

## BETTERMENT FUND ~

Have you a great idea to promote Gyro membership? Is your Club planning a membership drive or event for which you'd like to be paid? Has Gyro been good to and for you? Would you like to help spread the "word"? Have you heard about the Betterment Fund? The Betterment Fund was established at the International Convention in Moncton in 1994.

The Fund was originally envisioned as one that would bolster declining revenues in the face of declining membership. It was anticipated that with a sufficient "war chest," dues could be delayed for many years, currency exchange rates would be absorbed, funding for aggressive external expansion could be made available, internal expansion could receive financial assistance, and major capital maintenance funds for the HQs building could be provided. (These objectives were amended and revised in 1996). A pledge program was instituted with some degree of success.

At the International Interim in New Orleans in 1996, the Bylaws of Gyro International were amended to include Chapter 11A which formally adopted the Betterment Fund, its Purpose, Administration, and Use. The stated purpose is to perpetuate, promote and expand the concept, membership, welfare and influence of Gyro by using the monies in the Fund for expenses not normally included in the Budget of this organization; and other such purpose as the Board shall deem appropriate.

The Board of Trustees was established under the Bylaws of Gyro International is responsible for the investment and reinvestment of the monies in the Betterment Fund in 1998.

The BF Board is composed of three Past District Governors elected by the Board of Governors, and the two most immediate Past International Presidents, and has exclusive authority for the expenditure of monies from the BF. The Executive Council has no say in the operation of the Fund. In 1998 the BOG established guidelines for the disbursement of funds to Districts and Clubs for unusual efforts or events designed to attract new members. As follows:

- Clubs: a club or clubs conducting a sanctioned event designed to attract new members may apply for reimbursement (using the provided form) as follows – annual capita fee for each NEW gyro registered with International; \$15 for each potential member in attendance who did not elect to join; and an additional \$45 for each participant installed as a new member. The BF will approve up to \$500 to help a new club get started and/or hold a recruitment drive for that purpose.

While membership efforts are a priority, Gyros are reminded that other worthwhile endeavors for the betterment of Gyro should also be explored and submitted for consideration. For example: seed money provided to develop the original web page and to upgrade the HQs computer systems. Any one or more Gyros, Clubs or Districts may submit a proposal for expenditures.

Your proposal or request should be directed to the BF Board c/o Gyro International, 1096 Mentor Ave., Painesville, Ohio 44077. HQs will forward the request to the BF Board for consideration. Do not send any requests to individual Board members.

In order to avoid delays, you should provide the BF Board with as much information as possible, including:

- A description of the event or project.
- Approximate amount of funding required from the Fund and how these monies will be spent.
- What you expect to accomplish.
- Why you feel the proposal meets the criteria set out in Sect. I, Article IV of Chap. 11A.
- The names, addresses and phone numbers of contact person or persons.

If your proposal is accepted, you will be notified in a timely fashion. If a subsequent request for Reimbursement is also approved by the BF Board, they will direct the Trustees to pay out or transfer monies from the Fund.

The BF is not a bottomless well. The success of the Fund lies not only in what you can accomplish in the way of Gyro growth, but also in contributions from Gyros like you who think that Gyro is a great concept and well-worth promoting. Hopefully every Gyro would wish to participate and contribute to the Fund. To make this easier, a Pledge Form is available from the database. Fill it in and send it with your contribution to Gyro International.

If you would like additional helpful information, we encourage you to read the brochure "Some Questions and Answers About the Betterment Fund." Gyro HQs will be pleased to forward a copy upon request.