

# COSMOTOPICS

FALL 2024 ISSUE

A PUBLICATION OF COSMOPOLITAN INTERNATIONAL



*International President and First Lady*  
**John and Kathy Kryszak**



## ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

- Officer Articles
- Calendar of Meetings For Cosmo Year 2024-2025
- Club Happenings
- 2024 International Convention Award Winners

# COSMOTOPICS

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## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Cosmopolitan International is to contribute to community well-being through charitable donations and volunteer service, with special emphasis on supporting efforts to prevent and find a cure for diabetes.

## EDITOR'S NOTE

The start of a new year is always a time for renewed energy and optimism. It's also an opportunity to reflect on our past, honoring the history and values that have shaped Cosmopolitan International into the impactful organization it is today.

This year, we welcome John Krysak as our International President. Many of you know John as a long-standing and dedicated member, and his theme, Account-Ability, sets an inspiring tone for the year ahead.

As you read through this issue, you'll notice a recurring message: **JUST ASK**. Inviting someone to become a member is simpler than it seems. We all share a deep love for our clubs, and it's easy to imagine how much others could gain from joining our incredible community.

Of course, every organization faces challenges, but we become stronger and more resilient through these moments of tension and growth.

As always, our mission to fight diabetes remains at the heart of what we do. Advancements in research are more promising than ever, and through our new international project, Together for a Cure, we have the chance to make a real and lasting difference.

Let's make 2025 a year of growth, impact, and connection. Together, we are unstoppable!

# Executive Director Report



By Melvina Newman, Executive Director



## Reflecting on the Past:

The past year has been a remarkable one for Cosmopolitan International, marked by significant achievements and milestones. We want to say many thanks to everyone involved in those accomplishments.

The 2024 convention presented workshops on all the research ongoing in Canada and Miami and we thank all who helped make the workshops, the meetings, and events all informative. The award winners are included in this issue, celebrating those who made extraordinary impacts.

**Looking Ahead:** The journey continues, and there is much to accomplish. With ambitious plans on the horizon, we are inspired by President John's theme for the year: "Account-Ability: More Members More Funding". This vision aligns with our mission to support diabetes research through our new International Project titled "Together for a Cure – Uniting for Diabetes Research". This project may be an opportunity to be part of what may be a world-changing event, finding a cure for diabetes. Running for five years beginning in 2024, this project will provide numerous opportunities for member and club involvement. More information will be coming on this project in the coming months.

**Strengthening Membership:** A renewed focus on membership is central to our efforts this year. The membership committee will convene monthly, working diligently to support all clubs in growing their numbers and fostering connections. Cosmopolitan International is a family, and we are committed to uplifting one another. Expect the committee to reach out to understand your challenges and provide assistance you need to thrive.

**Communication:** To keep everyone informed and engaged, regular updates will be shared throughout the year via newsletters and bulletins sent by email. Stay connected to stay involved.

**Elevating Our Brand:** The 2024 convention also introduced an exciting development: a potential rebrand. A Bylaw change was proposed to read: "The official emblem and colors of Cosmopolitan International shall be adopted by the Board, after soliciting input from the members of Cosmopolitan International, and shall appropriately reflect the objectives, aims and purposes of Cosmopolitan International." To encourage widespread participation, a contest will be launched, inviting all

members to contribute their ideas. This is a fantastic opportunity to leave your mark on Cosmopolitan International's future in marketing.

**2025 Convention Preview:** Mark your calendars! The 2025 Convention will take place from July 24-27, 2025 at Harrah's in North Kansas City. This celebration promises to be both productive and enjoyable, with a tentative schedule that includes:

- **Thursday, July 24:** Board meeting (2:00 p.m.), First-Timer's orientation (3:45 p.m.) and Welcome party (6:00 p.m.)
- **Friday, July 25:** Three educational sessions along with a breakfast speaker and the CDF/CFC luncheon at noon. There will also be some afternoon free time and a planned Friday evening dinner.
- **Saturday, July 26:** After a breakfast, the delegates meeting will be held, the installation lunch, board meetings and the President/Awards banquet and entertainment in the evening.
- **Sunday, July 27:** Wrap up breakfast from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

**Online Meetings:** Monthly zoom meetings are also open to all members. Meeting details have been placed on the website calendar and if you are interested in sitting in on a meeting, just go to the calendar, select the meeting and you will receive a notice to register for the meeting. Once you have registered, a link will then be supplied to you to join. An in-person board meeting will be held in Minneapolis March 7-8, 2025.

**A Shared Mission:** Time is always at a premium, but as we move forward, our commitment to progress remains unwavering. Together, we aim to not only achieve personal and organizational success but also to fulfill our mission of supporting efforts to prevent and find a cure for diabetes.

**Thank you for your unwavering dedication and contributions. Your involvement is what makes Cosmopolitan International the organization we are. Let's continue working together to create meaningful change and make 2025 another year of progress.**

Melvina Newman  
Executive Director  
[headquarters@cosmopolitan.org](mailto:headquarters@cosmopolitan.org)



# We Are All Accountable!

By John Krysak, Cosmopolitan President

I would like to review the reasons why I chose the logo and slogan. I received my CPA designation in 2003 after many years of schooling and working for the company where I am still employed today (32 years and counting). Being a CPA I am accountable to my clients. I take this forward in my daily life where I remain accountable to my family and friends. I have also extended this to the Cosmopolitan Pledge and Cosmopolitans everywhere for the past 30 years as well.



The hyphenated word allows us to concentrate in two different areas:

**Account**, we need to report on finances, membership statistics, goals and objectives.

**Ability**, using the results of the accounting function we now have the ability to raise

awareness, attain membership goals, secure funding dollars, attain research funding goals, contribute to community projects to meet our club's goals.

As the slogan tag-line says **More Members = More Funding**. Each new member contributes to the goals of Cosmopolitan International and the Federations by paying their dues. Each new member contributes to the ability of each club to grow while providing volunteer power to help raise funds and awareness of club projects in their communities.

My personal goals for Cosmopolitan International during my year as president are as follows:

### 1. Support Past-President Dick Gorton in moving the goal of an International Project forward

- Project approved at the 2024 International convention
- To date we have had presentations from Dr. James Shapiro, Alberta Diabetes Institute and Piotr Witkowski M.D. Ph.D, Professor of Surgery Director, Pancreas and Pancreatic Islet Transplant Program at Transplantation Institute The University of Chicago Medical Center.
- We still need to move forward with getting the Islet transplants re-designated from a drug to a transplant. The designation as it stands has many restrictions and still impedes the researchers in the United States to move forward.

### 2. Increase Membership by 10%

- This is a self-serving goal as it will serve to meet the slogan **More Members = More Funding**. As of mid-October, we have had an increase 7 new members – welcome to all! I was lucky enough to induct 3 of these members while on a journey of member and club visits in September.
- We have a long way to go but with your help we can still achieve this goal!
- Sharing a certain member's request to his fellow members while I visited his club touched me as being very important. His comment to his club was "We are

Disappearing One Member at a Time; We Need to All Come Together and Go Out and Replace Ourselves" His meaning was just go out and get one new member each! Can you imagine the results if we did that?

- Using the **Account-Ability** slogan, that would double our membership in one year!
- That would double our fund-raising abilities!
- That would result in a 100% increase in friends in our clubs
- That could result in doubling the attendance at our international and federation conventions

### All we have to do is replace ourselves! Simple task with immediate astonishing results!

When considering new members, I encourage you all to refer back to the Ideal Member Blueprint material available on the Cosmopolitan.org website under resource materials. The information is invaluable. Doing a 360 view of potential new members which includes the areas of Demographics, Psychographics and Motivations is very informative. It helps to identify why certain individuals would make perfect applicants. A better understanding of these factors may help to focus your search for new members.

