serve as a Club leader, he might be willing to serve as Club Vice President, but he should become familiar with the Club's Constitution and Bylaws as well as the duties of each Club officer.

### Introduction to District Organization

Once a person becomes a member, he should be encouraged to attend a District Convention. This is a great opportunity to meet additional friends from other clubs. In addition, by sitting in on the District's business meeting, he will get an understanding of how the District operates and how the officers can help individual Clubs. A few Clubs provide some reimbursement of the costs to attend to motivate the member to attend.

### Introduction to Gyro International

It is very important to inform a new member about the three levels of Gyro: Club, District and International. My wife and I gained a lot by attending District and International Conventions. We made more friends, and we were able to enjoy different places that we might not have gone to on our own. It is wonderful to attend conventions where

the hotel rates have been reduced and joining the planned activities by convention organizers. It is important for the member to sit in on the business meeting in order for the person to understand the significance of the work that the Executive Officers and the Headquarters staff in Painesville, Ohio do for the benefit of the members.

At the International Convention, the Past District Governors have a meeting prior to the start of the main business meeting. At their session, they discuss issues and make recommendations to the Board of Governors (Includes EC and District Officers). I was, always favorably impressed by their recommendations to improve our organization.

### Mentoring and Support

So, I hope you can see that it is important to have perhaps the person's Sponsor or another person in the Club to become an important mentor. More than one mentor is even better. Encouragement and support by all Club members is critical when a person is serving in an administrative role. When one role is completed in the Club, please encourage the person to serve in the next challenging role within the Club, District and Internationally. I can personally vouch for the benefits obtained by serving in the several roles available.

### Conclusion

I hope this fairly short article will help develop your members to serve beyond the local Club level.

## Gyro Membership

### By Don Patterson

#### When someone joins Gyro, what do they get for their membership?

The opportunity to have friendships for life.

- Gyro was designed as a place you can always go to find a degree of stability when life's road becomes a little bumpy. A place where you can find solace in a crazy world.
- This is a club that is focused on friendship. We do not get involved in ticket sales or promotions that may be the case in other clubs.
- This is significant. Good friends come and good friends go but with a club dedicated to friendship, you should never run out of good friends,

- Good friends and a good friendship network are above all other things you can do to assure yourself of a long happy life according to every study available.
- These studies classify friendships for these purposes as those who are not part of your immediate family or your wife's network.
- Gyro is a place where you can go to find some fun and comradery.
- Our focus is fun & friendship.

The opportunity to find friends who have needs for business services.

- It goes without saying that we turn to those we call friends for advice and sources of services we may require.
- In friendship, we also like to recommend people who are able to provide services to our friends outside of our Club membership.
- Members who receive opportunities to do business with our members or our friends outside the club are generally very focused on providing quality services so as to avoid unfriending those in the Club.

The opportunity to give back to your community in a different way

- This Club operates on a pay it forward basis.
- What we ask of you is that you invite other men to join us.
- We ask you to become involved in making our times together fun times
- Bring some good jokes. Bring your ideas on fun events and mostly get involved.
- This club will only work if you do your share of input, involvement in governance and good times.

We look forward to the opportunity to learn about you, your life experiences, your sunny personality, fun and friendship.

