

## **Minutes of Governor's Conference Call – October 12, 2017 – 3pm PDT**

*(First effort using WEBEX software program)*

**Ed. Note:** Although scheduled to begin at 3pm, the inevitable first-time efforts to log-on to the meeting created delays for some – primarily President Dale, moderator, was delayed about 20 minutes. In the meantime VP Matt Johnson, filling in during Dale's absence addressed the agenda as prepared by Dale. There were a few brief comments, mostly concerning the need to record minutes. Mostly, the first 20+ minutes were devoted to connection and audio difficulties.

PDG Randy Tarrier initiated the meeting as administrator and upon arriving home switched off for a few moments while he arranged to have the software record the meeting. There were a few stops and starts as others checked in and from my vantage point it seemed the voice transmissions had an occasional burp – perhaps due to telephone routing delays (?). For the most part those on video feeds had excellent results, however perhaps a few mechanical short-comings may be a future problem for some, e.g. Gov. Blanton Bessinger's weak audio output from his laptop microphone.

Eventually it all fell into place and the functional part of the meeting started about 3:27pm. Those attending were President Dale Woodroffe, VP Matt Johnson, VP Ted Shewchuck, S/T Emil Baijot, D-I: Bryan Flanigan & Randy Tarrier, D- IV Peter Evans, D-VII Blanton Bessinger, D-VIII Peter Carter and Gary Ennis from D-X. It was noted that governors from D-II and D-IX were absent due to family issues. (If anyone was missed, please advise to correct these minutes).

### **The Meeting:**

Dale asked for any specific items for the next agenda. Bryan wondered because of our financial condition whether having two-year officer terms might reduce costs. Fewer installations, more knowledgeable about issues, etc. It was noted that some districts already have two-year terms and others such as 4 and 8 seem to have a waiting list however they also expense their Lt. Gov. to attend the meetings, so that seems to accomplish the same desired result. It was agreed to re-visit this issue.

Dale moved on noting on his agenda the main item was membership. Random comments dealt with marketing, inviting and making Gyro more known. Bryan said they were planning to produce a Power Point slide show that would show anyone interested in Gyro what our goals and structure are, and what our accomplishments have been. Communicating face-to-face is sometimes difficult – but this might be something visual to get the message across. In D-I they will be also looking at what works best geographically to start new clubs. Matt questioned Peter Evans re: a video produced by Victoria. Peter indicated how to find the video and suggested it might be useful to the D-I project.

There was more random discussion re: mining the newer members for more new members. An excellent source of growing the clubs. That age group is our pool of potential new members.

Dale asked again for any other agenda items before setting a time and date for the next conference call. At this point Peter Carter checked in, but his audio was also very faint – the video was good. It was

determined his problem was likely using a Safari browser. Emil suggested he download Firefox as it works well across operating systems.

Peter Evans noted an article from the Washington Post about how loneliness is a major problem. He will send it to the attendees.

Emil noted he was getting a small feedback from almost everyone's audio. Randy suggested it was because he was using both a cell phone and his computer for this conference. (Another tech issue to consider in the future. At this point Blanton had adjusted his audio and was now easily understood.

Bryan added another possible concern for consideration. Perhaps meeting schedules could be adjusted to allow those interested, e.g. in only district or business only affairs, to attend for only three days rather than five days which would perhaps increase attendance as well as reduce costs – especially for our target membership age, many of whom are still working.

Dale asked again for time and date for the next meeting. Every two months was discussed but it was finally determined that for the immediate future, monthly conference calls would be more beneficial to all.

The meeting adjourned at 4:01pm.

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**Ed. Observations:** I thought the meeting, once started, worked well. Those participating needed a period to adjust to the new process. As the next couple meetings occur, incidental tech difficulties should no longer be a problem. I would suggest that in the following meetings everyone identify themselves each time they spoke as I noted the audio on the recording made the speaker hard to identify at times. Frankly I only recognized myself because I sometimes did identify myself first. Perhaps the moderator should ask that no one speak until he calls on them for comments.

I noted that most times when someone spoke the system did identify visually by a circle showing speaker initials. But the reference was quick and limited to those on video. If the software were perfect it would be nice if there were some means to say – click on a button that would indicate you had a comment, which would register on the moderator's screen, from which he could call on you in turn. That would simplify over-speaking on someone else and would keep issues moving along. Maybe Randy can explore that option if available. If everyone could be on the video that could be easily done by simply raising one's hand – however the video is limited only 6 or 8 at a time.

I found Peter Evans' article from the WA Post very interesting. It seems to amplify the considerable discussion that resonated throughout Gyro about 10-12 years back regarding a book that strongly endorsed that people live 25% longer when they have multiple friends. This resulted in a useful promotion, i.e. "Join Gyro and Live Longer."

Respectfully submitted:

Emil Baijot, Secretary-Treasurer

From D-IV Governor Peter Evans

## UNITED STATES

# FORMER SURGEON GENERAL DECRIES GROWING LONELINESS EPIDEMIC

Vivek Murthy, former U.S. surgeon general, is decrying a loneliness epidemic, saying work is partly to blame.

