

# COSMOTOPICS

SPRING 2015

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2015

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# INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

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THE CLUB THAT FIGHTS DIABETES

[www.cosmopolitan.org](http://www.cosmopolitan.org)





**FROM THE EDITOR** by Tracy Miller

Spring has sprung, but it doesn't feel like it here in damp, chilly Pennsylvania. Fortunately, a lot is springing up in this edition of COSMOTopics.

In this edition, members will read more about the 2015 International Convention scheduled for July 23 through 25, in Omaha. Both the registration form and the agenda are included in this edition,

and registration on the website will be live any day. Check out the details and be sure to register soon.

By now most members have heard the name George Mongon, who is the consultant the board recently voted to hire to help us maximize our work in the areas of membership, marketing, communication, fundraising, and leadership development. In this edition, we share a great deal of information about the work George is doing with us. This is a bold step forward to ensure the perpetuity of our beloved organization.

Finally, check out the latest happenings with several of our clubs. I am continually amazed at the great work Cosmopolitans are doing, all in the name of service to others. I am incredibly blessed and honored to work beside you.

**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.



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# COSMOTOPICS

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COSMOTopics is published four times a year. The \$9 subscription is added to the annual dues by Cosmopolitan International, Inc. Third class non-profit postage paid at Pontiac, IL.

**POSTMASTER** Send change of address to: COSMOTopics, P.O. Box 7351, Lancaster, PA 17604

# Executive Director Update

**Spring cleaning is underway here at International. As we go to press, Capital Federation Governor Chuck Cenker, Past International President Tom Stone, and I are scheduled to sort through the Cosmopolitan items that currently are being stored in a commercial storage unit here in Lancaster.**

When the former headquarters building in Overland Park was emptied, the contents were transported here and are being kept in a storage unit until the time came to sort through all that...stuff. There are boxes of decades-old dues notices, rusty filing cabinets, a million mailing folders that I am convinced are reproducing in there, and a variety of additional mystery boxes. If you know me, you will not be surprised to know that we will be tackling this job in a very organized fashion complete with spreadsheets on which we will log the disposition of the items we uncover. Everything will fall into one of three categories: discarded, retained, or retained for future review. My nephew, Devon, will be on hand to do the heavy lifting for us. Amidst all the belongings in the unit, I am hoping we find some diamonds in the rough. Old meeting minutes and COSMOTopics from years gone by would be treasures. I would love to uncover meaningful items that we could somehow display or at least not keep buried in a storage unit. Maybe a virtual Cosmo Museum? Hmm...now my wheels are really turning, and I've got to get up early to start sorting.

You will read a great deal about George Mongon in the pages of this edition of Topics. By now, Cosmos know that George has been hired to help us maximize our performance in five strategic areas: membership, marketing, fundraising, communications, and leadership development. What exactly does that mean? Well, for one, it means we need to stop losing members and start doing things much better than we do them now. It's like the human body – the knee bone's connected to the shin bone... All of the above areas work together to make us a well-oiled machine...or not. Right now, we're out of shape. Yes, there is plenty to be excited about, such as our good financial health and the Diabetic Alert Dog project. But there is plenty to be concerned

about, too, such as the loss of membership. I am very excited to work with George to turn the car around and take us to the next level.

Jim Preston and others have commented in their articles about the atmosphere at the board meeting when we hired George. I won't reiterate all of that, but I do want to comment on my experience in witnessing your board working for you. Please know that your board took this opportunity very, very seriously, and spent hours debating whether this was the right move for us. I watched board members agree and disagree with each other. I watched thrifty people come to terms with making this investment. I watched them struggle with doing the right thing by you, the members. If you had been there, I believe you would have been proud to have these people as your leaders. If you get a chance, you might give them a word of thanks for having Cosmo's back.

So, as always, there is a lot happening at Cosmopolitan. George Mongon, the Diabetic Alert Dog project, and the 2015 International Convention are all taking center stage right now. I have a million things to do, but the Mystery of the Storage Unit begins in eight short hours. I'll let you know what gems we find.



**Tracy Miller**  
**Executive Director**

*Please know  
that your  
board took this  
opportunity very,  
very seriously,  
and spent  
hours debating  
whether this  
was the right  
move for us.*

# Commitment, Engagement, and Cooperation



Jim Preston  
President

*I have always been impressed with the commitment, drive, and enthusiasm that has been demonstrated by so many members of our organization.*

These attributes were demonstrated by the Columbia area clubs when Dee and I had the opportunity to visit with members from the Breakfast, Luncheon and Show Me clubs from Columbia plus the Jefferson City club on March 5, 2015. The members that I visited with were committed to the cause of fighting diabetes and helping their communities; were engaged in fund raising and helping children with diabetes; and worked together as a team to get this accomplished.

When Dee and I arrived at **Phil and Brenda Hanson's** accounting firm in Columbia, we were greeted by **John Hurbert** and given a chance to view the very interesting South American artifacts in Phil's office and his sports memorabilia. The Hansons took us on a tour of the Cosmopolitan International Diabetes and Endocrinology Center plus two Cosmopolitan Parks in Columbia. We got a chance to see the areas where the bricks from the old Headquarters Building will be placed.

We were taken to the beautiful home of **CC and Larry Benton** who had graciously allowed us to spend the night. The Bentons took Dee and me to the monthly gathering of the three local clubs. Members from the Jefferson club also were in attendance. It was a very nice meal with a nice program. Dee and I got to visit with a number of members which I always enjoy. On the way home, Larry and CC gave us a tour of the bingo hall and told us about the events that are held in the building. What a fantastic facility.

Dee and I said farewell to the Bentons at 5:00 a.m. the next morning and made it to Omaha just in time to catch the CDF meeting prior to lunch and the CI Board meeting.

I have always been impressed with the commitment, drive, and enthusiasm that has been demonstrated by so many members of our organization. I want to thank you for what you do and encourage you to continue to serve your communities and the fight against diabetes. I also want to ask you to do a few things in the coming months.

1. Add at least one new member to your club. Our membership currently stands at 1,674 which is down 33 from July 1, 2014. If each club would increase their membership by one person, we would end the year on a positive membership note. It is an exciting time to be a Cosmo with the Diabetes Alert Dog project, fun and informative conventions, and new items like the virtual brick project. Get others excited about what's going on. Please hold a membership drive and/or ask your "go getter" to get one more member for the team.
2. Submit a human interest story to Tracy for publication in the COSMOTopics. I think each club has at least one good story about someone's personal fight with diabetes. I have heard a number of these stories and we need to share these stories with our members and the public.
3. Submit an ad to the COSMOTopics. It is a fun way to toot your organizations own horn, congratulate someone, or brag about your favorite team. At only \$25 for an eighth of a page, it is an economic way to spread good cheer.
4. Attend the 2015 convention in Omaha. It is shaping up to be a fun, interesting, and informative meeting.

Thanks again for all you do.

ALLONS Y FAIRE

# Action Items Resulting from Winter Board Meeting

**The Winter Board Meeting was held in Omaha, March 6 and 7, 2015.  
Following were action items that resulted from the meeting.**

1. The proposal presented by G.J. Mongon & Company, experts in not-for-profit performance maximization, was unanimously approved.
2. Following this year's convention, an award for the best website will be discontinued, a virtual year book award will be added, the name "bulletin" will be changed to "newsletter" and an award for clubs that reach 25 years will be added.
3. The 2015-2016 preliminary budget was approved.
4. Additional cost for the use of a smart phone for Cosmopolitan International business by the International President will be reimbursed.
5. The ability to purchase a "virtual" brick will be available in the future.
6. A Spring membership event was approved whereby the first individual in each club who brings in the most members during the contest period will receive his or her individual convention package paid for by CI. There is a restriction of one winner per club and the winner must bring in at least five new members.
7. A Bylaw change to add a Vice President of Fundraising will be presented to the delegates at this year's convention.
8. A new investment policy was approved
9. A salary increase for the Executive Director was approved.

