

District VIII of Gyro International 2003-2004

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CALGARY

CASTLEGAR

COEUR D'ALENE

CRANBROOK

DAWSON CREEK

EDMONTON
CROSSROADS

EDMONTON

LETHBRIDGE

NELSON

REGINA

ST. ALBERT

SHERWOOD PARK

SPOKANE

STAMPEDE CITY

TRAIL

WALLACE



District VIII – Governor's Bulletin – Edition #2 –December 2003

The snow and cold seemed to come on early this year and now Christmas is approaching and all that goes with this most sociable season of the year. The time is just passing by in a blur and I have realized it is appropriate that I publish another Bulletin to keep you informed of the happenings in Gyro around the District and from Gyro International.

Installations and other visitations

Your District Executive have had a rather easy time of it this fall as only two Installations have occurred:

- In late September the Calgary Club Installation was held with our 2nd Lt. Gov. Erik Braun officiating. As usual, this was a well attended event and all of the current District Executive (except for Past Gov. Gerry Glassford) were in attendance to see Gary Davies installed as President along with his executive for the coming year.
- In late November 1st Lt. Gov. Doug Aspeslet did the honors of installing the Executive for the coming year for the Lethbridge Club. The Lethbridge Club is continuing the policy of having most of their officers installed for a two year period and so President Roy Penniket continues as President and has two new directors to assist in keeping him under control for the coming year.
- In mid-October Mary Anne and I had the distinct pleasure of visiting the Cranbrook Club for their Founders Night. It gave me great pleasure to also present, on this occasion, the International Merit Award to a most worthy recipient - Jim Jackson. In recent years Jim has done a great deal toward keeping the Cranbrook Club a strong and active participant in District VIII. Once again our congratulations go out to Jim on receiving this award.

Curlarama

In early November, Gyros and guest curlers, team managers, and "other supporters" congregated in Banff for this annual event. This year the event was well organized by the Calgary Gyro Club and about seventy participants including sixteen teams squared off for the coveted trophies. As usual, all went home happy and clearly "a good time was had by all". The actual winners of the various events were:

- A Event – Sherwood Park #2 (Bernie Kropp, Sid Slade, Rusty Climie, and Jim Malott)
- B Event – Cranbrook #1 (Glen McIvor and son Kevin, and Jim Jackson and son Steve)
- C Event – Nelson #2 (Hugh Blackstock, Bob Matthew, Tomo Naka, and Dallas Paquette)
- D Event – Calgary #1 (John Hodgson, Garry Davies, Dave Garneau and Bill Schultz)

Once again the Regina Club walked off with the "Man Mile Award" based on the formula of greatest number of participants times the distance travelled.

On a lighter side (taken from the Sherwood Park Bulletin)

A retired Gyro went to apply for Social Security. The woman behind the counter asked him for his driver's license to verify his age. He looked in his pockets and realized he had left his wallet at home. He told the woman that he was very sorry but he seemed to have

left his wallet at home. "I will have to go home and come back later", he said. The woman then said, "Please unbutton your shirt." So he opened his shirt, revealing curly silver hair. She said, "That silver hair on your chest is proof enough for me." She processed his application. When he got home, the man excitedly told his wife about his experience. She replied, "You should have dropped your pants, you might have gotten disability too!"

District Interim – March 26-28, 2004

Registration forms were sent out recently and I have included more with this bulletin. Please note that the block of rooms being held by the hotel for us will only be held until January 25, 2004 so please have your club members and guests register before then to insure they have a room. Contact the hotel directly to make your hotel reservation.

Also, this year, as an incentive to get registrations in to District, we are having an **Early Bird Draw** from those registrations received by the Dist. Sec/Treas by January 25, 2004. The prize is one night's free lodging (up to \$100 value) during the Interim.

