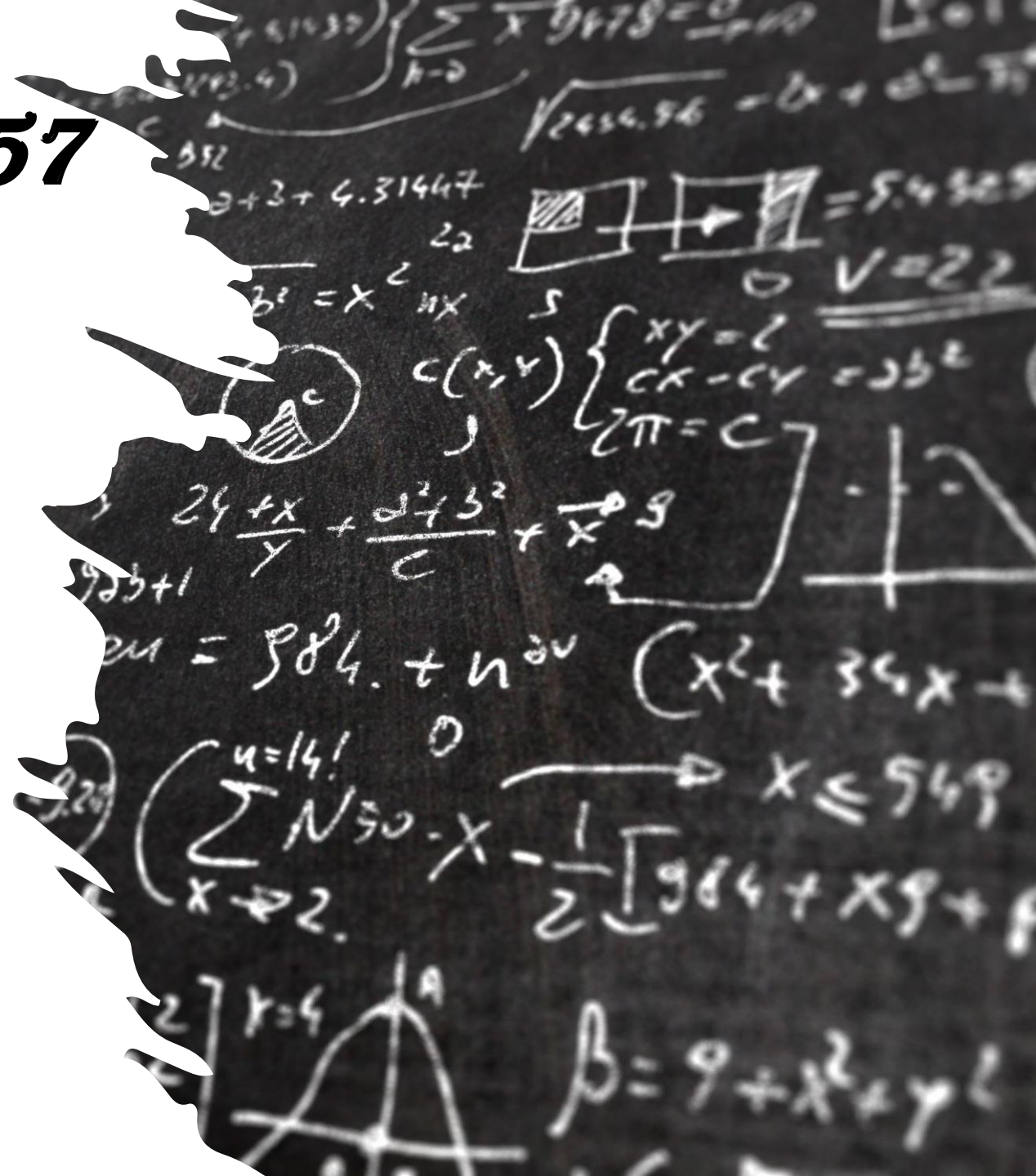




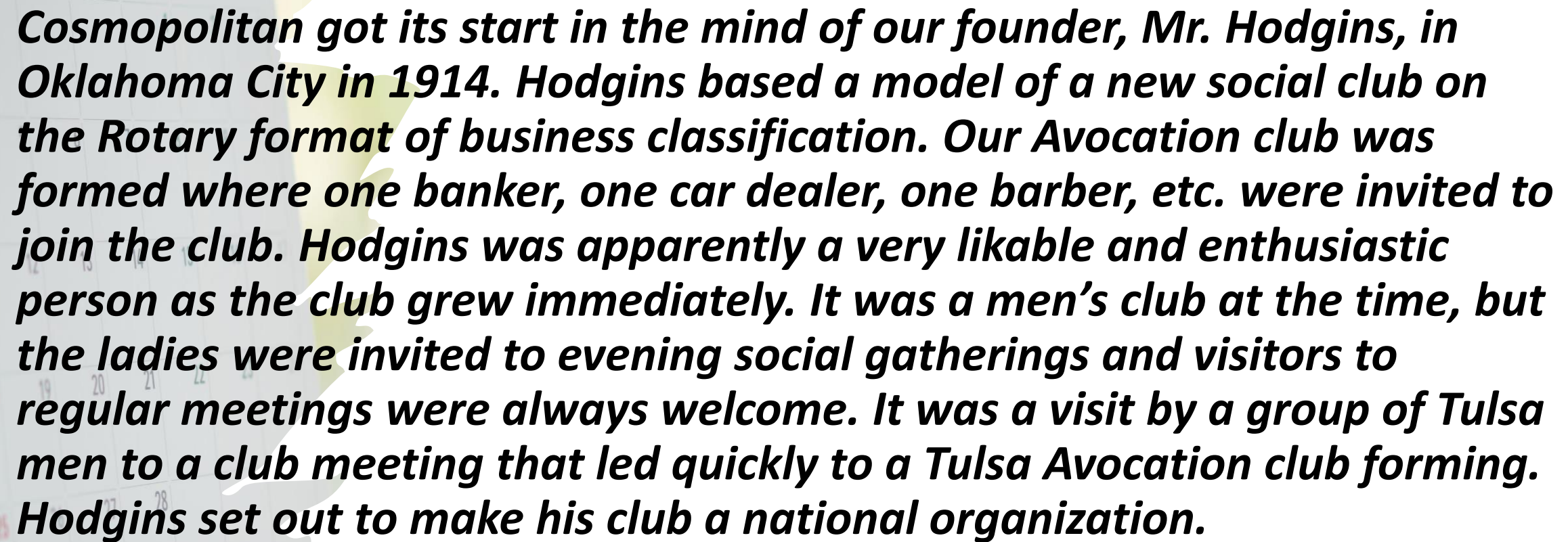
Cosmopolitan International History

OUR HISTORY 1918-1957

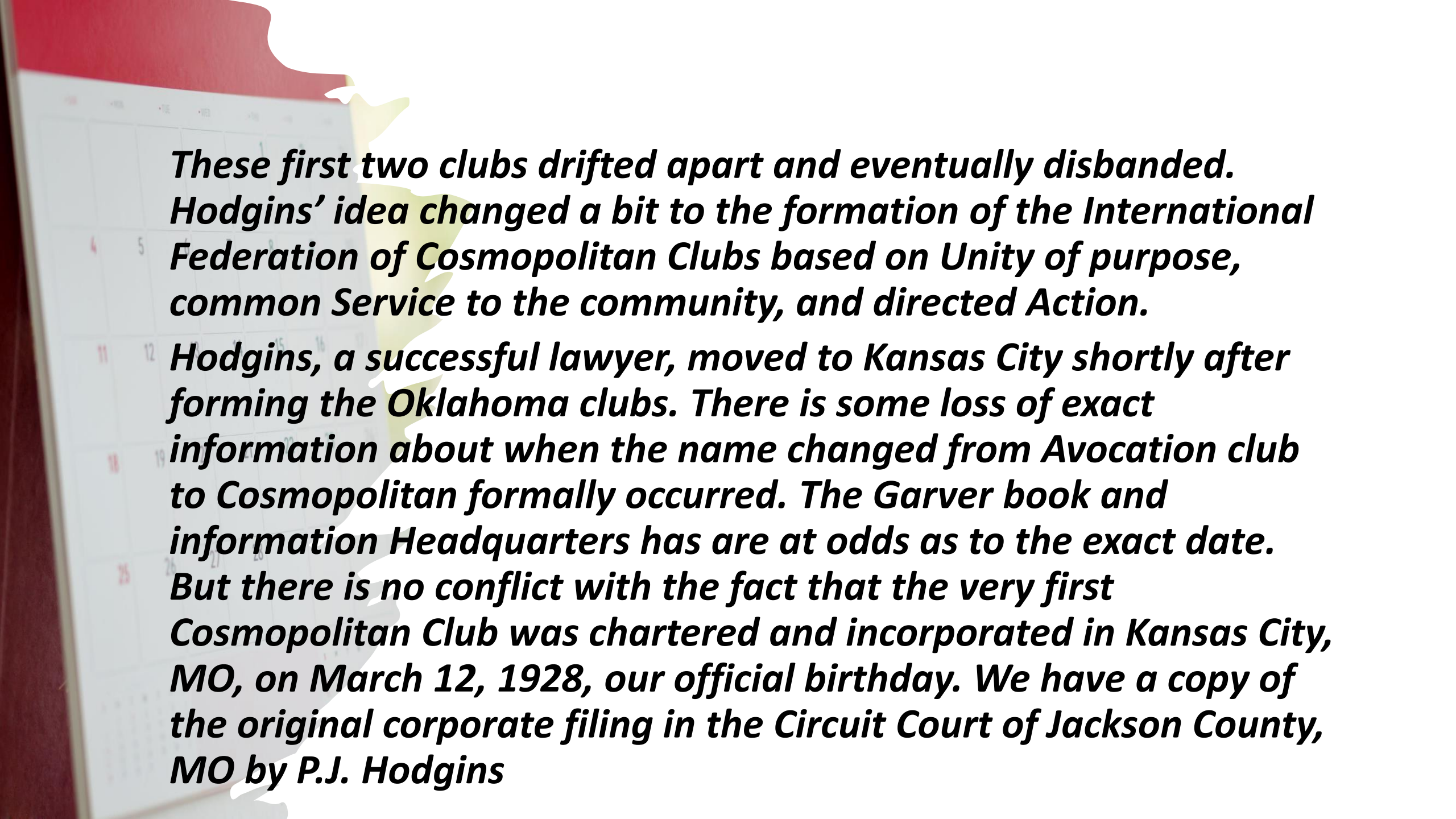
Adapted from articles written by Kevin Harmon, Executive Director and Past International President, for the Spring 2008, Winter 2008, and Spring 2009 COSMOTopics. Editor's Note: I thought it was important to share with you some great history about Cosmopolitan International that Kevin Harmon wrote in 2008 and 2009. It is helpful to know where we came from. This serves as a foundation and will help us all understand our organization's origins better.



We have all heard bits and pieces of the early history of Cosmopolitan. Probably most of our members have heard about P.J. Hodgins and his efforts at founding our club. It is important to know where you came from, in order to plan where you are going. There are some very good resources we had at Headquarters that have lent themselves to the study of our history. Chief among them is a little purple book called "Cosmopolitanism Through the Years" by J. Lew Garver, our International President from 1914-46. It was the time of the great war and, no doubt, Mr. Garver was pressed into extra service. We also have an adaption of sorts written by PIP Larry Heim that chronicles those early years. The other source of information is our COSMOTopics magazine collection, though they only date back to 1940.

