



This Welcoming Kit includes:

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- Welcome letter from the Local Club President
- "You're Among Friends" brochure
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Introduction to Gyro International

Established 1912

"A Men's Social Organization exporting
Fun, Fellowship & Brotherhood"

To Access More Information, go to

www.Gyro.org



WHAT DOES GYRO OFFER TO ME?

Many things!

The opportunity to participate at a Club, District and International levels.

Some of the benefits that are available, at all levels are:

- Friendship
- Fellowship
- Camaraderie
- Longer life
 - Travel
 - Billeting
- Gyroscope Magazine
 - Conventions
- Responsibility, Leadership, Recognition
 - Documentation
 - Awards
 - Good Vibes
 - Support
- No Obligations
 - FUN



Paul Schwan

Edmund L. Kagy

Clarence H. Handerson

The Founders -The story of how three college friends wished to continue their friendships after college and into the future, and how, after gathering a few additional friends together, formed a club that became **Gyro**.

The three were **Paul Schwan, Gus Handerson and Ed Kagy**. They were students at Western Reserve University - enrolled in the fall of 1907, and all three graduated in 1911.

The trio, having established a firm friendship in their first year, never wavered from their camaraderie. Edmund L. Kagy - probably the best known because of his long association with Gyro, was born 21 April 1889 in Cleveland Heights, Ohio. Following graduation, he was a teacher and coach. With the outbreak of WWI, he, along with two other friends, formed a Gyro training company. By May of 1918 he was a first lieutenant and shipped overseas, first to England and then France.

Returning to the US after the war, he started his own business. He acted as Gyro International S-T on a half-time basis for two years, eventually becoming the full-time secretary in 1925. It has been stated that with his resume he likely gave up leading a prosperous life for his love of Gyro. It was said that he was married to his Gyro dream in the beginning, but he married in the 1920s and had two children. He died in 1960. It was also noted that he answered all problems with the question "is it best for Gyro?" He was admired for his inflexibility of purpose, his devotion to duty, his kindness, and his ability to appreciate the other fellow's viewpoint.

Clarence H. Handerson, more familiarly known as Gus, was born on 23 February 1889 in Cleveland. Apparently, he was a "bear for work." Any project he took on was a success. He was always the life of the party. Upon graduation, he like Kagy, went into business. He married in April 1915. Unfortunately, his health failed him in 1941 and he died in 1942 of heart problems.

Paul Schwan - was born in Cleveland on 27 July 1889. After attaining his law degree, he joined a law firm, but he never lost contact with his college chums, meeting often for lunches and dinners. It was during these meetings that he gave voice to his convictions on friendship which crystallized into Gyro. He married in March 1918, and after a honeymoon of one week reported to the Army on April 1. He contracted influenza and three weeks later he died on April 17.

It might be considered that Kagy was the affable stalwart, Handerson the cheerleader, and that Schwan was the true instigator of Gyro. Besides the three founders, Ed Kagy as S/T had profound admiration for several other key individuals who did most exemplify the essence of Gyro or advanced its cause.

Other Special Members

Albert Kern - a charter member and member of the executive committee. He was club secretary and then International Secretary from 1917-1919 while the executive was off to war.

Orville "Orrie" Peterson - charter member. As First Lieutenant, Artillery, in France 1917-1818 he went through numerous engagements unscathed, but developed pneumonia in his last week and died in France.

Leon K. Jordan - joined in 1913. He was entirely responsible for forming the Buffalo club and played a big part in starting Chicago and Cincinnati. He was elected to a two-year term as first International President 1917.

"Doc" R. L. Jett - also joined in 1913. A physician, he served with a medical unit attached to the Serbian Army. Killed while on duty at an advance field hospital. He was the first Gyro to die for his country.

James L. "Jimmie" Hubbell - the last of the original group in 1912 before the organization was named. He had a fascination with the study of the gyroscope and, when others were facetiously discussing names like Peerless Perspires and Ready Radiators, managed to advance his ideas related to the gyroscope - hence the name GYRO. He and Gus published the club bulletin until 1917 when it became an international publication. After 5-6 years of editing for Buffalo, Toronto, and Cincinnati, he became editor of the Gyroscope in 1923 and continued until 1934.



July 1, 2021

Dear New Member,

As President of the Gyro organization, I am honored to welcome you as a new member to this international group that has been around now for 100+ years. The club you have joined will be the primary circle of friendship where you will enjoy both new and old friendships. In addition, you will have opportunity for two other circles of friendship at district and international levels. I hope that you will find your time spent in this new club for you to be enjoyable and rewarding.

