

# COSMOTOPICS

FALL 2022 ISSUE

A PUBLICATION OF COSMOPOLITAN INTERNATIONAL



*International President and First Lady*  
**Randy and Arlene Wright**



## ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

- Officer Articles
- Q&A with Randy Wright
- Governor Reports
- Club Happenings
- Convention Recap and Award Winners

Alone We Can Do Little,  
Together We Can  
Do A Lot!



# 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

This fall issue brings with it a blend of old and new. A change of seasons if you will. The new: we start our fiscal year in July and the fall issue is the first publication in a new year. The old: it's also a chance to recap the International Convention, thank our previous year's team, and highlight our award winners for the 2021-2022 year. The new: it's an introduction to the new officers and to learn about the plans for the coming year. And, well, for me, I'm kind of a mix of old and new. I've been your editor before, and I'm happy to be back in the editor's seat again. While we reflect on the past year, we look forward with great hope and commitment to shining a light on the tremendous and impactful work we are all doing TOGETHER.

# We're Off and Running



By Randy Wright, International President

Wow, what a great International Convention we had in Sioux City, Iowa. We arrived on Wednesday, July 20, and were met at the Airport by Pam Kramer. We barely knew her, but by the time we were leaving, we had yet another lifetime friend. That's what Cosmos is all about.



My first act was to attend the Sioux City Breakfast meeting at 7:30 a.m. My dear friend Randy Kramer picked me up and off we went. Randy has been a friend for several years now. My first comment at the breakfast meeting was, "Be careful! You now have two

Randys here at one time. That could be dangerous!" In preparation for the International Convention, attending this meeting gave me a chance to introduce myself personally to their club. I knew then and there that the International Convention was going to be a super event.

I told them we had challenges to face. Our Executive Director had already submitted his resignation. As you would expect there were questions about why. **There was a process of evaluation this past year.** After speaking to several leaders throughout the Cosmo family, it was inherent that we needed a change. David has done a lot for Cosmos, but now we are in the mode of involving more people than just the Board. We are inviting our Past International Presidents and other Cosmo members who want to help. We are finding so many of our members bring such tremendous value and have incredible gifts they can contribute to help us. All we had to do was ask them.

We held our first Past International President's meeting in September, and we had 12 PIPs attend. They are very passionate about our organization and are willing to step in to help as needed. It certainly means a lot to have their support this year. We are excited about it! We will continue to lean on them, as well as other members, to help make this year a success.

As you can see, THERE IS NOW a new attitude. So how do we capture the new excitement and direction we all want to see for our beloved organization?

First of all, we went to work immediately. We held three CI Board meetings in September. We are creating an action plan and prioritizing each initiative. We are putting structure and processes in place. We set up a yearly calendar. We are adding back in a fall CI Board meeting, similar to what we do in March each year. The fall one will be virtual, whereas the winter (March) one will be in person. We brought back the annual President's Award. We established an Executive Director Selection Committee and have created a timeline for that. We sent out our first monthly newsletter to all Cosmopolitan members in September. We are establishing a social media presence. We are moving our website back to the ClubRunner platform. We are creating a ThinkTank to help us generate ideas.

We started making the changes before we even left Sioux City, Iowa, and we are continuing that momentum. We have solved a lot of problems already, there are new vice presidents and governors that are willing to put in the work for the good of our organization. As President, I was so honored to take the helm of the leadership for the coming year and work with our fine board.

I would be remiss if I didn't tell you that three members of our team have gone above and beyond what we could ever have asked of them. When you see or hear from these three special Cosmo Members say thank you for all of what they are doing to help us rebuild all our Clubs across North America. They are Sheila Anderson, Tracy Miller, and Jim McVay.

I want to thank each of you for all the hard work you have put in, and certainly when we reach Norfolk next July we can celebrate together. Godspeed.

SO, COSMOS ACROSS NORTH AMERICA AND CANADA can now be proud of the successes in the coming future. As I have stated if you reach out to me, and I don't respond within 48 hours, I will fine myself \$5.00. My direct phone number is 757-373-2971.

“ ALONE WE CAN DO LITTLE, TOGETHER WE CAN DO A LOT. Thank you for your confidence. ”

**Randy Wright**  
International President  
[headquarters@cosmopolitan.org](mailto:headquarters@cosmopolitan.org)

OFFICER ARTICLE



# Managing Our Financial Affairs

By Keith Shepherd, International VP Finance

Hello, fellow Cosmopolitans, this is my fifth term as your VP of Finance and I want to thank you for your faith in me to manage this important position.



The start of my term will be extra challenging due to the resignation of David House as Executive Director and its impact on operations including financial accounting and reporting. I am confident in my and the new board's ability to overcome these challenges

on a go-forward basis. A thanks to David House for your past service to Cosmopolitan International (CI). Also, a thank you to Dick and Candy Gorton for volunteering to perform administrative and accounting services for CI until the executive director position has been filled.

Our finances continue to be in order and I continue to monitor operations and our investment account. The statement of budget to actual activity results for last year have been posted to the website as I promised to do at the convention, as well, I will ensure the posting of quarterly reports on statement of activity to the CI website on a go-forward basis. The quarterly dues billing to the clubs were sent out in late July and I apologize for it being late. I encourage all club presidents and secretaries to check the CI website and ensure your club officers and membership is up to date. Also, please

consider the CI "buy a brick" program which is still in operation to recognize your club officers or members.

The year started with a board shake-up at convention. With that, what an exciting new board we have in place and as a board, we promised to listen to the membership and get things done! The Executive Director position, communication, COSMOTopics, website move to ClubRunner, marketing and reporting were all noted to be addressed. With the leadership, experience, and energy of the new board I am confident things will be done! Remember alone we can do little, together we can do a lot.

On a lighter note, happy thanksgiving to our Canadian members on October 10th and our US members on November 24th enjoy your time with family and friends. November 5th is Cosmo Day so please participate with your club to increase CI awareness in your community. Also, November 11th is Remembrance/Veterans Day to all veterans thank you for your service.

Yours in Cosmopolitan

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OFFICER ARTICLE

Remember alone we can do little, together we can do a lot.



# Calling All Cosmos!



By Timothy Dollens, International VP for Membership & New Clubs

Let me introduce myself. My name is Tim Dollens from Columbia, Missouri, and this past year I was on the Cosmopolitan International Board as your VP of Membership. In a lot of ways, I failed but I hope to make up for that in the coming year. I do hope you will give me a chance to do so.



I just recently at the end of June finished 10 years of being in the Columbia Cosmopolitan Luncheon Club. In those 10 years, I was a Board member, Secretary, President-Elect, President, and Past President and have had perfect attendance for the

past eight years. I have also been Mo-Kan Governor the year the pandemic hit us at the end and went to at least one event for all but 2 of the clubs in my Federation. I also joined the Columbia Cosmopolitan Breakfast Club a few years back and was President-elect and now am the President of the Breakfast Club.

I came to this organization because it was a service organization that FIGHTS DIABETES. Diabetes has been an issue in my family for six generations. My Great Great Grandmother Susan Austin Zuck (1860-1923) was a severe diabetic that in her later years had an open sore on her leg that had to be dressed daily by her husband. Her husband William Fenton Zuck, according to his granddaughter, would send the kids down to the barnyard so they wouldn't see him take care of her. Well, they came back early and saw what he was doing, and he yelled at them because he didn't want them to see their grandmother in such a severe situation. I probably would have tried to hide it from children as well.

Both of my parents and many of my grandparents were diabetics. My Dad's Mom had both of her legs amputated due to diabetes and poor circulation. My Mom's mom was pretty much an invalid after the birth of her sixth child at the age of 41. Her husband pretty much did all the housework from then on until his death. This grandmother was put in a State Hospital because the family couldn't afford to take care of her or for the insulin shots she needed. She died at age 60.

I have the passion to do more but just need the direction we want our organization to go. That is where you come in. So, while you are thinking about what you want our group to do for YOU-- our most valuable asset-- let me share with you some of my GOALS for the year to come.

First, I think every member should be receiving a paper copy and an electronic copy of COSMOTopics. If you don't want a paper copy, give it to a potential member to say, "Hey, check this out! This is what my group does on the international level. Maybe you will want to help us fight diabetes but have fun in the process!"

Second, I want our Board to work hard so that we have a presence on television during World Diabetes Day which is Wednesday, November 14th, 2022. Wouldn't it be nice to see Sheila or Randy on the Today Show, Good Morning America, or CBS This Morning to talk about our 104-year-old service organization? Just as good is to have a local event and talk to your local TV station or Radio station about it. Let's be the Coolest Club in town!

Third, I will try hard to make our members aware of the Programs that Cosmopolitan International from being a BEACON to connecting you with the successful programs, fundraisers, and events all the groups do year by year. Let's not wait until the Annual Conference to know more. Let's see if those ideas will work for our group now!

Fourth, as of right now, LaVonne Hawking and I will be making sure you meet the deadlines necessary to turn in all those chances of receiving International recognition for your hard work. So, get ready to start thinking about the credentials for Rookie of the Year, Cosmopolitan of the Year, Community Service, Cosmopolitan of the Year, Cosmopolitan President of the Year, Patrick J. Hodgins Distinguished Member Award, Big C, etc.

