

GYRO INTERNATIONAL 2021 VIRTUAL CONVENTION OVERVIEW AND MINUTES

OVERVIEW

On April 22, 2021 the Winnipeg Convention Committee advised Gyro International that the Border restrictions and other local related virus restrictions led to a decision to cancel the 2021 District and International Convention slated for August 4, 2021. The news was disappointing but understandable. As a result, arrangements began for conducting annual convention business through virtual Zoom meetings.

A. Convention Business

Typical business events in chronological order at a convention consist of:

- Executive Council (EC) meeting the day of or before convention registration. The EC is charged with all the business arrangements including the Installation Banquet program. It also is responsible for the operation of the organization within an annual Budget.
- Past District Governors (PDG) meeting – This is a meeting of all past Governors at the convention (usually about 25) to formulate consensus on current issues and provide advice to the upcoming Board meeting.
- Board of Governors (BOG) meeting – the Board consists of the 9 District representatives (usually the Governor and Lt. Governor) and 5 EC members. Convention attendees may observe the meeting. The BOG has authority to make certain business decisions.
- Governors meeting. This is a meeting that may occur during a recess of the BOG meeting if the Governors want to discuss topics in-person in a committee setting.
- Training and Information Seminars.
- Nomination Committee Meeting where the members of the Executive Council and candidates for the 2nd Vice President position are interviewed by the Past International Presidents (PIP).
- Annual General Meeting (AGM) for Clubs to attend and vote on business as well as the election of EC officers. Some awards are presented to Clubs.
- Installation Banquet for EC officers and some awards are presented to Gyro members.

Between all of these gatherings are opportunities for fun and fellowship as provided by the Host Committee or on your own with Gyro friends. Most members understand the balance of business and fellowship that occurs at a convention and know about the benefits of having a governing body that manages operational expenses of running an office, a database and website, while interacting with 72 clubs and 9 District executives.

B. 2020 Convention Cancellation

With cancellation of the Victoria convention June 9 – 13, 2020 it was decided by the EC that it was timely to change officers in June with succession of EC members according to the Bylaws. This was because of a lack of knowledge on how to hold a virtual AGM with clubs able to vote.

C. 2021 Virtual Meeting Arrangements

With the 2021 convention not able to be held the EC began planning for a Webinar based AGM to ensure that the constitutional requirement was met, and that Clubs were able to attend. This led to the following Schedule of Events on-line.

1. **April-May** – Recruitment of a Webinar Host and preparation of material
2. **May 27** – 30-day advance distribution of AGM meeting material and Registration of Club Delegates and observers to the AGM.
3. **June 5** – Nomination Committee Interviews
4. **June 9** – EC meeting and submission of BOG reports
5. **June 16** - Pre-AGM BOG meeting
 - a. Status of Club in arrears
 - b. Review April 30, 2021 Financial Statements
 - c. Review 2021 - 2022 Budget
 - d. Approval of Convention Hosts for 2023 and 2025
 - e. Election of Randy Tarrier PDG D-I of Powell OH Club as Director on the Betterment Fund Board of Directors.
6. **June 26** – Zoom Webinar AGM - in the Morning
7. **June 26** – Officer Installation Ceremony – in the evening

D. Annual General Meeting (The Gyro Constitution calls this a Convention)

The AGM commenced June 26, 2021 at 11:00 am Eastern time on a Zoom Webinar hosted by a firm known as GetQuorum based out of Toronto. The moderator was located in Ireland. Her patience was admirable as she worked with the attendees over the next 3 hours.

Attendance included the following:

Clubs (one Delegate each)	31
Governors (voted for absent Clubs)	9
Executive Council Panel	5
Observers / Club members	18
Total -----	63

Interestingly this is close to the same number of members that attended the 2019 Convention in Reno.

2021 GYRO AGM MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Called to Order by President and Chair, Alan Pentney. He called on Ted Shewchuk, IPIP to conduct the Invocation and Moment of Silence for members that departed this past year – with special reference to Al Sinicrope, Past International President who recently passed away.

Roll Call was conducted by Secretary Treasurer Mike McNally PIP with each Club identifying one delegate to carry their votes. The votes for clubs that did not attend reverted by proxy, in accordance with by-laws, to their District Governor. This process took in excess of 30 minutes.