## **International representatives to federation conventions were selected as follows:**

- Capital . . . . .Richard Gordon
- Cornbelt . . . . .Richard Gordon
- Midstates . . . . .John Krysak
- Mo-Kan . . . . .Ed Ficenec
- North Central . . . . . John Hubert
- Southwestern . . . . .No convention
- Western Canada . . . . . Tracy Miller

**Next Board meetings: July 23 & 25 in Omaha.**

ALLONS Y FAIRE

# Board Approves Agreement With G. J. Mongon & Company



**Jim Preston**  
*President*

**After much discussion, questions and soul searching the Cosmopolitan International (CI) Board approved going into an agreement with George Mongon of G.J. Mongon & Company to provide services to move our organization forward.**

The Board felt that with our finances in a stable position, a CI project on track (Diabetes Alert Dog) and exciting and informative conventions happening that it was time to go to the next level. Following an initial meeting of the board with Mr. Mongon in January, a proposal was forwarded to the Board for their review. Several hours of discussion occurred at the Winter board meeting before a motion was made and approved.

This agreement will include the development of a coordinated and comprehensive plan that will promote quality, consistency, communications and follow-through; a marketing and communication plan that will promote our identity and assign resources to audience groups with payback in mind; a focus on membership support which will identify the factors which will nurture meaningful member involvement and club

growth; and fundraising support which will focus on increasing the volume of personalized attention to potential donors.

With a \$3,500 per month price tag for a four month period, this agreement was not entered into lightly. However, the Board felt that we either move forward with a plan to grow and prosper or we die on the vine over the long haul. The motion to enter into this agreement was passed unanimously.

I personally support entering into this agreement because Mr. Mongon was willing and able to make personal introductions to leaders in private corporations so that we can approach them about starting a club in their company and solicitation of on-going donations from their organization. Here are what other Board members have to say about entering into this agreement:

*“Having attended the recent Cosmopolitan International Board meetings in January and March I wanted to say that I am thrilled and more excited than ever to serve Cosmopolitan. We are starting a very new and innovative direction as we take our organization into the future. I think it will provide us great stability, growth and success.”*

*– Dr. Walter Alm*

*“What a GREAT weekend we had during the international board meeting held March 6 and 7 in Omaha. A lot of good work was done leading us into the future. Congratulations to Tracy Miller and president Jim Preston for such a well-run meeting. The highlight of the meeting, however, was the approval to enter into a professional relationship with G.J. Mongon & Company. This organization is a community building fundraising consultant organization, and I recommend that you go to their website to see what they have done and how they will work with us. This has given the board, and especially me, a renewed enthusiasm for the future of Cosmopolitan. Our future is going to be a very bright one, and I am looking forward to being a part of it along with all of you. It’s good to be a Cosmo.”*

*– Ed Ficenc*

*“Just because you know what to do – does not mean you will always do it. We must not be ‘New Idea’ resistant; we need to be open minded. We must have the courage to throw out yesterday’s ideas when they are not working. Recently, the CI Board took a very bold step and engaged George Mongon to assist us in changing our organization to be bold and address the changes we need to make for the future of Cosmopolitan International.”*

*– Chuck Cenkner*

*It was  
time to  
go to the  
next level.*

"The Cosmopolitan International Board elected over the weekend to hire a gentleman from Ohio to help us rebrand ourselves in several avenues, to include Membership, Communication and Fund Raising. He has worked with the US Olympic Committee, Kiwanis International, and many other organizations. He brings to us a tremendous knowledge of how to properly structure our organization for sustainable growth both in membership and image into the future. As was stated over and over at this board meeting, doing things in the same way and expecting different results is the definition of insanity. We are currently going in the wrong direction in membership and need to change how we do things before we shrivel up and blow away!"

*– David House*

"In my opinion, Cosmopolitan is quickly approaching a cross-roads on whether or not we continue as an organization. In my experience with the organization over the past 20 years, membership has continued to drop, and funding the operation and charitable activities have become increasingly difficult to do at the International level. I attended two presentations by Mr. George Mongon and, in my opinion, he appears to have our best interest at heart and has a vast amount of knowledge that I believe can help us going forward. I voted YES to commit us to a short term contract to see what he can assist us with. In his own words "If I'm not providing a benefit to the organization by the end of the contract why would we proceed further?" His company has many clients that they have provided service to over many years. If those organizations were not benefiting from the service, I would expect that they would not have continued. I am very excited to see what he has to offer for ideas for us to grow and raise funds for Cosmopolitan International and the Foundations."

*– John Krysak*

"As someone who entered the March Cosmopolitan Board Meeting prepared to vote against the retention of Mr. Mongon, my change of attitude came with the realization that if we don't do anything, nothing changes and we continue this downward spiral into nonexistence. Maybe that's the wave of the future of service clubs, but so is death and I'm not ready for that either."

*– Bob White*

"In accepting George's proposal, I am reminded of Sheila's slogan, "All In". I believe that Cosmopolitan International is at a crossroads, and we might as well put all our chips on the table and "go all in" with George to see if we can restore the organization to its former glory."

*– Helen Cox*

"The C. I. board has taken steps to secure G.J. Mongon & Company to enhance our future throughout the federations and local clubs. This plan should help us with our marketing, fundraising, membership, and financial situation. George is now a Cosmo, which tells us that he believes in our cause."

*– Richard Gordon*

"For us to survive as a viable service club, on an International level, it is time for us to develop and formulate a plan that can be passed down each year to be followed and modified for the betterment of our organization."

*–John Hubert*

*George is  
now a Cosmo,  
which tells  
us that he  
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our cause.*



**You Asked...**

**We Answered!**

**International President Jim Preston and Executive Director Tracy Miller offer their insight on the professional relationship Cosmopolitan International recently formed with G.J. Mongon & Company. See what they have to say as we take a bold step forward to ensure our future.**

**Q.** Why did we enter into this agreement with this company?

**A.** Like many service clubs, Cosmopolitan has been losing members in recent years. In order for us to ensure our future, we need to look at new ways to find and retain members. Membership in Cosmopolitan may need to look very different than it has in the past, and George has a lot of expertise in this area.

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**Q.** Is this costing us a lot of money? Where will that money come from? Are you using money from the sale of the headquarters building to pay for this?

**A.** Our agreement with George is for \$3,500 for four months each – April, May, June, and July – for a total of \$14,000. No money whatsoever from the sale of the former headquarters building is being used. In fact, that money is protected in the form of a motion that was passed at the 2014 International Convention. The board and the executive director evaluated our financial situation and felt that we were well-positioned to absorb these costs.

**Q.** Did you look at any other consultants before hiring Mr. Mongon?

**A.** Yes, we did. We looked at two other organizations in addition to Mongon. One organization would have charged us \$8,500 for marketing only. Another would have charged \$3,000 to define our message. While Mr. Mongon's charge comes in higher, he and his staff will be tackling five strategic areas for us – membership, marketing, fundraising, communication, and leadership development.

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**Q.** Does this company have experience with other service clubs like ours?

**A.** Yes. George recently was involved with a big Kiwanis project where he helped them raise several million dollars. He also has worked with many other not-for-profit organizations. Check out his website to read more about this ([www.gjmongon.com](http://www.gjmongon.com)).



**Q.** Why can't the Executive Director do what Mr. Mongon was hired to do?

**A.** ED Tracy is very involved in all of the strategic areas mentioned above and works closely with the board and now with George. She reports to the international board, however, so having Tracy hold the board's feet to the fire to get the work done is a little tricky. She's pretty vocal, though, and tells us what she thinks we need to do and if we're not doing what she thinks we should.

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**Q.** What about the strategic plan that was drawn up several years ago? Whatever happened to that? Wasn't it a lot of money wasted?

**A.** We drew up a strategic plan in 2011. When ED Tracy was hired, the board asked her to take the plan and make it into something we could use on a daily basis. She prepared the Action Plan, which is a simple compilation of projects, ideas, and concepts taken from the Strategic Plan. The executive committee approved the Action Plan in 2013. Now, with George's help, we are continuing to work that plan, which includes the recruitment of younger members. We have already achieved the financial stability the plan calls for.

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**Q.** Was everyone on the board in favor of hiring this company? Were there differing opinions, and was it a hard sell to anyone?

