Gyro Options Task Force
An Open Letter to Gyro
By Dunc Mills, President, Gyro International

Over the last few months, the Gyro Options Task Force, a 10-person committee formed after the International Convention in Calgary in July, has been working diligently canvassing leadership in every chapter of Gyro. The intention has been to examine if there was significant support for at least considering amending the Gyro International constitution to allow female members of clubs to become fully vested dues-paying members of Gyro International.

We acknowledge most clubs would choose to continue in a framework of an all-male structure, but we wanted to gain feedback to see if members had objections to other clubs having the option to choose their own path with respect to adopting a dues-paying membership model that would grant females full membership in Gyro International. Many Gyro clubs suspend monthly meetings for the summer so gathering feedback from clubs has been perhaps a little slower than we had originally hoped. The Task Force has now contacted most of our clubs and their feedback has given the Executive Council a sense of the direction we should take as we address this proposal.

The results of our survey indicated that we had some clubs seeking change, a large number of clubs that would tolerate change if it did not directly affect them, and many clubs that were adamant about Gyro remaining a male-only organization, at least in terms of voting rights and privileges.

Clubs were asked to vote YES or NO to the proposal that Gyro amend its bylaws to allow fully-vested female members who would pay dues and qualify for election to office within Gyro International. A significant number of clubs that have responded that they would have no objection to the proposal, but it appears that this is what we would have to term a soft 'Yes' in that while many of these clubs had no objection to other clubs admitting dues-paying females, that they had no plans to do so themselves.

On the opposite side of the ledger, most of the chapters that voted 'No' were much more resistant to change and did not want to make such a major transformation to the traditions Gyro has adhered to for over a century. We on the Executive Council and the Task Force have listened carefully to the points of view of our membership. While we acknowledge and respect the feelings of those clubs that have expressed a desire for change, we have determined that the interests of Gyro would be best served by maintaining the status quo at this time. It is vitally important that we listen to all our members and try to balance different points of view for the good of Gyro moving forward.

Yours in Gyro Friendship,

Dunc Mills
President, Gyro International