Finally, as we go through this transition, I hope to be as transparent as we can be. And I will try to send an email to EVERY member at least once a month until next July when we meet in Virginia for the 2023 International Convention.

As always, it's a Great Day to be a Cosmo!

**Timothy Dollens**  
*International VP for Membership and New Clubs*  
timdollens@gmail.com



# Bringing Clarity of Purpose to Our Organization

By Sheila Anderson, International VP for Marketing and Fundraising

**It is truly an honor to be back serving on the International Board, and I don't take this responsibility lightly.**



For those who don't know me, I have been a member since 1995. I served as the North Central Governor and was the organization's first International VP of Marketing and served in that position for three years before moving on as your International President

in 2013-2014. I have 30+ years of corporate branding experience, and I also own a personal branding and image consulting agency. I am a keynote speaker, an author, and a frequent guest on TV and podcasts, serve as an advisor to C-level executives, and have been quoted in Fast Company and Business Insider.

I am focused on looking forward to bringing positive visibility to our organization in the diabetes world. We have been around 100+ years. That says a lot about who we are and the importance of our mission. From an outside perspective, our diabetes partners in our communities will tell you how grateful they are for our support. In many cases, we have made a tremendous impact by funding worldwide research, sending kids to diabetes camps, offering diabetes screenings, funding diabetic alert dogs, and so much more. We aren't alone in this space. There are many other organizations doing the same things. However, most of them have not been around as long as we have. We have a storied history and foundation that we bring to the table that not many other organizations in the diabetes space can boast.

A few years ago our organization worked with a marketing expert. I went through my notes and documents from these meetings. I made some edits to these works and wanted to share some of the golden nuggets that I will be bringing forward in our marketing. These will form our content, our marketing materials, our imagery, how we talk about our organization, and how we treat each other.

While some of this may still need some massaging, it is a fantastic springboard for creating our verbal and visual message and establishing a foundation.

## Brand Story

*A brand story explains the soul of an organization.*

Cosmopolitan International began its long and storied history in Kansas City, Missouri, in 1918, formally chartering and incorporating as the International Federation of Cosmopolitan Clubs. Our founder, attorney Patrick J. Hodgins, moved his law practice from Oklahoma to Kansas City and shortly thereafter founded the first Cosmopolitan Club. Hodgins desired a civic organization that fully adopted the ideals of Unity of purpose, Service to the community, and Action on the part of all members. The name Cosmopolitan means "citizen of the world."

The guiding principles of unity, service, and action are prevalent in the minds of our members, who fondly refer to themselves as Cosmos. As Cosmos, we help in a variety of local projects in the communities we serve through financial grants and cooperation with local organizations. Our members and those we serve often describe their experience with Cosmopolitan International as compassion wrapped in fun.

But our true legacy is around our fight against diabetes. Since 1977, Cosmopolitan International has established itself as a leader in the fight against diabetes with internationally renowned centers working to identify, treat, and research this horrible disease. We stand proud as the club that fights diabetes on behalf of our communities, our nation, and our world. We are citizens of the world!

OFFICER ARTICLE



*"As an organization, we must continue to reinvent ourselves and adapt how we do business and serve our communities."*



With an eye on the future, we imagine a world where there are no more shots.

### **Core Values**

*What we stand for; our fundamental beliefs.*

- Respect for others
- Unity in purpose
- Helpful deeds
- Contributing to the greater good
- Acting with compassion

### **Brand Personality Traits**

*Humanizes a brand by attaching human character traits to a brand.*

Caring, Compassionate, Empathetic, Fun, Energetic, Thriving

### **Mission Statement**

*What we set out to do every day.*

Working with local communities to fight diabetes and serve the life needs of children and adults. We serve through financial grants and cooperation with local organizations. We are the club that fights diabetes on behalf of our communities, our nation, and our world. We are citizens of the world!

### **Vision**

*What we strive to do every day; aspirational.*

Cosmopolitan International supports a world free of diabetic testing and daily shots. We look to a world where diabetes is no longer, and children and adults are fully able to enjoy a deserved life experience.

Here is a list of projects I am focusing on. I understand things may come up and I will have to manage priorities, but this will give you some level of understanding on how I will be spending my time.

1. Serve as a mentor to our International President.
2. Hire and help train a new Executive Director.
3. Transition CI website back to ClubRunner.
4. Develop key marketing messages.
5. Produce a new marketing brochure.
6. Bring back the monthly newsletter.
7. Produce and serve as editor for the four issues of the COSMOTopics.
8. Establish a social media content calendar.
9. Determine avenues to gain visibility in the diabetes space.
10. Research additional International fundraising opportunities.
11. Answer the question: What does CI do for me?

As an organization, we must continue to reinvent ourselves and adapt how we do business and serve our communities. We must be willing to try things and be willing to "pivot." There will certainly be mistakes made. There is a saying out there that says, "it's hard to steer a parked car." There is no room for status quo. I would rather us go off the road a bit than not even start our engines or just spin our tires. This year is not going to be a cakewalk. It just isn't. It's going to be a lot of hard work. But I'm here to tell you, I've already rolled up my sleeves to begin. I hope you do the same.

Have me as a Guest! I welcome the opportunity to be a guest speaker at your club's meetings or events. I can also attend your board meetings or simply meet with the officers. I am happy to travel. I am also available to join your meetings via Zoom, thus saving our organization money! Schedule a time with me by emailing me at [sheila.anderson@cosmopolitan.org](mailto:sheila.anderson@cosmopolitan.org).

**Sheila Anderson**

*International VP for Marketing and Fundraising*

*[sheila.anderson@cosmopolitan.org](mailto:sheila.anderson@cosmopolitan.org)*

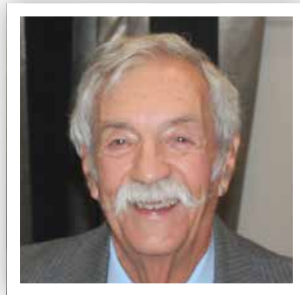




# Getting to Know Your New President-Elect

By Dick Gorton, *Cosmopolitan President-Elect*

**Hello fellow Cosmos! I thought you might be curious about whom you elected as President-Elect at this year's International Convention. So, I will take this opportunity to tell you a little bit about myself.**



I am 81 years old (my birthday was on August 31). I was born and raised in Omaha. Candy, whom many of you know from Cosmos, and I have been married for 23 years. Candy was also born and raised in Omaha. In case you are wondering why I mention

Candy, as the people in the Cornbelt Federation know, when you get me, you will fortunately also get Candy. Between the two of us, we have 4 children, 20 grandkids, and 12 great-grandkids. We enjoy family events, golf, travel, theater, and symphony rocks. And, because we are free to travel, most of you will get to see Candy and I during the next two years of my service on the CI Board.

I attended the University of Nebraska in Lincoln and obtained two degrees in Civil Engineering. I signed up for Senior ROTC in 1962 so when I graduated in 1965 and received my commission as a second lieutenant in the Army, it occurred to me that I may have made a mistake. Anyway, I was sent to Vietnam in the spring of 1966, less than a year after the build-up started. I was an Engineer Combat Platoon Leader in the First Cavalry, Air Mobile. I spent most of my 12 months attached to the 7th Cav and in the field with various units of this

regiment. Sometimes over a beer (or scotch), I can tell you about the superstition that Custer still rides with the 7th and why some people believe it!

I spent most of my working career working in public service. I worked for the Department of Navy and the Department of Army. Most of my work involved interactions with the public. During this time, I learned that there is a difference between hearing and listening. Many people listen, but they don't hear what the person they are communicating with is trying to tell them. This is a skill I hope to be able to use when we communicate. I want to make sure I know what it is you are trying to tell me when we communicate. If I'm not sure what it is, I will ask you questions so I can better understand your interests, concerns, and suggestions. This level of communication takes a lot of energy. I truly hope that during the next two years I have sufficient energy to be able to communicate with you at this level. I can only promise you this, I will try!

In future COSMOTopics, I will talk about my Cosmo career and interests, my ongoing veteran service, and why both are personal to me.

Go Cosmos!

**Dick Gorton**  
*Cosmopolitan President-Elect*  
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# Go Cosmos!



# Getting Back to the Basics



By Jim McVay, Judge Advocate

As some of you know, I stepped away from Cosmopolitan in 2019 as other commitments and priorities made for limited time. I am excited to now return as your Judge Advocate and assist International President Randy Wright and the rest of the CI Board during the upcoming year.



It is not uncommon for us to at times speak with fondness about how good things “used to be.” Although this often elicits an eye roll from those listening, there are times when that actually turns out to be true. As I survey the landscape that

is Cosmopolitan, I find many opportunities for us to improve how we do business and, in some ways, to get “back to the basics” of running this incredible organization. Here are just a few examples:

## Communication With Our Members

It is clear that the key to creating a cohesive organization, particularly a non-profit such as ours, is communication. It is difficult to feel like part of a group and, more importantly, to feel valued as a member, when we are not engaging with one another. Lack of effective communication breeds uncertainty and a corresponding lack of confidence in those leading an organization.

As you have seen recently, your current Board is committed to communicating with you in a manner that you have not seen in quite some time. I am equally committed to doing whatever I can to assist the Board in its efforts.