**A.** There are 12 voting board members in Cosmopolitan International, and there likely

were as many opinions going into the Winter Board Meeting where we decided to hire George. We spent hours at that meeting talking about where we are, where we want to go, and the best way for us to stay relevant and alive as a service club. We talked with George at length and called him back into the room three separate times to answer more questions. We felt a huge obligation to the membership and really grilled him to make sure this was the right decision for us. When we took the vote, the motion to hire George passed unanimously.

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**Q.** How will we know if this relationship is successful? How will we know what Mr. Mongon is doing for us on a regular basis?

**A.** Whether or not the decision to hire George was a good one and whether or not we are successful rests almost entirely on the shoulders of the board. We have a lot of work to do, and George is giving us our marching orders to maximize our performance as a service club. Tracy will be communicating George's work and that of the board on a regular basis via newsletters. We also are in the process of working out a system whereby board members are in personal contact with club presidents to foster really effective two-way communication. This is entirely new for our organization.

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**Q.** Is the agreement you signed available to the membership to review?

**A.** Sure. Let Tracy know if you would like to see it.

**Additional questions and comments may be directed to Jim Preston at (605) 545-7738 or at [dpreston@mt-rushmore.net](mailto:dpreston@mt-rushmore.net). ED Tracy may be reached at (717) 295-7142 or at [headquarters@cosmopolitan.org](mailto:headquarters@cosmopolitan.org). Members' questions and comments about the agreement with George Mongon—or any other Cosmopolitan issue—are always welcome.**

# COSMOPOLITAN INTERNATIONAL Special Board Meeting

January 23-25, 2015 • Sheraton Omaha, Omaha, NE

The Boards of Cosmopolitan International and the Cosmopolitan International Foundation agreed to a joint meeting to discuss issues related to the strategic direction of the organization. The meeting was facilitated by George Mongon of the G.J. Mongon & Company consulting firm from Dayton, OH and Indianapolis, IN.

**The following is a paraphrased transcript of the discussion that took place.**

**NOTE:** While the differences between the two are evident and important, both CI and the CIF are considered as one “organization” for the purpose of this meeting, since each is designed to act in the best interest of each other.

## I. MISSION

Participants were asked to review the mission statement and its supporting statements (as shown below).

*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.*

The organization further defines itself as follows:

### **Who We Are**

*Cosmopolitan International is a chartered not-for-profit civic service organization that was founded in 1918. It consists of some 60 clubs with a membership of approximately 1,800 in the United States and Canada.*

### **Our Focus**

*Cosmopolitan International has donated millions of dollars to diabetes research and treatment since adopting diabetes as our International focus. While Cosmopolitan’s principal effort is directed at the fight against diabetes, its member clubs also support community service projects and charitable causes in the communities where they are located.*

### **To develop UNITY**

*By the collective action of the membership within the community for the betterment of all;*

### **To SERVE others**

*By assisting others to obtain a more fruitful, productive, and happier lifestyle through the path of unselfish service; and*

### **To take ACTION**

*Which will contribute to community well-being and accomplish the defined goals of the individual club in order that all may live in a better world.*

Each participant was then asked to circle specific words (or phrases) that they felt were important to the true meaning of the Mission and purpose of the organization. In addition, they were asked to add any word or phrase to their personal list that they felt was needed to “complete” a well-described statement about the organization.

In the second part of this initial exercise, the entire group collectively listed the important words and phrases and then ranked them in importance as follows:

*(The number after each word represents how many people thought this was a Top 3 item)*

Fun (15)	Take Action (1)
Community Service (13)	Supporting Efforts (1)
Diabetes/Cure (12)	Betterment of All (1)
Friendship (11)	Unselfish (1)
Volunteer Service (10)	Individual Impact
Assisting Others (5)	Donations/Contribute
Community Well-Being (4)	Attract
Collective Action (3)	Romance
Personal Fulfillment (3)	Identifying Needs
Networking (3)	Passion
Leadership Training (2)	Individual Club
Financial Stability (2)	Better World
Positive Attitude (2)	Defined Goals

## II. VISION

Subsequent to this discussion, participants were asked to list items that they felt were important for the organization to accomplish in the coming months and years. This “vision” for the organization was intentionally limited to measurable actions for the sake of discussion purposes only. In the ideal, a formal Vision Statement will help members be proud and excited to know they are a part of something big. The Vision Statement can help stretch your capabilities, clarify your image, and give more shape and direction to your future. At the end of the session, participants were then asked to rank their “Top 3” in order, producing the following table:

Top 3 Vision Statements	Overall Ranking		
	1st	2nd	3rd
Personal Fulfillment (through community service and all activities)	13	2	1
New Membership Model (e.g., Cosmo Kids)	6	5	3
Become Better Known (Promotion, Message Clarity)	2	3	4
Membership & Community Research	2	1	1
Financial Stability	2		2
Diversity		4	4
Leadership Training		2	6
Attractive (as a service club)		3	2
Accountability		3	1
More/New Leaders		1	3
Engaged Members		3	
Position Description (responsibilities and orientation)	1		
Teach Public Service			
Develop a Process to Track Diabetes Assistance (e.g., “By the Numbers”)			
Be a Diabetes Beacon			
Call to Action “Heart”			

## III. VALUES

The facilitator led a brief discussion about the importance of choosing and using values to describe the organization.

*People believe our highest priorities and our communicated beliefs reflect our true values. Therefore, our values must become our personal “codes for living” and guide every decision we make.*

*To promote our Mission more effectively, therefore, we are wise also to promote our core values.*

- We do not just simply want to get the job done. We will use our core values to motivate, inspire and energize our members and donors.*
- We want our actions to demonstrate our commitment to our Mission, goals and vision so we can influence people as strongly as possible.*
- We believe individuals will join and support us quicker, deeper and further when they know what we stand for and what we intend to accomplish.*
- We also believe it is essential for all of us to be unified as a “single organization with a central purpose, and common goals and objectives” if we are to remain viable and influence lives.*

*Therefore, can we agree to the following?*

- We strive to help members be committed to our goals and mission*
- We believe members want to provide service to our organization and their communities*
- We will inspire members to have the courage & integrity to do the right thing*
- We must help members show respect for the opinions and rights of others*

Considering a long list of values, the participants culled and prioritized the list as follows:

Top 3 Values	Overall Ranking		
	1st	2nd	3rd
Service	21	2	3
Passionate/Commitment to Diabetes	3	8	4
Social/Friendship/Fun (Conviviality)	2	6	11
Philanthropy/Charitable/Generosity	1	4	2
Compassion	1	3	2
Collaboration	1	1	1
Fulfillment/Impact		1	2
Courage			1
Responsibility			1
Respect/Integrity			1
Action			
Appreciation			
Integrity			
Synergy			
Unity			
Call to Action “Heart”			

## IV. STORIES

Discussion then focused on the positive impressions that can be communicated through the influential process of story-telling. Participants were asked to recount the best stories they have heard about the impact of Cosmopolitan International. Among them included:

- A club that developed playground parks for children in their community*
- A 9 year old diabetic whose life was changed by a service dog (insulin assistance)*
- A funded mobile lab that has diagnosed diabetics, thereby saving lives*
- Funding for juvenile diabetics to attend special summer camps*

Subsequent to this discussion each participant was asked, upon returning to their home club, to survey other CI members and collect (submit) a story that describes one of the organization’s great accomplishments. These stories, once collected, will become an important means of communicating the value of the organization to potential members and prospective donors.

## V. GOALS/ISSUES

Participants were then asked to identify the top issues the organization is facing. Similar in concept to the previous exercise on Vision, in this case the statements are listed as goals for the organization to address. The facilitator imposed a limit of eight statements and asked the participants to rank their Top 3 preferences at the end of the exercise.

Top 3 Goals	Overall Ranking		
	1st	2nd	3rd
Clarify Goals/Priorities	8	2	3
Marketing/Get the Word Out/Sponsors & Membership (Messaging, Stories, Rebranding)	6	14	3
Training/Accountability/Impact/Motivation/Membership (Materials, Duties, Process, Mentorship)	5	3	5
Membership	6	1	4
Communications to Clubs & Members	1	6	9
Fundraising & Alignment with CDF (Matching?)	2		
Be Relevant to Prospective Members		1	1

Then, the group was asked to collectively come to agreement on clarification and ranking of the items. They decided as follows:

1. *Marketing*
2. *Priorities*
3. *Communication*
4. *Training*
5. *Membership*
6. *Fundraising*

The participants agreed with the facilitator that, once prioritized, the list did not need to include the second item listed above as an organizational goal.

