

Gyro International - District VI

DISTRICT CONSTITUTION

September 2009

Article 1: Name

The name of this District Organization shall be "Gyro International – District VI ".

Article 2: Objects

The objects of this organization shall be:

- (a) The promulgation of friendship among individuals, states, provinces, and nations.
- (b) The cementing of friendly relationships and the establishment of co-operation between all Gyro Clubs situated within the territory of this District.
- (c) The awakening and maintenance of interest in public affairs, citizenship, good government, as well as civic and community affairs.

Article 3: Membership

Section 1: Member Clubs

The membership of this Organization shall comprise all current Gyro Clubs which have been duly installed by Gyro International and such other Gyro Clubs as may be hereafter admitted to membership to and duly installed by Gyro International situated within the territory of this District as from time to time defined by the Executive Council of Gyro International, and such other Gyro Clubs as may be assigned to this District Organization by the Executive Council of Gyro International, provided however, that such Gyro Clubs have accepted and agreed to observe and be bound by this Constitution and that of Gyro International and all amendments thereof, and provided further that said Clubs continue to observe and comply with the same.

Section 2: Gyro Members

Membership in Individual Clubs as recognized by District and International shall be as follows:

- (a) Regular members. These members shall pay dues to District and International.
- (b) Fifty year Gyros. These members shall be classified by District as Regular members but will not pay dues to District or International.
- (c) Lifetime members. These members are Regular members who have Lifetime Memberships in Gyro International. They are required to pay District dues.
- (d) International Associate Member. District VI will recognize the rights of any International Associate Member who is a paid up member of Gyro International, and residing in any area where a Gyro club does not exist, to attend any Club or District event as a visiting Gyro without paying District dues.

Article 4: Government

The conduct of the affairs of the District shall be divided among the Officers, the Executive, the Legislative Council, and the District Convention.

Article 5: Distribution of Functions and Powers

Section 1: District Officers

The District Officers shall be the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and the Secretary-Treasurer. The Governor and Lieutenant Governor shall be elected at the Annual District Convention or Interim Meeting from among the residing members of the Gyro Clubs in this District, by the qualified representatives of the constituent Clubs. Each shall hold office until his successor is duly installed in office. The Secretary-Treasurer shall be appointed by the Governor, and shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor. Any officer may be removed from office by a three-fourth vote of the Legislative Council of the District.

Section 2:

(a) Governor. The Governor shall be the Executive Head of the District. He shall have the power to call meetings of the Executive and Legislative Councils and the District Convention. He shall be the official representative from the District on the Board of Governors of Gyro International. He shall render a report of his activities to the District Convention prior to his retirement from office.

(b) Lieutenant Governor. The Lieutenant Governor shall assist the Governor in the performance of his duties and shall act in his place during his absence or disability. In the event of the office of the Governor becoming vacant, the Lieutenant Governor shall succeed automatically to that office for the unexpired portion of the current term. He shall render a report of his activities to the District Convention.

The Lieutenant Governor is specifically charged with the responsibility of External Expansion within the District.

(c) Secretary-Treasurer. The Secretary-Treasurer shall perform the dual duties which ordinarily pertain to the offices of the Secretary and the Treasurer. He shall act as Secretary at all meetings of the Executive Council, the Legislative Council, the Interim Meeting and the District Convention. It shall be his duty to collect all monies payable to the District and to have custody of all funds of the District which shall be deposited in a recognized financial institution. He shall make disbursements as are authorized by the Executive Council.

All cheques shall be signed by two officers, the Governor or Lieutenant Governor and by the Secretary-Treasurer. The Secretary-Treasurer shall keep financial account books of the District and shall enter therein a detailed account of all receipts and disbursements. He shall present a complete financial statement of the affairs of the District to the Annual Convention covering the term in office of the District Officers, which statement shall have attached thereto the report of the auditors. In addition he shall prepare and submit financial statements on request of the Governor.

It shall be his responsibility to see that the District Trophies are available at the Interim Meeting and District Convention.

He shall send to all Clubs in the District, and to Gyro International, copies of the minutes of the District Convention and Interim meetings. He shall send to the District Historian copies of the minutes of all District meetings.