## Agendas, Minutes, the Process of Managing a Meeting

Historically, meetings at the International, Federation, and even club level have been run with some level of formality. Even when not strictly applied, Roberts Rules of Order provide guidance as to how meetings are to be managed. Preparation of an agenda, recording of Motions and corresponding votes, and the maintaining of written minutes are critical in the proper operation of any organization.

Following these formalities can be tedious at times but is beneficial in the long run. Distributing an agenda in

advance of a meeting allows those attending to know what will be discussed and provides a roadmap for how the meeting will be conducted. Recording verbatim the content of a pending Motion eliminates uncertainty as to what is being voted on, both at the time the vote is taken and in the future. Written minutes are the official record of the actions taken by the governing body and it is essential that those minutes are properly transcribed, approved, and preserved.

In recent years, some of these procedural formalities have fallen by the wayside. Going forward, we will make certain that agendas for International meetings are prepared in advance and made available to attendees before every meeting. In addition, written minutes of every meeting will be created, approved, and available for review by Cosmopolitan members.

I am currently working on a process to transcribe minutes of past International meetings which were maintained only as audio recordings. Those written minutes will be made available to our membership when completed.

Finally, some years ago, I assisted in training Federation and Club officers and provided information concerning the basic parliamentary procedure. I covered topics such as developing an agenda, conducting a meeting, making, amending, and voting motions, keeping minutes, and related items. My plan is to offer similar training to Federation and Club officers in the very near future via Zoom or the equivalent.

I have truly enjoyed reconnecting with so many of my good friends from Cosmopolitan. We have a challenging year ahead of us, but I am sure that with everyone working together, we can make some incredible strides forward.

If you have any questions or if I can provide any assistance at all, please contact me.

**Jim McVay**  
*Judge Advocate*  
[jmcoay@omahalaw.com](mailto:jmcoay@omahalaw.com)

OFFICER ARTICLE



# Cosmopolitan Diabetes Foundation: 2022 Grant Recipients & Transparency Commitment

By Russ Danstrom, CDF Chair

**As the incoming Cosmopolitan Diabetes Foundation (CDF) Chair, I am committed to providing transparency of CDF activities.**



There will be a series of COSMOTopics articles focused on increasing this transparency. The CDF is a registered 501(c)3 tax-exempt

organization and is the charitable arm of Cosmopolitan International (CI). CDF is the conduit through which contributions may flow from Cosmopolitan Clubs, members, and friends to the charitable activities supported by Cosmopolitan International. Funds can be donated to CDF or through CDF and be designated to specific organizations or charities or for more general charitable use.

The CDF received \$93,500 in grant requests and awarded \$40,000 to 9 grantees for the 2022 grant cycle. CDF past Chair, Randy Kramer, announced these recipients and amounts at the Sioux City Convention:

Cornbelt Diabetes Connection	\$8,500
Heartland Community Health Center	\$7,500
EVMS Strelitz Diabetes Center	\$5,000
Rush Copley Diabetes	\$5,000
American Diabetes Association (VA)	\$4,000
Setebaid Services (Camp Setebaid)	\$3,000
Camp Herko Hollow	\$3,000
Prime Plus Senior Center	\$2,000
Heartland Sante Fe Trails	\$2,000

The maximum annual available CDF grant amount is determined by a formula that is calculated by the CDF Accountant, Dayton Smith, of the Rockford Club. This is usually 3% of the trailing 12-quarter average of CDF funds. In extreme market conditions, this can increase to 4% or drop to 2%, though Dayton indicated that this has not happened since 2008. For perspective, the CDF granted \$40,000 in 2021, \$15,000 in 2020 (big market drop at start of COVID), \$33,750 in 2019 and \$36,750 in 2018.

Michal Fraser of the Norfolk Club is the CDF Investment Advisor, and he manages the CDF investment portfolio. As of August 1, 2022, the portfolio balance was \$1,265,290. By the CDF by-laws, the portfolio is limited to 65% or less in equities/stocks, as well as some limitations on categories and weighting. This helps ensure the longevity

of the “principal” of CDF funds. Mike has presented at every Convention since taking over the funds in January 2017. He can be reached at [mfraser@swcares.com](mailto:mfraser@swcares.com) or 757-656-1012, if any Cosmo has questions.

There are 7 CDF Board members with representatives nominated from each of our 5 Federations, plus 1 additional member chosen by CDF and 1 additional member chosen by the CI Board. Members serve a 3-year term and can serve 2 consecutive terms for a maximum of 6 consecutive years. As such, both Mo-Kan and Cornbelt will need to appoint new Directors before the 2023 Convention. The Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary are voted on by the CDF Board. Current CDF Board Directors are:

Russ Danstrom	Capital Federation	Chair
Randy Kramer	Cornbelt Federation	Vice Chair & Past Chair
Susie Bartlett	Mo-Kan Federation	Secretary
Tom Grimes	CDF Member at-Large	
Jim Preston	North Central Federation	
Victor Smith	Mid-States Federation	
To be named soon	CI Board Member at-Large	

Thanks to Rick Swansbro, past CDF at-large member, and Dick Gorton, past CI at-large member, for their active engagement on the CDF Board in recent years! Thanks to Randy Kramer for his leadership during COVID over his 2-year tenure as CDF Chair.

Beacons and the Beacon Fund are critical to ensuring that funds are available to fulfill grant requests. Our next article will provide more transparency on how CDF funds are generated, the importance of Beacons to the CDF and the fight to cure diabetes, a list of Beacons, Beacon levels, how to donate and request designated funds, the different Beacon Funds, and their focus, and how Clubs and Members can use CDF to create “endowments” to support their causes, like a Diabetes Research organization. I can be reached at [rmdanstrom@hotmail.com](mailto:rmdanstrom@hotmail.com).



# Cosmopolitan Foundation Canada Inc. Update

By Cheryl MacKenzie, President, Cosmopolitan Foundation Canada Inc.

COVID had a dramatic impact on the ability to raise funds and engage Beacons in our program. Not meeting in person and seeing our COSMO Families has caused a disconnect. One of my objectives this past year to help overcome that was to plan to get out to visit all of the Clubs in the Western Canada Federation. Then engage the members in discussions about the Foundation and what we are achieving, the changes we are making, and what the future holds.



*Promoting The Living Gift Through Medical Research Since 1984*

With that in mind, I was able to visit four of our Clubs, all based in Saskatchewan. Each of these visits involved discussions on engagement, challenges that have been experienced by the Foundation, and what the future holds for research funding. In addition, I spent time with my home club in Edmonton and presented at our Spring Convention in Calgary bringing the total clubs that got to hear the message I was delivering to 6 of the 8.

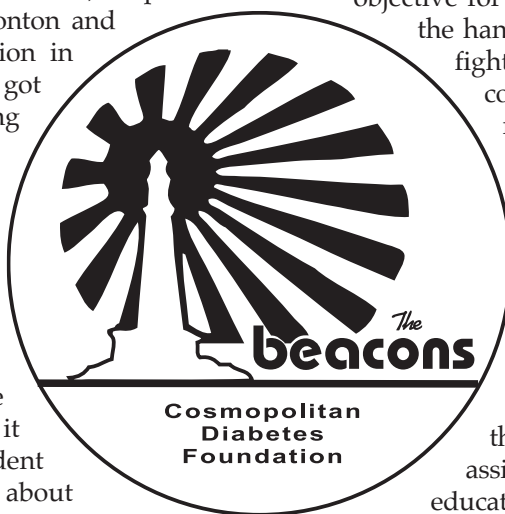
These meetings were successful, engaging, and hopefully enlightening to the club members that attended. The takeaway for me as President of the Foundation was that we need to do more of this type of engagement. There are Directors in each club, but it is important to have the President available at the club level to talk about objectives and plans for the upcoming year.

CFCI has two activities coming up. The first is the granting of a \$10,000 gift to the Lions Club of Canada specifically to the Diabetes Dog Assistance Program. This money had been set aside for a PAWS type effort and in the end, we decided the best way to utilize the funds was to put it in the hands of an organization that has a well-established training program. We will maintain a

smaller fund for Emergency Funding requests related to Diabetic Dogs and families in western Canada.

The second event will be the granting of \$50,000 to the Alberta Diabetes Foundation. This will take place on COSMO Day, November 5th a similar donation was made in 2021. Between now and that day, we will work with ADF to identify the project that CFCI would like to fund with the donation. One of the benefits of having the ADF close to us is the ability to be hands-on with such selections.

These two donations will bring us to \$60,000 distributed to Diabetes-Related efforts this year. This is the main objective for CFCI this year, get the money into the hands of those that need it. We are all fighting the fight to find the cure, this contribution will play a small part in moving that needle.



What do these next few months hold in store? I will schedule visits to St Albert and Winnipeg before my term as Foundation President is over. The goal is to keep the message alive with our Northern Beacons. Donations are being used to fund research, assist families with the placement of Diabetes Dogs, and assist T1D students in funding their education through scholarships. I hope this message resonates with our members and that more choose to become Northern Beacons. The CFCI Executive's goal is to give a reason for everyone to want to be a Northern Beacon. I believe we are on that path.

For more information about CFCI or to become a Northern Beacon, visit [cosmofoundationcanada.org](http://cosmofoundationcanada.org), email [cosmofoundcaninc@outlook.com](mailto:cosmofoundcaninc@outlook.com) or contact Cheryl directly at 780-907-1034.