## VI. STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES

As an intermediate step to the articulation of the goals, participants were asked to quickly summarize the major strengths and weaknesses of the organization. While many more items could be added, participants felt this was a good representation of the important items on each of the three lists below.

### Strengths

- *Fundraising*
- *Member dedication*
- *Member resources (history, skill)*
- *We're big (impact per capita significant)*
- *Social interaction and support*
- *Solid purpose*
- *Training materials*

### Weaknesses

- *Aging out of members*
- *Recruiting/retention*
- *Percentage of participation/engagement*
- *Volunteer-led (only a single paid staff member)*
- *Orientation*
- *Not well known (branding)*
- *Communication*
- *Accountability*

### Items We Need to Fix or Add

- *Examine our model of membership?*
- *Networking opportunities are limited*
- *Leadership training is inconsistent*
- *We need to include a family-friendly atmosphere*
- *Improve member education*
- *Increase communication content/process (to members)*

## VII. SUMMARY OF GOALS AND COMPONENT OBJECTIVES

Without referring to the existing action steps the organization is currently pursuing, participants were then asked to describe the important components that they feel are necessary to support the successful achievement of each goal. They described these important components as follows:

### 1. Marketing

- *Messaging* – developing a compelling message to use with our promotion efforts
- *Stories* – using compelling stories and 5 core values to tell why we are important
- *Rebranding* – rising above our stereotype of being an “old-fashioned” service org
- *Publicity* – using our stories and messaging strategically to achieve desired results
- *Collateral* – developing exciting, effective material to use in membership and FR

### 2. Communication

- *Clubs/Members* – make sure our most invested people know what is going on internationally and how we are progressing as a group
- *Priorities* – be clear and timely in letting people know what is important, particularly when important issues need attention
- *Differential messaging* – develop personalized messages for particular audience groups and become more sensitive to their perspectives

- **Clarity/brevity** – it is better to send fewer, shorter messages than to wait for something big to occur and then attach too much other information to the important message. Keep a clear focus to each message.
- **Timeliness (important, urgent, past)** – Deal with issues as they arise and develop a sense of prioritization within the communication process.
- **Official versus informative** – always separate these two types of messages. Keep information flowing. Official messages can come out on an as-needed basis.
- **Easy** – the easier the process the more free the communication will flow
- **Secure** – if items are sensitive in nature, provide a way for “your eyes only” transmission to take place. Improve the website if appropriate.

### 3. Training

- **Simplicity** – offer readily available, focused instruction for all volunteer jobs and similar information for events – could be web-based with a password
- **Timely** – effective training is only as valuable as its timeliness and effectiveness, so it must be consistent, on time, and content-focused
- **Mentoring** – involving others is important so nothing gets lost in the translation and so people complete the training process thoroughly and on time
- **Presence and remove (delivery system)**

### 4. Membership

- **Types** – CI must allow its membership program to become adaptable and flexible, but not encourage any club to “do what everyone else is doing” if they do not have leaders who are willing to adapt and be as flexible as some other clubs. In other words CI must be careful to “Make Haste Slowly (carefully).”
- **Acceptance policies** – As demonstrated in the session, the policy for accepting new members is not universally clear or followed. We need to develop a process/ritual and welcome people into the organization in memorable ways.
- **Retention** – it is difficult enough to recruit new members. We also must develop effective ways to monitor when people become disenchanted and take steps to encourage their ongoing participation. Why did they join? Why are we not able to continue providing what they thought they would get from participation?
- **Sponsor recognition** – generally speaking, recognition is the most important aspect of why businesses support organizations. We need to be among the best in each of our communities at making businesses feel they made the right choice by sponsoring our events.
- **Mentoring/orientation** – having a big brother/big sister program means that new members will have a dependable friend to provide introductions and to help acclimate each new member into what otherwise might appear to be a “Good Old Boys Club” and an indictment against our true mission
- **Involvement/assignment** – developing a process where we can get new members (and senior members) assigned into stimulating

and engaging work and relationships will automatically nurture retention rates and future leadership

- **Welcoming** – reduce any impression of cliques to a minimum by involving every member in the welcoming process (and mentoring)

### 5. Fundraising

- **Align** – CI and CIF recognize the benefit to increased collaboration in all areas. Further, it is just as important for each participant in each organization to both communicate and learn about the important work of the combined groups
- **Document sources** – using the website as a learning tool for members (and other) there is endless information available about the important projects of CI and CIF and it needs to be shared in an efficient and effective manner
- **Promotion** – we need to be more aggressive with using relevant statistics (about CI and about diabetes) to promote our good works and effectiveness
- **Focus** – we also must clarify what we are really trying to accomplish, both locally and internationally. With a clear Mission, Vision, Values, and Goals it will be easy for people to determine whether we are able to help them help their community

## VIII. NEXT STEPS

Participants agreed to the following follow-up action items:

### STEP ONE:

The Facilitator, George Mongon, will summarize the discussion into a transcript of the weekend meetings and present it first to CI President, Jim Preston, President-Elect, Richard Gordon, and CI Executive Director, Tracy Miller.

They, in turn, will preview the document for any needed corrections, etc. and then distribute it to all participants and any other appropriate individuals.

### STEP TWO:

At the upcoming meeting of the CI and CIF Boards, March 6-7, 2015, the document will be discussed for its relevance and use in refining the organization’s strategic planning efforts and direction. Mr. Mongon will be available in person during the discussion.

### STEP THREE:

Should any revision to the current plan be appropriate, the revision would be developed before, and presented at the upcoming convention in Omaha during July 23-25, 2015.

# 2015 International Convention is Right Around the Corner



Richard Gordon  
President-elect

I truly  
hope you  
will attend  
this year's  
convention  
and look  
forward to  
seeing you  
there.

**The Cornbelt Federation is excited to welcome all Cosmos to Omaha, Nebraska for the 89th International Convention, July 23-25, 2015. If you thought last year's international convention in Rapid City was fun and exciting, just wait until the Omaha convention! It will be a "Midwest Party" you will never forget!**

The fun will begin with a pre-convention Casino Night on Wednesday, July 22. Social time will begin at 6 p.m. with munchies and drinks followed by casino action at 7 p.m. Tables of Blackjack, Craps, Roulette, and Wheel of Fortune will be available. A \$20 buy-in at the door will get you \$100,000 of Cosmo money. Prizes will be awarded at 10:30 p.m. for those who have the most money. Not only will Casino Night be a great deal of fun, but it also will be a great time to renew friendships and make new ones.

Registration opens Wednesday, July 22, from noon to 5 p.m. During this time, staff will be on hand for on-site registration and to collect award submissions and other items that need to be turned in.

On Thursday, the Cosmopolitan International and Cosmopolitan Diabetes Foundation boards will meet this morning. Later in the day, everyone is welcome to the opening ceremonies and welcome luncheon, followed by Friendship Night that evening. For Friendship Night, all attendees will have two options on how to spend the evening. The first option is to be matched up with a host family who will entertain you at their home or take you to a fine restaurant to have fun the Cosmo Way. The second option is to attend a Storm Chasers baseball game with me as your host! The Omaha Storm Chasers Baseball team will host Colorado Springs at 7:05 p.m. Both teams are AAA Affiliate teams.

Convention fun continues on Friday, July 24. An educational forum will be held in the morning, followed by the donations luncheon with the Cosmopolitan Diabetes Foundation and Cosmopolitan Foundation of Canada, Inc. Then at 1:15 p.m., we will load the buses for a tour of Strategic Air and Space Museum. Here you will see various exhibits of our past. This is a great place for the whole family. Then we are off to the # 1 zoo in America, the Omaha Zoo. Here you will see new exhibits as well as favorite animals. There are places to eat and rest as you tour the zoo. Once we are finished at the zoo, we will head back to the hotel. The

evening activity will be the Cosmo Talent night. This will be full of fun and laughter and good food and drink. We are asking each club to provide some type of talent at this show. You could do a song, tell a joke, and do a skit, read a poem, and other interesting talent. Time limit is two minutes or less for each entry. Prizes will be awarded at the end of the evening.