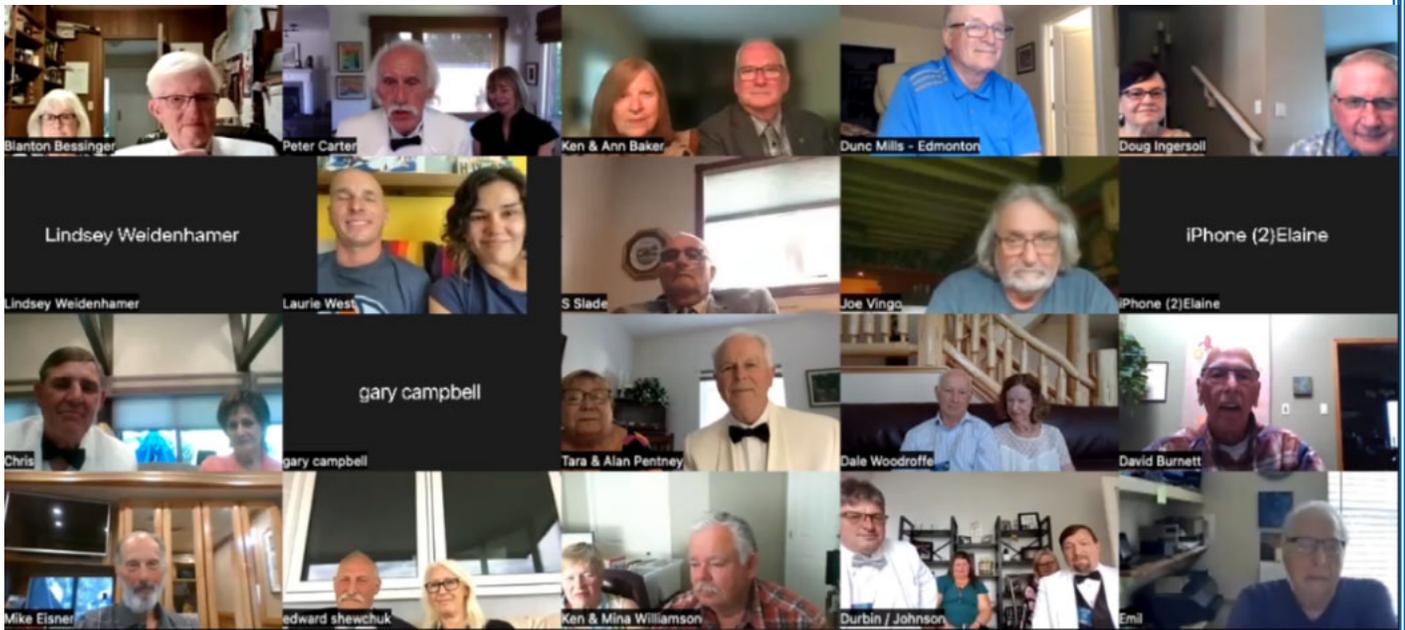


# Gyro International Installation—Pre event Cocktail Gathering



## Gyro International Installation Congratulations to the new Executive council.

President Peter Carter  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Dan Durbin  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Mike Eisner  
Secretary/Treasurer Matt Johnson  
Past President Blanton Bessinger



# International News

## GI Technology Report Derm Jackman,

The New International Web site, Members Portal and Database are just a year old and seem to be running well. We have had a few growing pains. The team we have, has worked very hard to keep things moving forward. Under the direction of International President elect Peter Carter, 42 of our 70 clubs have a web presence, either using their own web sites or one of our generic web sites provided by Gyro International. Four of our Districts have their own websites. Now the International website and members portal also has 28 pdf help documents which will show any member how to do what they want, or it will also show a member who can complete certain tasks.

This past year we have seen growth in the websites, members portal and database usage, and we hope with the enhancements coming in version 2.0 of our database and members portal, there will be continued growth and more usage.

Huge thanks to our International President elect, Peter Carter for his leadership and guidance as the Chair of the technology team. Also, many thanks to Matthew Williams for his many hours of hard work and guidance. I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge Peter Pollhammer for his undying dedication to our fraternity and his countless hours of developing and building & maintaining our database from what it used to be to getting it to where it is today. Thank you, Peter.

The goal of the technology team going forward is to seek out a software specialist in WordPress & Buddy Boss to build and implement Version 2.0 enhancements of our Database and Members Portal.

The technology team is proud of the work we have completed, and we look forward to the future of Gyro, evolving into a more modern fraternity & supporting our members in the future. I want to say I am pleased to take the chair of the technology team from my friend Peter. Congratulations to the New Executive and we look forward to working with you going forward.

## “Club Bulletins Do Make a Difference”

Submitted by Steve Anderson

Re-printed article by 1989 PIP Dave Hansma

There can be no doubt that a good bulletin is a valuable asset to the well-being of any Gyro club. And, there are many very good bulletins being issued by our clubs. There are also a few “so-so” bulletins. But, there are no bad bulletins being issued. The only “bad” bulletin is one that is not issued.

This year, (1989) approximately one half of our clubs have submitted copies of their bulletins to International. Not a very good percentage for a device that can contribute so much to intra – and inter-club cohesiveness and continuity. Most of the other clubs do issue regular announcements which cannot really be classified as bulletins. But, considering the recognized importance of timely and accurate information, why don’t more clubs issue a regular bulletin? Often the excuse seems to be that there is never enough information to make it worthwhile to mail in a particular issue, or to “fill up” a bulletin on a regular basis.

