

# District VIII of Gyro International 2010 – 2011

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District VIII  
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[www.gyrodistrict8.com](http://www.gyrodistrict8.com)

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*Dear District VIII Gyros:*

*I guess I lied with my June 28 Bulletin. THIS will be my last Bulletin. I am pleased to report on the Halifax Convention. It was, in my opinion, a most successful and productive 5 days in a beautiful and historic City.*

*Gyro has had to be focused on some quite controversial issues all year that could have been very damaging to the basic fabric of the Fraternity. The meetings in Halifax by no means left everyone happy, but were carried out with courtesy and civility. Detailed information was provided in a Powerpoint presentation to all attendees about the history of leadership of Gyro, and initiatives undertaken to be fiscally responsible and effective. That Powerpoint presentation will be available to any Club from the Gyro International website. I strongly recommend all Clubs download it and view it. I am sure Governor Ken will be promoting it.*

*The problems that prompted District IV's Taskforce to recommend major changes at the International level, were **not** the result of mismanagement by the Executive Council. Indeed, the EC has had substantially reduced budgets for many years from what was expended in the 80s and 90s. The financial problems have been caused by **declining** membership generating reduced dollars to operate. Four resolutions from Savannah were overturned in Halifax, Suspending International Interims for 2 years, eliminating the 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President, and International Past President positions from the Executive Council, and lastly, rejection of a Dues increase were all reversed. To have endorsed those resolutions would have emasculated the EC's ability to provide effective leadership. That leadership is the glue that holds the broader Gyro network together. The District IV motives for proposing the cuts were sincere concern for declining membership in Gyro, however, none of those 4 original recommendations would have done anything to help increase membership. **The inescapable conclusion drawn at Halifax was that declining membership is a problem that has to be addressed at the District and Club level.** The EC has for many years delegated one of their members to focus on membership and has generated considerable information and ideas to assist Clubs. We just have to use it! With changing times and societal priorities, it isn't an easy task, Simply put, we must **"Invite a friend to Gyro"***

*District VIII did very well with awards this year as Sherwood Park, again won the award for the best Club Bulletin. The Stampede City Club won the award for the best Gyro website, and I was very pleased to have won the award for the best Governor's Bulletins. I truly hope you all found my Bulletins of interest and of value to you and your Club. Your feedback on the Savannah Resolutions was excellent, and I did vote according to your directions when I held your proxies. I am confident you will support Governor Ken in the coming year as well as you supported me.*

*Other aspects of the Convention that made it such an exceptionally positive event for me was the opportunity to sit in on District VI's Annual Meeting on the Friday. It is always interesting to see how other Districts and Clubs operate. I came away from it with a few good ideas worth considering. District VI organized the International Convention and it unfolded flawlessly. I have expanded my network of "friends" considerably, mingling with so many like-minded individuals who personify Gyro in its finest form.*

*Even the weather cooperated with 4 of the 5 days being glorious. Most of the Convention attendees took the opportunity to take in the **Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo**. This 3 hour performance by upwards of 900 performers in Pipe bands, Drum & Bugle bands, a huge choir, and countless military and police precision marchers and skill demonstrations was truly breathtaking. It is an annual event with performers from around the world. If you ever plan to travel to Nova Scotia try to do it when the Tattoo is on.*

*Lastly I would like to thank all of you for the privilege of serving as your District Governor. It is an experience that I enjoyed immensely. We all belong to a wonderful organization and hopefully we will all rise to the challenge of growing membership as we enter the 100<sup>th</sup> year of its existence.*

*Sincerely,*

*Don Boyle*

*Past District Governor, District VIII*

*July 15, 2011*