### 3. Charter Two New Clubs

Since the last club chartering we have lost clubs. We have clubs with below charter strength membership, we have clubs that are inactive, we are at risk of losing more. Let's work together to turn this around. In order to grow, we need to expand.

- We have had a slow start in this area, we need your help.
- If you are interested in helping us move forward, please let us know.
- If you do not want to assist but know someone in a new area that would like to be a member and potentially help in starting a new club, forward me their contact information. I will contact them directly.
- Do you have friends/family in other centers? Let's promote and see what we can do?

In summary, by working and supporting each other, we can achieve these goals.

*YOURS IN COSMOPOLITAN,*

**John Krysak**  
Cosmopolitan President-elect  
[John.krysak@cosmopolitan.org](mailto:John.krysak@cosmopolitan.org)



By Tom Grimes, *Cosmopolitan President-elect*

Hello Fellow Cosmo's. Seeing how many of you do not know me yet, I am sure some are wondering who is this guy we selected as our President-Elect. Here is the cliff notes version...



I was born and raised in Rockford. I joined the Marine Corps on my 17th birthday and became an NCO at only eighteen. After the end of my enlistment, a veteran's assistance officer helped me find a job with a start-up copier

company as their first service technician. As our company grew, I went to numerous technical schools and became the Service Manager. With my spare time I started selling used copiers to our customers and eventually tasked to become the Director of Sales and Service Operations. After 23 years with the company, I bought it, 23 years later I finally decided to retire.

My wife Laurel is an RN. We were married in January of 1980 after having a long 3-month courtship. Probably not a well thought out plan on her part but with our 45th Anniversary coming up, apparently she was able to change me enough to be acceptable. We have been blessed with an amazing daughter and son and are the proud grandparents of two boys (17, 11) and three girls (15, 12, 10). We are actively involved with our grandkids attending as many school and sporting events as possible and helping teach them Conservative Christian Values.

I joined Rockford Cosmo's after several years of attending many of their events for one reason only, **Someone Finally Asked Me!** Like many of you I got actively involved, I spent 4 years on the Exec. Board before serving as Club President and then Charities Board President. I was grateful to win the International Cosmo of the Year Award in 2012 and to be on the CDF board the past two years.

When asked about the Pres-Elect position my first thought was what most of yours would have been, "Right, lol, no way in hell." We all know that our membership has dwindled to a dangerously low number, being half what it was 10 years ago. I had to decide if I could help make a difference. I remembered years earlier when Dayton Smith told me, "You can't make a difference if you're

not sitting at the table." Laurel also told me I would regret it if I did not try, and she was right. I'm not one to back down from a challenge. So, I as well as the rest of the Executive Board you've elected have accepted this challenge, but we need to get your support if we want to make the necessary changes for survival. As of October 29th, only 8 of 43 clubs have turned in their Annual Club Report to their Governor or Melvina. We need that report as it has contact information about members that we need to speak with. I am not one who gives up easily and I'm also not a fan of excuses. Club Presidents, Treasurers, and other board members, please respond to your Governor's calls and requests for information as soon as possible.

Cheryl has a membership committee that's open to any suggestions you may have to help clubs increase their membership. At the convention I pledged to contact each club personally to see what each of you would like us to do for you to help increase your membership. Between all the fun events that Rockford does to attract and keep membership and the idea's you can share with us, I'm sure we can offer suggestions to turn this ship around and achieve the goals that President John has set out for us. However, you **MUST** take part in some fashion. Submit a design for the new Cosmo Logo and/or Tag Line, take a leadership role on your board or federation, think of a fun event that will attract new members or heck, just try **Asking Someone to Join.**

John has given me the task of heading the International Project Committee. We have been working to put a presentation together that you can show to your clubs. We're currently waiting for materials from DRIF and DRIF-CAN before we release it. Hopefully you'll have it by this publishing. We have exciting news to share in upcoming bulletins about progress to conquer Diabetes. Stay tuned.

Thanks again for your support and please contact me with any questions.

**Tom Grimes**  
*Cosmopolitan President-elect*  
[tom.grimes@cosmopolitan.org](mailto:tom.grimes@cosmopolitan.org)



# Honoring 106 Years of Tradition with a Modern Vision

By Sheila Anderson, International VP for Marketing and Fundraising

We are excited to announce that the delegates at the International Convention of Cosmopolitan International held in July 2024 have approved the rebranding of our organization. As part of this initiative, we are launching a contest inviting all Cosmopolitan International Clubs and/or members to submit their ideas for rebranding the logo of Cosmopolitan International.



The final logo may not look exactly like the winning submission, but it will serve as a crucial inspiration for our rebranding efforts. This is your chance to contribute to the future of our organization and help shape a brand that resonates with our mission and values.

We deeply value and respect the rich history and traditions that Cosmopolitan International has upheld for over 106 years, including the significant symbolism of the ship's wheel. This iconic element represents leadership, guidance, and resilience, all of which remain at the heart of our mission. While we are moving forward with a brand refresh, it is important to emphasize that this process is not about erasing our past but building on it. Elements of the current logo, including the ship's wheel and its symbolic principles, can be thoughtfully incorporated into the refreshed design to honor our legacy while creating a visual identity that is modern and relevant. By balancing tradition with innovation, we can ensure that our brand reflects both where we've been and where we are headed, inspiring future generations to carry the ideals of Cosmopolitan International forward.

## Caregiver Brand Archetype Synopsis

The Caregiver archetype is a powerful and compassionate force within branding, embodying the values of empathy, generosity, and a deep commitment to helping others. Organizations that align with the Caregiver archetype, such as Cosmopolitan International, are driven by a mission to nurture, support, and protect individuals and communities, creating environments where people feel valued and cared for.

### Key Characteristics:

- **Compassion:** The Caregiver brand is warm, understanding, and empathetic, always ready to provide a helping hand to those in need.

- **Service-Oriented:** At the heart of the Caregiver archetype is a dedication to serving others, whether through community service, humanitarian efforts, or supporting those who are vulnerable.
- **Nurturing:** The Caregiver seeks to create a safe and supportive space where people can thrive, promoting a sense of belonging and connection.
- **Responsibility:** This archetype embodies a strong sense of duty and responsibility, encouraging ethical behavior and fostering a culture of care and respect.

As we embark on our rebranding journey, it is essential that our new logo and messaging align with the Caregiver archetype. This means that our visual identity and communication should reflect our ongoing commitment to compassion, service, and nurturing communities.

## Contest Rules

### 1. Eligibility

- Open to all Cosmopolitan International Clubs.
- Each club may submit multiple entries.

### 2. Submission Guidelines

- **Deadline:** All submissions must be received by March 15, 2025. Originally, this was set for December 15, 2024, but we have decided to extend it to allow more time for submissions and/or questions.
- **Format:** Submissions must include:
  - A photo of the logo concept. The preferred format is a digital file of the logo design in a high-resolution format (e.g., PNG, JPEG, or PDF). However, hand-drawn sketches will be accepted.
  - A brief description explaining the inspiration behind the design and how it reflects the values and mission of Cosmopolitan International.



- **Submission Method:** Entries must be submitted via email to the Cosmopolitan International Vice President for Marketing & Fundraising: Sheila.Anderson@Cosmopolitan.org with the subject line "Cosmopolitan International Logo Contest Submission - [Club Name]." If you are unable to submit it electronically, you can mail your design concept to:

Sheila Anderson  
1500 N. Tahoe Trail  
Sioux Falls, SD 57110

### 3. Design Criteria

- The logo should reflect the mission, values, and brand archetype of Cosmopolitan International, emphasizing compassion, empathy, and generosity.
- Designs should be modern, versatile, and timeless, suitable for use across various platforms (print, digital, merchandise, etc.).
- The logo should be original and not infringe on any existing trademarks or copyrights.
- Clubs are encouraged to consider color psychology and design elements that align with the Caregiver archetype.