We, on the International Executive Council read scores of club bulletins every month. Every month some are good and some are great. But, it’s not the same ones every month. Even the prize winning bulletins have issues that lack “a very important announcement”, or a “thought provoking editorial.” You don’t need one or both of those for every issue. The really good bulletins do have at least these few things in common:

1. Back in the “snail mail days” when you take it out of the mailbox, you know that it is your bulletin. Some are beautiful, some are simply garish, or loud, but you know what it is.
2. It includes a good deal of the same information every issue, such things as the club roster, club officers, committees, committee chairman, past officers, district officers. As much, or as little as fits your format. Every member needs some of

the information occasionally. Make it handy for him

3. They are dependable. They arrive on time. Note that when your bulletin contains a good deal of “boilerplate” information you don’t have to wait for something special to issue it.
4. And, they emphasize the friendship theme of Gyro. They report on the speakers, the tournaments, past, and future events and they include some humor. All these things are Important, but friendship is the reason for Gyro’s existence.

Since every bulletin editor, or potential editor doesn’t get to read other club’s bulletin, as we on the Executive Council do, here are some other items we see that could help “to fill” your bulletin:

- Next meeting date
- Other coming Club, District, International events
- Birthday and anniversaries each month
- Sick and visiting
- Attendance report of last meeting, member & Guests
- Minutes of business meetings
- Other installations dates, of your District or near -by clubs
- Member biographical sketches. This item alone could provide an interesting half page each month for years
- Prospective member information
- Snippets of 10-20-30 years ago this month.
- News of other clubs (swap bulletins with other editors)
- Personal news of members
- Quotes, humorous and serious from other clubs bulletins
- Ladies news and announcements
- Photographs and drawings
- The Presidents message
- Your editorials, or others, “Letters to the Editor”

There are others, but remember just getting your bulletin out, makes it “Good.” It you include the above ingredients it good be “great.”

So, how about it, you Club Presidents, Bulletin Editors, and Potential Bulletin Editors: couldn’t you start a bulletin or improve the content or regularity of your personal bulletin? If you include the above regular items in your bulletin, your readers won’t even notice those rare occasions when you neglect to produce an inspired editorial, or don’t have a sensational happening on which to report.

Hey, don’t forget to submit copies to the EC, and to Gyro Headquarters. Looking forward to reading your bulletin, I remain, Yours in Gyro, David P. Hansma, President

## “Keep the Fun in Gyro Award” By Steve (Goose) Anderson,

**MIKE McNALLY—Receives 2022-2023**

The award was originated by PIP Tom Lennox of the Rochester Club. It was first presented at the Board of Governors meeting at the Int’l Interim Meeting in Las Vegas in January 2013.

Tom’s wish is that the award be presented at the BOG’s meeting at the Int’l Interim meeting in perpetuity. It is to be awarded to the Gyro who through his actions, recent or in the past, has taken steps to insure that FUN, is always paramount in our activities.

The sole judge in determining the next winner of the award is the current holder of same.

It is felt that where possible, the recipient be from a different District than the current holder of the award. This will help insure the award finds its way around our great fraternity.

The current holder of the award is to have it engraved with the name of the recipient and the year. It was Tom’s wife Maggie who suggested that it should not be presented at a mixed function for obvious reasons.

Mike McNally, with his magnetic smile and mirthful countenance, draws people to him because of the manner in which he “Beams the Gyro Spirit.”

Always looking for the next gathering, the next handshake, the next hug, or a burst of laughter, the next competition (of any kind), and the next beer, he radiates enthusiastic fellowship.

Hopefully his family and friends will understand why he is referred to here in the present-tense; “Fore to live in hearts left behind is not to die.” Thanks for the laughter, and the memories Mike. “Hello Gyro.”

## Int'l Secretary/Treasurer Matt Johnson

Dear Gyro friends and Ladies:

It is with a heavy heart and much sadness given the circumstances; I have agreed to accept the appointment by the International Executive Counsel as the Eleventh Secretary Treasurer in the history of our Organization. Mike and Cynthia McNally are and have been dear friends to Lisa Kay and I over the years. We have had the honor and pleasure of spending great time with them despite the geographical distance from Buffalo, NY to Gig Harbor, WA. Mike was an excellent Secretary Treasurer, and I will strive every day to try and fulfill the duties of the office in a manner he would respect and appreciate and be proud of.

About myself briefly, I have been a member of the Olympia Gyro Club for 21 years and the Tacoma Gyro Club for about the last 6 years. I am 56 years old, married to Lisa Kay since 2008. We have four children and two grandchildren, with another on the way in the fall. We, especially Lisa Kay, adore our grandchildren and spoil them to no end. I have been a licensed, practicing attorney in the State of Washington since 1998, with a current focus on plaintiff's personal injury trial law. I have served as President of both the Olympia and Tacoma Gyro Clubs numerous times. I served as Governor of District IV in 2012-2013, as International President in 2018-2019 and as International Parliamentarian from 2020-2022. I have received the Merit Award and the Honor Key.