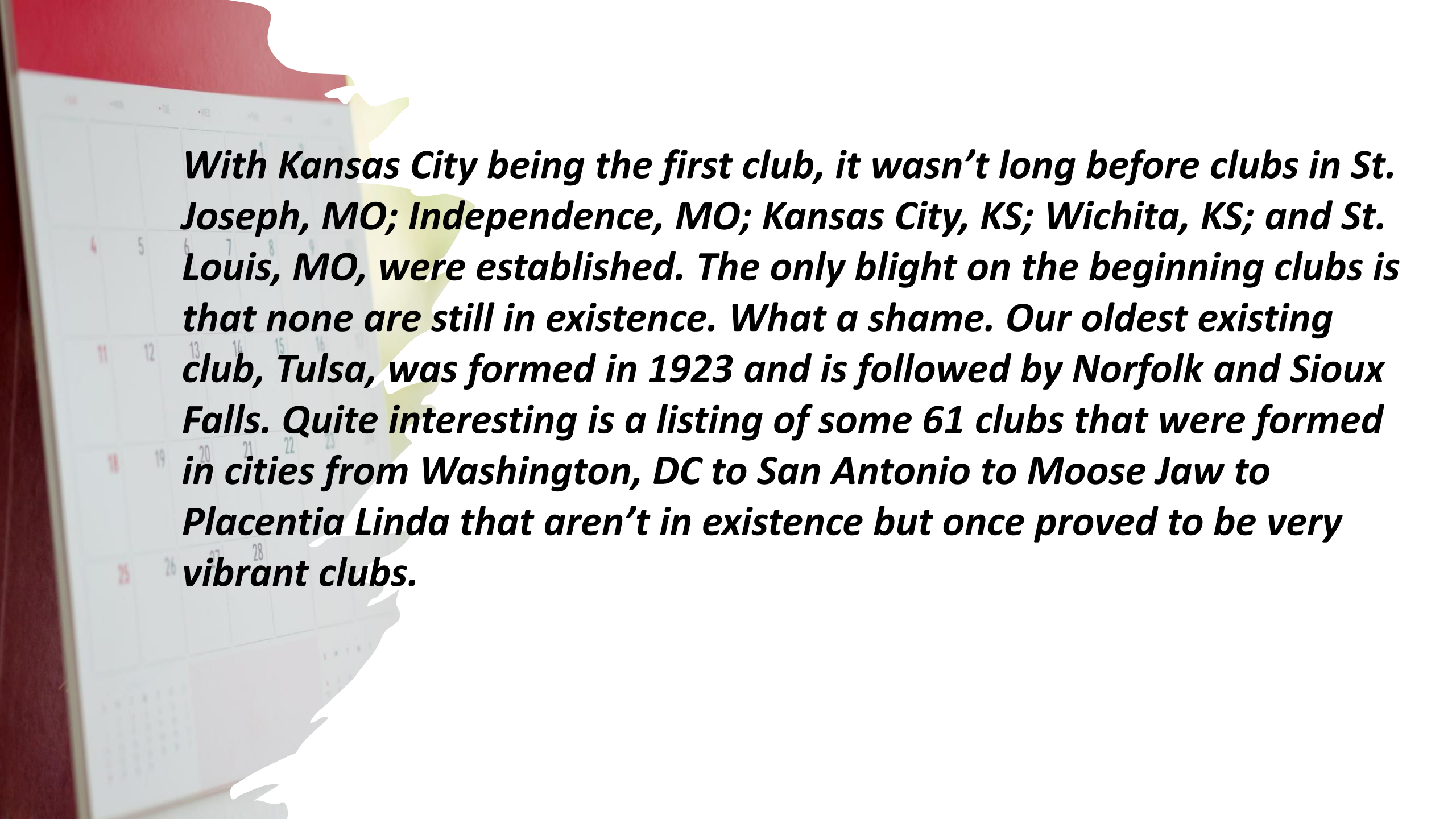
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Cosmopolitan got its start in the mind of our founder, Mr. Hodgins, in Oklahoma City in 1914. Hodgins based a model of a new social club on the Rotary format of business classification. Our Avocation club was formed where one banker, one car dealer, one barber, etc. were invited to join the club. Hodgins was apparently a very likable and enthusiastic person as the club grew immediately. It was a men's club at the time, but the ladies were invited to evening social gatherings and visitors to regular meetings were always welcome. It was a visit by a group of Tulsa men to a club meeting that led quickly to a Tulsa Avocation club forming. Hodgins set out to make his club a national organization.