OFFICER ARTICLE

# Q & A

*with Randy Wright*

## **How did you become a Cosmo?**

I was in my early 50s when I joined the Club. While I joined in 2001, I didn't become active until 2011. It was about a 30-minute drive to the Club's meeting location. In 2011 they moved to the Norfolk Yacht & Country Club about 5 miles away. I started attending meetings regularly and was named Vice President in 2012. That is the year I went to my first International Convention, which was in Calgary.

My wife Arlene is also a member and got her 5-year pin this year!

## **How have you helped the Norfolk Club Grow?**

We have a saying if you are going to do something good, why not step it up a bit and make it great. Arlene and I have asked several of our neighbor couples to join and they have. I like the model of having couples join together.

As mentioned, the Norfolk Club changed locations from a mediocre venue to the very nice Norfolk Yacht & Country Club. This helped us get people to come check us out versus a washed-up hotel that was not very great to bring people to. Also, I was intentional about asking people whom other people wanted to network with or connect with, such as our sheriff, fire department captain, school board members, etc.

Out of the last 20 members that have come and joined, 18 were from Arlene and me asking people.

The world has changed. You've got to get outside of the box. Look at where you can go and be successful.

## **How did attending an International Convention change your view about Cosmopolitan?**

My first International Convention was Calgary. After the second day, Past International President Bob Williams came up to me and asked me what I thought. I didn't know who he was or that he was even in my Federation. What I liked about Bob did was that he just didn't walk by me. He engaged with me knowing that I was a first-time attendee.

I think that is so important. Bob took me under his wing during that convention and introduced me to so many people.

The second one I went to was in Las Vegas. I still didn't know very many people. Derry and Sheila Anderson invited me to eat with them one of the nights we were there. I never forgot that they reached out.

When the International Convention was held in Norfolk in 2016, this really opened my eyes to me thinking I can do more. I was Governor at the time and saw such a bigger picture!

## **What is one thing about you that you want people to know?**

I love people and building relationships are very important to me. I want people to feel valued. I go up to strangers and talk to them.

## **What was your first job?**

My first job was as an Apprentice at Gatling Business Forms. I was the first Printing Apprentice to sign up for a new program started by the State. One of the stipulations was to attend night school for 5 years 2 nights a week. In today's world, this equates to an associate's degree. I focused on Journalism and Mathematics.

## **You aren't new to public service. Tell us about your background.**

I have been serving the public since 1978. I went to a local civic league meeting that I learned about from a flyer I saw. I thought I would go see what it was all about. After 4 months of attending, to my surprise, I was asked to be President. I told them, "you've got to be kidding me; I've never even spoken publicly." You know how we all say, "if you can't find anyone..." I eventually agreed. We took on a cause to lower real estate tax. To do this, we formed the Norfolk Tea Party.



# Get to know your International President, Randy Wright!

I have served on some 32 different boards, such as:

- **1978:** President of Civic League
- **1980:** Recipient of the Outstanding Young Man Award from Norfolk Jaycees
- **1981:** Appointed to Norfolk City Planning Commission by Mayor Vincent J. Thomas
- **1984:** Purchased Atlantic Printing
- **1988:** Appointed by Gov. Baliles to the State Board of Commerce, chaired for 2 years, 1992-93
- **1992:** Elected to Norfolk City Council
- **1995:** Appointed to the Tidewater Regional Transit (TRT)
- **1999:** One of two members from TRT and 2 from Pentran to pursue the possibility of a merger, serving as the primary point person. We succeeded in that we were the first Agreeable merger in the history of our Nation.
- Honored by the Virginia Transit Authority with its Award for Outstanding contribution by an Individual. Five years later received the same award for bringing the Light Rail to Norfolk.
- Virginia Chapter of the American Planning Association for my instrumental role in the Development of East Beach, which received the first Traditional Neighborhood Design, the national award-winning community.
- Served 6 years on the State Board of Corrections appointed by Gov. Mark Warner
- **2008:** Received the prestigious Stanley Award by the Tidewater Builders Association
- **2007:** Elected Chair of National Transit Board Members across North America, serving 3 years Also earned a seat on UITP (United International Transportation Public) for 2 years
- **2012:** Norfolk’s Downtowner of the Year
- **2018:** Appointed Deputy Director of the Virginia Lottery, serving 4 years

I told Arlene this was going to be my last hurrah and she said, “I’ll believe it when I see it!” I am really loving our focus on diabetes and take that to heart.

## What is some of the best advice you have ever received?

1. Be yourself.
2. Laugh at yourself.
3. The person you’ve got to worry about pleasing is the one in the mirror – to thy own self be true.

## Tell us about your Arlene, our First Lady?

We met on a blind date on April 24, 1986. Some friends of mine asked me to attend a Make-A-Wish event. They saw I was by myself, and they said we have someone we want you to meet. I told them I didn’t have time to meet anybody. When she came through the door, my eyes just connected with her. I took her hand and took her over to a table and asked her to dance. Wouldn’t you know, they played the song the Greatest Love of All.

We married in 1987. I was a single father at the time I met her. She had me meet her deacon for him to give her advice if she should take the next step with me. Apparently, I passed!

Arlene is an amazing woman. She has a background in the theatre. She played Hello Dolly in a local theatre. She recently sang in New York City at Carnegie Hall. She has even sung for Presidents!

## Tell us about your family...

We have four sons and six grandchildren.

## 5 Favorites

**Favorite TV Show:** NCIS

**Favorite Movie:** Field of Dreams

**Favorite Food:** A good hotdog!

**Favorite Book:** The Diary of Young Girl by Anne Frank

**Favorite Sports Team:** Washington Redskins now known as the Washington Commanders

# President's Plan 2022-2023

## Find and hire a new Executive Director.

**Committee:** Randy Wright (co-chair), Melvina Newman (co-chair), Dick Gorton, Jim Preston, LaVonne Hawking, Tracy Miller, and Sheila Anderson

**Objective:** This Committee will oversee the recruitment process of hiring a new Executive Director. They will make a recommendation to the CI Board and the Board will have final approval.

**Timeline:** Interviews will be conducted November 16-17 in Omaha, NE. November 21 is the date scheduled to advise the Board with the hopes of making an offer on November 28.

## Transition the International website back to the ClubRunner platform.

**Person(s) Responsible:** Sheila Anderson, Vice President of Marketing and Fundraising; Jim McVay, International Judge Advocate

**Objective:** Work with ClubRunner to transition the website back to their platform. Coordinate with current clubs who have a website to get their sites onto the ClubRunner platform. Determine if there is a way for International to help with the monetary commitment of having Clubs on ClubRunner. Work with the Cosmopolitan Diabetes Foundation on ensuring their database works properly with the platform. Provide any necessary training to the Clubs.

## Establish a consistent communication plan.

**Person(s) Responsible:** Sheila Anderson, Vice President of Marketing and Fundraising

**Objective:** Deliver consistent, coordinated, and targeted messages to our members and to the public. This will be done via newsletters, email, and social media. Publish four COSMOTopics issues for the year. Member communications will consist of resurrecting the monthly newsletter and utilizing the member-only Facebook page with relevant posts. Public-facing communications will be done via the Cosmopolitan International Facebook page and establishing a LinkedIn page.

## Bring forward an International Convention that serves as educational and fun.

**Person(s) Responsible:** Convention Committee, CI Board

**Objective:** Add educational opportunities for Cosmo members, bring back the delegate's book for attendees, and consider ways to entice new attendees to attend.

## Establish a ThinkTank.

**Committee Members:** Randy Wright, Rick Swansbro, Sheila Anderson, Melvina Newman, Jim Preston, LaVonne Hawking, John Kyrzak, Jim McVay, Tom Stone, and Tracy Miller

**Objective:** Come together as thought leaders to brainstorm ideas to help make our organization stronger. This can include bringing forward any bylaw changes to how we get people excited about our organization. An important question that needs to be answered is, "what does International do for our members" or "why should a club belong to our organization?"

## Develop a Social Media plan.

**Person(s) Responsible:** Sheila Anderson, Vice President of Marketing and Fundraising

**Objective:** Gain visibility for our organization to establish ourselves as a leader in the diabetes fundraising space. Set up a social media committee consisting of Cosmo members. The committee will also help create a content calendar. Also, showcase that our organization has fun while working hard.

## Reinvigorate the Awards Program.

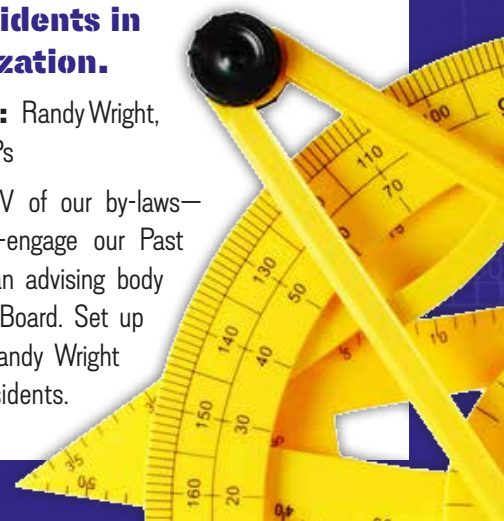
**Person(s) Responsible:** Tim Dollens, Vice President of Membership; LaVonne Hawking, Mid-States Governor

**Objective:** Review the Awards Program criteria and make recommendations to the Board or any changes. Work with the Governors throughout the year to ensure they understand the awards and encourage them to communicate with the Club Presidents often on how their Club is tracking towards the criteria of awards.