We will begin the day Saturday, July 25, with board meetings and a delegate meeting followed by the Purple and Gold Awards Luncheon. This will be an exciting ceremony, and everyone is encouraged to wear purple or gold to this event. Evening activities begin with the President's social at 6:00 p.m., following with the banquet and installation of officers at 7 p.m.. Social time will follow to close out the evening as well as another memorable international convention.

Throughout the convention, a hospitality suite will be open for your enjoyment.

For those you may want to come early or stay a few days after the convention, there are plenty of things to do and see around Omaha. A few items that may interest you and your family are:

- The Old Market (shopping)
- Museums: Children's Museums and the Union Pacific Railroad Museum
- Fun and varied restaurants
- Brysen Air Boat Tours
- Wildlife Safari Park
- Golf
- Tanking/tubing down the Elkhorn River: (tanking is a stock tank cut in half with picnic table to sit in)
- Boys Town

I truly hope you will attend this year's convention and look forward to seeing you there. It will be full of fun and excitement for the whole family.

**Omaha, Nebraska's Local Attractions ▶**

# Cosmopolitan Foundation of Canada, Inc.: An Update on the Alberta Diabetes Foundation

**Final Installment — The last installment of \$25,000 was presented to the Alberta Diabetes Foundation. The executive director, Brad Fournier, was excited as the five year, \$125,000 commitment now has been fulfilled. The check was presented to Brad just outside the Cosmopolitan Club room, named for the Edmonton, St. Albert and Sturgeon Valley clubs.**



Rod Randolph  
CFC Chair

*The executive director was excited as the five year, \$125,000 commitment now has been fulfilled.*

## Clinical Research Unit: Making Available the Latest Treatments and Therapies for Diabetes

Researchers at the Alberta Diabetes Institute, to which the dollars are funneled, are world leaders in developing new treatments and therapies for diabetes. The Clinical Research Unit at the Alberta Diabetes Institute gives people living with diabetes an opportunity to participate in ground-breaking clinical studies and trials with the potential to result in new treatments and therapies, improved healthcare protocols and a better understanding of diabetes. The immediate benefit for people living with diabetes who participate in studies and trials is that they receive an increased level of care and potentially the tools and knowledge to better manage diabetes.

Albertans have benefited greatly from the Clinical Research Unit by having access to novel treatments and therapies including studies examining the effects and outcomes of combining exercise and commonly used pharmaceutical drugs in type 2 diabetes. The significance of a clinical study such as this is that if we can establish new health protocols to better manage diabetes with the tools already available, we can improve the health outcomes and reduce the burden of diabetes on the

healthcare system. For the Alberta Diabetes Institute, the Clinical Research Unit represents the translation of research from lab bench to patient bedside. Cosmopolitan funding for clinical research can give people living with diabetes access to more clinical trials and studies, moving research out of the lab so it can benefit people living with diabetes.

## An Alternative Supply of Insulin Producing Cells

Since the historic announcement of the world famous Edmonton Protocol, researchers at the Alberta Diabetes Institute have been developing treatments and therapies for diabetes that have the potential to once again transform diabetes treatment and care. With the completion of the Cell and Tissue Innovation Research Centre at the Alberta Diabetes Institute, the bricks and mortar are in place to meet the regulatory agency's thorough standards. The world class Cell and Tissue Innovation Research Centre is equipped to process and produce cells that could be used in islet transplantation amongst other therapies. An unlimited supply of insulin producing cells could make islet transplantation available to every insulin dependent diabetic.

▼ Kenefick Park



◀ Tanking  
▼ Old Market



▲ Durham Museum

▲ Wildlife Safari Park  
Boys Town ▶

▲ Joslyn Museum  
▲ Coco Key Water Resort

Photos courtesy of  
Nebraska Tourism

# COSMOPOLITAN DIABETES FOUNDATION

## Helping in the Fight to find a Cure



Melvina  
Newman  
CDF Chair

### CDF Official Mailing Address

Cosmopolitan Diabetes Foundation  
or CDF

420 Financial Court, Ste 124  
Rockford, Illinois 61107

The CDF  
supports the  
goals of CI  
by partially  
funding  
Cosmopolitan  
sponsored  
programs.

With just a few months remaining in our Cosmopolitan year, we think of the old adage “time flies when you are having fun” and it seems like it was just yesterday that we were all at convention and donations were made by Cosmopolitan members to the Foundation. So, with the year ending, what are some of the Foundation’s activities remaining for the year? Or, if you are a new member you might first ask why a Foundation and what is the purpose of the Foundation?

First, why a Foundation and the obvious answer is tax relief and the purpose according to the “Articles of Incorporation” is: “The Corporation is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, and scientific purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).” The Foundation was incorporated in Maryland on December 6, 1976 and on March 30, 1977, it was recognized by the internal Revenue Service as a charitable organization and donor’s charitable contributions would be eligible for income tax deductions under IRS Code.

So, the CDF is the charitable arm of Cosmopolitan International and the conduit through which contributions may flow from our members and the public to the charitable activities supported by Cosmopolitan International.

The mission of the Cosmopolitan Diabetes Foundation is to support the goals of Cosmopolitan International to find a cure for diabetes by providing a means to support charitable organizations that address education, treatment and cure of diabetes.

The CDF supports the goals of CI by partially funding Cosmopolitan sponsored programs (Health Care Access, Crusader, CDC, Columbia and Strelitz) through grants to them and also provides financial support to Cosmopolitan International.

We are blessed by the foresight of our leaders who in 1979 recognized the benefit of an endowment fund and they adopted the Beacons Fund at the International convention that year. Its purpose is to insure the continuation of Cosmopolitan’s good works. The principal

of the Beacons Fund is to be safely invested and not to be invaded. The investment income from those funds is used for: (1) CDF operational expenses; (2) Support of Cosmopolitan International; and (3) Grants for Diabetic related causes. The Foundation Board has authority to make grants from equity after setting aside a reasonable operating reserve.

Because of the foresight of those Cosmos, the Beacons Fund is now over \$1,200,000 in value which in turn generates dollars annually for grants along with the Discovery fund where dollars flow through to worthy diabetic causes.

So, the beginning of this article briefly explains the purpose and now with the year ending what are some of the Foundation’s activities remaining for the year? Many diabetic related organizations know about Cosmopolitan’s grant giving and we will begin to receive grant requests in the very near future. To be considered for a grant, all applications must be received by July 1. Any organization which can show evidence that its funds remain dedicated to charitable, educational and scientific purposes is eligible. All grants must be for diabetes-related purposes. If an organization in your area would like to apply, the grant application form is on the Cosmopolitan website. The CDF board will then review all grant applications and makes all decisions with respect to funds available, which will be done at convention time.

Also, as the year ends Cosmopolitans historically bring their funds raised throughout the year to convention for CDF to distribute according to the wishes. So, if you as an individual or the clubs or federations have funds to give, simply make the check out to the “Cosmopolitan Diabetes Foundation” and note the cause or fund you wish to support. CDF will then handle it for you and acknowledge your gift to CDF so you can take advantage of the tax deduction.

If you have any questions about your Foundation, please feel free to contact your Federation’s representative or feel free to contact me any time and any member of the CDF Board will be happy to answer any of your questions. As your Federation Conventions are being planned, have time on the agenda for an educational time promoting the efforts of the Foundation and explain how the funds are used and the benevolent purposes.

Again, we thank all Cosmopolitans for your continued support.

Editor’s Note: The CDF article published in the Winter 2015 COSMOTopics originally appeared in 2006. Thanks to Cosmo Tom Williams for the original article.



# What are the Advantages of Being a Cosmopolitan?



John Hubert  
VP of Marketing

**International President Jim Preston asked me this question and told me to give it some thought. He then asked me to write an article expressing my ideas and findings.**

After considerable thought, I remembered why I originally joined the Cosmopolitans. I joined the club for what I now call a very selfish reason. I joined for the networking. I was new in town, and being an insurance agent, I thought that it would be a good way to get to know people and network, hopefully resulting in more insurance sales. After what I call a probationary period, the decision to join the Cosmopolitans did work to my advantage, eventually helping me grow my business.