Standing rules governing the AGM were announced by Parliamentarian Matthew Johnson PIP with an acknowledgement to his predecessor Chris Randall PIP of the Victoria Club who passed on since the Reno Convention.

Minutes of the last AGM in Reno in 2019 was approved by the delegates and proxies with no old business to be addressed given there were 18 virtual Board meetings since then.

The President's Report included the observation that this first Virtual AGM was historic and had potential to be used at future conventions to supplement in-person attendance. He commented on the positive experience Executives had when interacting with numerous club officials during this year where club activities were restricted by the pandemic. He commended Governors for their diligence in communicating to Clubs and attending Board meetings monthly. He also expressed appreciation for teamwork the Executive Council had with Vice President Blanton Bessinger chairing the Membership Committee, Vice President Peter Carter chairing the Technology Committee, Past President Ted Shewchuk providing advice, Secretary Treasurer Mike McNally running the business operation and all the EC members and advisors including Matthew Johnson and Ken Baker advising on issues and planning for improvements. Emphasis was placed on the importance of membership and opportunities as we emerge from the restrictions. In addition, a recent report on a member survey will provide guidance for new initiatives in the coming year.

The Governor and Executive Reports are on the website with the AGM minutes.

The **Financial Statements** were accepted as prepared by a vote of the delegates and proxies

The **Budget**, as adopted by the Executive Council and Reviewed by the Board of Governors, was presented by Financial Advisor Ken Baker with additional expenses explained by the Chair.

Noteworthy items were:

Revenue

- Revenue from Club per-capita fees of \$70 was identified with a rebate of \$20
- Total budgeted revenue, including sales of goods, was \$82,152.
- The rebate was approved by the Board of Governors in January based on a decision to reduce a surplus accrued in the 2020 -2021 fiscal year.

Expense Explanations

- The database expense is related to:
 - Database Administrator position moving to a contractor and portal work.
 - A security assessment and security measures for the website and portal.

- Executive Travel is for potentially 6 District Conventions
- Membership expense is the first allocation in many years and is related to:
 - Workshop facilitation to take Membership Survey recommendations to Implementation Plans with identifiable action steps such as:
 - Development of recruitment tools like marketing video, topic specific videos, handouts, improved social media presence etc.
 - Examine benefits of organizational changes on recruitment and retention.
 - Club Officer Training and Coaching – Resources and workshops.
 - Independent assessment of specific club successes
- Office Building Expense increase this year for a large tree removal.
- The website expense is to retain contractors to address:
 - Modernizing the website with better imagery to illustrate our purpose, recognize diversity and have a stronger club focus.
 - Highlighting benefits of membership in visual and descriptive ways.
 - Linking website to other social media and ensuring it is mobile.
 - Improving organizations appeal to targeted demographics.
 - Assisting District and Club website administrators.

The budget was accepted by a vote of the delegates and proxies with a projected loss of \$20,848 from adequate unrestricted assets.

The **Technology Committee Report** was presented by VP Peter Carter. He outlined the success of the Committee's **Sub-Site Web Hosting Program** with 24 Clubs and Districts participating, and an additional 24 Clubs participating in the **Generic Page Website Program**; both of which are provided by Gyro International at no cost. He also mentioned the exciting new **Members Portal** - which replaces the cumbersome Database – which recently had a soft launch to the Governors and Club Presidents and Administrators. The intended launch, to all, is July 10. Peter, also, expressed his appreciation to the Committee members for their efforts for the good of Gyro.

The **Membership Committee Report** was presented by VP Blanton Bessinger. He identified that the member discount card had been shelved but three subcommittees had been working hard on initiatives with the most recent being receipt of a report on Membership options. He thanked the committee members and commented that their enthusiasm and dedication was infectious.

Future Conventions:

2022 – Governor Tim Wright D-I and Convention Chair, provided a video with a taste of what was going to be offered in Cleveland next year with the theme being Welcome Home – Where Gyro Started.

2023 – The Winnipeg Club Committee Chair Derek Hay, invited all members to the international Convention and to celebrate their District VII 100th Anniversary.

