COSMOPOLITAN INTERNATIONAL
The Club that Fights Diabetes
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COSMOPOLITAN INTERNATIONAL
DELEGATES MEETING – INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
JULY 26, 2025
HARRAH'S CASINO, KANSAS CITY, MO

The delegates' meeting was called to order at 9:21 a.m., on Saturday, July 26, 2025, by International President John Krysak.
President John Krysak appointed Melvina Newman, Executive Director, to be the recording secretary.

An invocation was given by Chaplain, Karen Shepherd, of the Wascana Club.
All those in attendance recited the Cosmopolitan Pledge together.

Introduction of Sergeant at Arms: President John Krysak announced that he did not appoint any Sergeant at Arms for this meeting in order to keep the meeting moving because of the full agenda.

Acting Judge Advocate: President John Krysak introduced Larry Sheehan of the Omaha I-80 Club who has agreed to step in and help us today as the Acting Judge Advocate.

Additions to the Agenda: Donation to Cosmopolitan International in honor of Jim McVay from the Columbia Breakfast Club for $500.00. It was moved by Tim Dollens and seconded by Karen Shepherd to accept the agenda with the addition. A test was done by the voting platform, and the motion was approved unanimous.

Approval of 2024 delegates meeting minutes: It was moved by Wade Frink and seconded by Keith Shepherd to approve the delegates meeting minutes of July 19, 2024. Vote was taken by electronic vote, and the motion was approved with 59 voting in favor and 0 opposed.

Report of Credentials Committee: Ludene McLeod reported that the Credentials committee reports a total of 74 voting delegates. A breakdown was not provided for those 74 delegates. It was moved by Richard Gordon to accept the Credential report.

Scott Getzschman seconded the motion, and the vote was taken with unanimous approval.

Recognition of First Timers to the Convention: President John Krysak asked all the First Timers to the convention to please stand. John welcomed them to their first convention.

Introduction of Board Members: President John Krysak, Vice President of Marketing and Fundraising Sheila Anderson, Executive Director Melvina Newman, Western Canada Governor Karen Shepherd, North Central Governor Deb Peterson, MoKan Governor Jamie Wilson, Cornbelt Governor Scott Knudsen, Past International President Dick Gorton, Vice President of Finance Phil Hanson, Acting Judge Advocate Larry Sheehan and Vice President of Membership and New Clubs Cheryl MacKenzie.

State of the Organization: President John Krysak delivered his address. He provided a written report and presented it as follows: I am standing before you today not only to recognize our past, but to turn our focus toward the future. While we honor our history and the milestones that have brought us here, we must also acknowledge that the past is now beyond our control. What truly matters is what we choose to do next – and I believe the future of Cosmopolitan International is full of promise.
Yes, we faced some challenges this year. A few clubs (3) have folded or withdrawn from the organization, we lost a few members near and dear to our heart who will never be forgotten – changes that are never easy. But let's focus on the positive: of the remaining active clubs and dedicated members, **we grew.** And not just a little – we made meaningful, measurable progress.
As of **June 30, 2025,** our active membership rose from 721 to 772 – a net gain of **51 new members.** That's not just growth, that's momentum.
More impressively, **21 out of our 34 active clubs** increased their membership – that's **62%** of clubs on an upward trajectory. Our **top 10 growing clubs** alone brought in **30 of the 51 new members,** showing that where focused effort is applied, real results follow.
This tells us something important: **what you are doing is working,** Your outreach, your service, your leadership – it's attracting new energy and ensuring the sustainability of our mission. Let's build on this together.
I look forward to the results of today's vote on the board restructure. Many hours have been dedicated to bringing the current board's vision to life, guided by the