### 4. Judging Process

- A panel of judges, including members of the Cosmopolitan International Executive Board and marketing professionals, will evaluate all submissions.
- Criteria for judging include creativity, alignment with the brand values, adaptability across platforms, and overall visual appeal.
- The winning design will be selected as the "Inspiration Logo," and while it may not

be used as the final logo, it will significantly influence the final design.

### 5. Prize

- The winning club will receive:
  - Recognition at the next International Convention.
  - Will receive 2 paid registrations for the 2025 International Convention.
  - A certificate of achievement.
  - A donation to their club's community service project. \$300 for 1st place, \$200 2nd place, and \$100 3rd place.
- The winning design will be showcased on the Cosmopolitan International website and other communication channels, acknowledging the club's contribution to the rebranding effort.

### 6. Announcement of Winner

- The winning design will be announced in April 2025 via email and on the Cosmopolitan International website and social media platforms.

### 7. Contact Information

- For any questions or further information, please contact:

Sheila Anderson  
Vice President for Marketing & Fundraising  
Sheila.Anderson@Cosmopolitan.org  
Cell: 605-310-7166

**Sheila Anderson**  
*International VP for Marketing and Fundraising*  
sheila.anderson@cosmopolitan.org



*"By balancing tradition with innovation, we can ensure that our brand reflects both where we've been and where we are headed, inspiring future generations to carry the ideals of Cosmopolitan International forward."*



# Welcome to a Year of Growth

By Cheryl MacKenzie, VP for Membership & New Clubs

**As I join the CI International Board as your Vice President of Membership and New Clubs, I look forward to what we can find together to help turn the organization into a growing, thriving part of our communities across the six federations. What we do is important, we just need to make sure that everyone around us knows what that is!**



I have been a Cosmo since January 2018. I joined the organization for reasons that many of you may have. The tie to fundraising for Diabetes to help find a cure hits very close to home. My mom is pre diabetic and my dad, brother and I are all T2D. Ironically, I had been “around” our local Cosmo Group for many years prior to joining due to a larger affiliation and volunteer tie. You know what? No one asked me to join earlier. My advice to you, don’t take this opportunity away from the people around you that have not been asked to join. Allow them the opportunity to say yes. **ASK!**

## The Committee – Membership & New Clubs

The Membership Committee certainly has challenges ahead. Our CI President, John Krysak, announced his annual goal of a 10% Net Growth with two new clubs. Our challenge is to assist in seeing that goal successfully rolled out and achieved by July of 2025 in Kansas City.

The reality is that the membership of Cosmopolitan International has been declining over the last decade. Now is the time that we have to critically consider why and make changes. There are no sacred cows (google it, I did!). That is why I stepped forward, to help lead the changes, in support of the CI Board and Members across the organization from the Club and Federation level.

Now, the CI Board has laid groundwork with research efforts and discussions in 2023/24. It is up to us to absorb these assets and create supporting action plans that inspire our grassroots clubs. We need to develop and provide the support that you are asking for.

As the committee meets, we will be considering current structures such as federation alignment, bylaws impacting club size, and commissioned reports focusing on growth and target demographics to name some. Additionally,

outbound communications with clubs to identify what it is that they need from our CI Board in support of growth will be critical.

We want to work to support clubs, but we need to hear from you. We want to provide you with the support that you need, not what we think you need. Expect to hear from members of the Board and the Membership Committee asking questions that allow us to get to know you and your pain points better. More importantly this communication will allow you to provide feedback and input on what needs to come next for you.

Make no mistake, there is no solution that will change the tides in a week, a month or even a year. The things that we initiate today will be the building blocks of what we are going to do over the next three to five years. It is a journey, and we want to continue to take it with you.

**My Ask:** If you or someone you know within your club would like to consider volunteering on the CI Membership Committee, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at Cheryl.mackenzie@cosmopolitan.org. There is always room for one more. We will meet monthly on a regular committee schedule, work outside of that will be needed in support of any developing plans.

A Proud Member of the Cosmo Family,

Cheryl MacKenzie

*(Proud member of the Edmonton Cosmo Club)*

**Cheryl MacKenzie**  
*VP for Membership & New Clubs*  
[cheryl.mackenzie@cosmopolitan.org](mailto:cheryl.mackenzie@cosmopolitan.org)





# CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR COSMO YEAR 2024-2025

**COSMO INTERNATIONAL BOARD: PRESIDENT, PRESIDENT-ELECT, VICE PRESIDENTS, AND GOVERNORS**  
**CI EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: PRESIDENT, PRESIDENT-ELECT AND VICE PRESIDENTS**

SEPT	3	Tuesday	CI Board meeting 6:30 p.m. Central/7:30 p.m. Eastern
	4	Wednesday	PIP Zoom call, 7:00 p.m. Central/8:00 p.m. Eastern
	17	Tuesday	Governor's zoom meeting 7:00 p.m. Central/8:00 p.m. Eastern
OCT	2	Wednesday	PIP Zoom Call, 7:00 p.m. Central/8:00 p.m. Eastern
	8	Tuesday	CI Board meeting 7:00 p.m. Central/8:00 p.m. Eastern
NOV	12	Tuesday	CI Board meeting 6:30 p.m. Central/7:30 p.m. Eastern
	19	Tuesday	Governor's zoom meeting 7:00 p.m. Central/8:00 p.m. Eastern
	26	Tuesday	PIP Zoom Call, 7:00 p.m. Central/8:00 p.m. Eastern
DEC	3	Tuesday	Membership Committee meeting 6:30 p.m. Central
	10	Tuesday	CI Board meeting 6:30 p.m. Central/7:30 p.m. Eastern
JAN	7	Tuesday	Membership Committee meeting 6:30 p.m. Central
	7	Tuesday	Governor's Zoom meeting 7:00 p.m. Central/8:00 p.m. Eastern
	14	Tuesday	CI Board meeting 6:30 p.m. Central/7:30 p.m. Eastern
	28	Tuesday	PIP Zoom Call, 7:00 p.m. Central/8:00 p.m. Eastern
	TBD		Omaha I-80 50th Anniversary
FEB	4	Tuesday	Membership Committee Meeting 6:30 p.m. Central
	11	Tuesday	CI Board meeting 6:30 p.m. Central/7:30 p.m. Eastern
	25	Tuesday	PIP Zoom Call, 7:00 p.m. Central/8:00 p.m. Eastern
MAR	4	Tuesday	Membership Committee Meeting 6:30 p.m.
	7-8	Friday-Saturday	CI Board meeting in person in Minneapolis
	25	Tuesday	PIP Zoom Call, 7:00 p.m. Central/8:00 p.m. Eastern
APR	1	Tuesday	Membership Committee Meeting 6:30 p.m. Central
	8	Tuesday	CI Board meeting 6:30 p.m. Central/7:30 p.m. Eastern
	22	Tuesday	PIP Zoom Call, 7:00 p.m. Central/8:00 p.m. Eastern
	TBD		Federation Conventions
MAY	2-3	Friday-Saturday	North Central Federation Convention in Sioux Falls Holiday Inn City Centre
	3	Saturday	Sioux Falls Noon 100th Anniversary Banquet 6:30 p.m. Holiday Inn City Centre
	6	Tuesday	Membership Committee meeting 6:30 p.m. Central
	13	Tuesday	CI Board meeting 6:30 p.m. Central/7:30 p.m. Eastern
	20	Tuesday	Governor's Zoom meeting 7:00 p.m. Central/8:00 p.m. Eastern
	23-24	Friday-Saturday	Western Canada Federation Convention hosted by Wascana
	27	Tuesday	PIP Zoom Call, 7:00 p.m. Central/8:00 p.m. Eastern
TBD		Federation Conventions	
JUN	3	Tuesday	Membership Committee Meeting 6:30 p.m. Central
	10	Tuesday	CI Board meeting 6:30 p.m. Central/7:30 p.m. Eastern
	24	Tuesday	PIP Zoom Call, 7:00 p.m. Central/8:00 p.m. Eastern
JUL	1	Tuesday	Membership Committee Meeting 6:30 p.m. Central
	8	Tuesday	CI Board meeting 6:30 p.m. Central/7:30 p.m. Eastern
	15	Tuesday	Governor's Zoom meeting 7:00 p.m. Central/8:00 p.m. Eastern
	22	Tuesday	PIP Zoom Call, 7:00 p.m. Central/8:00 p.m. Eastern
	24-26	Thursday-Saturday	International Convention, Kansas City