In a new cover story in the Harvard Business Review, Murthy treats loneliness like a public health crisis, and the workplace as one of the primary places where it can get better – or worse.

“Our social connections are in fact largely influenced by the institutions and settings where we spend the majority of our time,” Murthy said in an interview

with the Washington Post. “That includes the workplace.”

In the HBR article, Murthy writes that “we live in the most technologically connected age in the history of civilization, yet rates of loneliness have doubled since the 1980s.”

He added: “Many people feel that the folks they’re working with are work colleagues, but they wouldn’t call them friends. And there’s a real lost opportunity there ...”

*The Washington Post*

## Conference Call #2 – Committee Governors and Gyro International

### Executive

**In Attendance:** Randy Tarrier, Bryan Flanigan, Larry Duba, Matt Johnson, Peter Evans, Peter carter, Luis Coutinho, Blanton Bessinger, Ted Shewchuk, Dale Woodroffe

**Missing:** Emil Baijot, Dana Davidson, Neil Baker, Gary Ennis, Chad Kreller, Roger Lindley, Brent Malfara

The meeting did not start on time due to technical difficulties related to sign in procedures.

Meeting discussions started related to the Agenda.

- 1) A review of the previous minutes was discussed.
  - Decided not to have an electronic recording of the conference call at this time.
  - Was decided to have a brief summary of the issues discussed by note taking.
  - The Chairman volunteered to take notes and distribute to the committee a rough draft.
  - Luis mentioned that in the previous minutes it was recorded that district 2 and 9 were not represented and that he had sent an email to the chairman that he would be away and district 6 would also not be represented.
  - There were no other comments related to the previous minutes.
- 2) Agenda item, update on insurance issues was discussed.
  - Matt reviewed District 4's concerns related to insurance.
  - Clubs add E&O coverage.
  - Canadian Insurance agent sent emails to Peter Evans. The Canadian agent will not write a single Canadian policy for E&O only. There is a single policy that provides \$1 million in liability and liquor coverage already in place. If clubs want E&O coverage they need to contact the agent.
  - Concern about someone stealing club money. Not really happening yet.
  - Concern Clubs get sued for slander.
  - Comments from group.
  - Red Lake Convention had extra insurance added during District and GI convention due to extra risk going to and from the Club House on the island.
  - Insurance policies are not always very clear.
  - Each club should write a separate policy with insurance companies.
  - In Canada Insurance Companies will not do coverage across the country as some clubs do not have to register as non-profit.
  - Policies in the US and Canada look ok for liquor use.
  - District I has special insurance for the Treasurer for \$10,000 cap. Cost \$175/year.
  - District IV received a quote for the District only for E&O at \$600 per year.
- 3) Agenda item to review conferences to 3, 4 and 5 days, was discussed.
  - Try to compress business into 3 days, so all district officers can attend.
  - Vancouver conference ran over two weeks so it was difficult for working Gyros and spouses to take two weeks off.
  - Try to have all events and business meetings during the same week.

- Next 2 conventions, Lake Geneva and Reno have contracts in place with the hotels for meetings and discounts for Gyros.
- 2019 Reno convention is now 4 days plus travel all in the same week. Better room rates for Gyros and meetings.
- Happy with 4 days.
- A discussion was made around having a vote on the issue of a 3 day conference verses a 4 or 5 day.
- Mentioned that this committee for conference calls was to set up at the request of the BoG and EC to establish a format and software package that could be used by the BoG, EC, District Governors and Club Presidents for communication on a regular bases.
- Conferences are for business, fun and friendship and to meet other Gyros face to face.
- This also includes having events for the spouses and friends of Gyro.
- Today not only Gyros work but also wives and most take time off.
- What would voting at this time accomplish as the next two conferences are set?
- This should be discussed in June at the next AGM when the Governors meet.
- Governors have been asked to participate in this committee and under the Constitution could be seen as a meeting.
- Some district Governors have already talked to the Club presidents and some have not, about this issue.
- The District has the power already to reduce or expand conventions.
- Next meeting in June has events and gaps in the days.
- Business meetings could be lumped, International and District.
- Some Gyros can come all week, some can come for a few days.
- 2019 Convention has been condensed and is now pretty efficient.
- Take just as much effort by Districts to put two conventions, District and GI together.
- Separate conventions take extra time and money.
- Gyros and friends of Gyro can start extra days before and after the convention to visit the city, province and state.

Ran out of time as some participants had to leave.

Chairman thanked everyone for their participation.

Happy Thanksgiving and Remembrance Day!

Time out 4:25 pm Mountain Time. Next conference call December 14 at 4 pm Mountain Time.

## GOVERNORS CONFERENCE CALL – JANUARY 18, 2018

*(ed. note) the initial minutes, prior to the recording, are submitted by President Dale*

The meeting started at 4 pm Mountain Time. No changes to the last conference call #4 minutes were made. Minutes accepted.

A discussion about the website and databases started as this has become a major problem.

It was mentioned that the database software was rock hard and has good functionality but was antiquated. The framework was old technology and we needed to look at other solutions. This would not be easy and could be expensive. The database is a package and is rented and needs administration tools. Need someone to admin the package.