I was appointed to this position on June 1, 2022. Thus, I am spending the busiest month of the year for the International Executive trying to get up to speed. Most importantly, I remind the Executive Officers of Gyro International, the Districts and especially the Club level Executives, I am here to serve you and make your work easier. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call or send me an email. I will not always have the correct answer, but I will strive to assist in any way possible.

All of our communities in which our clubs are located are full of potential members, men of character with diverse backgrounds, men who value friendship as more than acquaintances. The last couple of years have reinforced the importance of the Gyro Principles. The Power of friendship in our human relationships in the most difficult of

times. The Poise demonstrating the steadiness of friendship in times of trial and the Purpose of Gyro, keeping the balance wheel of friendship forever active in our daily lives, even when forced to limit in person interaction. I ask each of us, as members, to try and identify a couple of these men in our individual communities and invite them to Gyro. Each and every one of us has felt the loss of a dear friend, it is a difficult time, but a time made easier when we have the comfort of even more friends to fall back on. Each of us, as members in this organization, have a responsibility to strive to grow the number of friends who can provide that comfort. All of us benefit each time a new member joins our Organization.

To each and every member, all of whom I call my friend, I am honored to be your friend and honored to serve you and this Organization.

## International Awards Announced at the Annual General Meeting - June 18, 2022

For many years, Gyro International has a group of awards, usually given out at the annual meeting. One category recognizes special achievement of individuals, and a second recognizes clubs/individuals for benefitting the organization. A complete list of these awards are on the website, under the heading "Awards". Other information includes names of past winners, and forms for nomination. Not all awards are necessarily given every year. But, the executive council, which has the responsibility of deciding, encourages clubs and members to submit names they consider deserving.

This year the awards were given:

In the Organization Benefit category:

**Internal Expansion Award (most new members and/or best percentage increase)**

Large Club	Minneapolis Metro	D V II
Medium Club	Marion	D I
Small Club	Port Colborne Niagara	South D III

**Best Club Bulletin**

Large Club	Calgary	D VIII
Medium	Winnipeg	D VII
Small	Fresno	D IX

**Governor's Bulletin**

Derek Hay	Winnipeg	D VII
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## Best Website

	Canton	D I
<b>George France Award (contributions of articles to Gyroscope)</b>		
Don Patterson	Fraser Delta	D IV

In the Individual Achievement category:

## Honor Key (traditionally given to Immediate Past International President)

Alan Pentney	Stampede City	D VIII
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## Bud Mitchell Gyro of the Year

Derm Jackman	Castlegar	D VIII
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Derm Jackman is a PDG of DVIII. He was a charter member of his club over 38 years ago. He has served his club, district, and international in many ways over the years. More recently, he has been active on Membership Committee, Technology Committee, of which he is the new chair. He also is on the Governance Task Force. In my experience as membership chair last year, and president this year, Derm has always responded to call for help to serve the organization. Congratulations, Derm.

## Past President Report - 2022 Submitted: Alan Pentney IPIP

Immediate Past President activities since being installed in June 2021 included the following:

- Chair of the Membership Committee (separate report submitted)
  - Gyroscope articles and emails produced to inform members
- Participation on monthly EC and BOG meetings.
- Chair of the Betterment Fund Committee (Randy Tarrier; Ross Davis; Roger Lindley)
  - Three applications for funding membership recruitment were processed.
- 28 potential members involved expenditures of \$380.
- Officiated at the D3 Annual Convention and AGM in St. Catherine's Ontario in October 2021.
- Chaired the Nominating Committee
  - Canvassed all Governors and Clubs for 2nd VP nominations
  - Held a virtual committee meeting to submit a slate of officers to the 2022 AGM for election.

- March 2022 Meeting with two D8 Clubs to arrange for a Host for the 2025 International Convention.
- Attended the D4 Interim Convention in Nanaimo BC in April 2022.

## Gyro Membership Committee Report – 2021-22 Respectfully Submitted – Alan Pentney IPIP, Chair

### A. 2021 Membership Survey

The Membership Committee decided that a Marketing Plan was needed to promote recruitment of members. A consultant conducted a member survey in May 2021 that asked 13 questions. The questions were meant to indicate the general level of satisfaction with the organization and solicit information regarding areas of improvement.