# HSFT Cosmos Welcome U.S. Representative Sharice Davids

By Donald Feltham

**The Heartland Santa Fe Trail Cosmopolitan Club was honored and proud to welcome U.S. Representative Sharice Davids (KS – 3rd District) to a special club meeting on Wednesday, October 16th.**

Rep. Davids was invited to speak to the club about congressional efforts to support diabetes needs through various programs and funding needs. Rep. Davids spoke about the NIH (National Institute of Health) and CDC (Center for Disease Control) research and programs development and delivery; expanding the \$35 copay cap on insulin to private insurers; passing the Treat and Reduce Obesity Act (TROA) to allow Medicaid to cover anti-obesity medications and treatment; reauthorizing funding for the SDP (Special Diabetes Program) and the SDPI (Special Diabetes Program for Indians (Native Americans)); and funding the National Diabetes Prevention Program (NDPP). Rep. Davids also spoke of the important work of the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) within the NIH in development of technologies to monitor, treat, and control diabetes. Rep. Davids is a member of the Diabetes Caucus of the House and has been a strong voice and advocate for diabetes issues in congress. Her passion for ensuring health care needs of all Americans are supported is clear, with diabetes concerns a high priority.

Rep. Davids is one of the first two Native American women elected to the House, elected in 2018 for the 116th Congress. Rep. Davids was raised by a single mother who served in the U.S. Army for 20 years. She graduated from Leavenworth High School (Leavenworth, KS), and worked her way through Johnson County Community College and the University of Missouri – Kansas City before earning her law degree from Cornell Law School. She practiced law briefly, but her focus on economic and community development led to time as a White House Fellow in the Department of Transportation under President Barack Obama. Rep. Davids was elected in 2018, 2020, 2022 and is up for re-election in the coming weeks.

Rep. Davids spoke for about 20 minutes and then took questions from the group. Several questions were asked and Rep. Davids provided meaningful answers to every issue. Rep. Davids had a “hard stop” at 7:00 so we wrapped up questions a few minutes early to allow time for the presentation of a Certificate of Recognition. Janet Feltham, HSFT

President, presented the certificate to Rep. Davids. The certificate read:

## CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

**Awarded To:**

*U.S. Representative Sharice Davids*

**From: The Heartland Santa Fe Trail  
Cosmopolitan Club**

**The Club That Fights Diabetes**

With deep respect and appreciation, we award this certificate to Representative Sharice Davids (KS-3rd District) for your leadership, support, vision, and effort to improve the lives of diabetics and their families. You have been a key supporter of the \$35 cap on insulin copay costs, directing more resources toward research, education, diabetic services and programs. Your contributions and voice have been so important. Your work has touched lives, made us proud, and deserves special recognition.

The event was attended by 52 people – 24 HSFT members, and 28 guests (including 6 Cosmos from the Lawrence River City Club). Because of Rep. Davids schedule her presentation and Q&A was the first item of the evening, followed by dinner and a HSFT club business meeting. Rep. Davids had two staff members in attendance with her as well. The logistics of a meeting like this were much greater than any other club meeting we had done in the past – having an active member of Congress attend an event requires planning and security issues that were beyond our history, but the extra work was absolutely worth it.

Feedback from the group was extremely positive, and we also have received great reports from Rep. Davids staff about our event. This includes the comments from staff that Rep. Davids would welcome a future opportunity to make a return visit to the HSFT Cosmopolitan Club.

CLUB HAPPENINGS

Rep. Davids has been a key supporter of the \$35 cap on insulin co-pay costs, directing more resources toward research, education, diabetic services and programs.



▲ Rep. Sharice Davids with Janet Feltham, HSFT President, and Don Feltham, event coordinator



▲ Rep. Sharice Davids with much of the group at the HSFT event on October 16, 2024

CLUB HAPPENINGS



# MID STATES FEDERATION

By LaVonne Hawking

## AURORA

Since the Aurora Club is very small - it is hard to do any fundraising. But we are continuing to support area organizations with collecting for back to school, Christmas giving and the like. Highlight - we welcomed Kelly Quinn as a member of our club - she was introduced to the Cosmopolitan Club by our beloved member John McKenzie who passed away earlier this year.

The Aurora Club participated for the 2nd year at the Sandwich Fair - we had a display of Cosmopolitan information. We had nurses each day from Rush-Copley doing blood screenings. 223 screens were done - with 3 individuals receiving notices to take to their doctors - one person was given a notice to see a doctor ASAP.

Most recently, we have joined in the World Community Relief backpack drive - through Rush Copley Hospital and Redeemer Community Church. We donated two backpacks filled with the necessary school supplies as requested.

### Our projects for National Diabetes month:

- We will be assisting an organization by Christmas gift giving for 3 individuals. Also donating items requested to United Way.
- Our exciting news: Last year we helped an area family by paying the remaining amount on their diabetic alert dog.

This year - we contacted Vicki Santo - (husband Ron Santo was a Chicago CUBS player/announcer and died from diabetic related issues) and we are helping 3 families in the Auroraland area with their final payments for their dogs. They will receive the dogs in January, May and August of 2025. We will be meeting the families at our November 20th meeting.

Also at our meeting - we will be issuing our check to Rush Copley Foundation which will be used for education for underinsured/ uninsured patients.

## BELVIDERE

The Belvidere Club sold sweet corn at the Boone County Fair August 6-11. Always a sell out and lots of monies raised.

Most recently, the club was the recipient of the Distinguished Organization Service Award - from the Belvidere Area Chamber of Commerce annual dinner - honoring a business, club or organization that strives toward the highest levels of service to the community.

Not only a club award, but longtime member, Ron Wait took home the Doctor of Civic Betterment Award. This award honors individuals who strive toward the highest levels of service in the community and has devoted time and energy to their community in a meaningful way outside of the individual's regular job or profession.



## ROCKFORD

August - once again had a sellout golf outing, and raised lots of money to be distributed throughout the community.

September - annual steak fry - Rick Swansbro installed 4 new members and LaVonne Hawking installed the board.

Three times a month - business lunch meetings are held with guest speakers. Poinsettia packets have been distributed for their fundraiser.