The website and the database are separate and the database is the problem. We have a lot of emails to Gyros and some Gyros want to add pictures with their emails. The question was asked if this was a database problem or a performance issue. There is an upgrade to Cold fusion for \$38,000.

The number of emails sent out at one time was a database issue. Not the website. Contact with people was good. Emil noted the owner of the database site was an Olympia member. Dale asked Matt to set up a committee to review the issues around the database and get back to us. Matt accepted the challenge.

*(ed. note): Upon accessing the conference call, this recorder noted dialog was already established, however there was considerable static override at times, making even the recording hard to determine at times.*

Picking up at the beginning of the recording, President Dale was discussing in general the gist of the D6 governors email – i.e. a concern from the district that GI needed to allow women membership.

PIP Larry Duba was identified and commented that the BOG had made leaving the organization more difficult, which somewhat answered item 2 – What has the Gyro done? Dale noted that a committee had offered many items for review; that the EC had put all of them into effect; and now the onus was on the clubs to perform, i.e. the executive could hardly do more. S/T Emil confirmed and agreed with Dale's comments. VP Matt then noted that over the past five years the BOG has made radical changes – from removing the Interim to shortening the length of conventions and cutting visitations to cutting a 3VP – basically indicates that those complaining have not been paying attention.

Emil then indicated he had not received the D6 email; Dale reiterated it covered two things – 1) having women as members, and 2) what has the exec done to provide new members to the clubs? Matt noted when he was the rep to the district that women membership was a hot topic in the business meeting. Matt indicated he told the district they, the district and/or clubs, could do as they wished without interference from GI, however GI would not recognize the women as members or charge them dues.

Larry then commented about his effort re: a handout card about Gyro – something that would offer a little info about GI to entice interest.

PDG Randy spoke at some length offering concepts that might be applied to the D6 email. Larry interjected that the key was “fun” events to share. Since Governor Bryan was on his committee, he'd contact him about putting together a response and then send it as “another governor” trying to help. Dale: a problem is that the governors rotate often and it would be helpful to maintain the available information rather than re-invent each year.

*(ed. note): It was then noted that Governor Blanton was receiving cancellation notices from WebEx. Randy would try to fix. Throughout the conference call, Blanton's visual and his outgoing sound were good, but he was unable to hear incoming dialog. Matt suggested he turn off the computer connection and rejoin with his phone only. This interruption took perhaps 10 minutes to adjust.*

It was then asked to review agenda item 3 – dues in arrears. Dale noted he had just talked to Ken Baker and the amounts were insignificant, so he had sort of passed over the item.

Moving on, Dale mentioned he had sent out a draft of the Committee on Volunteers. He had gotten a few responses in return, but since most all were silent, he is assuming general acceptance. General comments were then made such as reimbursement or not, travel expenses only, etc. Larry suggested perhaps a percentage reimbursement would be the answer. Randy suggested it was imperative the committee in its report have clear ideas as to job description and reimbursement and the reasons for those determinations. Not just a general commentary. Dale agreed, saying the report needed to be clear that GI was looking for volunteers first, but there would also be direction for negotiation.

There was ongoing discussion about reimbursements, etc. Matt offered that he felt Emil had already done that recently. Emil then interjected that he had recently sent to Dale two items, one a summary that could be used to illuminate why some reimbursement would likely be needed, and second, a summary of his overall thinking. He indicated, in his opinion, that all volunteers was highly unlikely due to the amount of effort involved – in varying amounts – for the now identified various jobs in question. He further indicated, that assuming there were no volunteers, with the amounts he was now suggesting, Gyro would still realize a \$5000 cut in the budget, and perhaps even as much as \$10,000. With some volunteers, it could be even more.

Dale then asked about separating the secretary and treasurer job, indicating it was a perception that things had changed. Emil offered that a few years earlier, D-4 in their sweeping proposal suggested it change to Exec. Director, which eventually was voted down unanimously. He indicated he thought it a bad idea because without the Interims the job was perhaps reduce some 50%. We now have the Finance Administrator to oversee the finances, but in the end the Treasurer was still responsible.

Dale: indicated time was about up and asked for volunteer to do the minutes. Emil indicated that since Randy had recorded most of the meeting, if he'd just send the recording, Emil would write them up.

Dale noted that the recording started late, so when the draft was done he would add his notes to the beginning of these minutes.

Dale then asked for any new business to discuss at the next call. Emil suggested that if Randy as operator or Dale as moderator could send out a “night before” reminder along with the connections number and password, it might produce better attendance.

Randy opined that it would be wise to start a half or quarter hour earlier to resolve sign-in difficulties.

Dale asked to set the next conference call – determined to be February 14 at the same time, albeit tuning in 15 minutes early to resolve connection issues.

*In attendance were: President Dale Woodroffe, VP Matt Johnson, S/T Emil Baijot, PIP Larry Duba (Membership Chair), D7 Governor Blanton Bessinger, D2 Governor Neil Baker and PDG Randy Tarrier.*

*Respectfully submitted:*

*Emil Baijot, S/T*