

~ MEETING MINUTES ~  
GYRO INTERNATIONAL 2017 CONVENTION MEETING

**BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING**

Coast Plaza Hotel, Vancouver, BC

June 10, 2017

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The meeting was called to order by President Dana Davidson at 8:40 a.m. He indicated we had a tight schedule with many issues to cover, so we'd move right along and get started – also asking to please take turns in talking.

He then called upon VP Ted Shewchuk to offer the **Invocation**.

**Ted** asked all to stand, then he requested blessings from the Lord and thanked the early Gyros who laid the groundwork of the organization. He then asked for a moment of silence in memory of departed Gyros.

President Dana then called upon Secretary-Treasurer Emil Baijot for the **Roll Call**. Emil then started the **Roll Call**, indicating that all present should speak up for the recorders benefit and signify by saying aye. Present were the following:

|               |                         |                   |
|---------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| EXEC. COUNCIL | President               | Dana Davidson     |
|               | First Vice President    | Dale Woodroffe    |
|               | Second Vice President   | Matt Johnson      |
|               | Third Vice President    | Ted Shewchuk      |
|               | Immed. Past President   | Chris Snyder      |
|               | Secretary-Treasurer     | Emil Baijot       |
| INTERNATIONAL | Financial Administrator | Ken Baker         |
| DISTRICT I    | Governor                | Randy Tarrier     |
|               | 2LG                     | James Glassmeyer  |
| DISTRICT II   | Delegate                | Bob Keller        |
| DISTRICT III  | Governor                | Ned Barber        |
| DISTRICT IV   | Governor                | Saul Hilchey      |
|               | Lt. Governor            | Peter Evans       |
|               | Treasurer               | Frank Hunaus      |
|               | Immed. Past Governor    | Dan Durbin        |
| DISTRICT VI   | Governor                | Ed MacDonald      |
| DISTRICT VII  | Governor                | Blanton Bessinger |
|               | LG                      | John Barber       |
| DISTRICT VIII | Acting Governor         | Peter Carter      |
|               | Acting LG               | Larry Fenton      |
|               | Secretary-Treasurer     | Ken Baker         |
|               | Immed. Past Governor    | John Hodgson      |
| DISTRICT IX   | Governor                | Lowell Gist       |
| DISTRICT X    | Governor                | Al Sinicrope      |
|               | Secretary               | Lonnie Turner     |
| DISTRICT XIII | Delegate                | Larry Duba        |

The S-T reported to President Dana all the Districts were represented and the Meeting indeed had a quorum.

It was then moved and seconded to accept the Minutes of the previous meeting as circulated. **m/s/a**

### **Executive Council Officer Reports –**

Each EC member gave his report detailing activities since the last meeting. Copies are attached to summary package report. The president then took a moment to recognize the PIPs in the audience. Snyder, Bernard, Moffatt, Duba, Roberts, Sinicrope, Randall & Baijot.

### **Secretary-Treasurer Report –**

S/T Emil indicated his report would be brief and that Finance Administrator Ken Baker would answer any detailed questions. Emil indicated that projections showed last year we should show a year-end surplus, which we managed to do - this seems a wonderful result considering what we were facing last year. The projection for savings of \$15,000 via eliminating the Interim meeting in reality resulted in a savings of \$12,500. The budget for this current year also shows a small surplus, but it is minimal so will require close watch. He noted his travel keeps going down because of less travel because having Chris Snyder close to the office for overview, and of course, the venue chosen. He then asked for questions, indicating that Ken's report would offer details, and in the interest of time there was no reason to duplicate.

### **Reports –**

**Financial Report:** Financial Administrator Ken Baker then provided a lengthy overview summary of the financial documents. He answered numerous questions re: incidental details, dollar exchange rates, etc.

President Dana reviewed the **ECs meeting**. He noted that considerable time was spent discussing the issues as noted on the Agenda, and the prospects of issues arising out of the Governors Meeting. Communications took a lot of time. How to help the Governors, i.e. the Governors bulletins are in short supply – should be 3-4 per year. The website is underused – almost all questions can answered there. The EC talked about more participation, both in club and district. We talked about the S/T and candidates to succeed him. The EC talked about realistic age groups as new members. The EC had Membership Director Larry Duba join the meeting to talk about his issues. Discussion continued re: the value of business cards. Dana noted that Larry would like to relinquish the position after his two years is up, thus we will be looking for other candidates.

VP Matt Johnson spoke about his plan to identify the 14 largest clubs and to have the EC members monitor more directly their status and on-going activity – indicating it was imperative to not lose more large clubs. President Dale reiterated that for many clubs it was the duty of the district officers to constantly follow through.

**Past District Governors Meeting:** Report was given by the chairman Andy McDougall. Copy to be attached to summary package.