forward-thinking leadership of Jim McVay. His wealth of experience was instrumental in shaping our discussions at the March Winter Board Meeting, helping us recognize more effective ways to move forward-while also creating opportunities for greater member involvement and input.
Our year began with the adoption of the International Project in Edmonton, AB, last July. Since then, we've made great strides in establishing efficient methods to direct our fundraising efforts toward researchers. While tracking the total amount raised, we've emphasized that every contribution-regardless of size-makes a difference. As we now enter the second year of this five-year, $1 million initiative, our momentum continues to build.
This year, we also introduced PDF fillable forms for awards nominations. While both the old and new formats were accepted this year, we're updating the manual to make future submissions easier. These awards represent a small token of appreciation for the incredible work done by our clubs and individual members-work that deserves recognition.
Tonight, we will recognize several members who have gone above and beyond, earning acknowledgment from their clubs and federations. All federation award winners have been submitted and judged at the international level. Regardless of whether they receive the final honor internationally, each nominee is already a winner in our eyes. Congratulations to those who do receive the international recognition - **you have been chosen for a reason.**
Thank you for your continued commitment to Cosmopolitan International. The best way to honor our legacy is to shape a strong, united, and growing future.

Introduction of Convention Committee Chairs:

- Awards – Melvina Newman
- Credentials – Randy Kramer, Ludene McLeod, and Keith Shepherd
- Nominating – Dick Gorton
- Resolutions – Derry Anderson
- International Project – Cheryl MacKenzie
- Toastmasters:
    - Welcome Party – Jamie Wilson
    - Friday Breakfast – Susie Bartlett
    - Friday Luncheon – Russ Danstrom
    - Friday Dinner – Susie Bartlett
    - Saturday Breakfast – Kathy Krysak

Installation Luncheon – Richard Gordon
Awards Banquet – Donna Carter

Review of Board Restructure:

Review of the voting delegates and registration to vote was done. The proposed Chart of the Organization was presented and discussion of the above and below the line positions as shown on the proposed Chart. This proposal would increase the board to a total of 20 board members and that would include 9 Executive members. Cheryl MacKenzie of Edmonton moved to adopt the restructure plan as presented on the Chart of the Organization. Tim Dollens of Columbia Breakfast seconded the motion. Discussion was held and it was noted that there will be lumps in the road that will need to be worked out along the way. The vote was then taken by the election buddy system. The motion was approved with 60 approval and 2 opposed.

Bylaw Amendments:

The Bylaw amendments were sent out to all members. The Amendments were sent out on June 24, 2025, which date was 30 days prior to the delegates meeting. Acting Judge Advocate Larry Sheehan advised that the Bylaws would be acted on as a whole document with a motion, a second and discussion. Dayton Shepherd of the Columbia Show Me Club moved to adopt the Bylaws as presented. Keith Shepherd of Wascana seconded the motion and discussion was held. An information sheet was also provided to explain the various Bylaw amendments. The vote was then taken by Electronic vote. The motion was approved with 62 approval and 2 opposed.

Report of the Nominating Committee:

Richard (Dick) Gorton read the nominating committee report as follows:
President – John Krysak
Vice President – Art Brassard
Director of Marketing – Sheila Anderson
Director of Membership – Cheryl MacKenzie
Director of Communication – Tim Dollens
Director of Fund Raising – Nancy Trautman
Director of Special Projects – Dick Gorton
Director of Convention Planning – Wade Frink
Director of Education – Judy Weitkemper
Secretary – Kurt Kopp

Treasurer – Randy Kramer
Judge Advocate – Larry Sheehan

One position remains open being the Director of Website/IT. Deb Peterson nominated Melvina Newman for the position of Director of Website/IT.

Dick Gorton moved to accept the nominating report. Vote was taken by electronic vote and the motion was approved with 61 approval and 1 opposed.

The Candidates then introduced themselves and presented their platforms.

OLD BUSINESS:

IRS COMPLIANCE: Vice President Finance Phil Hanson reported that he was on the phone with the IRS yesterday and Cosmopolitan has been approved for the 501c4 reinstatement. He also stated that every club must make sure that all dues are current.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT: Vice President Finance Phil Hanson presented the financial statement for the year ending June 30, 2025. Total revenue for the year was $173,648 with $98,639 of that being dues and investment income being about $75,000. The total expenses were $130,161 with a net ordinary income of $43,486. The 2024 convention expenses exceeded the income by $8,425 so the total net income for the year was $35,061.85. The Profit & Loss budget vs Actual shows the amounts for all categories.