A Survey Report dated June 4, 2021 provided thoughts on increasing membership. To aid in implementing the findings, eight binary decisions (Yes - No Questions) were posed.

### B. Gyro 2025 – A Marketing Plan for a New Gyro Organization

In September 2021 the Committee presented the Board with 1) a Briefing Paper on recommendations for the Survey Report decision topics and 2) a Draft Marketing Plan. The Board met on October 13 and November 10, 2021. Their decisions were:

- Decision 1: The Gyro Board will continue to provide governance to Clubs but make decisions on changes to improve the organization to retain members and increase recruitment.
- Decision 2: Gyro will change the way it operates through a combination of exploring
  - new ways to attract persons interested in fun and friendship as well as making organizational changes.
- Decision 3a: Creation of a Diversity Guide to clarify the Gyro approach to diversity for members and persons interested in becoming Gyros (Committee).
- Decision 3b: The Board will consider the concept of women in Gyro as an individual club level decision only.
- Decision 4: The Board will examine options and models for reorganizing Gyro structure and operations to be more cost effective and more attractive to potential members.

- Decision 5: Recruitment Support - Club Executive Training Program (Committee).
- Decision 6: The Board will monitor the Member's Portal Social Groups to see if the concept of a virtual club could be a recruitment tool.
- Decision 7: The Board will not promote a common charitable cause but does not object to any club promoting a cause.
- Decision 8: Membership Tools - Assessment of Successful Clubs (Committee).
- Gyro 2025 - Marketing Plan: This was endorsed by the Board to guide Gyro into 2025 and implement the recommended decisions to change Gyro to be more appealing to current and new members.

### C. Gyro Success Stories

In November 2021 the Committee recruited a consultant to interview selected clubs on their success factors with the intent that this information could be helpful to other clubs. Six club were interviewed. The consultant provided a summary report as well as a 45-minute video of clips from the interviews. The video link on YouTube is:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kFDYvTCCT3c>

The report plus an Appendix is available on the <https://gyro.org/> website at two locations – the Club Resources tab (<https://gyro.org/club-resources/>) and the members portal (<https://members.gyro.org/>). The report contains a short summary of each club's success plus tips on membership. As a resource, the Report contains a checklist to help clubs consider changes.

### D. Gyro Diversity Guide

The Member Survey Report from 2021 made the observation that Gyro members primarily were Caucasian males in the older demographic. The context was that there are opportunities for changing this to the benefit of membership. As a result, the Committee created a Diversity Guide for Club use and a Gyro International Position on Diversity that says:

“Gyro International is committed to fostering, cultivating and preserving a culture of diversity.”

The Guide, including the Position Statement was adopted by the Board of Governors in February 2022 and put on the website at <https://gyro.org/club-resources/>. In addition, the Values promoted on the gyro.org Home page (below Mission and Vision) were updated to include the Diversity Statement.

### E. Promoting Membership

All club executives were contacted about a training session via zoom call to assist in all aspects

of Gyro operations, duties and membership. A few clubs were interested, and a session was held with the Fraser-Delta Club executive in April. More will be done in 2022-23.

In February 2022 Committee member, Mike Eisner PDG of the Blacklake Club in California, sent an inspiring email to all members with challenges to address the declining membership.

### F. Committee Recognition

The progress documented in this report would not be possible without the support of the Board of Governors and committee members as follows:

- Dan Bliss PDG – D3
- Don Patterson PDG – D4
- David Caul – D4
- Harold Bernard PIP – D6
- Gary Sirek – D7
- Derm Jackman PDG – D8
- Mike Eisner PDG – D9
- Larry Duba PIP – D9

## Minutes of Annual General Meeting held June 18, 2022.

Submitted **Matt Johnson,**  
Secretary/Treasurer

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 CDT by International President Blanton Bessinger. There were 40 participants on the call, including the panel of five Executive Officers and the Financial Administrator. President Bessinger remembered Past International Presidents-- Ian Greig and Mike McNally who passed within the last year and asked for a moment of silence for all Gyros and ladies lost over the last year.

### Agenda

President Bessinger went over the proposed Agenda for the meeting and provided the President's report. (Written report submitted and available for review)

### Previous Minutes

The minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting were unanimously accepted by the body.