# The Edmonton Cosmopolitan Club

By The Edmonton Club



**This summer, Rock'n August lit up St. Albert once again! This 5-day, 14-event fest of music and cars has become one of the largest car shows in North America!! This year, we had 941 registered cars revving up the excitement and raised a staggering \$23,525 for diabetes research from these registrations alone!**

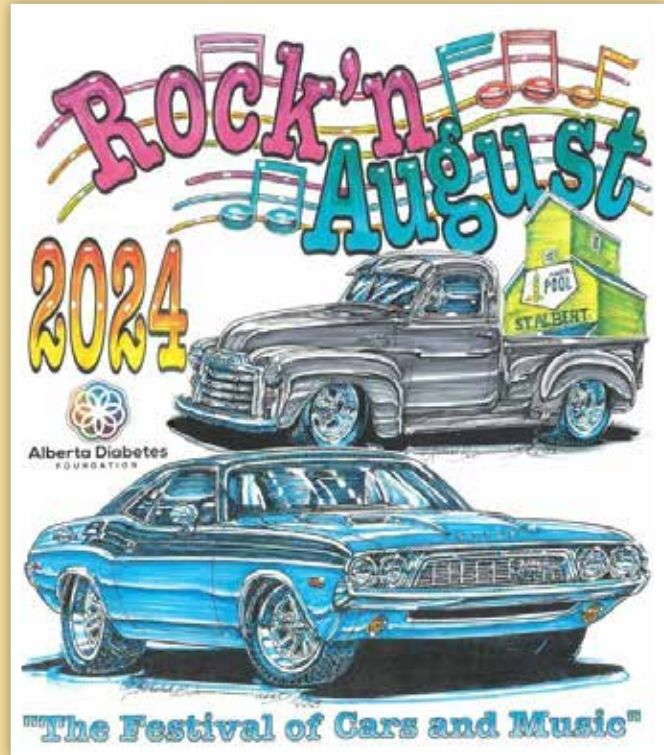
The DRIFcan liquor raffle, which kicked off in May, brought in an impressive \$13,740, and raffle tickets sales for next year's car soared to \$30,000 from Tuesday to Saturday. The new raffle car is a classic beauty: the 1956 Mercury M100!

Volunteers truly made the magic happen, contributing an astounding 1,300 hours of hard work and heart. A massive thank you is in order to the 150 volunteers! Their passion and commitment were the backbone of this success!

This year, Rock'n August received special honours, winning the 2024 Gazette's Readers' Choice Best Event Award, recognition by the Association of Fundraising Professionals for National Philanthropy Day, and is nominated for the St. Albert Chamber of Commerce for the Community Stewardship Award. This community celebration is supported by the Edmonton and St. Albert Cosmopolitan Clubs, the St. Albert Cruisers, Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie #2102 (St. Albert), and the St. Albert Chamber of Commerce.

A heartfelt moment of the event was the recognition of our own long-time Edmonton Cosmos, Esther and Lyle Hardy, who were awarded the 2024 BLAIR ART Memorial Volunteer Recognition Award for their incredible dedication to Rock'n August. As well, St. Albert Cosmo Brent Brodeur was the recipient of this award! His continued commitment as a valued board member of Rock'n August and his unwavering support and dedication to helping orchestrate this event is immeasurable. Brent has held several positions throughout his 14 years with Rock'n August!

Together, we made this year's Rock'n August a roaring success! We're excited to see what next year brings!



CLUB HAPPENINGS

# 2024 International Convention



**Patrick J. Hodgins Distinguished Member:**

**Dean Barry**

Dean Barry is this year's Patrick J. Hodgins Distinguished Member. Dean has been one of the club's most active members from the day he joined the Columbia Breakfast Cosmopolitan Club in November of 1975 to this day. He has sponsored many new members who have also been very active. He has served on the Board of Managers over 30 times as Sgt at Arms, Secretary, Treasurer, President-Elect twice and President twice. He has served on many club committees and several times as the Chair of the committee.

As Inter Club Chair he coordinated with the other two Columbia Cosmopolitan Clubs. In fact, if he were a member of the Columbia ShowMe Cosmopolitan Club, he would have perfect attendance since they chartered in 1987.

Dean has chaired the Nifong Park committee and provided the animals at the petting zoo in Nifong Park. He fed and took care of the animals during the spring, summer and fall, then removed the animals in the fall. The pigs were traditionally used for a pig roast for a fundraiser or social event.

The Columbia Breakfast Cosmopolitan Club created the Columbia Little League Football program. Dean chaired that committee and was instrumental in establishing the program. Dean has served many years on the Bingo Committee, the club's largest fundraiser. He has also chaired that committee. He has also chaired the Beacon committee, the building committee that manages the Jerry Sigmund Cosmopolitan Center, and the nominating committee. He has been the Club Cosmo of the Year twice. Dean rings the bell for the Salvation Army and attends all club socials and new member events. Dean is often asked to induct new members.

Dean has served many years as Education Committee Chair, helps out at the Club Community service project, helping out at two community nursery schools, has worked the Bingo fundraiser since it began in 1981, works at the Pancake and Sausage fundraiser, and the Ready for Spaghetti fundraiser.

Dean has 49 years of perfect attendance in the Club, he served on the building committee that was in charge of building the Jerry Sigmund Cosmopolitan Center and in 2018 Dean was inducted into the Columbia Cosmopolitan Hall of Fame.

Dean has also been active at the Federation level. Dean has served as a club trustee at many, actually most, trustee meetings of the Federation, he served as Lieutenant Governor of the Missouri area, Governor-elect and Governor. He has also served again as Lieutenant Governor several times since he was Governor. He was the Federation representative to the CDF Board for several years, has attended over 40 Federation conventions, helping out in some way at every convention as awards committee chair, awards judge, the convention

itself, hospitality room, delegate and whatever else, Dean has done it. He has mentored several Cosmopolitans as they went through their leadership roles in the MoKan Federation.

Dean has been active at the international level since he joined Cosmopolitan. His friend and mentor, Dr Mahlon Fairchild was International President in 1974-1975 and asked Dean to become a Cosmo. The Cosmopolitan Diabetes Foundation was formed in 1977 and Dean was asked to be on the first CDF Board. He served on that Board every year for 24 years. When the Founders Club was formed, Dean was a charter member and went on to sign up many Cosmopolitans into the Club. The Beacons Program was started in 1979 and Dean was the "Beacon Guru" for many years. You could not go to a Cosmo function without being asked by Dean to be a Beacon. The majority of the funds generated from the Beacon investment that are donated each year by CDF come from Beacons signed up by Dean. Dean and his wife Jan are Ruby Beacons and all of their 6 children are Beacons. Dean's Club is a Diamond Beacon.

Dean also promoted the Cosmopolitan International Diabetes Center to other clubs in the international organization, encouraging them to meet their goals. He was one who was very helpful in meeting the \$640,000.00 commitment to the center, and for the "Doors" program to furnish the center. He served on the Diabetes Center Advisory Council for many years.

Dean has attended over 40 international conventions. He always helps out at conventions, wherever he can. He has been a delegate at every convention.

Dean has been such a great Cosmopolitan during his 49 years. He has served admirably at the club level, the Federation level, and at the International level. He is truly a Cosmopolitan Gem.

All of the Cosmopolitans who attended any of the over 40 international conventions Dean attended know Dean Barry. If they didn't know him by name, they knew he was the guy promoting both Cosmopolitan International Diabetes Centers, the Valerie Millar Diabetes Program, the Ingap project, the Beacons endowment, the Cosmopolitan Diabetes Foundation, and the Founders Club. He has been a mentor to many Cosmopolitans at the Club level, the Federation level, and the International level. Patrick J. Hodgins would have been very proud of Dean Barry.

#### **Other Nominees:**

- Rick Swansbro, Rockford Cosmopolitan Club, MidStates Federation
- Keith Shepherd, Wascana Cosmopolitan Club, Western Canada Federation



# AWARD WINNERS



## Cosmopolitan Member Community Service:

### Jerald L. "Jerry" Beckler

This year's Cosmopolitan Member Community Service winner is Jerry Beckler from the Sioux Falls Noon Cosmopolitan Club. Jerry has been a faithful Cosmopolitan for 42 years with a servant's heart in serving his family, his profession, his church, his community, and Cosmopolitan.