## Engage the Past International Presidents in helping our organization.

**Person(s) Responsible:** Randy Wright, International President; All PIPs

**Objective:** Per Article XIV of our by-laws—Past Presidents Council, re-engage our Past International Presidents as an advising body for our organization and the Board. Set up reoccurring meetings with Randy Wright and the Past International Presidents.



# Governor Reports

## Capital Federation

By Perry Johnson

The Capital Federation consists of just under 100 total members and 4 clubs. I will be talking to each Club President to discuss what is working well within their Clubs and what areas of they need help with. We are all looking for ways to continue to strengthen our Clubs.

I am fortunate to have our current International President, Randy Wright, in my Club. So, I will be able to travel with him to the Clubs in our Federation and bring him along to some of the visits.

I also have a Federation fundraising idea that I am working on with Sheila Anderson, VP of Marketing and Fundraising. More to come on that as we explore it.

## Cornbelt Federation

By Scott Knudsen, Governor-elect

Our friend and Governor Gery Whalen recently survived all odds as he suffered an aortic dissection. An aortic dissection is a serious condition in which a tear occurs in the inner layer of the body's main artery (aorta). Blood rushes through the tear, causing the inner and middle layers of the aorta to split (dissect). If the blood goes through the outside aortic wall, aortic dissection is often deadly. Our friend Gery is blessed to be alive and is looking at months of recovery time. Let's all include Gery in our prayers and good thoughts.

As we move forward, I will be promoting membership growth in the Cornbelt Federation. We all realize we need new younger members to grow and thrive. We need the energy, fresh ideas, technology, and enthusiasm young people have to offer. However, some of us may be a bit challenged by our communication skills with much younger prospects. We may want to consider reaching out to prospective new members just 10 years younger than us. Imagine how flattered someone, ten years your junior, would be if a person of your stature took the time to call him or her and offer them the opportunity to belong to the same club you belong to. I have labeled the program "Drop-A-Decade (D.A.D.)" This concept has the real potential of reversing our declining membership. Consider the potential as each new slightly younger member continues to DROP-A-DECADE as they reach out to new prospective members.

## Western Canada Federation

By John Krysak, Governor

The Western Canada Federation is off and running for the 2022-2023 year. Most clubs are fairly inactive during July and August but that does not mean we are shut down. As the new governor, I have been in contact with club presidents and secretaries advising on the current actions of the International Board.

We have committees previously struck hard at work getting clubs excited to participate in Cosmo Day this November 5th. We have cities and provinces being approached to proclaim this day as Cosmopolitan Day. We have already received some of the proclamations with one city indicating they will fly our flag that day. There are no set requirements, but we are working to have clubs communicate with each other to share ideas. Should you need ideas let us know and we can include you in some of our future meetings.

Wishing you all a prosperous and rewarding Cosmo year ahead.

Until we meet again (one way or another), take care!

## Mid-States Federation

By LaVonne Hawking

Belvidere - Sold sweet corn at the fair in August. They have participated in local events via the Chamber and Build-A-Bike for the community.

Rockford - Rockford had their annual golf outing on Friday, August 12th—two sell-out golf courses. I was honored to be invited once again to attend.

They held their annual steak fry on Thursday, September 22nd and they had a record attendance of 91 enjoying delicious steak dinners. Installed their new board and Rick Swansbro installed 12 new members.

Aurora - We had our annual Fall BBQ on September 15th and sold 200 plus dinners. Once again, we had a beautiful night for the drive-thru BBQ.

We are happy to report that we will be donating monies to a family that has 7-year-old twin boys that have diabetes. They are looking at obtaining two dogs. We have given them, via 3 former members of the Aurora Club, 50 tickets to the Chicago Steel hockey game on November 5th—and part of National Diabetes month—that the Aurora Club paid for. This will enable them to sell the tickets above the \$17.50 face value and put towards their fundraising efforts for the dogs.

We are now looking into volunteering efforts—this month we are collecting monies or socks to give to the shelters in the Big Rock area.

Our club is going through changes and restructuring, but we are in our 95th year and going strong!

## Mo-Kan Federation

By Dayton Shepherd, Governor

The Mo-Kan Federation is staying active with most clubs holding fundraising activities, socials, and membership events including one on August 30, 2022, where all three Columbia clubs joined together for a social and membership event. All clubs have been busy since the International Convention.

## North Central Federation

By Melvina J. Newman, Governor

All Clubs have been very active to start the year. Rapid City held their annual picnic with the Installation of officers, board, and new members which I attended. They also work at Summer Nights as a fundraiser. Sioux Falls Noon started the year with regular meetings and their annual fundraising event working 10 days at the grandstand at the fair. The Sioux Falls Evening Club assisted at the fair and will start meeting again in September.

All have completed their annual plan with goals to increase their club membership by over 10%. The North Central Theme for the year is "Making a Difference" and each club will choose a couple of goals from ideas presented by the Governor such as increasing membership, marketing Cosmopolitan, participating in the Awards program, doing an article for COSMOTopics, communicating our brand and raise awareness, recognize our Mission in each community and work for a future free from Diabetes. A newsletter will be sent by Governor at least monthly to communicate with North Central members (2 newsletters have already been sent) and visits will be made throughout the year with the clubs.



# IF WE COOK THEM, THEY WILL COME!

*By Tim Brown, Heartland-Santa Fe Trail Club*

Funnel-cake sales have been the mainstay of our fund-raising efforts for over forty years. The COVID pandemic cramped our style over the past two, but this year the Heartland Santa Fe Trail Cosmopolitan Club came back with trailer banners waving and our funnel-cake batter flowing. We sold more than \$50,000 worth of funnel cakes. At \$8.00 a pop, that's a lot of batter... and a lot of delightful, fund-raising comradery.

Members and other volunteers shared six-hour shifts over two well-attended events: Old Shawnee Days in Shawnee, KS and Old Settler's Days in Olathe, KS. The Shawnee event occurred in June and the Olathe event occurred this September. An estimated 500,000 attended the multiple-day community celebrations. Parades, Ferris wheels, music, plus food and craft booths once again occupied 'main streets' after the two-year pandemic hiatus. People were glad to be back and so were we. Obviously, the revelers hadn't lost their appetites for funnel cakes.

As usual, our funnel-cake trailer drew a crowd, even on the one day it rained. People stood a rain-soaked line for twenty minutes to buy a funnel cake. The paper-plate sized carnival treat is more than a snack. It seems to be a valued part of the party. Without seeming too proud, we couldn't help but notice that our lines were much longer than other the lines of other food vendors, even in the rain.

The trailer is nearly thirty feet long and houses two complete funnel-cake cookers with enough room for our rotating club members to do their thing. Each fabulous-tasting funnel cake is backed by at least five people: a cook, a flipper, a topping duster, and two window managers. Three to four other Cosmos outside the trailer mingle with the line of hungry festival goers, selling them eight-dollar poker chips, which they can spend once they reach the window.

Of course, the income is not all profit. Maintaining and storing the trailer requires time and money. The batter mix, peanut oil, paper plates, bottled water and other supplies are everyday overhead, as are larger items like moving the trailer to and from its show-time location. This year, we had to install a built-in fire-suppression system because of updated city ordinances. But, despite that unexpected expense, we are glad to be working at full capacity once again. During the pandemic years, we sold funnel cakes at smaller venues, like grocery store parking lots. We earned just over \$12,000 over that two-year time span. It was enough to keep the wolf from the door and air in the tires. Now, we are back into full-festival mode and have proven to ourselves once again, if we cook it, they will come.



CLUB HAPPENINGS



# 75 Years of Community Service

by Larry Benton, PIP 1993-1994, The Columbia Cosmopolitan Luncheon Club



The Columbia Cosmopolitan Luncheon Club celebrated their 75th anniversary on April 23, 2022, at the Jerry Sigmund Cosmopolitan Center. Cosmopolitan International President Darin Hartman and Executive Director David House came to help the club celebrate and present a special 75th anniversary club banner. International Vice President of Membership and New Clubs, Tim Dollens spoke about the club's involvement in the building of the Cosmopolitan International Diabetes Center at the University of Missouri in Columbia. The City of Columbia's Acting City Manager, Mike Griggs thanked the club for all that they had done for the Columbia Parks and Recreation Department, donating over 1.75 million dollars since the club started developing Cosmo Park in 1949. Past International President Larry Benton served as the Master of Ceremonies. Tim Dollens and Larry Benton organized the event.

It all began on April 23, 1947. World War II had ended. The men who survived that terrible war came back to their homes, determined to find a way to do whatever they could to make sure there would be no future world wars. They heard about this service club founded by Patrick J. Hodgins in 1918, shortly after World War I. It was called the "Cosmopolitan" Club, meaning "Citizen of the World". The primary objective of this club was to work toward making sure that the youth of the world grow up to be good citizens. Good citizens learn to live together so that there would be no wars.