This past pandemic year was a challenge for all of us to go about our daily lives and to maintain a social network. The social interaction with members is what Gyro is all about. Many clubs used virtual meetings online, and as safety from infection improved, visiting in open spaces, having golf games etc. At this point, we are hopefully coming to a time where we can physically be together again. The data is clear that people live longer lives as a result of socialization activities.

Gyro also provides an avenue for you to share your time, knowledge, and talent if you wish to contribute to the development of the organization. There will be opportunities to participate in committee and leadership positions in your Club and beyond, at the District and International levels. Also volunteering in the hosting of a Convention is a memorable and rewarding experience. The depth and breadth of friendships has been incredible in my experience over my time in Gyro. Our intention at all levels of Gyro is to build on the interests of all our members and we are open to new ideas.

If you have any questions about your membership, your sponsor or club president will be more than happy to answer them. You can also contact me, if you wish. My contact information is at the end of this page. In addition, the Gyro website will give you a broader knowledge of Gyro at <http://gyro.org>.

I am sure that you will enjoy Gyro as much as I do, and I hope to meet you in person sometime soon.

Yours in Gyro Friendship,

Blanton Bessinger
International President
2155 Rosewood Lane N
St. Paul, Minnesota 55113
Phone: (651) 338-4946
Email: president@gyro.org



Dear New Friends:

My Lady and I welcome you to our great Gyro Fraternity of Friendship. We trust you, not unlike other Gyro men and/or couples from across Canada and the United States, will find true value through your participation in our unique organization. Do not hesitate to ask Gyro couples what our Friendship Fraternity means to them. I am sure you will come to realize similar good experiences. We look forward to meeting you soon at a Gyro function.

Yours in Gyro friendship,

Your District Governor

P.S. Be sure to venture out beyond your club confines and participate in District and International Conventions. You will enlarge your circle of friendships to include other Gyros from across North America. The costs are little, the rewards are great!



Dear New Member

My lady and I, along with all the members of your new Gyro Club, welcome you to our great organization. You will find, as we all have, that it is a marvelous opportunity for you to expand your friendship horizons. Contained within this welcome package are several pages reviewing the history, background, and other tidbits of information to give you greater understanding of the way we operate. If it is not enough to answer your questions, please ask any Gyro member for answers.

Check our International website online at www.gyro.org for extensive details and a link to the Gyro database from which you can locate members from other clubs and districts. Our club has a club website which can keep you up to date on current activities. As the newest club member, we will involve you in activities as a means to have you meet your fellow members. If asked by your club officers to be involved in some special activity, then by all means, jump at the opportunity. An organization such as ours thrives on participation, and like any endeavor, the rewards are only as great as what you put into the effort. Again, I commend you on joining Gyro. You will, over the years, never regret this decision.

Yours in Gyro friendship,

Your Club President



YOU'RE AMONG FRIENDS



From the Gyro Principle came three key words:

- **POWER** - Symbolizes the power of our friendships in our human relationships.
- **POISE** - Demonstrates the steadiness of friendship in times of trial.
- **PURPOSE** - Keeps the balance wheel of friendship in men's lives.

Our Mission

The mission of the Friendship Fraternity we all know as *GYRO* shall be as stated in our constitution:

- The promulgation of friendship among men of all states, provinces, and nations.
- The cementing of relationships and establishment of cooperation between all Gyro clubs wherever situate.
- The preservation and extension of principles and ideals of this organization.

OUR VISION

- Gyro affords men of character the opportunity to nurture friendships and exchange ideas in an open environment.
- Gyro will become the "organization of choice for these men in an era of decreasing discretionary time.
- Gyro welcomes men of character from all walks of life.

OUR VALUES

The Member ... the underlying strength of the fraternity:

- A Gyro is a Gentleman.
- His word is his bond.
- He respects the rights, property, and sensitivities of others.
- He refrains from using his membership for promoting personal commerce.

The Organization ... Gyro gatherings are a vehicle for celebrating friendship:

- Gyro gatherings are a venue for the free exchange of ideas.
- Every Gyro has the right to have his opinion heard and respected.
- Guests and visiting Gyros are treated with respect.

You may contact Gyro International directly as shown below, or any of our local clubs via www.Gyro.org.

Gyro International

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