After joining, I found that the club is a great place to learn and polish your public speaking skills. As Cosmopolitans, we always have a chance to talk in public, at meetings, or in other club gatherings. During my years with the club, I have been fortunate enough to listen to and learn from some very skilled, talented, and convincing speakers.

Another advantage to being a Cosmopolitan is the opportunity to learn and practice people management skills. You are given the opportunity to learn the skills necessary to guide a group of fellow Cosmopolitans to a common goal. You will have an opportunity to plan, lead, organize, and direct others to raise funds and increase membership, along with working on other club projects.

Knowing the proper way to run a meeting also is an advantage that is learned from being a Cosmopolitan. The parliamentary procedures

are taught and practiced at most official meetings. After practicing the parliamentary style of running a meeting, you will wonder how anything can be accomplished without it.

Being a Cosmopolitan gives us an advantage of meeting a diverse group of people, and being an international organization, we are fortunate to be able to work with fellow Cosmopolitans across the United States and Canada. Together, we are able to fund the larger projects such as our passion to find a cure for the deadly disease of diabetes through our clinics in various cities in the United States and Canada. Working together, we have funded various clinics such as the Columbia Diabetes Center, Crusader Community Health, the Strelitz Diabetes Center, the Cosmo Fund for Children, Health Care Access Clinic, and the Cornbelt Diabetes Connection. Since we are an international organization, we learn many new ideas and ways to do things not available to an individual club.

When a person becomes involved with the Cosmopolitans, it becomes a way of life. The friends that are made soon become lifelong friends and are not just fellow club members. The hours and time spent working for the benefit of others becomes a passion, and you come to know the real advantage of being a Cosmopolitan, which is the privilege to work with your fellow Cosmopolitans to accomplish and exceed your goals.



*Together,  
we are  
able to fund  
the larger  
projects  
such as  
our passion  
to find a  
cure for  
the deadly  
disease of  
diabetes.*

# 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.

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

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

### **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

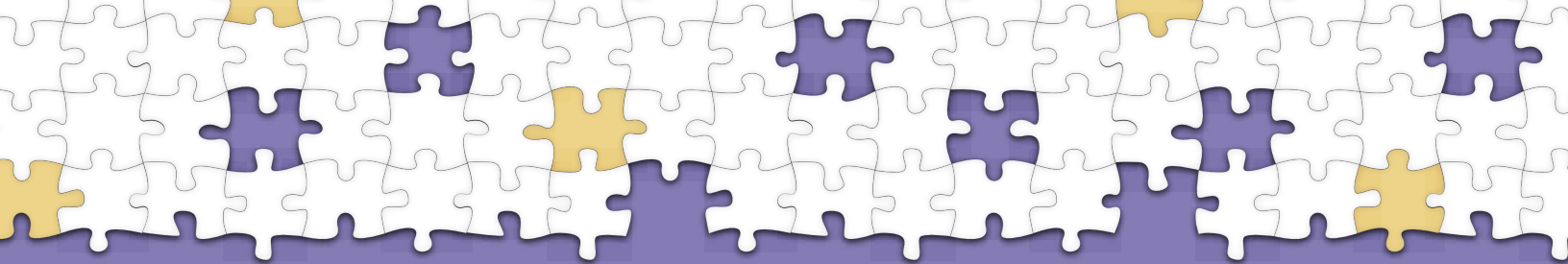
### **HEALTH CARE ACCESS - COSMOPOLITAN DIABETES PROGRAM**

330 Maine St., Lawrence, KS 66044  
B 785.841.5760  
Shelley Wakeman, Executive Director  
director@healthcareaccess.org

### **DIABETES INCORPORATED**

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





## 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 3&2 CANADA

Peter Gerrard, 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

### **PROVENA MERCY**

#### **MEDICAL CENTER**

Center For Diabetes Wellness

1325 N. Highland Avenue, Aurora, IL 60506

Maria Aurora Diaz, Clinical Director

B 630.801.5756

### **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



# Out & About

## Jefferson City Club Donates \$47,500 to Special Learning Center

By Jane Holtzman

The Jefferson City Cosmopolitan Club celebrated the 20th Anniversary of the annual Tom Henke Charity Golf Classic event in October 2014. Activities for this event included an evening banquet on Sunday night with dinner, entertainment, a silent auction, and a live auction, as well as the golf tournament on Monday. This year, we served approximately 450 at the banquet and had 30 golf teams.

Jefferson City Cosmo member Tom Henke is a former St. Louis Cardinals relief pitcher and member of the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame and Missouri Sports Hall of Fame. Henke brings in sports celebrities, and each golf team gets one celebrity to golf with their team. Planning for this annual event begins every year immediately following the tournament, and we are already planning for the 2015 fundraiser. With this being the signature fundraising event for our club, we have donated more than \$866,000 to the Special Learning Center in Jefferson City, which provides classroom instruction and therapy services to children with special developmental needs. Our club also retains a portion of the proceeds each year, and we have raised more than \$286,000 for diabetes education, assistance and research over the past 20 years. Our club has been able to significantly increase our donations to diabetes-related causes over the years.

On December 17, 2014, the Jefferson City club presented a check to the Special Learning Center in the amount of \$47,500 from this

year's tournament. Our club was able to retain \$15,000 from the event. It is a heartwarming experience to see the smiles on the faces of these special children, and our club has helped enable the Special Learning Center to nearly double their building size and increase their capacity over the years. Although this event requires a lot of extra time and hard work from our members, we are proud to be able to assist the Special Learning Center, and the rewards are much greater than all the hard work involved!



Pictured L to R: Santa, Duane Muck, Tom Henke, Lee Brown, Brian Mutert, Debbie Hamler and Mark Mueller

## Cosmopolitan Evening Club of Sioux Falls

By Ludene McLeod

We are still the small and mighty "club that can" with our continuing efforts to help wherever we can to eliminate diabetes.

Our meeting times are first and third Monday of every month. We meet at 6 p.m. at the Fryin Pan on 41st Street, which offers our group a meeting room and great service when we meet.

Sadly, we are down in our membership, but that has never stopped us before and it won't stop us now.

We continue our "ABC" program with the local and federation hospitals. In this program, we give a Cosmo teddy bear, a couple of colorful diabetes medical alert bracelets all packaged in a bag with our Sioux Falls Evening Club brochure inside.

The Evening Club always helps out the Sioux Falls Noon Club with its fundraisers and events. We provide service at the Sportsman show, JDRF functions, DSA annual banquet, The Sweetest Day of Golf, the annual fundraiser for the Camp Gilbert event in northern South Dakota, and the Sioux Empire

fairgrounds, with its now extended days and events. And they even pay us to help out!

We manage to donate our funds to multiple groups: JDRF walks, The Boys and Girls Club of South Dakota, Diabetes Coalition, and any organization that requests donations. We try to do our share to provide assistance for the cure.

Although we are small, our ranks include Past international Presidents Derry Anderson and Sheila Anderson; past North Central Federation Governors Deb Peterson and Jerry Priebe; with Ludene McLeod coming on board as Governor for the 2015-2016 year. Ludene was the past International Rookie of the Year.

Our attendance is solid, and we discuss at our meetings the events and socials we can best assist with. We won the "All In!" award at the 2014 International Convention in Rapid City.

The Evening Club of Sioux Falls is and will remain a compact club with all of our members committed and caring deeply about helping others.

# What's Happening in Rapid City

By Chuck Reuwsaat

Every June, our Rapid City Cosmopolitan Club has a special luncheon to present checks to deserving organizations. The checks are the result from all of our hard work raising funds for the cure of diabetes. The organizations will usually tell our club how the money will be spent within their organization. We know that it will be put to good use, but usually we do not have the opportunity to see the end result. We trust that the end result will be successful and rewarding as indicated by the receiving organization.

We have made a commitment of giving \$10,000 per year for the past three years to Diabetes, Inc.'s diabetes camp. The camp is located at Outlaw Ranch just outside of Custer, South Dakota. I had the chance this past August to attend the camp on a Saturday morning and help present the check to the camp. It was my first visit to the camp, and I was able to see the fun that children and their parents and brothers/

sisters were having at camp. I also saw how we were helping these families cope with diabetes. There were about 150 people at the camp all having fun which showed me firsthand how our efforts were having an impact on the fight on diabetes. Unlike presenting checks at our yearly luncheon, I felt that I saw for the first time the fruits of our labor! I was proud of our club, all of us standing in our bright yellow jackets, presenting the check!

