

Gyro International President Annual Report – June 2021

Cancellation of the 2020 Victoria Convention set off a chain of unprecedented Gyro events. The Executive Council put together a successful succession plan to ensure there was orderly governance and a transition to a new team – merely waiting out the pandemic was not a viable option.

Following a unique virtual installation of International Officers, the June and July Board meetings (another rare event) saw the approval of a budget and the finalization of Bylaw modernization changes. I instituted regular on-line President's newsletters to communicate directly to members on Board activities that affected them.

The Fall was busy with Virtual District AGMs and officer installations for D-IV, D-VII, D-III and D-VI. Not only was the virtual aspect unique but both International VPs joined me in tag-team installations. With the emergence of a pandemic second variant the grave situation resulted in the president's newsletter being a letter from all the Board members to Gyros reassuring them that the organization is functional and urging them to take precautions but remain in contact with their friends by Zoom or other means.

In November 2020, District Officer Orientation sessions were held. Work leading up to this involved updating on-line Policies and Procedures, instituting a Club Resources web page, and setting up the Zoom program scripts for the orientations. Other activities for the president included creation of a fillable Club Visitation Form and contact with club presidents with 100th anniversaries in 2020.

Board meetings had been evolving for the past two years from teleconference to WebEx to Zoom and it was evident in December with the pandemic not ending soon, that more planning was necessary. A Board Planning Priorities Guide was created based on risks to the organization. A schedule of key Board activities was also produced to anticipate annual Board decision requirements. The first was the Executive Council creation of hypothetical 2021-22 budgets for a Board decision on the per-capita fees that needed to be invoiced in March. The fees were recommended to be lower due to a projected surplus for 2020-21. There was time for fun events at the Vancouver BC Christmas party and the D-IV Cocktail party.

January 2021 proved to be busy with a rebate set up for club fees, Board member ranking of priorities and an executive search for a Financial Administrator to replace long serving Ken Baker. In addition, the Executive began contacting a significant number of Club Presidents to check in on their clubs ask for advice and respond to any questions. This was a huge success.

In February, priority ranking stimulated strengthening of membership initiatives. The D-VII Governor and I worked on internal and external Board surveys to assess the Board's effectiveness and Gyro's future needs. This also proved very successful with a high number of club responses.

March and April proved challenging. Firstly, with the need to interact with a club that failed to pay its fees to support the organization during the pandemic. Secondly, with the potential for cancellation of the 2021 Convention in Winnipeg in August there needed to be contingency plans for a Virtual AGM.

May 2021 saw the Virtual AGM plans completed, creation of a budget and I was able to act on another Board priority which was inviting all PDGs to participate as Trainers/Coaches for Club, District and EC Officials. I attended and made presentations at four Club events – great to see clubs gathering virtually.

To end the President's year, the First Virtual Gyro International AGM will be Chaired on June 26, 2021. I can not express enough gratitude to the members of the EC, District Officers and the many Gyros that provided support to make this past year a success.

Respectfully Submitted – Alan Pentney