In Jerry's active 42 years as a Cosmopolitan member, he maintains a 75% plus attendance rate at meetings and participates in every club social and fundraising event. Jerry has been involved extensively, including Board of Directors member, speaker/program committee, membership committee, Sioux Falls Host Club International Convention Committee member, and Distinguished Service Award Banquet sponsor. Jerry has been involved in all fundraising events including Sioux Empire Fair grandstand worker, committee chairman and volunteer, Sportsmen's Show volunteer since 1983, Sweetest Day of Golf hole-in-one contest hole supervisor and golfer participant, Lunch is Served volunteer, Banquet meal server volunteer, Senior Citizen's Craft Show volunteer worker, Boy Scouts Bingo Night volunteer worker, and any other events being held throughout the years.

Jerry has been married for 50 years with 3 adult children and 3 grandsons. Jerry lives his faith and has served in two church organizations since living in Sioux Falls. His combined service in the two churches include Administration Committee, Administrative Board of Directors, Nominating Committee, Pastor Parish Committee, Education Committee member and chairman and Sunday School Teacher, Greeter, Usher, Kitchen Update committee organizer, Confirmation Teacher, Building Addition Committee co-chair, Council on Ministries committee, and Co-Ed Slow Pitch Softball team player and coach.

Professionally, Jerry's career began in education but transitioned into agriculture, which is where his life began, growing up on a farm in northeast South Dakota. He was employed by Farm Credit Services of America in Sioux Falls for 35 plus years as an agricultural lender. Jerry served on many company committees and task forces over those years and received numerous company awards including being named Sioux Falls Area Chamber of Commerce "Agri-Business Citizen of the Year."

Over the years, Jerry was an associate member of several commodity organizations including South Dakota Corn Growers Association, South Dakota Soybean Association, South Dakota Pork Producers, South Dakota Master Pork Producers and Agri-business representative on the SD Pork Producers trade show committee.

Jerry was also named a Minnehaha County "Friend of 4-H" for his volunteer efforts in 4-H.

Highlights of achievements related to family life are: Volunteer YMCA basketball referee for all 3 of his children during their 4th through 8th grade youth basketball teams, YMCA Indian Guide and Indian Princess – 2 year father/son and father/daughter semi-monthly program with all 3 of his children, Cleveland Elementary School PTA, Coach of youth soccer, Member of Washington High School band booster organization, Chaperone for Washington High School marching band at area band festivals/competitions, Chaperone for Washington High School band bus trips to Florida and Washington, D.C. and a plane trip to Florida.

Jerry's servant leadership throughout his life is demonstrated by the vast array of organizations and involvement which partially include: Sioux Falls Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors member, Chamber Military & Veteran Affairs Committee liaison, Chamber Education committee liaison, Chamber budget committee and search committee for a new Agri-Business Division Manager, Sioux Falls Area Chamber of Commerce Agri-Business Division Committee member & chairman; Sioux Empire Farm Show committee vice-chairman and chairman, sale of champions fund raising committee, Angus Committee chairman, Ag Appreciation Day committee, fund raising subcommittee and volunteer meal server; Sioux Falls Men's weekly Bible Study Fellowship member & small discussion group leader; Sioux Falls Christian Businessmen's Committee; Sioux Falls Festival of Bands USA Committee member and general chairman, parade subcommittee chairman and parade starter, parade "Honorary Grand Marshall", and "Friend of the Festival" award; Sioux Falls Voting Precinct Deputy Election Board member/Poll Worker; Siouxland Heritage Museums Board of Directors and Chairman; South Dakota State University Sioux Empire Alumni Association; Volunteer to serve meals to the homeless and working poor at the Banquet; Volunteer to pack lunches for the working poor at Lunch is Served; Volunteer at the Back Pack Program at Feeding South Dakota and delivered to food pantry from Feeding South Dakota; and Jerry is also a season ticket holder for several Arts, Orchestra and Theatre groups in Sioux Falls.

As outlined above, Jerry has been highly active in many Sioux Falls Community, church, and school activities and very active in the Sioux Falls Noon Cosmopolitan Club.

#### Other Nominees:

- Lon Bohling, Fremont 100 Club, Cornbelt Federation
- John Johnson, Rockford Club, MidStates Federation
- Timothy D. Dollens, Columbia Cosmopolitan Luncheon Club, MoKan Federation
- Cheryl MacKenzie, Edmonton Cosmopolitan Club, Western Canada Federation



## President Of The Year: Kelly Figge

Kelly Figge of the Heartland Santa Fe Trail Cosmopolitan Club was awarded the President of the Year award. Kelly joined Cosmopolitan on September 17, 2007 and has been an active member of the club since joining.

During Kelly's Presidential term she helped increase the club's presence on social media platforms; Networked with everyone she met; Handed out club business cards with the club QR code to encourage people to look at what the club is about. Kelly strived to hold as many socials as possible and encouraged members to continue to invite guests for every social, meeting or community service activity. The club had several successful socials including wine tasting, Haunted Tour of Ft. Leavenworth, Murder-Mystery at a local winery, outing to the WWI Museum on Veterans Day, followed by bites and beer at a local brewery, and a Holiday social. In the past year during her President term, the club has seen an increase of six new members.

The Club holds two fundraising events each year. At each of the events Kelly tirelessly worked the front lines for long hours at a time. She was always talking to everyone about Cosmo and the value we bring to the community.

In November during National Diabetes Awareness Month a special dinner meeting was held highlighting the Kids Camp Plant D, which the club has supported for over 22 years with speakers from the Camp. The Club works tirelessly each year at Camp, and you will find Kelly at the camp working and talking with the Camper's parents and doing all the tasks. At the beginning of Kelly's term, the Heartland Santa Fe Trail Club was asked to start hosting the Camp Planet D family orientation meeting. The club recently helped host for the second time at the camp's new location. This was the same day as the Tour de Shawnee bike ride which the club staffs a water/snack station each year. On this day Kelly was at the station at 5:45 a.m. and worked her shift and then drove to the new camp site, helped with camp orientation, and met parents and staff. This is a true testament to her commitment.

During the 16 years that Kelly has been a member of the Heartland Santa Fe Trail club she has also attended Federation Conventions and International Conventions. Kelly also attended the CI Winter Board meeting in Omaha with the MoKan Federation Governor.

Kelly has shown that she has an effective way of connecting with people of all ages. Her goals for the year were (1) Membership increase (2) more social media and (3) monthly socials for the club and she excelled in all those goals. Kelly is very passionate about the Heartland Santa Fe Trail Club and the Cosmopolitan organization. She is a driving force now and in the future of the club.

### Other Nominees:

- Larry Lazzarini, Rockford Club, MidStates Federation
- Rick Lockyer, Wascana Cosmopolitan Club, Western Canada Federation



## Cosmo of the Year: Christine Shepherd

Christine Shepherd is this year's Cosmopolitan of the Year. Christine has been a member of the Wascana Cosmopolitan Club since April 23, 2012, and is a highly active member as she immediately began to take on leadership roles in the club.

Christine has been involved in the club as Club Treasurer for 3 years and a board member. She also served as Vice President and President and is the current club secretary. Christine also is the current newsletter editor. Christine has also been involved over the years as Bingo volunteer, 2017 Cosmopolitan International Organizing Committee member, Treasurer for the 2017 International Convention, attended the mid-term board meeting and will attend the May convention. Christine has attended most Federation conventions and some international conventions since joining the club.

Christine is on the Cosmopolitan Charity Fair and Auction organizing committee. The Wascana Club partners with the Regina Club for this event and Christine has been the Wascana Club representative for the past 10 years. The money raised goes to the Cosmopolitan Foundation of Canada, Inc, CC RezQ's and the Cosmopolitan Learning Centre. She also assists with Cosmo Day activities, attends at least 80% of the meetings, and is responsible for and entry of information related to the Governor Challenge this year. Christine is also the co-chair for awards from 2013-2014 to present day.