I will be equally as proud next August to again help present the check to the camp. We will have our newest member, canine Caroline, wagging her tail, helping to present the check. We are excited to have our first diabetes dog joining our club! She will be helping an individual in the Northern Hills cope with his type-one diabetes. And who knows – this young man may become the first member of a Northern Hills club!



## Elizabeth City Cosmo Club is Helping Others Since 1956 *By Eugene Overton*

The Elizabeth City Cosmopolitan Club was chartered on February 17, 1956, more than 59 years ago. During the early 1960's, a Free Will Baptist Church ceased to operate due to their inability to cover their expenses, and our club had the opportunity to purchase the church building. In order to raise the funds to purchase the building, I, then-president, sold five percent demand bonds to pay off the church debt and expanded the size of the building three times. Since the purchase of the church building, two more buildings have been constructed to house our loan fleet of medical equipment.

Our club operates a free medical loan fleet as our community project. We initially purchased some of our existing equipment and individuals and businesses donated additional equipment to the project. To raise additional funds for the project, we also sold Cosmo treat candy, which funded our purchase of wheel chairs. Our loan items are in churches and schools throughout the Albemarle

area. From March 2014 through March 2015, we have loaned 358 wheel chairs, 119 walkers, 175 bedside commodes, 48 commode extensions, 264 shower chairs and benches, 142 quad and regular canes, 18 tub supports, 141 pairs of crutches, plus several oxygen lift chairs. The community, businesses, rest homes, and area hospitals have donated more than 364 items to our loan fleet. Our services are valued at more than \$300,000 per year.

Another major club project was the construction of an outside covered cooking facility named for the first charter member of the club, George Payne. Our club property hosts 55 memorials of area deceased individuals that have helped our club as long as needed or as long as they were able.

Our goal for 2015 is to increase helping others through growth of the loan fleet and, of course, growing membership in our club.

## Just Say Yes!!!

By Julie Brezenski

When Ed Ficene asked me to meet Sheila Anderson, I knew a question would be asked. I was ready to say yes -- but what came next was completely unexpected! A pleasant surprise to both of us, Sheila and I immediately hit it off! I knew the new adventure of building a club in Lincoln was going to be an exhilarating ride.

A few short weeks later we held our very first meeting at a local restaurant in Lincoln. There were several members of Fremont and Omaha clubs who came that night to help us to introduce Cosmopolitan International to potential club members. Six of our first charter members were identified at that meeting.

We spent the next fourteen weeks meeting and trying to get enough members to be at charter strength. It took a little longer than we had anticipated, but we managed to establish the charter on June 13, 2014. Several dignitaries were able to join us at our charter gala, and I was able to have my first Cosmo party!!! It was an intimate event with only 30 of us there, but I don't think anyone was disappointed. I know for certain that I was not!

Our first fundraising event was held just one month later, which was a sand volleyball tournament. We sold sponsorships, had t-shirts made, promoted the event on a local radio program. My team was successful in raising over \$1,000 with just a crew of 6-8 people "officially" working the event.

Then, in September, Brian House donated a pair of tickets to the Husker/Miami football game. As you'd expect, we sold quite a

few chances and, at the same time, raised awareness for our club. In fact, Brian and I were quite surprised to turn the corner in Lincoln's Haymarket area and nearly "run into" former Huskers football coach Tom Osborne, the Legend himself, as we finished our successful ticket selling outing! Sadly for us he did not buy a ticket, as he mentioned he already had his ticket!

What I am most proud of to date, however, is Lincoln's first membership event. The club decided we'd host the event in a private meeting room at a local restaurant, and the date available happened to be "Fat Tuesday." So we rolled with it and decided to have a Mardi Gras themed party. Members were given the additional incentive of being entered into a drawing for a local restaurant's gift certificate. Each guest was given a token, and the winning guest received a \$25 gift certificate. The member who brought the guest also won a gift certificate.

There were 14 guests and 9 Cosmos in attendance, including Ed Ficene, Dave House and Ray Meister. Three membership applications were turned in that night, two prospects expressed their interest, and another two guests expressed that they'd be turning in their applications soon. All in all, I'd consider the outcome a resounding success!!

To follow that up, our next meeting has already taken place, and two of the three new members were in attendance, as well as four new prospective members.



# What's What

## A T C O N V E N T I O N

Whether the upcoming convention in Omaha is your first or your fiftieth, here are some pointers for knowing exactly what's what during these fabulous three Cosmo days!

### What do I do when I first arrive?

A pre-convention casino night is planned for Wednesday, July 22, and is open to anyone who pre-registered. The convention officially kicks off Thursday morning, July 23. Registration is open from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., and you will want to make registration your first stop so that you can get your name badge, pick up other important information, and say hello to Cosmo friends old and new.

### What can newcomers go to?

Everything! Newcomers as well as seasoned members who purchased the package registration should feel free to attend all events with the one exception of the Past International President (PIP) reception. Those who have never attended convention previously will not want to miss the First-Timers event, which also is a good refresher for long-time members as well. Those who registered for ala carte events are welcome at the first-timers event, the board meetings and the delegate meeting.

### What is a delegate? How do I know if I am one?

Each club selects one delegate per ten members of the club. Your club will select its delegate(s) in advance of convention. If you volunteer or are asked to serve as a delegate, your club officers will discuss this with you in advance of convention.

### I'm new and don't really know a lot of people. How can I meet people?

First-timers will wear a ribbon on their name badges indicating that this is their first international convention. Seasoned members are very good about introducing themselves to the first-timers, making them feel comfortable, and introducing them to other people. If

you are a first-timer and aren't meeting people, just let someone at the registration table know and soon you will find yourself with lots of Cosmo friends.

### What should I wear to all the different events?

International Convention, overall, is a casual event. The only event that is formal is the president's banquet. There, you will find black ties and suits for gentlemen and evening attire for ladies. For the social events such as Friendship Night and the zoo/museum trip, casual summer attire is appropriate. Board meetings and other meetings at the hotel usually find both gentlemen and ladies in business casual attire.

### What if I want to say something at the board meeting? I'm not a board member.

All Cosmos are welcome to contribute at board meetings. Board members typically sit surrounding the board table, and additional seating is provided for non-board members. Board meetings are a great opportunity to learn exactly what's going on at International.

**If you have specific questions about International Convention, please feel free to contact ED Tracy at (717) 295-7142 or email [headquarters@cosmopolitan.org](mailto:headquarters@cosmopolitan.org). No question is too big or too small. We want to make sure you have all the information you need to have a great convention experience!**

**See you in Omaha!**

## SAVE THE DATE

Cosmopolitan International Convention  
Wednesday, July 22, 2015  
Omaha, NE



Ray Meister,  
Please stay off ladders.  
We like you too much.  
--Jim and Dee



Columbia Area Clubs,  
thanks for the  
**HOSPITALITY.**



--Jim and Dee

The **Wascana Club** executive  
**WOULD LIKE TO THANK**  
the current and past members who have  
helped to make our club a **SUCCESS**  
for the past 20 years.

We will celebrate our 20th anniversary on  
April 20 in Regina, Saskatchewan. *THANK  
you!*

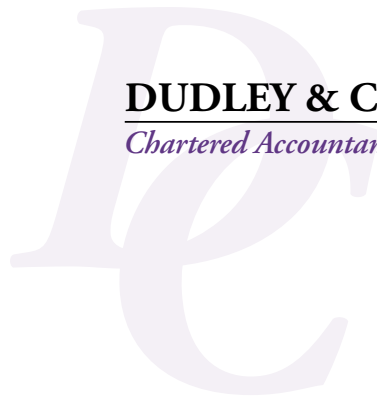
**Congratulations to the Regina Wascana Club for  
20 productive years in Cosmopolitan International.**

This club works hard and has a lot of fun while doing it!  
Good luck in all your future endeavors.