(d) Immediate Past Governor. The Immediate Past Governor shall, on leaving office, be responsible for seeing that all District records and up-to-date financial statements are turned over to the new District Officers within thirty days after the Annual Convention, but not later than sixty days of said Convention.

The Past Governor is specifically charged with the responsibility of Internal Expansion within the clubs. He shall work with the District Membership Chairman, if one is appointed, and report his activities to the Annual District Convention.

Article 6: Executive CouncilSection 1 – Membership:

The Executive Council shall be composed of the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, the Immediate Past Governor, and the Secretary-Treasurer.

Section 2 – Powers:

The Executive Council shall exercise, and it is hereby vested with, the following powers:

(a) It shall exercise the administrative functions of the District and shall appoint the standing committees and such special committees as are considered necessary.

(b) It may call meetings of the Legislative Council at any time between District Conventions that it may deem advisable, and shall designate the place of such meetings, provided ten days' notice shall be given to each member thereof, which notice shall include a list of the subjects to be considered at said meeting.

(c) It may call for a vote of the members of the Legislative Council or the Member Clubs of the District, voting as in Convention assembled on any measure or on any proposition pertaining to the business of the District, and shall provide in all instances, excepting when the Legislative Council or District Convention is assembled in meeting, the manner and the time in which such vote shall be taken. It shall advise the members of the Legislative Council or the member Clubs of the District, as the case may be, of the particulars of the voting.

(d) It shall prepare an Annual budget and submit the same to the Legislative Council for amendment or approval at the District Convention.

(e) Subject to the restrictions of such budget as amended or approved, it is empowered to incur all necessary expenses for the conduct of the affairs of the District, and to authorize the expenditure of any and all monies from the District funds.

(f) It may adopt such laws, rules, and by-laws for its own government and conduct business as it sees fit, not inconsistent with this Constitution or with the Constitution of Gyro International.

(g) It shall pay the expenses of the Governor and his Gyrette to attend Gyro International Board of Governors' meetings and the expenses of any District Officer and their Gyrettes to the District Convention and Interim Meeting as set out in the budget. Should the Governor not be able to attend an International Interim Meeting or Convention then the Lieutenant Governor or the Immediate Past Governor or a District Appointee shall travel and attend as his substitute at District expense. This will include the expenses of his Gyrette.

Section 3 – Quorum and Voting:

A majority of the members of the Executive Council shall constitute a quorum and a majority of the votes on any question shall be decisive.

Article 7: Legislative Council

Section 1 – Membership:

The Legislative Council shall consist of the members of the Executive Council and the President or Vice-President or proxy of each District Member Club.

Section 2 – Meetings:

(a) Meetings may be called by the Governor or Executive Council and shall be called by the Governor immediately upon the request in writing of a majority of the Legislative Council. At least ten days' notice in writing shall be given of any such meeting.

(b) Each member of the Executive Council shall be entitled to one vote and each Member Club representative shall be entitled to one vote. A majority of the members of the Legislative Council shall constitute a quorum and the majority of votes cast shall be decisive upon any question.

Section 3 – Powers:

(a) Between annual Conventions the Legislative Council shall have the full legislative powers of the District Organization with the exception of altering, amending, or modifying this Constitution.

(b) It may levy an annual per capita assessment upon the Gyro Clubs in the District for the raising of revenue necessary to defray the expenses of the District Organization, and may amend or approve the budget of such expenditures submitted by the Executive Council as provided in Article 6, Section 2, (d).

(c) It shall have authority to over-rule or nullify any recommendation or decision of the Executive Council.

Article 8: Advisory Committees

Section 1: District Advisory Committee

District VI may have a District Advisory Committee to be composed of one member of, and selected by, each Club in the District, together with all incumbent District Officers. The Immediate Past Governor shall be a member ex officio of the Committee. Such a Committee shall assemble at the call of the Governor and shall, at his request, advise with him concerning the general welfare of the District.

Section 2: Past District Governors Committee:

There shall be a committee, known as the District VI Past District Governors Committee, composed of all Past Governors of District VI. The role of the Committee shall be to recommend to the District Executive Council changes to the District Constitution or practices which it might consider necessary or desirable, and to act in other capacities as the Executive Council might request. The Committee shall meet for business at the time of each District Convention, with any further meetings being at the call of the Governor. At the meeting which is required to be held at the time of the Annual Convention, Committee members will choose from among their number a Chairman and a Recording Secretary, who will serve until successors are similarly chosen.