### Financials

Financial Advisor Garry Pattison reviewed the year end financial statements for the group. A suggestion was proposed by Governor Derek Hay to provide a single “year end financial” statement

without the attached proposed budget. President Bessinger indicated this would be considered by the Executive Counsel. The proposed budget was accepted as Constitutionally sound by the body on a unanimous vote.

### Reports were provided by the following Committee chairs:

Membership – Alan Pentney  
Technology – Peter Carter and Derm Jackman  
Governance Structure – Dan Durbin  
All reports also provided in writing and available with these minutes for review.

A roll call of clubs in attendance was completed. The proxy of votes of non-attending clubs were passed to the respective Governors.

### Betterment Fund

A report on the Betterment Fund was provided by Alan Pentney.

### Governors Reports

President Bessinger called for Governor's Reports, no oral reports provided. All written Governor reports available for review with these minutes.

### Future Conventions

A discussion was held on future International Convention sites.

Derek Hay presented on the 2023 International and District VII Convention to be held in August 2023 in Winnipeg. Governor Hay promised a "surprise" never before seen at a Convention.

2024 International Convention is being considered by District III, the discussion being led by Dan Bliss.

2025 International Convention to be co-hosted by Sherwood Park and Edmonton of District VIII.

### Elections

Elections were conducted for the following positions:

- Betterment Fund Director, term three years: Don Patterson, District IV, elected unanimously.
- Trustee Governor Dan Blohm, District II, three years, elected unanimously.
- Executive nominations chair proposed the slate of officers for 2022-2023, the Motion was se-

conded by PIP Dana Davison of District III, as the following:

- President: Peter Carter – District VIII
- 1st Vice President: Dan Durbin – District IV
- 2nd Vice President: Mike Eisner – District IX

This slate was approved unanimously.

- Immediate Past International President was announced as Blanton Bessinger, a member of the new Executive Council.

### Awards were announced by President Bessinger as follows:

In the Organization Benefit category:

Internal Expansion Award (most new members and/or best percentage increase)

Large Club	Minneapolis Metro	D VII
Medium Club	Marion	D I
Small Club	Port Colborne Niagara South	D III
Best Club Bulletin		
Large Club	Calgary	D VIII
Medium	Winnipeg	D VII
Small	Fresno	D IX
Governor's Bulletin		
	Derek Hay	Winnipeg D VII
Best Website		
	Canton	D I
George France Award (contributions of articles to Gyroscope)		
	Don Patterson	Fraser Delta D IV

In the Individual Achievement category:

Honor Key (traditionally given to Immediate Past International President)

Alan Pentney Stampede City D VIII

Bud Mitchell Gyro of the Year

Derm Jackman Castlegar D VIII

Derm Jackman provided an emotional acceptance speech.

District X Governor Steve Anderson presented the "Keep the fun in Gyro Award" to Mike McNally, Past International President and Secretary/Treasurer.

### President Bessinger called for the Good of the Order:

Scott Anders of the Mt. Diablo club in District IX was recognized. He discussed how the 2019 Convention in Reno was hosted by multiple clubs in District IX jointly and suggested this was a model that should be repeated for future Conventions.

The Meeting was adjourned.

# District News

## Governor's Report – District-VII – June, 2022

I became Governor of District-VII on October 1, 2020 just on the cusp of the Covid pandemic. The transition to Governor has been easy in some respects and difficult in other respects. This curtailed a all the travel & visitation to the clubs. It was only in April of 2022 that the borders became open for easy travel both ways, without the need for expensive testing. During this time, I made myself available for any club who wanted me to participate in a video teleconference with their members or to install any club officers. No clubs took me up on the offer however.

I initiated a monthly (except for two months) club officers meeting for all officers of the clubs in our district. A number of clubs checked in each month but, unfortunately not all clubs participated nor all club officers. I can only twist arms so far...

I have set up a shared Google drive for all District documents, so that they can be easily shared between the district officers. The Goggle drive is divided into two areas;

public folder (Constitution, Governors newsletter, AGM minutes & Financials, Convention schedule and various other Gyro member public type documents).

private folder for more sensitive documents like (letterhead, forms, passwords, general ledger, etc.)

The public area is accessible from our District web site. All district officers have full access to both folders in case of a sudden death of an officer. The general membership can only view (not edit) the public documents.

I have also created a Google calendar for the district, so that any club officer or club member can see when a Gyro club is meeting and where. As well as any district video meetings, or interclub events & the convention.

I am continuing to issue a District Governor's newsletter each month, with highlights of the International monthly meetings, or at least anything pertinent to the District. This is usually sent out prior

to our 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month District video meeting and after the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month International meeting.

