

# District VIII – Governor's Report

June 30, 2025

District VIII has been quite active, and I have had the opportunity to visit a number of clubs and to take part in their events. Two of our clubs (**Cranbrook and Nelson**) celebrated their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversaries in June, 2024. Sherwood Park will be celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary on October 4, 2025.

The **Gyro Club of Calgary** hosted Curlarama in Canmore in early November. Twelve teams were entered including one from the Albernies (District IV) who won the A Event trophy. Special shout out to the **Gyro Clubs of Castlegar and Cranbrook** for sending teams.

Christmas season started early with the **Edmonton** club's Christmas Dinner on December 3 with 69 Gyros and guests in attendance. **Calgary and Stampede City** held a joint event on December 14 with 83 Gyros and guests in attendance. **Sherwood Park** scheduled their dinner on December 21. Santa and his elf made appearances at all events.

The **Gyro Clubs of Edmonton and Sherwood Park** jointly hosted a Valentines dinner in February which was very well attended,

March meant a trip to **Wallace** to help them celebrate the St Patrick's day parade in Prichard, Idaho and to install their new Executives. The Wallace Elks Club Drum and Bugle Core (of which President Hunter is a member) led the parade.

**Edmonton** held an Installation Ceremony in April where I got to install their new Executives.

Voting has been conducted by the individual clubs on the Gyro Structure Proposal and has been overwhelmingly accepted by the membership. This is historic and will set the direction for Gyro. A committee was formed to make amendments to the Gyro International Constitution. **Don Greig, Sherwood Park President**, is the District 8 representative on the committee.

A number of Zoom District meetings were held in the April / May time frame. One meeting was dedicated to deciding on what to do with District assets after the Gyro re-org and the elimination of the districts. A plan was developed to disperse all physical (trophies, computers, etc.) and digital assets, and to return outstanding monies to member clubs. Wind-down plan as follows:

- The District laptop computer will stay with Secretary Treasurer Ken Baker as it contains the historic financial information. It is an older computer and does not have much salvageable value.
- All trophies will be collected and offered to agencies that specialize in making trophies available for re-use.
- Paper records will stay with Ken Baker for the short term as long as they are still required for historic and audit purposes.

- The District web site will stay on-line as it currently is hosted on the International Site and does not require further maintenance.
- The District fiscal year end is April 30, 2026 and no further activities will be carried out after that date.
- Any funds left in the District bank accounts will be distributed to member clubs based on head count.

The District Annual General Meeting was held via Zoom to elect the new Governor and to vote on the motions to be tabled at the International AGM. The installation of new District Governor Ian McNeil conducted in conjunction with the International Convention.

I visited with **Derm Jackman** from the Castlegar Club and **Joe Vingo** from the Nelson Club on my way to Vancouver for the International Convention. We discussed how each club will vote for the motions at the AGM.

### **Gyro Convention – Princess Cruise from Vancouver to Alaska – June 3 to 10**

This section is written by **Alan Pentney** and taken directly from the June 2025 Stampede City Gyroper Bulletin. *“This is to highlight the Gyro activities on the Convention. It started with a welcome reception in a large aft room with a view of Vancouver as we left. President Mike Eisner welcomed us and acknowledged our District (led by Ted Ewanchuk and Dunc Mills) for arranging the convention. Many reacquaintance conversations and many new introductions. Nice to see Roy and Lynne Penniket of the former Lethbridge club. Also very nice to see six single ladies of former Gyros.*

*Next day was the Past District Governor’s Meeting with 21 attending. I (Alan) chaired the meeting that provided a majority opinion on 5 topics to the Board of Governors later that day. The Board of Governors reviewed Financials and the Budget for the coming year. The dues will stay at \$70 but the By-Laws will be adjusted to allow fees up to \$90 in the future. The coffers have in excess of \$100k available. Membership is 1461 – down 212 from 2 years ago. Partly due to a large club, Vancouver, Washington leaving. The Edmonton Club described an invitation extended to a golf club to join them for a baseball game to recruit members. Port Colborne Niagara has increased from 7 to 30 members in 4 years through networking (they may have to split the club soon). Approval was given for the Calgary location for the next convention on July 13-17, 2026, at the Deerfoot Inn and Casino.*

*On June 7 the AGM was held to a full house. Dale Woodroffe was our club’s (Stampede City) delegate. Election of officers occurred: President: Ned Barber (Buffalo); 1st VP: Dunc Mills (Edmonton); 2nd VP: Trevor Slaney (Prince George); Past President: Mike Eisner (Blacklake Ca.) and I (Alan) was appointed as Secretary Treasurer. Fortunately for me Ken Baker was appointed as Financial Administrator. The main order of Business was amending the Constitution and By-Laws for implementation of the wording for changing 9 Districts into 3 Regions and moving 3 Regional Directors onto the Executive instead of continuing with District governance. This involved 1000 wording changes. However, 28 motions were tabled in advance on additional changes plus the Past Governors meeting resulted in 2 motions and a few motions were tabled*

*from the floor. Most of the motions were not related to restructuring – in fact one was to go back to District Governance and dues collection – it was defeated. It was made clear that implementation of the changes was not to occur till 2026. A late motion to return the names “District” and “District Governor” for the 3 Districts was approved. Two club motions to permit women as active paying members were defeated (for the 4th AGM in 10 years). It was a marathon session of 3.5 hours, but the agenda was dealt with.*

*Next up was the Formal Ceremony. The venue was a large show room. Dignitaries were piped in for awards and installations, outgoing and incoming speeches were made.*

*The last at sea day featured a luncheon for everyone where on behalf of Dale and Jim, I was able to invite Gyros to Calgary for next year’s convention and distribute Brochures, so they remember. All in all, a very productive and entertaining convention.”*

The new District Executive was installed during the luncheon. Welcome new Governor Ian McNeil.

Ted Ewanchuk

Immediate Past Governor, District VIII