Article 9: District Convention

Section 1:

(a) There shall be held within the District in each calendar year a District Convention, of which at least sixty days' advance notice shall be given by the Governor to each Club in the District. Such notice shall state the date of such District Convention.

(b) The District VI year shall be from June 1st to May 31st.

(c) It is strongly recommended that:

1. District VI conventions are held in September, thus leaving June and July open for International Conventions unless the two conventions are held in conjunction.
2. the Interim meeting shall be held during the month of February.
3. the District Clubs have their year ends coincide with that of the District.

Section 2:

The place of such Convention or Interim Meeting shall be determined by the preceding District Convention or Interim Meeting.

Section 3 – Representation:

It shall be the duty of each Member Club to be represented at each District Convention by a duly accredited delegate or delegates. Each member Club shall be entitled to three delegates at large and one additional delegate for each ten members or major fraction thereof, with a maximum of eight delegates. Each delegate shall have one vote, or any delegate or delegates may be empowered to represent the Club's total vote. If no delegate is present from any Club, the entire vote of that Club may be cast by any duly accredited delegate from any other club who shall be so authorized by written proxy, signed by the president of the Club issuing the proxy. All authorizations and proxies shall be filed with the Secretary-Treasurer. The basis of representation shall be the membership, as per Article 3, of each Club thirty days preceding the date on which said Convention shall convene.

No Club shall be deemed in good standing, or, shall its Legislative Council members be entitled to vote in the Legislative Council, or, its representatives to be entitled to vote at the District Convention or Interim Meeting, if it is in arrears in the payment of any assessment installment.

Section 4 – Registration Fees:

A proper Registration Fee shall be charged by the host Club for all those in attendance at a District Convention. The amount of the Registration Fee shall be decided by the host Club and subject to the approval of the Executive Council.

Section 5 – Powers:

The District Convention shall exercise the legislative functions of the District Organization and it shall exercise the following special powers:

- (a) It shall elect annually the Governor, and the Lieutenant Governor, as stated in Article 5, Section 1.
- (b) It may convene itself in assembly after failure of the Governor to convene it upon petition of the majority of its Member Clubs.
- (c) It shall enact all by-laws, rules and regulations for the conduct of affairs of the District. But the same must not conflict with the provisions of this Constitution or amendments thereto, or with the Constitution, or by-laws of Gyro International, or amendments thereto.
- (d) It shall have authority to amend its Constitution as follows:
 - i. Proposed changes to the Constitution shall be furnished to each Member Club of the District at least 30 days prior to the vote.
 - ii. Following discussion of the proposed changes, the Constitution can be amended by a majority vote of the accredited delegates present.
 - iii. The Secretary-Treasurer shall, within thirty days after the adoption of any amendment, furnish to each Member Club of the District, a copy of the same for consideration, and if within sixty days from the receipt of said copy, a majority of said Member Clubs shall vote against any such amendment and so notify the Secretary-Treasurer, the said amendment shall thereupon be null and void, otherwise it shall continue in full force and effect.
- (e) It shall have authority to over-rule or nullify any act or decision of the Executive Council, the Legislative Council, or District Officers.
- (f) It shall have authority to give imperative instructions to the Executive Council or to the Legislative Council or to the District Officers, and it shall have authority to exercise and over-ride any and all the powers of the Executive Council or of the Legislative Council and shall have power to deal with any matter relating to the objects, administration or welfare of this Organization, not consistent with the District or Gyro International Constitutions.
- (g) It shall have power to waive any provision of the District Constitution by majority vote of the accredited delegates present.

Section 6 – Quorum and Voting:

- (a) A quorum shall be a majority of the votes of qualified representatives duly registered, voting in person or by proxy.

(b) The Governor shall have a vote only in the case of a tie and the majority of the votes cast on any matter shall be decisive.

(c) All proxies must be filed with the Secretary-Treasurer on the opening day of the Convention and be reported by the Credentials Committee.

Article 10: Revenue

Each Member Club of this District Organization shall pay to the Secretary-Treasurer the per capita assessment levied by the Legislative Council, said assessment being due and payable in equal installments on June 1st and December 1st.

