

# INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL

**Let's start with a bit of history --** Although Gyro was founded in 1912, Gyro International was first organized in January 1917 when the five existing clubs sent delegates to Cleveland for a meeting. At this meeting, powers were delegated to the International Organization to protect existing Clubs and to provide for the admission of new clubs into the fraternity. With the growth of Gyro over the next six years it became apparent that Gyro International required a central office as well as a paid Secretary. Founder Ed Kagy was the unanimous choice and was elected to this position. At first Ed took care of the office details and worked on a part time basis along with his regular job but, by 1925, it became apparent that Gyro required someone working full time. Thus Ed Kagy served as the first full time, paid Secretary-Treasurer until his retirement in 1954.

## **Back to the present –**

Gyro has grown significantly since then; today we have 106 clubs, 11 districts and approximately 4,000 members throughout the USA and Canada . To administer an organization of this size we required not only a full time Secretary-Treasurer but also a support staff which today consists of 3 part time employees who work out of our Headquarters' Building in Painesville , Ohio . The present staff consists of Office Manager Pat Swanson, Membership Secretary Roberta Winston and an Office Secretary. Overseeing the International Operations is your Executive Council (EC) who consists of the President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, 3rd Vice President and the Immediate Past President. Each member serves one year in each position for a total of 5 years. The EC are all devoted Gyros who take on this responsibility because they care.

## **What do we do?**

The full extent of the EC's duties is spelled out in detail in Sections B & C of our Constitutions and Bylaws. These are too numerous to list here so I refer you to our International Website ([international.gyro.ws/](http://international.gyro.ws/)) where the latest edition of our Constitution is posted. However, the following summary will provide you with a good idea of what International and the EC are all about

1. The EC is elected annually at the International Annual General Meeting based on the recommendations of the Past International Presidents. All officers serve without compensation. However, the expenses incurred for official business is reimbursed. These official expenses generally relate to the expenses incurred for International Conventions and for District Conventions where they are required to install District Officers. Expenses incurred for Club and other visitations are not reimbursable so are paid out of the officers' own pocket

2. The Secretary-Treasurer and the Office Staff are appointed by the EC upon such terms and conditions and salary as may be fixed from time to time.

3. The EC, with the support of the S-T, office staff and trustees has all the executive and administrative power and authority of this organization. This, of course, covers a wide range of responsibilities and activities that are too numerous to list here. The following highlights some of the higher profile activities:

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Prepare the annual budget, monitor expenses and submit financial reports for all International activities.

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Manage the four International funds.

Arrange for the content and holding of sessions and meetings at the International Interim and Annual General Meetings.

Attend at District Conventions to install District Officers and to speak to the Club officers in attendance.

Visit as many clubs as possible during their term of office.

Deal with many issues regarding membership, finances and other matters that require attention. Rarely a week goes by when the EC is not required to deal with some new issue.

At conventions, prepare and present Seminars on important issues such as Membership, Duties of District Officers and Website Design and Usage.

Review and approve, or reject, applications for the various International Awards. Publish the Gyroscope and Directory.

Keep records and prepare reports as required.

Keep Gyro headed in the right direction on a sound financial base

### **Bottom Line –**

These are but a few of the many responsibilities and activities undertaken by Gyro International and your Executive Council. In this regard, keep in mind that Gyro is a “bottom-up” type of organization and, through the Annual Convention, the CLUBS are the ones that legislate and execute the Constitution and Bylaws of this Organization. The District Officers, Gyro International and the Executive Council basically carry out the wishes of the MEMBERSHIP and are, in essence, the glue that holds Gyro together.

### **Questions or concerns?**

If you have any questions or concerns about Gyro International, the EC or Gyro in general, please feel free to contact any of the EC officers, our Secretary-Treasurer or HQ staff. We are always pleased to help.

### **Current Officers –**

Your current EC officers and Secretary-Treasurer are profiled on the International Officers page.

by Ab Nightingale – 1st VP Gyro International