



COSMOPOLITAN INTERNATIONAL

THE CLUB THAT FIGHTS DIABETES

Saturday, November 05, 2016

Member Center » Newsletters » Cosmopolitan Newsletter - December 20, 2013

HOLIDAY greetings!

Winter holidays now are in full-swing. The true meaning of the holidays, time with our families and friends, and perhaps even some relaxation time are all reasons to celebrate. Here at Cosmopolitan International, there is much to celebrate as well. **Check out what's going on!**

Q. SHOULD WE DO AN INTERNATIONAL PROJECT?

A. Many among us attribute our drop in membership over the years to the discontinuation of International Projects. But rest assured, the International Project is back! Currently, numerous board members are looking into the feasibility of three particular Projects: A1C testing for elementary school children; the purchase of specially-trained service dogs who detect blood sugar drops in diabetic children; and sponsoring special trips (e.g., Disney) for families of diabetics. Findings will be reviewed at the March board meeting, and delegates will vote at the 2014 convention on which Project(s) we will undertake.

Speak up! If you have ideas of your own for an International Project, please contact Executive Director Tracy Miller as soon as possible. All potential ideas will be presented to delegates for vote. Remember, this is YOUR organization, and YOU decide what projects we will support. Imagine ... helping diabetic children across the United States and Canada get control of their blood sugar ... providing specially-trained dogs that can save lives ... and making dreams come true for deserving families of diabetics. These are enormous undertakings that will be possible only if we are united. It is truly amazing what we can accomplish *together!*

CALENDAR

12/25/13

Christmas Day

Cosmopolitan office closed.

1/1/14

New Year's Day

Cosmopolitan office closed

7/24/14 – 7/26/14

International Convention

As you know, plans are underway for the 2014 international convention to be held in Rapid City, South Dakota. Mark your calendar now for July 24 through 26. This will be a wonderful time of making new friendships and renewing old; touring beautiful and historic countryside; and learning the latest information on the cause that unifies us – diabetes.

Q. WHAT IS THE STATUS OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN?

A. The CI strategic plan continues to take center-stage and guide our daily operations. In September, the executive committee used the Strategic Plan to develop a comprehensive list of major projects and tasks to be accomplished this year. This "action plan" soon will be available on the website (www.cosmopolitan.org, will be listed under "resources"). Here you will find a list of tasks/projects, the person assigned to head up each project, and the priority number given to each project.

CI leadership has promised good communication and full transparency. This document is provided so that you can always know what your leadership is working on on your behalf. Anytime you have questions or concerns with what we are doing, please reach out to International President Sheila Anderson or Executive Director Tracy Miller. There are no secrets. If you have a question or ideas, we want to hear from you.

Q. HOW ARE DOING ON MEMBERSHIP?

A. Did you know that we currently have 71 new members since July? This shows that civic service is alive and well, that people WANT to serve their communities, and that we Cosmos are extending the Cosmopolitan opportunity to serve.

We all recognize that finding members is not as easy as it once was, which is why your leadership team is discussing new membership levels (for example, the millennial generation may not be interested in traditional club meetings; young professionals may be looking for opportunities to network in addition to serving). It is important that all potential Cosmos have an organization to which they can relate and where they feel valued. If we take seriously what upcoming generations are looking for in a service organization, we secure our own future and reduce the fear that is on many minds – that of becoming obsolete.

Your comments and suggestions in the area of membership are always welcome. Feel free to contact International President Sheila Anderson, Vice President for Membership Richard Gordon, or Executive Director Tracy Miller anytime you have an idea or concept we can explore. In the meantime, please know that we take seriously our need to explore new territory and look forward to rolling out new plans to attract new members very soon.

Q. WHAT'S UP WITH THE HEADQUARTERS BUILDING?

A. As you know, the delegates voted at the 2013 international convention to pursue a lease of the headquarters building. Currently, we have several prospective tenants. Executive Director Tracy Miller signed an agreement with Reece Commercial to serve as our agent in working with potential tenants and is awaiting a counter-signature.

One particular possible tenant has offered us a very attractive monthly rental fee, which would enhance our financial health considerably. We need to keep in mind that this building is 120 years old, and the possibility of major repair work (roof, plumbing) could be in the future. For that reason, we are very eager to get the building occupied as quickly as possible.

Another important thing to remember is that it is very economical having the Executive Director work from her home. Cosmopolitan incurs no utility bills, rent, or other "office" costs under this arrangement, which is a significant cost saving.

Q. AND WHAT ABOUT THE BRICKS?

A. The bricks in memory of or in honor of a loved one still are in place at the Overland Park headquarters building. Until a tenant for the building is identified, there are no plans to remove the bricks. When the building becomes occupied, we have several options for what happens to the bricks. One of those options which currently is being explored is transferring the bricks to our partner at the Columbia Diabetes Center. Another option may be to return the bricks to their respective federations or to the individual purchaser. If you have an opinion on the bricks, please email Executive Director Tracy Miller. In any event, under no circumstances will the bricks be destroyed or discarded. We respect that these bricks are meaningful to those who purchased them.

Q. WHAT NUMBER DO I CALL FOR HEADQUARTERS?

A. Please note that telephone service has been transitioned from Time Warner Cable to Comcast Business, making the (913) telephone and fax numbers to headquarters inoperable. The direct number to headquarters is (717) 295-7142 and the fax is (717) 295-7143. The (800) number remains the same – (800) 648-4331. This simply means that if you dial the (913) number, you no longer will be forwarded to headquarters. The discontinuation of the Time Warner contract was economically prudent and should result in a significant monthly cost savings.

As we pause to celebrate the holiday season, please be assured that your leadership team is very aware and forward-focused as we together define the future of our beloved organization. With the courage to embrace change, the vision to raise the bar where we can improve, the wisdom to openly acknowledge our challenges, and the ingenuity of many bright Cosmo minds pulling together, we are best positioned for a very bright 2014.

Blessings to all.



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