Christine has also been active with the Western Canada Federation and served as Lt. Governor for three years and oversaw Awards. Christine created the WCF Awards Manual which has been instrumental in supporting the WCF Awards process since its inception. She also served as Governor Elect and then Governor in 2019-2020. Christine is currently serving as President-elect of the Cosmopolitan Foundation Canada, Inc. and she is a Northern Beacon.

Christine works as an Early Childhood Educator with Ranch Ehrio in Regina, Saskatchewan. She recently accepted a position as Supervisor at her Centre. Through her role in this company, Christine has volunteered for various community services. In the past, she volunteered for the Kids Helpline walkathon to raise operating funds for the organization. She also volunteered along with another staff member to Adopt a Family at Christmas so was responsible for purchasing and delivering the gifts to the family. At the Teddy Bear fair in Regina, she volunteered at the face painting booth for two years and participates in social activities with co-workers and signs up for continuing professional development whenever the opportunity arises.

Christine grew up with Cosmopolitan because her parents, Keith and Karen, have been active members for thirty plus years. As a child, she went to many meetings and functions and attended the children's program at conventions. She continually takes on leadership roles and brings her enthusiasm and energy to those roles. She is not only a leader but a valued member as she attends most meetings and participates fully at social events. Christine often takes on more than one role in any given year. Her contributions continue in the club and the Federation.

### Other Nominees:

- Bill Treadway, Council Bluffs Cosmopolitan Club, Cornbelt Federation
- Victor Smith, Cosmopolitan Club of Aurora, MidStates Federation
- John Hubert, Columbia Luncheon Club, MoKan Federation
- Jim Clark, Sioux Falls Noon Cosmopolitan Club, North Central Federation





## Rookie of the Year: Kassi Simpson

This year's Rookie of the Year is Kassi Simpson of the Heartland Santa Fe Trail Cosmopolitan Club. Since joining the club, Kassi has volunteered in most if not all of their fundraising projects. She is always looking for new ways to give her time to the club. Kassi currently holds an At-Large Board member position for Heartland Santa Fe Trail Club. She has been incredibly involved with suggestions, utilizing her network contacts by bringing potential members to club meetings and highlighting the club's mission. During her time, she has managed to bring in three new members to the club as well as getting her husband and son involved in club activities.

Within months of joining, Kassi was asked if she would speak at our meeting about being a parent of a diabetic child going to camp. This meeting was our special event to celebrate Camp Planet D during Diabetes Awareness month.

Kassi and her son teamed up to highlight Camp Planet D and how successful the camp has been for him during that special event and several of our events. Having her son in Camp Planet D, she has been able to make a connection with other parents by speaking about her own experiences during Parent Orientation and Parent Socials the club has hosted. She was able to relate how the camp helped alleviate some of her fears, letting her son be on his own while she was able to relax, knowing he would be well looked after.

Kassi has an 85% attendance record for meetings and only missed meetings due to family obligations. Kassi is always volunteering to utilize her connections from her working world to assist the club with various requests, like catering events, getting promotional swag or discounted items/tickets. She is always the first to volunteer or make suggestions to help the club be successful.

Two times a year, Heartland Santa Fe Trail operates a funnel-cake trailer which is the mainstay of the club's fundraising efforts. This past year was Kassi's first year participating, and she jumped at the chance to help. She was excited about cooking funnel cakes, however, when there were not enough frontline people, Kassi jumped at the chance to help with managing crowd lines and whatever there was that needed to be done.

In the short amount of time Kassi has been with the club, she has brought a sense of renewed passion among many members that have started to lose their passion and their reason for joining the club. She has been a breath of fresh air, and her enthusiasm has been infectious to members. Since joining, Kassi has made it her personal mission to be very involved with the club and to do whatever it takes. If that means speaking at events how diabetes has affected her personally, or if she needs to reach out to a business associate to help the club, she is always willing to do what it takes.

Between working and raising her family, Kassi makes it a point to donate time to club events, meetings, and fundraisers as well as bring in new members to help the club grow. Kassi attends many of our monthly socials. She is very eager to get to know the folks in the club and learn about each person. Kassi will sacrifice her time to make sure the club is successful in spreading the word about finding a cure.

### Other Nominees:

- Jenna McCabe, Sioux City Cosmopolitan Club, Cornbelt Federation
- Rhonda Reuwsaat, Rapid City Cosmopolitan Club, North Central Federation
- Liam Seidler, Wascana Cosmopolitan Club, Western Canada Federation



## Governor of the Year: Linda Gentry

Linda Gentry of the MoKan Federation was awarded the Governor of the Year award. Linda joined Cosmopolitan on May 1, 1987, and is a member of the Heartland Santa Fe Trail Cosmopolitan Club. Linda attended the international convention in July 2023 in Norfolk, VA and the July 2024 international convention in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. She was an active participant in the international board meetings whether in person or by zoom. Linda also submitted articles to CosmoTopics about the MoKan Federation and the clubs in this Federation. She held a Fall Federation meeting by zoom and held MoKan's annual convention in April 2024 with a very good attendance.

As Governor, Linda visited all but 3 out of the 12 clubs in the Federation. She attended installation banquets for several clubs, installed 6 new members in her own club Heartland Santa Fe Trail and also installed a new member in the Columbia Luncheon Club. Linda attended multiple fundraisers and socials and submitted the club president's annual plans and reports to CI along with her goals for the year.

Linda sent out a monthly MoKan Moments Newsletter to each of the clubs with updates on CI, promoted fundraising events, socials, news around the Federation and International and the Federation Convention. Copies of the newsletter were provided to the CI Board and other Federation Governors. She also sent out to every club information on the Islet Act and sent the letter to the Club Presidents requesting they have membership personalize the letter and send to congressional delegation and to share with family and friends for their support.

In August, Linda was invited to Columbia, Mo for 3 days along with CI President Dick Gorton and VP Membership LaVonne Hawking. Over the course of the 3 days, they visited numerous sites that have been funded by Columbia Cosmos. Attended the 5th Tuesday social and a catered meal at the Sigmund Cosmo Center and installed a new member. The visit was wrapped up with a Luncheon at the School of Medicine MU where Cosmos were special guests. In May Linda was invited to attend the Columbia "Hall of Fame" induction ceremony.

Linda attended the in-person winter CI Board meeting in Omaha and also the Omaha I-80 club casino night fundraiser. In addition to the monthly board meetings, Linda attended 5 membership zoom committee meetings and the every other month Governor zoom calls. Linda provided written reports to the CI Board at each meeting.

Linda also helped in the planning of the MoKan Federation convention and met on a regular basis with the convention committee, and she is serving as Co-Chair of the International Convention to be held in Kansas City in July 2025.

### Other Nominees:

- Nancy Trautman, Rapid City Cosmopolitan Club, North Central Federation
- Karen Shepherd, Wascana Cosmopolitan Club, Western Canada Federation



# CATEGORIES OF RECOGNIZED PROGRAMS

## Changing the World One Person and One Community at a Time

The mission of Cosmopolitan International is to change the world one person and one community at a time. That's why Cosmopolitan International service projects—however large or small—aim to serve both individuals and communities. Our Clubs across the US and Canada raise funds to assist in diabetes research, as well as help their local communities by sponsoring projects that are used by many people throughout their community.

An application has been prepared to facilitate listing these programs. Applications can be submitted by individual clubs or federations. Once an application is reviewed and accepted as complete, the proposed center / program will be appropriately listed. Applications are available from CI headquarters and are downloadable from [www.cosmopolitan.org](http://www.cosmopolitan.org) under Resources, Club and Federation Info.