A group of civic-minded men in Columbia, Missouri did their research and decided that they would start a chapter of Cosmopolitan International in Columbia. The club chartered on April 23, 1947, with 50 members. The club's first President was J.W. Ficklin, the owner of a local grocery store. Mr. Ficklin would also be involved in the creation of the Mo-Kan Federation and would become the Federation's second Governor.

The signature achievement for the Columbia Cosmopolitan Luncheon club is The Cosmopolitan Recreation Center, better known as "Cosmo Park." It all began when charter member Frank Lamb, a private pilot, flew in and out of the Columbia Airport. He noticed that the southwest corner of the airport was easily accessible from then Highway 40 (now Business Loop 70) but was unsuitable for airport use. He thought it would be ideal for a community park. He presented the idea for a park to his fellow Cosmopolitan members, who accepted the challenge.

The club leased around 35 acres of airport property, bounded on the south and west by public roads and on the north and east by airport runways. Groundbreaking ceremonies were held on April 12, 1949, and the dedication ceremonies followed on August 21, 1949.



Mayor Roy Sappington officiated with approximately 10,000 people attending (about half of Columbia's population at the time).

The Cosmopolitan Club provided all of the money and its members provided all of the labor for all park improvements until the mid-1980s. It included fencing, trees & shrubs, playground equipment, swings, benches, slides, picnic tables, BBQ grills, restrooms, and shelter houses, including fireplaces. The Cosmopolitan Club and the Jaycees built the first 9 holes of the golf course in 1953. When the new Columbia Regional airport opened south of town, the old airport runways were converted to tennis courts.

The club has provided the funds to update the playground twice in the last 25 years. A donation from the Cosmopolitan Club helped build a "state of the art" skateboard park that draws visitors from surrounding states. It is said that one would need to go to the west or east coast to find a skateboard park like Columbia has.

While the city no longer allows Cosmopolitans to provide the labor for park improvements, the club continues to support the park with funds to help make the 550-acre Cosmopolitan Recreation Center one of the finest community parks in the country.

The Columbia Cosmopolitan Luncheon Club has done its part in making Patrick J. Hodgins' dream of every young person growing up to be good citizens, a reality. Parks provide an area for family activities like picnics or just being together, and for competitive sports like baseball, football, soccer, tennis, pickleball, and even horseshoes.

# Does Old School Still Work? You Bet It Does!

By: John T Hubert, Past International President, VP Membership Cosmopolitan Luncheon Club

I spent most of my adult life in the Insurance business. I was always a producer, agent, and liked the position for in most cases the harder you worked the more money you made. It was my job to go out and find new business, new insurance customers, and accounts for the company. Producers would always look forward to the end of the month commission check, it was like opening a Christmas present, you were never sure how much you were going to get. Everything would go along smoothly throughout the year and then all of a sudden, the checks would start getting a little light. Sometimes you barely had enough to pay your monthly bills and in a panic mode, you would wonder. What happened? What went wrong? Some would make an excuse saying the company is no longer competitive or the coverages aren't as good as the competition, or it's this or it's that.

**In reality I was just making excuses for performing poorly, it wasn't the company's fault.**

So, what was the real reason for the poor performance, the light commission check? The checks were sub-standard because...

I quit doing all the things you need to do to be successful.

I quit knocking on doors and making phone calls. I quit asking for referrals. I started relying on call-ins and walk-ins. The type of business that is usually sub-standard and low commission. The type of account that will be lucky to stay on the books for a year.

I think the same things have happened with many of our members and clubs. Many of us quit looking for new members and many clubs have never set up a plan to increase their membership and attract new members.

## **So, what can we do?**

At the beginning of the New Year the VP of Membership with the board should make the club membership goals. How many new members do you want to bring in the club this year? Where are you going to look for new members and how are you going to get them to join? How are you going to keep them? A plan needs to be made.

We are fortunate for our clubs have an unlimited customer base. Almost anyone can be asked to join. I'm surprised how few members we get from the diabetic community. Maybe we can do a better job networking with the diabetic community. Maybe we can approach our local businesses asking them if they would join or consider sponsoring an employee to join us. We need to promote internal networking in our clubs, emphasizing that it is just one additional benefit to be a Cosmopolitan. Maybe divide up the businesses in your community and assign them to members willing to help your club increase membership. Develop a relationship with the businesses. Start dropping off information and brochures about our club and start talking about what we believe in and how we believe we are making a difference.

Let's venture out into our communities and businesses and show them our Cosmo Pride. Talk to them about what we believe and how with them helping us we can make our community a better place to live and how we believe that what we do will help us find a cure for that deadly disease of diabetes.

***"A plan needs to be made."***





OCTOBER	
25	ThinkTank Committee Meeting, 7:00 PM Central/8:00 PM Eastern
29	CI Board Fall Meeting via Zoom, Tentative time 9:00 AM–3:00 PM Central
NOVEMBER	
5	International Cosmo Day (Clubs & Federations can determine how to celebrate)
11	COSMOTopics Winter 2022 Issue Article Deadline
14	*PIP Meeting, 7:00 PM Central/8:00 PM Eastern
15	CI Executive Committee Meeting, 6:30 PM Central/7:30 PM Eastern
15	CI Governor's Meeting, 8:00 PM Central/9:00 PM Eastern
22	ThinkTank Committee Meeting, 7:00 PM Central/8:00 PM Eastern
DECEMBER	
20	CI Board Meeting, 7:00 PM Central/8:00 PM Eastern
JANUARY	
17	CI Executive Committee Meeting, 6:30 PM Central/7:30 PM Eastern
17	CI Governor's Meeting, 8:00 PM Central/9:00 PM Eastern
FEBRUARY	
10	COSMOTopics Spring 2022 Issue Article Deadline
21	CI Board Meeting, 7:00 PM Central/8:00 PM Eastern
MARCH	
17 & 18	CI Board Meeting (includes Governor-elect training) in-person - location TBD
APRIL	
18	CI Board Meeting, 7:00 PM Central/8:00 PM Eastern
TBD	Federation Conventions
MAY	
TBD	Federation Conventions
12	COSMOTopics Summer Issue Articles Due
16	CI Executive Committee Meeting, 6:30 PM Central/7:30 PM Eastern
16	CI Governor's Meeting, 8:00 PM Central/9:00 PM Eastern
JUNE	
20	CI Board Meeting, 7:00 PM Central/8:00 PM Eastern
JULY	
28-30	International Convention, Norfolk, VA

CI Board: President, President-elect, Vice Presidents, and Governors  
 Executive Committee: President, President-elect, and Vice Presidents Only  
*\*Additional PIP meetings may be added.  
 Calendar subject to change.*

# Executive Director Search

The Selection Committee met and weighed the pros and cons of hiring an Executive Director or an Executive Secretary. The Committee felt it was in the best interest of Cosmopolitan International to have an Executive Director. An Executive Director is better able to provide strategic thinking and direction. Also, from an outward perspective having an Executive Director gave more credibility to our organization.

A job description was finalized, and the job has been posted on Indeed.com, LinkedIn, and Facebook (both member-only page and public-facing page).



## The timeline is as follows:

- 9/27 - Post job notice to CI Board and PIPs
- 10/3 - Post job notice externally
- 10/24 - Position closes at 5:00 PM CDT
- 11/7 - Selection Committee Conference Call to select candidates to interview
- 11/16-17 - Conduct interviews in Omaha, NE. Select top candidates (up to 3).
- 11/21 - Advise CI Board
- 11/22-27 Background check and drug screening
- 11/28 - Make Offer
- 1/3/23 - Anticipated start date

Randy Wright and Melvina Newman are serving as co-chairs of the Selection Committee.

## WEBSITE UPDATE



Sheila Anderson and Jim McVay have met with ClubRunner. ClubRunner has a backup of our website as of 12/31/21. It should be fairly simple to reinstate it. However, we may have to update some of the member data, such as new members since 1/1/22. That is not insurmountable.

### Pricing for Cosmopolitan International's Main Website:

Monthly Subscription: \$140 per month  
(same as before with them)

**Set-up fee to Reactivate:** \$500 - this is discounted 50% from original \$1,000 fee (archived site on their server as of 12/31/21)

### Pricing for Individual Clubs:

Monthly Subscription: Based on club size

Setup Fee: Discount by 50% whether they're returning or a brand new subscription with ClubRunner. Setup fees vary based on club size.

### Package Options for Individual Clubs:

There are 2 different packages a Club can do. You can use the link below to see the differences.

1. **Lite Package.** This would be best for those smaller clubs who just want some PR and a web presence.
2. **Standard Package.** This is the full version of ClubRunner.

LINK TO CLUBRUNNER PRICING AND PACKAGES:  
<https://site.clubrunner.ca/page/pricing>

We are exploring if there are ways that International may be able to help offset some costs for the Clubs to be on the ClubRunner platform. In order to maintain brand consistency, we will be asking Clubs to move their websites to the ClubRunner platform. More to come on all of this.

ClubRunner also has an app available downloadable via App Store and Google Play!

There are a few other behind-the-scenes tasks that we need to complete and research before we can have ClubRunner reactivate our website. But know that we are very close!