**Also, congratulations to the Saskatoon Couples Club  
on their upcoming 21st Anniversary.**

--Regina Cosmopolitan Club

**DUDLEY & COMPANY**  
*Chartered Accountants LLP*



**Dudley & Company LLP**  
*Chartered Professional Accountants*  
Located in Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada

Proud Supporter and Home of:

- **Keith Shepherd**, *Western Canada Federation Governor*
- **John Krysak**, *International Vice President for Finance and Treasurer of Cosmopolitan Foundation of Canada, Inc.*

We would like to thank all  
the Wascana Cosmopolitan  
Club members over the past  
20 years for their *friendship*  
and *assistance* to help make  
a difference in our community.

**Congratulations on  
our 20th Anniversary.**

--John and Kathy Krysak



# The CosmoTopics News

# GET YOUR MESSAGE OUT!

Cosmopolitan members soon will have the opportunity to place either a business ad or personal message in the pages of Topics.

Would you like to increase sales for your business? Advertise in Topics! Want to wish a fellow Cosmo a happy birthday? Advertise in Topics!

**Costs are as follows:**

1/8 page (2"H x 3.5"W) . . . . .	\$25
1/4 page (4.75"H x 3.5"W) . . . . .	\$50
1/2 page (5"H x 7.5"W) . . . . .	\$75
Full page (10"H x 7.5"W) . . . . .	\$100

All ads should be submitted to [headquarters@cosmopolitan.org](mailto:headquarters@cosmopolitan.org). If placing a business ad, please send your artwork via JPEG (minimum resolution of 300 dpi) or high resolution PDF. Vector artwork (.eps, .ai, .pdf), with fonts outlined and 300 dpi embedded images, is preferred. If placing a personal message, simply send the wording of the message and we will do the design work.

Please make checks payable to Cosmopolitan International and mail to Cosmopolitan International, PO Box 7351, Lancaster, PA 17604. All messages should be in good taste and must be approved by COSMOTopics editor.

Due dates for 2014-2015 are March 15 for Spring edition and May 15 for Summer edition.

Please contact Executive Director Tracy with any questions at (717) 295-7142 or (800) 648-4331 or email [headquarters@cosmopolitan.org](mailto:headquarters@cosmopolitan.org).

▲ Quarter page ad size

**YOUR AD  
HERE**

▲ Eighth page ad size

**YOUR AD  
HERE**

▲ Half page ad size

# COSMOPOLITAN INTERNATIONAL 2015 International Convention Schedule

**July 23-25, 2015 • Omaha, Nebraska**

## Wednesday, July 22, 2015

12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Registration	Omaha Foyer
6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Cocktails and Social Hour (cash bar)	Alaska
7:00 p.m.	Casino Night (\$20 buy-in payable at the door)	Alaska

## Thursday, July 23, 2015

7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Registration	Omaha Foyer
8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	CI Board Meeting	Omaha C
10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	CDF Board Meeting	Omaha C
12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Opening Ceremonies and Luncheon	Omaha F
2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Diabetic Alert Dog Special Event	Omaha D/E
4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	First Timer Orientation	Omaha C
4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	PIP Reception	Blue Stem
6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.	Hospitality Suite	Alaska
6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.	Friendship Night (Baseball or Dinner)	

## Friday, July 24, 2015

7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Registration	Omaha Foyer
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Cosmopolitan Educational Forum	Omaha D/E
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Awards Judging	Omaha C
11:30 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	CDF and CFC Luncheon	Omaha F
1:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Visit Henry Doorly Zoo and Strategic Air Museum	
6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.	Hospitality Suite	Alaska
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	Cosmo Talent Night (Dinner Included)	Omaha F

## Saturday, July 25, 2015

7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Registration	Omaha Foyer
9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Delegates Meeting	Omaha D/E
12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Purple and Gold Awards Luncheon	Omaha F
2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	CI Board Meeting	Omaha C
4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	CDF Board Meeting	Omaha C
6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	President's Social (Cash Bar)	Omaha F
7:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.	President's Banquet	Omaha F

*Schedule subject to change.*

# 2015 Cosmopolitan International Convention Registration

Registrations are accepted: ONLINE at [www.cosmopolitan.org](http://www.cosmopolitan.org), by MAIL to Cosmopolitan International, PO Box 7351, Lancaster, PA 17604, or by FAX to (717) 295-7143.

**PLEASE FILL OUT ONE REGISTRATION FORM PER ATTENDEE.**

## Attendee Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Club 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Club 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Kindly indicate any dietary restrictions:  Vegetarian  Vegan  Gluten Free

## Pre-Convention Special Event

Casino Night (Wednesday), \$25 payable now plus \$20 cash buy in at the door.

## Package

Complete Package (includes all events except Casino Night); \$250 by July 1; \$275 by July 17.

### For Friendship Night, choose one:

- Cosmo Friendship Dinner
- Storm Chasers Baseball Game

## Ala Carte (if not selecting Package):

- Opening Ceremony Luncheon (Thursday), \$25.00
- Friendship Night (Thursday)
  - Choose one:  Cosmo Friendship Dinner (no charge)
  - Storm Chasers Baseball Game (\$10)
- CDF and CFC Donations Luncheon (Friday), \$25
- Zoo, Aquarium, and Museum (Friday), \$75
- Talent Night (Friday), \$25
- Purple & Gold Awards Luncheon (Saturday), \$25
- President's Banquet (Saturday), \$50.00

Name on Badge \_\_\_\_\_ Are you a Cosmopolitan member? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a delegate? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you require any special accommodations? \_\_\_\_\_

## Please select the following (check all boxes that apply):

- |   |                                      |  |  |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Past Int'l President | <input type="checkbox"/> First Timer | <input type="checkbox"/> Beacon              | <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Beacon |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Past Int'l Spouse    | <input type="checkbox"/> CI Board    | <input type="checkbox"/> Emerald Beacon (US) | (Canada)                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Governor-Elect       | (includes governors)                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruby Beacon (US)    | <input type="checkbox"/> Delegate        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Club President       | <input type="checkbox"/> CDF Board   | <input type="checkbox"/> Diamond Beacon (US) | <input type="checkbox"/> CFC Board       |

## Hotel Information

The host hotel is the Ramada Plaza Convention Center Omaha, 3321 South 72nd Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68124. Cosmopolitan has blocked 25 rooms for July 21 and 93 rooms each night for July 22, 23, 24, and 25. Room rates are \$99 per night. To make reservations, call 888-288-4982 and indicate that you are with Cosmopolitan International. To guarantee this rate, **rooms must be reserved no later than July 7, 2015.** Any rooms blocked that are not reserved by this date will be released on July 8. Rooms can be reserved at the reduced rate after this date, but there is no guarantee of availability.

## Airport Transportation

Complimentary shuttle service to and from the airport is based on availability. After making your hotel reservation, ask the Central Reservations agent to transfer you to the Ramada Omaha to request a shuttle.

## Payment Information

- VISA, MasterCard, American Express and Discover are accepted. (Circle one.)
  - Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_
  - Security Code (on back of card): \_\_\_\_\_
  - Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Billing Address: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Billing City/State/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Total Amount Billed: \_\_\_\_\_
- Check enclosed.
  - Mail to: Cosmopolitan International
  - PO Box 7351, Lancaster, PA 17604
- Fax. Fax to (717) 295-7143

**Fees quoted are payable in U.S. Funds only. Convention fees payable by credit card, money order, or check (Canadian Cosmo please indicate "U.S. Funds" on your personal check).**

**No registration will be accepted without full payment. Payment must be received no later than July 17, 2015.**

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** Cancellations received between July 1 and July 17 will be assessed a ten (10) percent cancellation fee. No refunds will be made after July 17.

**HOTEL REGISTRATION POLICY:** Per board policy, due to the contractual agreement Cosmopolitan International has entered into with the convention hotel that guarantees certain minimum numbers, any registered attendee that does not stay at the convention hotel will be subject to a surcharge based on the additional fees charged to the convention when room guarantees are not met.

# SPRING 2015

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# COSMOTOPICS

## *In Memoriam*

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

- **Marv Tracy** – *Columbia Breakfast Club*
- **Gene Kaup** – *Wichita Downtown Club*



**COSMO**Topics  
PO Box 7351  
Lancaster, PA 17604