I have continued to attend all the monthly International video meetings on behalf of the District member club and their members. I have brought forward all concerns from the member clubs and have been pushing for cost reductions where possible, as many members clubs in the district have voiced over the years. Membership and revenue have been dropping over the years and we need to reduce expenses accordingly.

Please feel free to contact myself at anytime if you have any questions or concerns.

Respectfully submitted  
Derek Hay  
Governor District-VII



No other Governor's report or submissions received.

# Club News & Events

## Fresno's Newest Member Submitted By Larry Duba



On March 24th, PIP Larry Duba initiated Donald "Don" Baumback into the Fresno Gyro Club. Larry is his sponsor, and he met Don just over a year ago on a walk in the neighborhood. Larry was admiring the decorated metal Christmas trees in the front yard when Don walked across the lawn, and they started a conversation. Larry invited Don to the Men's Breakfast, and after attending three times, Don decided to join Gyro. Don served in the US Army 1953-55 during the end of the Korean War. During Don's working years, he was the Owner of the Easton Gas Company. He retired from the job in 1985, and then he started weed abatement in the San Francisco Bay area until 1999. Unfortunately, his wife Gail of 45 years, passed in

April 2021. Larry initiated Don during the first joint social Club dinner at Marie Callender's Restaurant. President Lowell Gist pinned the Gyro pin on Don's shirt pocket after he was initiated.



We had 17 people present for our social dinner (Sal Aiello, Ed Bates, Don Baumback, Henry and Nora Berumen, Derrell and Barbara Bidy, Barbara Fernandes, Larry and Alice Duba, Lowell Gist, David & Angela Kreller, Jim and Mary Vaughan and Barney and Lea Wade.)



# Davenport Iowa Annual Installation Dinner

by Jerry Lowe



*Davenport Installation Dinner at The Outing Club*

On the evening of April 21, 2022, four important guests joined the 41 Davenport Gyros and Gyrettes gathered together at The Outing Club for the Installation Dinner. Gyro International President Blanton and Bonnie Bessinger and District 2 Governor Dan and Sherri Blohm graciously accepted our invitation to witness and participate in the Installation of our Leadership team.



*Front: Janet Brown-Lowe, Bonnie Bessinger & Sherri Blohm.  
Rear: Jerry Lowe, Blanton Bessinger & Dan Blohm*

Additionally, recognition awards were presented to Robert “Steamer” Fulton and his wife Joan for their 64 year Gyro membership and both were applauded for their contributions since 1958.

Additionally, the prestigious Merit Award was conveyed to Don Pedersen for his long standing efforts to support Gyros. This is especially an honor as only 7 earlier Quad City recipients have been

recognized since the award was initiated around 1953. Those members previously awarded include: Earnest Ryan-1969, Richard Hansen-1991, J. George Fuller-1996, Roger Fair-1996, Arnold Crass-2002, Robert Bate-man-2012 and Neil Baker-2012.



*Robert “Steamer” & Joan Fulton  
President Bessinger presents Merit Award to Don Pedersen*

The evening began with introductions of our special guests and Dave Samuelson sharing the Gyro Prayer (a local tradition). We feasted on delicious food prepared by the chefs of The Outing Club. Entertainment followed with Don Pedersen using a pitch pipe to lead the group in singing an attempted on-key rendition of “Hello, Gyro!

Later, we heard remarks from the current and soon to be past President of Davenport Gyro, Jerry Lowe followed by comments from Dr. Bessinger and Dr. Dan Blohm. All three spoke with humor as well as thoughtful observations regarding Gyro and its place in the world.

Then, Dr. Bessinger began the collective Installation of Mike and Carol DeBruyn, 1st Vice President, Robert and Susan Gallagher, 2nd Vice President, Don Pedersen, Treasurer and Jerry Lowe and Janet Brown-Lowe, Past President.



*International President Blanton Bessinger installs Dave and Ginny Samuelson as President of the Davenport Gyro Club*

President Samuelson expressed a few words regarding an encouraging future to the applause of all present before retiring for the evening.



## Humour Page(s)

*L-R: Dr. Bessinger, Mike & Carol Debruyne, Jerry Lowe & Janet Brown-Lowe, Bob & Susan Gallagher & Don Pedersen*

Later, Dr. Bessinger asked for Dave and Virginia Samuelson to the podium to install the new President for the 2022-2023 year. Each member did



their part in affirming their willingness to support Gyro.