WEBSITE: Cheryl MacKenzie stated that she launched a special project page on the website this year. Sheila Anderson reported that there are 504 members who have never logged into our website. Sheila asked what reason do we need with the website to make members want to log in and check the information on the website. She also reported that Jim McVay and herself added an event calendar, and clubs are able to put their activities on that event calendar also.

NEW BUSINESS:

2025-2026 BUDGET REVIEW: Vice President Finance Phil Hanson presented the 2025-2026 budget to the delegates. This budget is presented for information purposes, and the board will vote to adopt the budget. Question was raised regarding all the travel expenses and it was stated that it is to attend board meetings in person.

Question regarding why CDF and CFCI are in the travel budget and the response was that those are new positions on the CI Board because we need their voices also and it is a request from CI to serve on the CI Board so they would be allowed travel to CI Board meetings same as the other Board members.

REVOCATION OF CLUB CHARTERS:

Vote on Charters:

Rockford: Rockford sent email stating that they were withdrawing from Cosmopolitan International effective June 30. Phil Hanson moved to revoke Rockford Club charter, seconded by Ludene McLeod. The reason they presented was that they felt their dues could better serve their community. The members were offered to stay as at large members. The vote on the motion was completed by electronic voting with 56 approval and 2 opposed to revoking Rockford Charter.

Elgin: Elgin decided that they would disband as a club. Scott Getzschman moved to revoke Elgin Club charter, seconded by Donna Carter. The vote on the motion was completed by electronic voting with 59 approval and 0 opposed to revoking Elgin Charter.

Watch City: There has not been any response from this club, and they are 3 years behind in paying dues. Scott Getzschman moved to revoke Watch City Club charter, seconded by Randy Kramer. The vote on the motion was completed by electronic voting with 62 approval and 0 opposed to revoking Watch City Charter.

Grand Island Platte River: They sent a notice that they were disbanding as a club and one person wanted to keep membership as an at large member and one person plans to join the Fremont 100 club. They already contributed their remaining clubs' funds to community projects. Wade Frink moved to revote Grand Island charter, seconded by Kevin Figge. The vote on the motion was completed by electronic voting with 55 approval and 0 opposed to revoking Grand Island Platte River charter.

FUTURE MEETINGS:

2026 International Convention – Minneapolis: Melvina Newman reported that the contract has been signed, and the International Convention will be held July 23 to the 26th, 2026, at the Hilton. Everything on site regarding meeting rooms is already locked in. The room rate will be $145 for the 23rd, 24th and 25th plus taxes. It will be $155 for the 22nd of July plus taxes. Complimentary shuttle to/from airport, Mall of

America, and within a 5-mile radius of the hotel. There is no Federation hosting this convention so it will be hosted by the International Board.

2027 International Convention – Rapid City, SD: Kelly Whiting said they were just getting started on plans for the convention and will be bringing in International people to help.

2028 International Convention – Open: This is open and will wait to let that play out for location and hosting.

RESOLUTIONS:

Derry Anderson presented the 2026 convention resolutions. Kathy Krysak moved to adopt the resolutions as presented. The motion was seconded by Cheryl MacKenzie and the motion was approved unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

President John Krysak thanked all the members for their support and help during the year and especially during the past month prior to the convention for stepping forward and helping in so many ways.

A big thank you to the convention chairmen, Linda Gentry and Kelly Figge, for their work in organizing the convention and to all the clubs and members in MoKan Federation for their sponsorships and help.

Linda Gentry thanked the members of her club, Heartland Santa Fe Club, for their support during the year.

President John said everyone is truly appreciated.

There being no further business to come before this delegates meeting, the meeting was adjourned at 12:09 p.m. by President John Krysak.

Respectfully submitted,

Melvina Newman
Executive Director