Article 11: Committees

Bulletin Contest Committee:

There shall be a Bulletin Contest Committee comprised of the Immediate Past Governor, Lieutenant Governor and the Secretary-Treasurer. The Secretary-Treasurer shall notify Member Clubs of the names and addresses of the Committee members.

Nominating Committee:

There shall be a Nominating Committee of three, and, should comprise the last three available Past District Governors with the most recent available Immediate Past Governor as Chairman.

Additional Committees:

The following additional Committees, as well as those outlined above, should be appointed within sixty days after the District Convention, but must be appointed at least thirty days prior to the Interim District meeting:

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| (a) Internal Expansion | (b) External Expansion |
| (c) Credentials | (d) Resolutions |
| (e) Audit | (f) Trophies |

Article 12: Order of Business

The order of business to be followed at the General meeting of the District Convention shall be as follows:

- (1) Welcome and Introductions.
- (2) Tribute to Departed Members.
- (3) Roll Call.
- (4) Report of Committee on Credentials.
- (5) Reading of the Minutes of the last Convention General Meeting and of the last Interim General Meeting.
- (6) Reports of Clubs in the District in order of their seniority.
- (7) Reports of the Governor and the Lieutenant Governor.
- (8) Reports of Committees.
- (9) Presentation of Financial Statements by Secretary-Treasurer.
- (10) Presentation of Proposed Budget by Secretary-Treasurer.
- (11) Consideration of Old Business.
- (12) New Business.
- (13) Report of Nominating Committee.
- (14) Election of Officers.
- (15) Adjournment.

Article 13: Rules

Robert's Rules of Order shall be the guide in all parliamentary proceedings of this District Organization.

Article 14: General

Section 1 – Official Publication:

The Governor shall cause to be published a quarterly or semi-quarterly periodical which shall be the official publication of this Organization and known as the "District VI Bulletin", a copy being sent to each Gyro in this District.

Section 2 – District Historian:

There shall be a District Historian appointed by the Executive Council.

Section 3 – Trophies:

The Gyro or club to whom the trophy was presented shall be responsible for the safe keeping, engraving and cleanliness of the trophy herein mentioned, and hand the trophy over to the Secretary/Treasurer when requested.

(a) The District Trophies awarded at the Convention are:

(1) Man Mile Trophy

(2) Charlottetown Cup – the Gyrette Mile trophy.

(3) Woods-Roe Trophy for Internal Expansion – for the greatest membership gain by any Club in the District.

(4) Cotter Trophy – for the Club, regardless of size, judged to produce the best bulletin in the District

(5) Cunningham Trophy – for the Club with 35 or more members judged to produce the best Bulletin in that category.

(6) Dutcher Trophy – for the Club with less than 35 members judged to produce the best Bulletin in that category.

(7) Charles M. Dickson Award – awarded to the Club which has a good overall balance of fun and business activities in the many aspects of operating a Club.

(8) Travel Gavel – awarded to the Club which accumulates the most inter-club travel points.

(9) Gyro Golf Trophy – awarded for low net score.

(10) Gyrette Golf Trophy – awarded for low net score.

Note: A Club is not eligible to win more than one District Bulletin Trophy in any given year.

(b) The District Trophies awarded at the Interim Meeting are:

(1) The Chase Cribbage Trophy – awarded to the winning team in the Cribbage Tournament.

(2) 29 Cribbage Trophy – awarded to the first runner-up team in the Cribbage Tournament.

(3) Sobey Curling Cup – awarded to the rink that wins the Sobey Bonspiel.

(4) Daniel Collie Curling Plaque – awarded to the runner-up rink in the Sobey Bonspiel.

Section 4 - Founders' Day:

Each Club shall properly observe Founders' Day at a regular or special meeting, nearest to the Anniversary date (14th day of October) of each year, at which time a review of the origin, history, etc. of the foundations of Gyro, including its ideals and principles shall be given.

Section 5 – Memorials:

On the death of a District Gyro, a contribution to the Gyro International Memorial Fund shall be made by the District.

Section 6 – Records:

The proceedings of the Formal Closing of the Convention and the record of the winners of all trophies shall be included in the minutes of the District Convention and of the Interim Meeting.