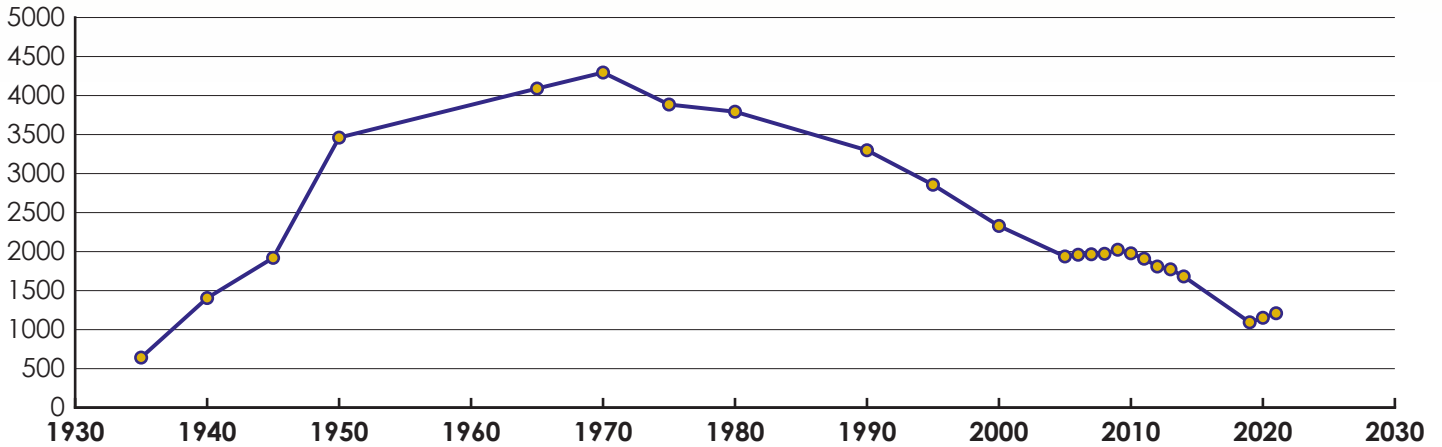
ClubRunner is the preferred platform for Rotary International, Lions Clubs International, and Kiwanis International.

# 2021-2022 Cosmopolitan Annual Report

As of June 30, 2022

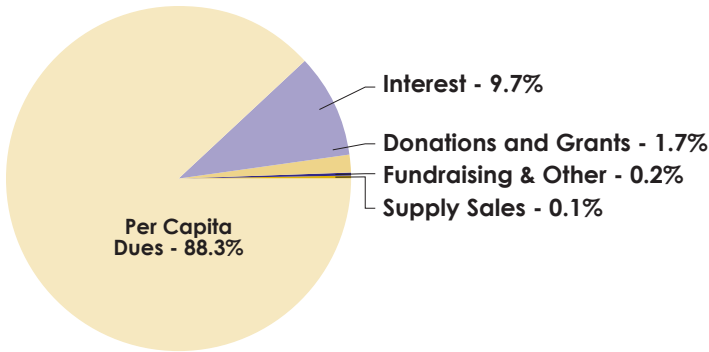
## MEMBERSHIPS

NUMBER OF MEMBERS PER YEAR

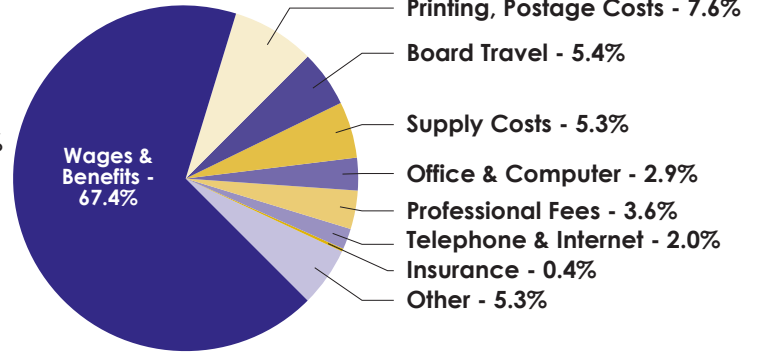


## FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

REVENUE: \$150,970

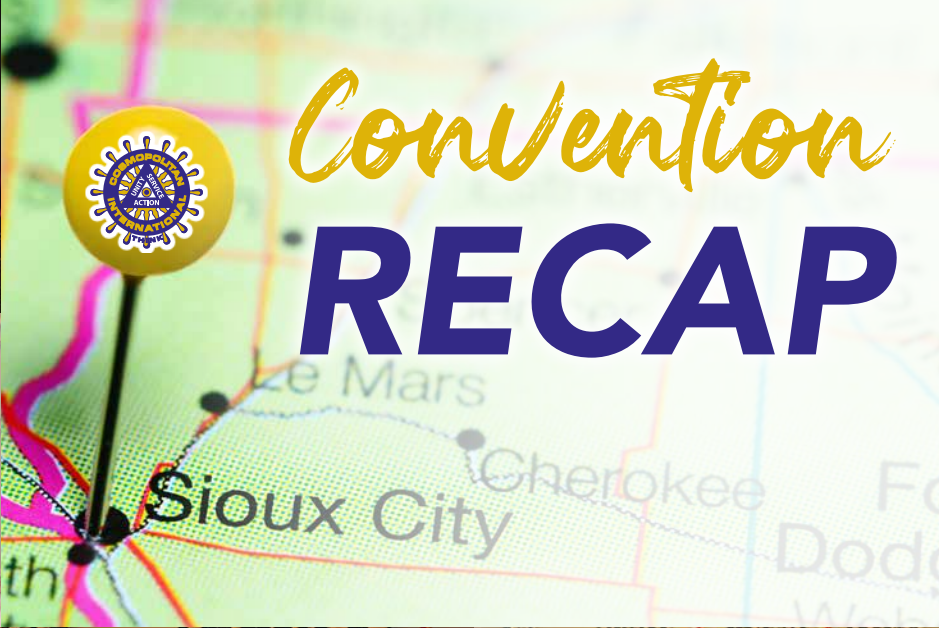


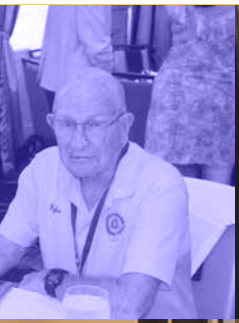
EXPENSES: \$106,726



Source	Amount
Per Capita Dues	\$133,307
Interest	\$14,679
Donations & Grants	\$2,500
Fundraising & Other	\$340
Supply Sales	\$144
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$150,970</b>

Source	Amount
Wages & Benefits	\$71,985
Printing, Postage Costs	\$8,110
Board Travel	\$5,771
Supply Costs	\$5,654
Office & Computer	\$3,130
Professional Fees	\$3,850
Telephone & Internet	\$2,166
Insurance	\$377
Other	\$5,683
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$106,726</b>





# 2022-2023 International Convention

## Rookie of the Year: Becky Kerr



This Year's Rookie of the Year is Becky Kerr of Rapid City Cosmopolitan Club. Her club pointed out that she was "kind, calm, organized, and professional attitude is one of the main reasons our Club asked her to work at the Civic Center frequently. Every time we work there, we earn money to be given to Diabetes and worthy local organizations." She became the Theater

Events Coordinator which makes her the primary contact with the Civic Center and Theatre Events. She notifies members of the event requests for volunteers and for the position they need. She also creates the roster of volunteers. She also trains new volunteers.

The Rapid City Cosmopolitan Club also says that Becky rarely misses a meeting. She makes efforts to get transportation for those that need it, and she makes the effort to introduce herself to new members. Rapid City was glad to nominate her and is glad to see her being recognized for the volunteer hours she has put into their club's moneymaker with the local Monument Civic Center.

### Other Nominees:

- Cassidy Eldering & Shawna Large, Edmonton Cosmopolitan Club, Western Canada Federation
- Julia Bovie, Columbia Cosmopolitan Luncheon Club, Mo-Kan Federation
- Larry Johnson, Council Bluffs Cosmopolitan Club, Cornbelt Federation
- Kevin Dempsey, Aurora Cosmopolitan Club, Mid-States Federation

## Cosmopolitan Member Community Service: Matt Smith



This year's Cosmopolitan Community Service Winner is Matt Smith from the Sioux Falls Cosmopolitan Club where he has been an active member for over 20 years.

"His contributions and active participation in the life of our Club, the business life of Sioux Falls and his service to his family, his faith life, and his community, make him a deserving candidate for this award."

Two of the most significant projects have Matt's fingerprints all over them are "Our Sweetest Day of Golf" fundraiser which began in 2010 with his involvement and raises \$30,000 per year and the "tiny home" pledge of \$50,000 toward the Veteran's Community Project which helps with veteran homelessness.

He has been on the Board of Directors for a local nonprofit from 2019 to the present that helps those with cancer navigate their journey.

Matt has also served on the SD Bankers Association, Downtown Sioux Falls Business Retention Committee, the Main Street Business Improvement District Board and the Dakota Business Finance Board of Directors.

He has also been active with Junior Achievement in South Dakota teaching students about money management, been an elementary school classroom volunteer, and a fundraiser "100 Hole Challenge that has raised over \$94,000.

