



GYROLIFE



GYRO - A FRATERNITY OF FRIENDSHIP

JULY 2025

In Calgary since 1921

International Convention

Anchors Aweigh: Highlights from the 2025 Gyro International Convention

John and Laura, Angelo and Lucy, Doug and Annette, and Ken and Ann boarded the Grand Princess on June 3 for an Alaskan cruise. We were joined by about 130 Gyros and Gyrettes for the annual Gyro International Convention. This year's Gyro Convention set sail in style, kicking off with a spirited welcome reception in a panoramic aft room overlooking the Vancouver skyline as it slowly slipped from view. President Mike Eisner officially opened the proceedings, acknowledging our District's contributions — with well-deserved kudos to Ted Ewanchuk and Dunc Mills for orchestrating a memorable voyage.

Old friends reunited, new connections blossomed, and the energy was high. It was a pleasure to see Roy and Lynne Penniket from the former Lethbridge club, and equally delightful to share the occasion with six spirited single ladies from previous Gyro connections — a lively reminder that camaraderie knows no bounds.

The next day began with the Past District Governor's Meeting, where Alan Pentney chaired 21 dedicated participants. Our discussions spanned five important

Ship waiting for Gyros to board



topics, which were later forwarded to the Board of Governors for consideration. In the afternoon, the Board reviewed the financials and approved a budget that keeps dues at \$70 for now, though a By-Law update allows for flexibility up to \$90 in future years. Our reserves remain healthy, with over \$100,000 in the coffers.

Membership currently stands at 1,461 — a dip of 212 over the last two years, due in part to the departure of the Vancouver, Washington club. Nevertheless, clubs like Edmonton and Port Colborne Niagara provided optimism: Edmonton drew potential recruits by inviting a local golf group to a baseball game (sports diplomacy at its finest), and Port Colborne has grown from 7 to 30 members in four years through smart networking.

We're excited to report that the 2026 Convention has been approved for Calgary, July 13–17, at the

Deerfoot Inn and Casino. Pack your sunhats and bring your cowboy boots!

On June 7, the AGM was held to a full room. Our club's delegate, Doug Campbell, represented us. New International officers were elected

- President: Ned Barber (Buffalo)
- 1st VP: Dunc Mills (Edmonton)
- 2nd VP: Trevor Slaney (Prince George)
- Past President: Mike Eisner (Blacklake, CA)
- Secretary-Treasurer: Alan Pentney
- Financial Administrator: Ken Baker

The AGM's main agenda item was a sweeping governance restructuring: shifting from 9 Districts to 3, with the 3 Governors joining the Executive Council. This required nearly 1,000 word-level amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws. A total of 28 motions were tabled in advance, with several others introduced by the Past Governors and directly from the floor. While one motion tried to reverse course and return to District governance, it was voted down. A compromise motion did pass to retain the names "District" and "District Governor" within the new framework — a nod to our heritage. Two motions to allow women to become active, dues-paying members were defeated for the fourth time in a decade.

Yes, it was a marathon 3.5-hour session — but all business was handled, and no one jumped ship.

That evening, we gathered for the Formal Ceremony in a grand showroom, complete with piped-in

dignitaries, heartfelt speeches, and the ceremonial passing of leadership.

On the final day at sea, a special luncheon brought everyone together one last time. Fellow Gyros were handed brochures and were invited to join us in Calgary next year for the 2026 Gyro International Convention.



**THERE ARE LOTS
MORE PICTURES
ON OUR WEBSITE**



A Day at the Ballpark

On June 22, twenty-five Gyros, Gyrettes, and guests gathered to enjoy an afternoon of baseball as the Okotoks Dawgs took on the Lethbridge Bulls. The game showcased athletes from across North America, as the Western Canadian Baseball League (WCBL) features top-tier talent from U.S. and Canadian post-secondary institutions. As a collegiate summer league, the WCBL provides student-athletes a competitive platform to hone their skills during the off-season—and fans get a front-row seat to the action.

The weather kept us guessing—cool at times, warmer when the sun made its appearances—but spirits remained high. The Dawgs, sitting in second place, held their own through five innings. However, the sixth saw the Bulls rally, sending four runners across home plate. Final score: Bulls 7, Dawgs 2. Oh well... you can't win them all!

Adding to the charm of the day were visits from Diggity Dawg, the team mascot, and a few lovely full grown princesses as well as many little princesses.

And let's not forget the classic ballpark fare: hotdogs, hamburgers, popcorn, and refreshments, all enjoyed in the company of friends. Even with the scoreboard not in our favor, it was a fantastic way to soak up the season and celebrate summer with a great Gyro outing.





Gyros blowing out candles this month are

Paul Skinner *July 13*

John L'Ecuyer *July 17*

Lyle Nisi *July 19*

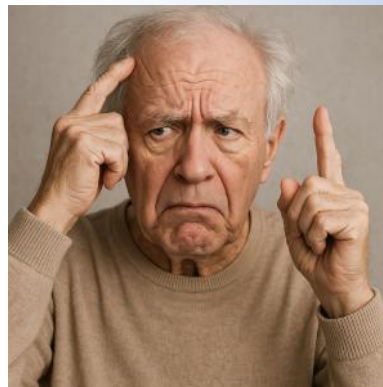
UPCOMING EVENTS

The only thing I see on our Gyro Calendar for July is the annual MINI Golf at Oasis Greens Golf Center on July 8. At this particular time it looks like only 16 people have responded positively. If you haven't yet responded to your Evite please do so.

The 2026 Gyro International conventions will be held right here in Calgary from July 13 to July 17. Many who attended the Cruise convention were excited about a visit Calgary in 2026. Over the next year you can expect to hear a lot more about plans as we welcome Gyros from all clubs in Canada and the United States.

To keep yourself informed of the upcoming events please refer often to the club calendar on our website.

I have been a Senior for some time now. I just don't understand or quite get the point of Facebook. So, I've decided to try making friends the old-fashioned way, with a Facebook twist. I have been walking around the neighborhood and telling neighbors what I had for breakfast, how I'm feeling, what I did last night, my afternoon plans, and who I'll be with tonight. I show them photos of my grandkids, my dog who died 20 years ago, my yard work that I am so proud of, and the lunch I made for myself. I give them a thumbs-up, and let them know I "like" them. It's going great so far - I already have 4 followers: 2 cops, a detective, and a psychiatrist.



More stuff I don't understand. I go to the grocery store and I buy 1 LB of sliced ham wrapped in plastic, a loaf of bread in a plastic bag, a gallon milk in a plastic jug, a pack of napkins wrapped in plastic, a Greek salad in a plastic container, a plastic bottle of mustard and plastic bottle of ketchup, and they won't give me a plastic bag to carry it home because the **plastic** bag is bad for the environment? Really?

That's it for this month,

Ken Baker, Bulletin Guy