2024 – District III Governor Dan Bliss is planning to identify a location for a Convention in the coming year as D-III is one of the districts in line for hosting.

2025 – Sherwood Park Club in District VIII is hosting the D-VIII convention, but it was not clear if an international convention is included. D-VIII is also in line to host.

Resolutions: The Winnipeg Club moved a Resolution as follows:

Gyro International shall set aside each year a percentage of each members yearly dues to International, for the purposes of funding their annual convention and annual general meeting; and that said monies are to be kept in a separate fund (on the books) with cap of \$5000. This cap can be increased by board of governor's consent if need be, but that cap cannot be reduced once set.

Gyro International shall only use this fund to assist the Gyro club hosting the convention to cover any expenses incurred with the hosting of the convention and annual general meeting on behalf of Gyro International and all Gyro member clubs.

The motion to adopt the Resolution was defeated by the delegates and proxies. It was noted by the Chair that the Executive Council had budgeted funds for the Winnipeg Convention and could commit to budget funds for future conventions if the host provides a demonstration of need with a proposed budget.

Awards were announced as chosen by the Executive Council in the following table:

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AWARDS	
Award Name	Recipient
Honor Key Award	Ted Shewchuk PIP D-VII, McKenzie Island Club, Red Lake Ontario
George H. France Award for Gyroscope Excellence (Best Article)	John Cobb, Stampede City Club Calgary Alberta D-VIII
Best Website	St. Catharines Ontario, D-III
Best Club Bulletin - Small	Caloosa Florida, Steve Anderson D-X
Best Club Bulletin - Medium	Sherwood Park Alberta, Scott Brisbin D-VIII
Best Club Bulletin - Large	Camosun British Columbia, Colm Foy D-IV
Best Governor Bulletin	Derek Hay, Governor D-VII
Best Club Expansion - Small	Peterborough Ontario D-III
Best Club Expansion – Medium	San Jose California D-IX
Best Club Expansion – Large	Nanaimo British Columbia D-IV

A special District V-III nominated Merit Award was announced for Peter Carter 2nd VP Edmonton Club, for his exceptional work as Technology Committee Chair including work on the Club, District and International websites as well as Zoom meetings.

Other award recipients that are usually identified at the Convention Banquet were announced as follows:

- Edward “Ed” Steinbacher Lifetime Achievement Award - Harold Bernard PIP D-VI Truro Club and Ken Baker PDG D-VIII Calgary Club, both were recipients for over 20 years of service to Gyro at all governance levels.
- Norman L. “Bud” Mitchell Gyro of the Year Award - Matthew Williams Governor D-IV Nanaimo Club, for his work on the Technology Committee Portal and Database.

Elections

Peter Evans PDG D-IV and a member of the Victoria Club, was elected to the Board of Trustees with a three-year term. The Board oversees the Betterment, Memorial and Honorarium Funds.

Ted Shewchuk IPIP as Chair of the Nomination Committee presented a motion to elect a slate of Gyro International Officers which was unanimously supported:

- President – Blanton Bessinger
- 1st Vice President – Peter Carter
- 2nd Vice President – Dan Durbin

Dan Durbin is the new member on the EC. He is a 12-year member of the Olympia and Tacoma Clubs in District IV. He is a PDG in D-IV and has been a regular attendee at District and International conventions for many years. He has a B.Sc. in Business Management and works as an IT Manager in the health care field.

A motion made by Harold Bernard, Truro Club, and seconded by Mike Eisner, Blacklake Club, to elect the slate of Officers was passed with a vote of 345 in favor.

Dan Durbin gave an acceptance speech where he committed to advancing the organization, thanked his wife Missy for supporting him, and recognized several PIPs and PDGs that helped him over the years to prepare for this role.

Blanton Bessinger commented that the virtual AGM went better than expected and thanked the facilitator. Further comments are to be made at the virtual Installation in the evening.

Dale Woodroffe PIP D-VIII, Comment for the Good of the Order that we recognize a job well done by the Gyro EC and Governors for keeping Gyro alive through the pandemic by everyone's commitment to communications through Zoom, rebuilt websites, database, portal, Gyroscope, Governor's Bulletins and President's newsletters. Thank you from all the Gyros.