Matt is a banker by trade and the husband of Yvonne and father of four children and grandfather of four grandchildren. He enjoys golf, traveling, running marathons and an active member of Oak Hills Baptist Church in Sioux Falls, SD where you can find him singing on the praise team, teaching Sunday School and leading worship services, and serving on their Leadership Council. He has also served on the Leadership Foundation board from 2009-2015, and the Board of Trustees from 2015 to the present of the Sioux Falls Seminary (Kairos University).

### Other Nominees:

- Phyllis Erhart, Columbia ShowMe Cosmopolitan Club, Mo-Kan Federation
- Lon Bohling, Fremont Cosmopolitan Club, Cornbelt Federation

## President of the Year: Chris Zion



Chris Zion of the Rockford Cosmopolitan Club was awarded the Cosmopolitan Club President. He has been a Cosmopolitan since November 23, 2010, and has served on its board for six of the 12 years. Even though the pandemic was going on his club was still able to raise \$103,500 in fundraising efforts. These included the annual poinsettia plant sales, golf classic, two charity poker events, and the Wild Card Raffle. His club was able

to give monies to Crusader Community Health where Chris is the liaison. He has recruited seven new members to his club. His club has 214 members

He has "promoted through the events he organizes and carried over to his Presidency making the Rockford Cosmos a premier charitable organization within the Rockford, IL region."

His club has effectively engaged in social media such as FB and Instagram, the local Chamber, media outlets including television, and local magazines as well as have prominent speakers from law enforcement, professors, and directors at their meetings.

"Having quality speakers, monthly social gatherings, and raising charitable funds all while having fun from a club that is very diversified amongst age groups which the club believes is a sign of its long-term growth and prominence in the region," is why Chris Zion is a no doubt the President of the Year!





# AWARD WINNERS

## Cosmo of the Year: Melvina J. Newman



Melvina J. Newman has been a member of the Sioux Falls Noon Club since March 1998 and "very active continually since joining and has held about every position within the club since joining." She is this year's Cosmopolitan of the Year!

Melvina's list of accomplishments is truly one that is hard to beat. Her attendance is over 98 percent. She has attended all

International Conventions and North Central Federation conventions since 2000. She was the Chairman of the Cosmopolitan International Convention in Sioux Falls in 2021 which was an awesome event. This one and half year's process was organized and planned by her and her crew to perfection.

She organized a 4-day show with the "Sportsman's Show 2022" which involved coordinating 2 other groups to come and help with the shifts as well as helping assist with exhibitors, assigning duties to the volunteers, door guarding, taking tickets, and communicating with the show promoter.

She was active in her club's Sweetest Day of Golf fundraiser to help raise monies for diabetic kids camp which is a day-long event. Besides overseeing registration and volunteers she made sure all the golfers had water and snacks while out on the course and took pictures of the participants.

She has attended her club's social events including Canaries baseball games and SkyForce Basketball games. Camp Gilbert was presented a check from the monies received from the golf event. She also "helped committee to encourage club to join in with the Veterans Community Project coming to Sioux Falls by sponsoring a tiny home."

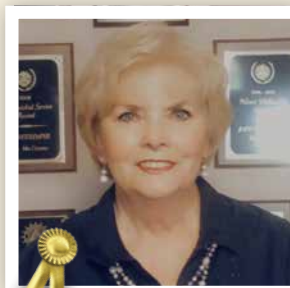
Melvina also attends the Sioux Falls Evening Club meetings regularly and takes part in their community activities.

Melvina is currently a Governor of her federation and has been their secretary for three years before coming Governor-elect and now governor. She is active on the CI Board in that capacity. She is truly what any "Cosmo" member should strive to be.

### Other Nominees:

- Kathy Walker, Edmonton Cosmopolitan Club, Western Canada Federation
- Joe Bousquet, Sioux City Cosmopolitan Club, Cornbelt Federation
- Frank McGinnis, Heartland Santa Fe Cos. Club, Mo-Kan Federation
- Bill Redig, Rockford Cosmopolitan Club, Mid-States Federation

## Patrick J. Hodgins Distinguished Member: Judy Weitkemper



Judy Weitkemper is this year's Patrick J. Hodgins Distinguished Member and very deservedly so. She has been a Cosmopolitan since May of 1999 with the Columbia Show Me Club. She chaired the club's annual Walktoberfest fundraiser for many years that raised money for the American Diabetes Association, but when she found out that money was going

away from her community she started the Columbia Show Me Cosmopolitan Walktoberfest which has raised \$8,000 to \$12,000 per year and the monies were given to local groups like the kid's diabetic camp, medical supplies for the Diabetes Center and over the 12 years she chaired it has raised \$120,000.

She belongs to five different Cosmopolitan Clubs in Missouri and helped start the St. Charles County Club. She has chaired or contributed to many of the committees or programs, inaugurations, and fundraisers and has served as a Board member in all these clubs including everything from President, Secretary, Vice President, and Treasurer.

She is also a past Governor of the Mo-Kan Federation and for Cosmopolitan International. Judy is currently mentoring the new Governors to make them even better so our organization can stay strong. Judy has also had perfect attendance for not only the Show Me Club that nominated her but for the other Clubs that she belongs to. She is currently the President of the Columbia Luncheon Club where her husband Bill has been a member for over 30 years.

### Other Nominees:

- Bill Kubat, Sioux Falls Noon, North Central Federation
- Karen Shepherd, Wascana Cosmopolitan Club, Western Canada Federation
- Deborah J. Cook, Sioux City Cosmopolitan Club, Cornbelt Federation
- Rick Swansbro, Rockford Cosmopolitan Club, Mid-States Federation

## Other Award Winners

**Newsletter:** Heartland Santa Fe Trail Cosmopolitan Club, Mo-Kan Federation, Linda Gentry, Editor

**Other Nominees:** Fremont Cosmopolitan Club, Cornbelt Federation, Judy Getzschman, Editor

**Yearbook:** Lawrence River City, Mo-Kan Federation, Nancy Donahey & Cheryl Dunham

**Club Community Service Award:** Diabetes Health Fair, Emerald City Cosmopolitan Club, Mo-Kan 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  
Jeff Robbins, 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 INCORPORATED**

12955 Bogus Jim Road  
Rapid City, SD 57702  
B 605.341.1273  
Deanna Smith, 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**

346 Maine Street  
Suite 150  
Lawrence, KS 66044  
B 785.841.7297, ext. 208  
Allie Nicholson  
Executive Director  
[anicholson@heartlandhealth.org](mailto:anicholson@heartlandhealth.org)

#### **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  
[ADFAAdmin@ABDiabetes.com](mailto:ADFAAdmin@ABDiabetes.com)  
[albertadiabetesfoundation.com](http://albertadiabetesfoundation.com)

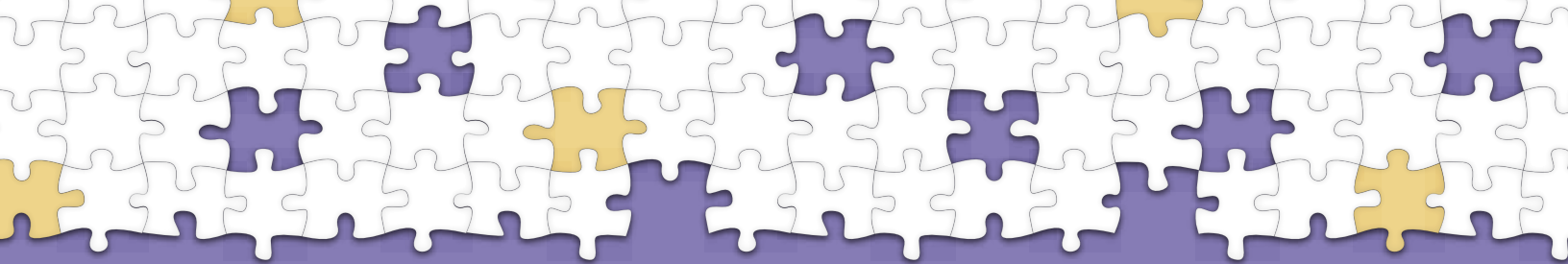
#### **CORNBELT DIABETES CONNECTION, INC.**

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

Charlene Duquette, 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](http://kovlerdiabetescenter.org)

[www.facebook.com/kovler.diabetes.center](https://www.facebook.com/kovler.diabetes.center)

### **SETBAID 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.setbaidservices.org](http://www.setbaidservices.org)

[info@setbaidservices.org](mailto:info@setbaidservices.org)

### **RAPID CITY REGIONAL MEDICAL CLINIC- ENDOCRINOLOGY AND DIABETES EDUCATION**

640 Flormann Street

Rapid City SD 57701

Dr. Thomas Repas

B 605.718.3300



**SAVE THE DATE**

# **2023** **International** **Convention**



**July 28-30, 2023**  
**Norfolk, VA**

**Hilton Norfolk The Main**  
**100 East Main Street**  
**Norfolk, VA 23510**  
**[www.themainnorfolk.com](http://www.themainnorfolk.com)**

## *In Memoriam*

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

- **Ed Thompson** • **Charles Gordon**  
*Omaha I-80 Club*    *Fremont 100 Club*  
*Omaha, NE*         *Fremont, NE*  
*August 5, 2022*    *October 1, 2022*

