



# COSMOPOLITAN INTERNATIONAL

THE CLUB THAT FIGHTS DIABETES

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## COSMOPOLITAN INTERNATIONAL

THE CLUB THAT FIGHTS DIABETES

# Newsletter

February 2015

Valentine's Day was this month, and it's time to remember what you love about Cosmopolitan. Is it the friendship? The fun? Or the chance to do something meaningful in service to others? If you're like most Cosmo, it probably is a combination of all three. Here are some positive things happening at International, which you're sure to love! Check it out!

### Strategic Planning Session with George Mongon



As Cosmo know, a special meeting was held in January with non-profit expert George Mongon of G.J. Mongon & Company. George's area of expertise is maximizing organizational performance, and initial evaluations of the session indicate that participants felt this was a very positive session. During the two-day session, discussion centered on our mission, our vision, and our values. Priorities for Cosmopolitan were thought to be: Membership, Marketing, Communication, Leadership Training, and Fundraising.

SO WHAT HAPPENS NEXT? This session served as a good starting point for taking Cosmopolitan into the future, but a great deal of work lies ahead if we are serious about securing our future. George currently is working on a proposal for a professional relationship with Cosmopolitan and will attend the March Board meeting in Omaha to present his proposal and answer any questions. From there, the Board will decide whether or not to enter into a relationship and continue on the path we have begun with George. We don't know, at this point, what a proposal might look like. But what we do know is that we have a responsibility to secure the Cosmopolitan vision which began nearly 100 years ago. Stay tuned to future Newsletters for more information as it is available.

### CALENDAR

#### 2015

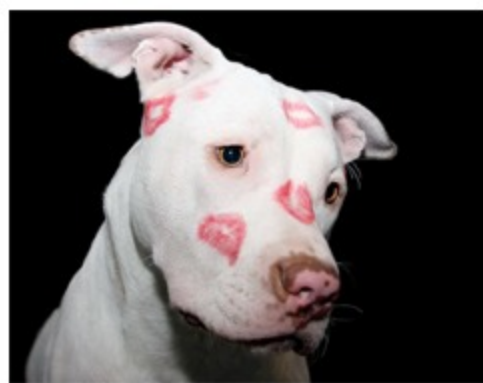
3/6-8  
Winter CI Board Meeting  
Sheraton Hotel  
Omaha, NE

3/15  
COSMOTopics  
Articles Due

6/1  
"Smooch the Pooch"  
Campaign Kick Off

7/23-25  
International Convention  
Ramada Plaza  
Omaha, NE

### International Project



The Diabetic Alert Dog committee continues to work on the details of this international project. The "Smooch the Pooch" campaign is scheduled to kick off June 1, 2015, and will run through October 31, 2015. Cosmopolitan clubs - as well as the general public - will be encouraged to kiss their favorite dog and make a contribution to the Cosmopolitan Diabetes Foundation (CDF). Funds received for this purpose then will be used to offset the costs for individuals or families who wish to purchase a diabetic alert dog. Club participation in the project is entirely voluntary, and clubs are not required to provide any specific contribution amount.

If your club wishes to participate, now is the time to start thinking about how you might support the project. Consider holding an event where club members (and prospective members you invite) kiss a dog and make a donation. This could be a great deal of fun while giving you a great reason to invite guests to your event! Or, think about contacting your local animal shelter to ask if a carload of members may come kiss a dog and make a donation for this great purpose. And another idea - ask your employer if you may bring your dog to work and ask your co-workers to kiss the dog and make a donation. The possibilities are limitless! All clubs are encouraged to come up with their own great ideas. Clubs supporting the project may be featured in an upcoming edition of COSMOTopics.

More information on the project, as well as more ideas on how you and your club may participate, will be forthcoming in future newsletters, but please contact project chairman Richard Gordon at [scissork@aol.com](mailto:scissork@aol.com) with any questions.

### Mentoring Opportunities

Beginning this month, Cosmopolitan will offer a mentoring program for new leaders. If you are a new leader in your club, just thinking about stepping up to leadership, or if you've been a leader but would like to tap into the wisdom of other leaders, this is the opportunity for you. Those interested in becoming connected to a mentor, as well as those leaders interested in serving as mentors, should contact Executive Director Tracy at [headquarters@cosmopolitan.org](mailto:headquarters@cosmopolitan.org) for more information.

### Glad You Asked

**Q:** Several years ago, Cosmopolitan paid a lot of money for a Strategic Plan. What happened to that plan?

**A:** The strategic plan that was drawn up in 2011 is in use today! When Executive Director Tracy was hired, she was asked to take that document and make it into a practical, useful plan that we could use on a daily basis. The result is the Action Plan, which is a simple spreadsheet that lists all projects, initiatives, and ideas that we said were important in the Strategic Plan. Most of the ideas that were mentioned in the Strategic Plan were accomplished in 2013-2014, and what you see on the current Action Plan, available on the website under Member Center > CI Resources > Miscellaneous, carries over some of those initiatives as well as the International President's goals for the current year.

**Q:** We used to be able to get Cosmo merchandise from International. Can we still do that?

**A:** Headquarters found that it was not financially practical to stock an ongoing inventory of clothing and other merchandise for clubs to purchase. However, Executive Director Tracy currently is working on developing an on-line "store" where clubs would have the opportunity to purchase merchandise from a preferred vendor at discounted rates. This project is in the early stages of planning, and more information will be available in the coming months. In the meantime, headquarters does still have some clothing available for purchase at deep discounts. Please contact Tracy for more information.

**Q:** I would like to step up to a leadership position in Cosmopolitan, but I am worried that I won't have the training to do a good job. What training is available to me?

**A:** Leadership training was discussed during the January session with George Mongon, and the CI board is committed to looking at our training process and preparing tomorrow's leaders for their roles and responsibilities. This includes better training for governors-elect, club presidents, and committee chairmen. Immediate steps are being taken to better prepare governors-elect and club presidents, and Executive Director Tracy is in the early stages of developing a "Cosmo University" webinar for additional training in the future. More information will be forthcoming as progress is made.

### Headquarters Building

Our former headquarters building has been sold to the tenant who occupied the building, The Monogram Shop. The purchase price was \$200,000, and proceeds from the sale have been placed in the bank account that houses our restricted funds. The proceeds from the sale will not be spent without delegate approval. The commemorative bricks that were placed in the headquarters building courtyard have been taken up and are being stored for future installation at Cosmo Park in Columbia, Missouri. Some purchasers of bricks requested to have their bricks returned to them, and those bricks either have been returned or will be returned in the near future.

**"If you judge people, you have no time to love them."**  
- Mother Teresa



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