## From the Editor ...

Oops—out of room.  
Maybe next month

Membership Stats	2005	2010	2015	2020	2021	2022
D-I	291	274	275	250	234	225
D-II	230	220	190	150	142	146
D-III	461	441	378	303	299	242
D-IV	774	730	596	505	477	479
D-V	0	0	0	0	0	0
D-VI	160	149	127	69	64	43
D-VII	302	268	251	229	220	223
D-VIII	418	407	364	317	312	298
D-IX	159	154	145	135	133	140
D-X	50	42	55	45	34	30
D-X1	0	0	0	0	0	0
INT'L.	58	55	34	28	25	23
	2903	2740	2421	2031	1940	1849

**Fact:**  
**Male friends are more loyal than female friends**

Member/ Country	2005	2015	2020	2021	2022
U. S. Members	2160	1406	967	928	924
Canadian	1781	1326	1036	1009	902
Int'l. Associates	58	34	28	25	23
Total Members	3999	2772	2031	1962	1849

## Welcome New Members

Club	Member	Sponsor
Canton	Anthony J. Downey II	Chris Snyder
		Dan Hahn
Caloosa	Ed Roever	John Kachmar
Caloosa	Robert H. Rowe	Jack Lyon
Caloosa	John E. Styles	Richard Leister
Fresno	Donald L. Baumbach	Larry Duba
Kelowna	Jack Peters	
Regina	Curt Schroeder	Ian McNeil
Davenport	Larry Makoben	Tim Downing
Buffalo	Peter Fix	Ned Barber, Mike McNally
Caloosa	Gerry Gurtowski	Ronn Skolnik
Cranbrook	Christian Boue	Hugo Hess
Long Beach	Greg Darling	John Ingram
McKenzie Island	Kurtis Weddel	Don Aiken
St. Catharines	Frank Rizzuto	Jack Wallace
Calgary	Kenney Schubert	Larry Fenton Paul Skinner
McKenzie Island	Dale Kustermans	Ron Demeduk
San Jose	Ruben C. Balderas	Steve Gossett
San Jose	Kharlo G. Barcenas	Jim Nielsen
San Jose	Ernest G. Giachetti	Andy Ghiggeri
San Jose	Roy H. Lusk	Rick Leisinger
Painesville	Stephen Atkins	Tim Wright
Painesville	John Rogers	Mike Hurley
Painesville	David Steger	Steve Baum
Painesville	John Warren	Roy Smith
Victoria	Dave Gordon	Jack Mulkins Darryl Owens
Wallace	Scott Leitch	
Wallace	Samuel V. Lavigne	
Dixon	Shane T. S. Beckman	
Port Colborne Niagara South	Alan W. Goss	Garth Paley
Minneapolis Metro	Steven Frederickson	Andy Bond
Canton	Jamie D. Savarin	
New Glasgow	Bruce MacIntosh	A. W. (Sandy) MacIntosh
Port Colborne Niagara South	James A. Halucha	Garth Paley

## Members we have lost

Club	Member
Kitimat	Douglas J. Oleniuk
San Jose	Richard Arzino John Brezzo Preston Bruntz
Stampede City	Ian D. Greig
Wallace	James D. Striker
Long Beach	David Carver
Camosun	John Read Leslie W. Wood
Marion	John McDaniel
Blacklake	Robert Stave
Camosun	John Read
Edmonton	Fred Otto
Buffalo	Michael McNally

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



## Conventions

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

### DISTRICTS

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- District I Convention
- District II Convention .....
- District III Interim ..... April 23  
M.T.Bellies in Welland
- District IV Interim Convention ..... April 8 – 10  
Nanaimo, British Columbia
- District IV Convention ..... September 23-25, 2022  
Prince George Gyro [mikemillard9@gmail.com](mailto:mikemillard9@gmail.com)
- District VI Convention .....
- District VII Convention ..... August 25-28  
McKenzie Island  
..... [https://district7.gyro.org/?page\\_id=399](https://district7.gyro.org/?page_id=399)
- District VIII Convention ..... September 22 - 25, 2022  
Medicine Hat, Alberta  
[https://stampedecity.gyro.org/?page\\_id=4029](https://stampedecity.gyro.org/?page_id=4029)
- District IX Convention ..... October 13 - 16  
Arroyo Grande, .Central Coast Gyro Club
- District X Convention .....



### INTERNATIONAL

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- International ..... June 18, 2022 - Virtual via Zoom
- Pending.....2023
- District III.....2024
- Sherwood Park / Edmonton.....2025