**Betterment Fund:** PDG Andy McDougall gave a report as to the funds available and recent requests. Possible further usage might be the answer to upcoming comments by the new Membership Director Larry Duba.

**Membership Committee:** Larry Duba, Chair, gave an outline of issues he felt imperative in order to make the committee productive. These issues would be discussed in the separate Governor Meeting with their recommendations to be submitted to the BOG following lunch. (*Reports are available within the Summary Package.*)

Considerable discussion ensued re: ease of use of the website. Concerns about finding specific items, etc. Emil noted that in the last year he had completely redone the website, bringing it up-to-date with current Responsive Design attributes wherein users have a better interface whether using a cellphone, tablet or computer. Responding to comments, he indicated he could not predict what any viewer might be looking for so it might be displayed initially, suggesting in time that AI (artificial intelligence) would eventually come into use. Further discussion made it apparent that most of the discussion really related to the database ease of use, and not the website. It seems that to many, they are one in the same – not the case as they are handled by two different individuals.

No further reports were presented.

### **New Business –**

***Proposals from District IV*** – President Dana then called upon Governor Saul Hilchey to present the district proposal. *(This would be introductory only, with discussion to continue within the separate Governors Meeting.)*

Saul then presented the Proposal which was that the District requested that the EC and BOG discuss the possibility that the International S/T position become a volunteer one rather than salaried, resulting in a significant cost savings. The request suggested forming an advisory committee, recognizing that the selection and remuneration to the S/T was, by the bylaws, the sole discretion of the Executive Council. Any change to that would require a Constitutional Amendment.

S/T Emil noted that he had prepared in advance a compendium of items, e.g. the duties of the S/T and Editor; and overview of daily activities; technical aspects of the current job requirements, and a personal commentary, that might be helpful to the Governors in their deliberations, and would give copies to the meeting Chair, Blanton Bessinger.

Saul indicated that there was no secondary proposal as implied by the agenda.

*The BOG meeting was then adjourned at 10:17 a.m. and following a short recess, the Governors Meeting would commence. The full BOG would resume whenever the Governors would so determine. (Note: At the request of the Governors, the BOG meeting would reconvene following lunch, per normal.)*

### **BOG Meeting Resumes -**

Governors Meeting Chairman Blanton Bessinger summarized the issues discussed in the Governor's meeting. He indicated that the Governors did look at the budget and offered their approval. Elimination of the 3VP position – the amendment as written was approved. Communications – the Governors reaffirmed that all efforts be made to improve, especially down to the club level; especially by developing a communication tool (e.g. universal conference call) that could be used at all levels of Gyro. Further, perhaps some thought could be given re: scheduling of meetings. The Governor's did unanimously agree with the language re: dissolution of clubs as presented by PDG Pentney. Finally, the Governor's did support the D-IV resolution re: a study by the EC and committee to make the S/T position a volunteer one.

Governor Saul then reviewed the resolution as discussed with the Governor's meeting – that International **review the duties and responsibilities of the S/T**, and further to conduct a search to find a candidate willing to do the job as a volunteer. To this, an amendment was proposed that this study be finalized by December 31, 2017, and that 3 Governor's be appointed as a committee with the EC. VP Matt then observed that since the S/T had already completed a multi-page report of his duties, why was a further review necessary? Chairman Blanton suggested that there was not enough time to digest the report presently, and that the idea of a committee was to perhaps look if there was a better way to do the job and/or reinforce the duties as they are. More discussion in clarification ... the thrust being that it was not a reflection on the current S/T, but more an issue of the budget.

President Dana then noted that the EC was already having discussion re: replacement. S/T Emil then offered a lengthy commentary re: all the extra time required over and above the written job description – handling questions and answering emails that sometimes require extensive thought. He pointed out that all previous S/T's were salaried despite conjecture by some, and most were paid considerably more in today's dollars. He further noted that all these remarks were compiled in the report given to the Governors. Considerable more discussion ensued, finally resulting, at the request of incoming President Dale, in selecting the following Governors: Al Sinicrope (X), Ed McDonald (VI) and Peter Evans (IV) as the ad hoc committee members along with the EC.

PDG Pentney then reviewed his considerable efforts at formulating a better method for **controlling a club/district dissolution**. Alan was asked to read the proposals and that following discussion, a motion be offered, followed by a vote. PIP Randall asked that as the amendment writer he be given some latitude in his choice of words, without altering the intent of any motion – assuming that the AGM meeting (following) would approve the proposed amendment. He was so authorized by a voice vote. He later commented that in his 50+ years in Gyro that his amendment was perhaps the most important he had witnessed since its aim was to slow down the loss of clubs. Motion being on the floor it was so **m/s/a** unanimously.