This is always one of the most popular mixed District VIII activities with plenty of time for socializing and fun, dips in the hot pool, as well as the business meeting to address the affairs of the District. It was agreed upon last year to change the date to this later date in March and so it is possible that some of the golf courses will be open for those who want to break out the clubs. **This weekend is also a good opportunity to bring along guests to introduce them to Gyro.**

Membership Drives and External Expansion

Membership –

Our International President Arnie Crass has once again issued the challenge to all Gyro Clubs to each have a net increase of at least one new member by the time of the International Convention in June, 2004. This may not seem like a difficult task but the fact remains that we did not meet this goal in District VIII last year nor have we had any overall increase in membership for many years past. To be fair, we do have a number of vibrant clubs in this District who have surpassed this goal, but unfortunately we have many others who have not.

To assist in the vital process of encouraging new members into Gyro it is imperative that each club has an appointed "Membership Chairman" or "Membership Committee" and to recognize that the District and International organizations are also able and willing to provide assistance. Individual clubs may go about the business of attracting new members in various ways and suggestions have been made at every Gyro Interim and Convention Please take note of some of the opportunities for assistance as listed below:

- Betterment Fund – International provides a fund designed to assist individual clubs to recruit new members. Don Greig (Sherwood Park) heads up this committee that has prepared a new set of guidelines on how to use this fund. These are available on request from International or contact Don directly (dongreig@shaw.ca).
- Prospective New Member Kits – these are packages consisting of a colorful information pamphlet "You're Among Friends" together with welcoming letters from the International President and District Governor. I will send out the material in this kit to you upon request either via Email or by "snail mail" so that you can reproduce and complete you own kits to hand out to prospective members. This material is also available from Gyro International.
- At each International Interim and Convention a "Membership Symposium" is held and ideas and observations about membership recruitment are shared amongst the

diverse group of Gyros in attendance. I am attaching at the end of this bulletin a summary from the most recent symposium in Salt Lake City last summer.

External Expansion –

Canmore? – We have been advised that a Gyro from the Edmonton Club is retiring and moving to Canmore next summer to take up residence there. He has expressed interest in remaining in Gyro and has indicated he might be prepared to act as a "spark plug" to start as new club in Canmore.

I propose we do all we can to provide support and it just may be that Canmore (and Banff) have sufficient populations to make a new club work. In particular there may be a number of other newly retired in Canmore and I expect more are to come as the population is projected to increase dramatically over the next few years.

Please spread the word about this and hopefully some of our members and other acquaintances will also know of other prospective candidates. I am prepared to act as a "clearing house" to collect a list of prospects to help build a club nucleus and then, combined with support of our Calgary clubs, we hopefully will be in a strong position to assist in forming a new club. This is a good opportunity for Gyro lets capitalize on it.

Tucson and Phoenix Areas – requests of a similar nature to the above have come in from Gyro International regarding potential new clubs in these communities. Again, if you know of Gyros "Snowbirds" who winter over or potential new Gyros in either of these areas please let us know and we will pass on the information or you can contact Arnie Crass International President directly (acrass@revealed.net).

Other Coming Events

- **International Interim – Melbourne, Florida – Feb 3-7, 2004.** All Gyros are invited to attend. The meetings are being held at the Holiday Inn Beach Resort overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. Melbourne is close to the Kennedy Space Center and to Orlando with all the Disney, etc attractions. If you plan to attend registration (forms available at Gyro International web site) is required before December 24,2003.
- **International Convention – Syracuse, New York – June 24-27,2004.**
- **District Convention – Waterton Lakes National Park – August 5-8, 2004.** Hosted by the Lethbridge Gyro Club.

A new monk arrives at the monastery. He is assigned to help the other monks in copying the old texts by hand. He notices, however, that they are copying copies, and not the original books. So, the new monk goes to the head monk to ask him about this. He points out that if there was an error in the first copy, that error would be continued in all of the other copies. The head monk says "We have been copying from the copies for centuries, but you make a good point, my son,"

So, the head monk goes down into the cellar with one of the copies to check it against the original. Hours later, nobody has seen him. So, one of the other monks goes downstairs to look for him. He hears sobbing coming from the back of the cellar and finds the old monk leaning over one of the original books crying. "What's wrong?" he asks. "The word is celebrate" sobs the old monk.

Mary Anne and I take this opportunity to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Al Clark, Governor District VIII

