

BETTERMENT FUND

Have you got a great idea to promote Gyro membership? Is your Club planning a membership drive or event for which it would 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 increases would 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 Headquarters building could be provided. (These objectives were reviewed and amended 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 established the Betterment Fund, its' Purpose, Administration, and Use. The stated Purpose of the Betterment Fund is to perpetuate, promote, and expand the concept, membership, welfare and influence of Gyro by using the moneys in the Fund for expenses not normally included in the Budget of this Organization; to encourage membership in, and expansion of this Organization; and other such purposes as the Board shall deem appropriate.

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

The Betterment Fund Board of Directors composed of three Past District Governors elected by the Board of Governors, and the two most immediate Past Presidents has exclusive authority for the expenditure of moneys from the Betterment Fund. The Executive Council has no say in the operation of the Fund.

In 1998 the Board of Directors established guidelines for the disbursement of funds to Districts and Clubs for unusual efforts or events designed to attract new members. They are:

Districts: Betterment Fund may provide matching funds equal to one-half of expenses incurred by a Membership chairman or assistants or a planned District event, not to exceed:

Districts of 1-5 Clubs @ \$150.00 per year/ 6-10 Clubs @ \$200.00 per year / 11-20 Clubs @ \$400.00 per year / 21+ Clubs @ \$600.00 per year

Club: A Club or Clubs conducting a sanctioned event designed to attract new members may apply for reimbursement (on the Form provided) as follows: Annual capita fee for each NEW Gyro registered with Gyro International; \$10.00 for each potential Gyro in attendance who did not elect to become a member 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 was provided to develop the original GYRO home page, and to upgrade Headquarters computer systems. Any one or more individual Gyros, Gyro Clubs or Districts may submit a proposal for expenditures from the Betterment Fund

Your proposal or request should be directed to the Betterment Fund Board of Directors c/o Gyro International, P.O. Box 489, Painesville OH, 44077. Gyro Headquarters will then forward the request to the members of the Board of Directors for consideration. Do not send your proposal to the individual members of the Board. Gyro Headquarters will do that for you

In order to avoid any delay in consideration of your proposal or request, you should provide the Betterment Fund Board of Directors with as much information as possible including:

1. A description of the event or project.
2. The approximate amount of funding which will be required from the Fund and how these moneys will be spent or allocated and used.
3. What you expect to accomplish.
4. Why you feel the proposal or project meets the criteria set out in Section 1 of Article IV of Chapter 11A.
5. 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 your subsequent Request for Reimbursement is also approved by the Betterment Fund Board of Directors, the Board will direct the Board of Trustees to pay out or transfer moneys from the fund for the purposes of the proposal.

Obviously the Betterment Fund is not a bottomless well. The success of the Fund lies not only in what it 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. Feel free fill it in, and send it with your contribution to Gyro International.

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