**Committee reviewing Communication:** Gov. Randy TARRIER indicated the thrust of the committee was to find or develop a method that would facilitate communication at all levels of Gyro. They looked at a number of possibilities, some with visual

attributes – all reviewed were a means of conference calling. Some were limited by geo-graphics, so me by number of users, costs, and other such restraints. A goal of \$500/year was adopted; the best selection would allow most of the requirements at

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a cost of \$350/year. This would mean useable by all levels of Gyro, e.g. district meetings, Governor meetings, etc. Randy noted he would demonstrate the product at the next day's seminar. Then a decision could be made. He indicated it would take about an hour, thus the start time was changed to 9am. Gov. McDonald suggested that if this program was accepted, we should move along this coming fall to implement the system and see how it works across the Gyro spectrum. VP Johnson recommended that we selected a pre-arranged date, i.e. the first Saturday in October at 10am PDT, to schedule a trial conference call. A voice vote was called resulting in a unanimous "aye" agreeing to the date and time. Soon to be President Dale noted he would have a 3-item agenda so as to restrict the time, but also accomplish some business.

**Communications Plan re: Largest Clubs:** Matt indicated he would get his plan rolling in the next few days. **Membership Director use of Betterment Funding:** Larry Duba was asked to respond as to his needs and requests. Some discussion continued re: contributions to the BF – from clubs, districts and individuals. Reminders should be given to the clubs each year. **Future Seminars:** Dana asked if there were any recommendations or changes re: future meetings. Suggestions were to emphasis communications.

Old Business –

The S/T reported that all the recommendations from the Governors meeting in Red Lake had been implemented. **Future Seminars** will cover presentations on Evite and Social Media.

**Conventions by Rotation:** current review of the selection rotation as done by the BOG earlier. The S/T noted the listing was located under number 11 on the agenda. There were a couple of interruptions because i.e. Victoria wished to host 2020 because it would be their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. These interruptions were gratefully accepted. **Review of BOG actions:** eliminate 3VP – the resolution prepared by PIP Randall was read by the S/T. **Constitution and Bylaws:** The amendment was passed as to its correctness and recommended to the AGM.

**Membership:** it was determined that reports by VP Dale and Director Duba had already covered the topic.

Awards –

The S/T noted that he would be presenting Hubbell Award(s), an Honor Key, the George France Award, and a special membership award at the banquet, the other awards would be presented at the AGM.

Future Meetings –

**2018 Interim** – As recommended by the BOG, this interim will not be held in the interest of correcting the financial shortfall caused by the declining Canadian dollar values and loss of membership. Future interims will be resumed if conditions warrant.

**Convention 2018** – Delegate Bob Keller reiterated that it will be hosted by the district in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin at the Abbey Resort. This is about a 45-minute drive north of O'Hara airport in Chicago. It is a large resort of and a wonderful venue. Date is the last week of June, 2018. Madison or Milwaukee would be closer fly-in choices if available.

**Convention 2019** – Larry Duba reported it would be in Reno, Nevada, June 6-9. It will be a four-day meeting, Rooms about \$89 and planned are excursions to Silver City and Lake Tahoe.

**Convention 2020** – Victoria along with District IV offered to host because it will mark the Victoria clubs 100<sup>th</sup> charter anniversary in Gyro. Details to come. Third week of June.

**Convention 2021** – possibly to be requested by District VII.

The following conventions will be hosted by D-6, then D-1 and then D-10 in that order. Districts are reminded the BOG resolution allowed for negotiations between districts to make substitutions to the order as determined by the BOG.

**Comments for the Good of the Order –**

Immediate Past President Chris Snyder requested the floor to announce that due to a burglary at his home he would be leaving shortly, and had asked the previous IPIP Lonnie Turner to stand in as his replacement to conduct the installation of officers at the banquet. He wanted to express his pleasure and gratefulness for all the friendships, humor and camaraderie they have experienced during his five years on the EC. For this he received a loud round of applause from those assembled.

***District Reports:*** President Dana then asked the delegates to submit their district reports. With regards to the time, he asked if they would like to read them now or submit them to be read online. It was determined that due to the lengthy proceedings of this meeting that individual verbal reports would be unnecessary. Copies are attached to the summary package.

Governor Tarrier did offer a summary of the D-I efforts at training and communicating. He felt they were on the right track and the effort would continue.

Governor Saul commented that since the district had just finished an interim in the last month, there would be little business to conduct at the next day's convention meeting – so he had invited two lady specialists in communication to offer their training and a workshop. As such, it might be beneficial for everyone to attend, not just D-4, to perhaps pick up new ideas.

Governor Bessinger noted that the delegate from D-II – Bob Keller – has been a Gyro for 67 years! Bob stood and received another round of applause. He commented, “he had enjoyed every year!”

Hearing no further comments, President Dana thanked everyone for attending and their friendship, and thanked them for their perseverance through the long Governors and BOG meetings.

He then asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion was so made. **m/s/a.**

Respectfully submitted:  
Emil Bajot  
Secretary/Treasurer,  
Gyro International