### Major Cosmopolitan Diabetes Center/Program

- Primary focus must be diabetes related
- A minimum of \$25,000 over two (2) years or \$50,000 over five (5) years to a single diabetes oriented entity
- Source of funds must be Cosmopolitan members, clubs, or federations
- Application (or letter) to be submitted to CI Board for consideration
- Must provide specific information to CI Board to show how criteria have been satisfied

#### **EASTERN VIRGINIA MEDICAL SCHOOL, STRELITZ DIABETES CENTER**

855 Brambleton Avenue  
Norfolk, VA 23510  
B 757.446.5909  
Jerry L. Nadler, M.D., FACP, Director

#### **COSMOPOLITAN DIABETES CENTER UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-COLUMBIA**

One Hospital Drive  
Columbia, MO 65212  
B 573.882.2273  
Todd Bocklage, Administrator

#### **THE COSMOPOLITAN FUND FOR CHILDREN VALERIE MILLAR ENDOWMENT FUND**

PO Box 394  
Sioux Falls, SD 57101-0394  
B 605.333.7315  
Dr. Laura Davis-Keppen, M.D.

#### **DIABETES INCORPORATION**

PO Box 9368  
Rapid City, SD 57709  
661.809.0556  
Erin Bachi, Executive Director

#### **CRUSADER CLINIC/COSMOPOLITAN DIABETES PROGRAM**

1200 West State Street  
Rockford, IL 61102-2112  
B 815.490.1600  
Gordon Eggers, Jr.,  
President and CEO

#### **HEARTLAND COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER**

1312 W 6th St  
Lawrence, KS 66044  
785.841.7297  
Elizabeth Keever,  
Chief Development Officer

#### **ALBERTA DIABETES FOUNDATION & THE ALBERTA DIABETES INSTITUTE**

University of Alberta  
1-020 Li Ka Shing Centre for Health  
8602 112 Street  
Edmonton, AB T6G 2E1  
ADFAdmin@ABDiabetes.com  
[albertadiabetesfoundation.com](http://albertadiabetesfoundation.com)

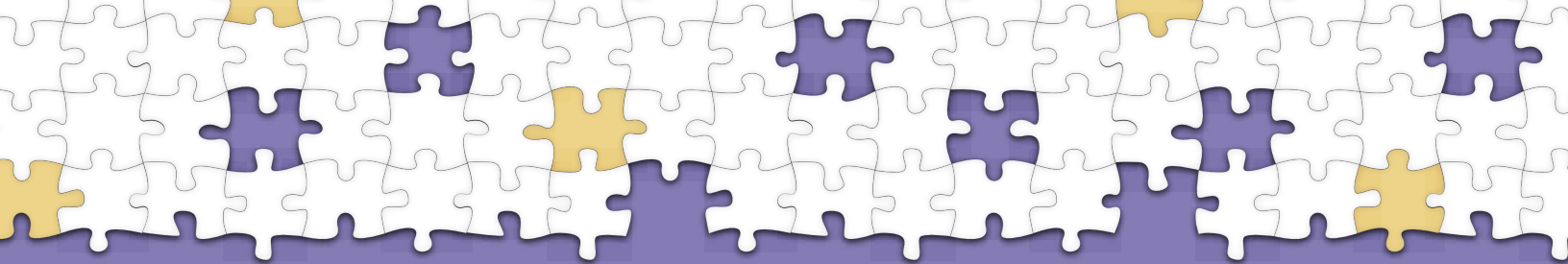
#### **CORNBELT DIABETES CONNECTION, INC.**

9905 South 173rd Circle  
Omaha, NE 68136  
H 402.895.6732, C 402.290.3471  
Terry Sanford, Chair  
[tsanford77@cox.net](mailto:tsanford77@cox.net)

#### **THE CENTRAL MISSOURI DIABETIC CHILDREN'S CAMP, INC.**

PO Box 1942  
Columbia, MO 65205-1942  
P 573.474.4326  
David Bernhardt,  
CPA, Executive Director





## Major Cosmopolitan Community Center/Program

- Primary focus is non-diabetes related
- A minimum of \$25,000 over two (2) years or \$50,000 over five (5) years to a single non-diabetes oriented entity
- Source of funds must be Cosmopolitan members, clubs, or federations
- Application (or letter) to be submitted to CI Board for consideration
- Must provide specific information to CI Board to show how criteria have been satisfied

### **COSMOPOLITAN INDUSTRIES, LTD.**

28 34th Street E, Saskatoon, SK S7K 1R5 CANADA  
 Sharlene Duquette, Executive Director  
 B 306.664.3158

### **SPECIAL LEARNING CENTER**

1115 Fairgrounds Rd. Jefferson City, MO 65109  
 B 573.634.3070  
 Debbie Hamler, Executive Director  
 dhamler@speciallearningcenter.com

## Cosmopolitan Supported Diabetes Program

*(Not to be confused with the Major Cosmopolitan Supported).*

- Primary focus must be diabetes related
- A minimum of \$5,000 over two (2) years or \$10,000 over five (5) years to a single diabetes oriented entity
- Source of funds must be Cosmopolitan members, clubs, or federations
- Application (or letter) to be submitted to CI Board for consideration
- Must provide specific information to CI Board to show how criteria have been satisfied

### **ELGIN COSMOPOLITAN CLUB DIABETES EMERGENCY RESCUE FUND**

Social Service Department,  
 Sherman Hospital  
 934 Center Street, Elgin, IL 60120  
 B 847.742.9800

### **UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO MEDICINE**

Kovler Diabetes Center  
 900 East 57th Street,  
 Chicago, IL 60637  
 Peggy Hasenauer, MS, RN,  
 Executive Director  
 B 773.702.2371  
 Direct 773.834.4789  
 C 773.412.4171  
 kovlerdiabetescenter.org  
 www.facebook.com/kovler.diabetes.  
 center

### **SETEBAID SERVICES' DIABETES CAMPS FOR CHILDREN & TEENS WITH DIABETES**

PO Box 196  
 Winfield, PA 17889-0196  
 B 570.524.9090 or 866.SETBAID  
 Mark Moyer, MBA, MHA,  
 Executive Director  
 www.setebaidservices.org  
 info@setebaidservices.org

### **MONUMENT HEALTH RAPID CITY CLINIC - ENDOCRINOLOGY AND DIABETES EDUCATION**

640 Flormann Street  
 Rapid City, SD 57701  
 Dr. J. Palmer  
 Dr. S Khachikian  
 B 605.718.3300

### **RUSH Copley Hospital**

Alex Pope CFRE,  
 Vice President  
 2000 Ogden Ave  
 Aurora, IL 60504  
 www.rush.edu  
 B 630.978.4946



SAVE THE DATE

## 2025 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION



JULY 24-27, 2025 • KANSAS CITY, MO

For more convention information visit  
<https://www.cosmopolitan.org/page/convention>

### *In Memoriam*

The entire Cosmopolitan family joins  
in extending sympathy to the families  
of those Cosmos recently lost:



**John "Mac" Mckenzie**  
Aurora Club  
Aurora, IL  
March 4, 2024

**Beverly Kahler**  
Rapid City Cosmopolitan Club  
Rapid City, SD  
June 26, 2024

**Leonidas Georgopoulos**  
Regina Cosmopolitan Club  
Regina, SK, Canada  
March 23, 2024

**Kyler Nelson**  
Fremont 100 Cosmopolitan Club  
Fremont, Ne  
July 10, 2024

**Frank Short**  
Rapid City Club  
Rapid City, SD  
April 23, 2024

**Vern Gibson**  
Fremont 100 Club  
Fremont, Ne  
August 8, 2024

**Tom Rakow**  
Elgin Club  
Elgin, IL  
May 21, 2024

**Geraldine Berletta Wussler**  
Columbia Luncheon Pals Club  
Columbia, Mo  
August 22, 2024

**Wanda Meinhardt**  
Emerald City Club  
Topeka, Ks  
May 27, 2024

**William (Bill) Smetheram**  
Calgary Cosmopolitan Club  
Calgary, AB, Canada  
August 28, 2024