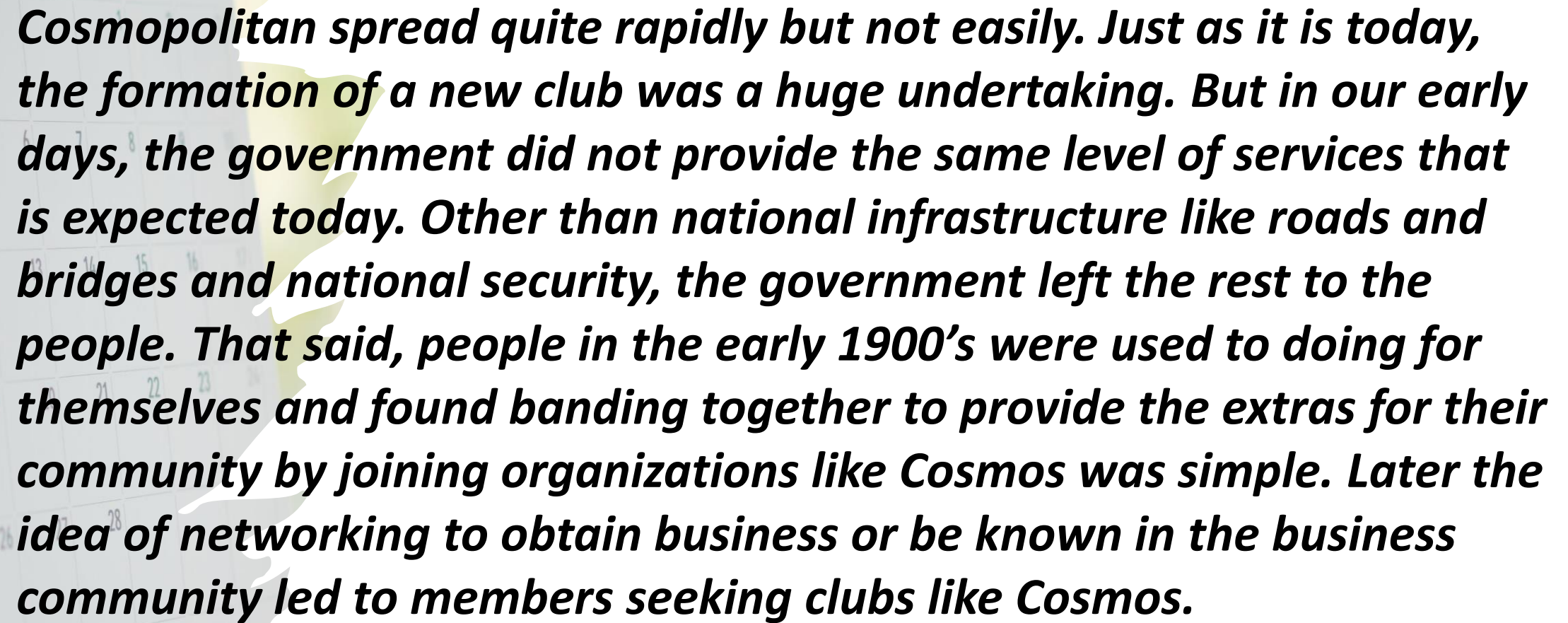
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These first two clubs drifted apart and eventually disbanded. Hodgins' idea changed a bit to the formation of the International Federation of Cosmopolitan Clubs based on Unity of purpose, common Service to the community, and directed Action.


Hodgins, a successful lawyer, moved to Kansas City shortly after forming the Oklahoma clubs. There is some loss of exact information about when the name changed from Avocation club to Cosmopolitan formally occurred. The Garver book and information Headquarters has are at odds as to the exact date. But there is no conflict with the fact that the very first Cosmopolitan Club was chartered and incorporated in Kansas City, MO, on March 12, 1928, our official birthday. We have a copy of the original corporate filing in the Circuit Court of Jackson County, MO by P.J. Hodgins



With Kansas City being the first club, it wasn't long before clubs in St. Joseph, MO; Independence, MO; Kansas City, KS; Wichita, KS; and St. Louis, MO, were established. The only blight on the beginning clubs is that none are still in existence. What a shame. Our oldest existing club, Tulsa, was formed in 1923 and is followed by Norfolk and Sioux Falls. Quite interesting is a listing of some 61 clubs that were formed in cities from Washington, DC to San Antonio to Moose Jaw to Placentia Linda that aren't in existence but once proved to be very vibrant clubs.

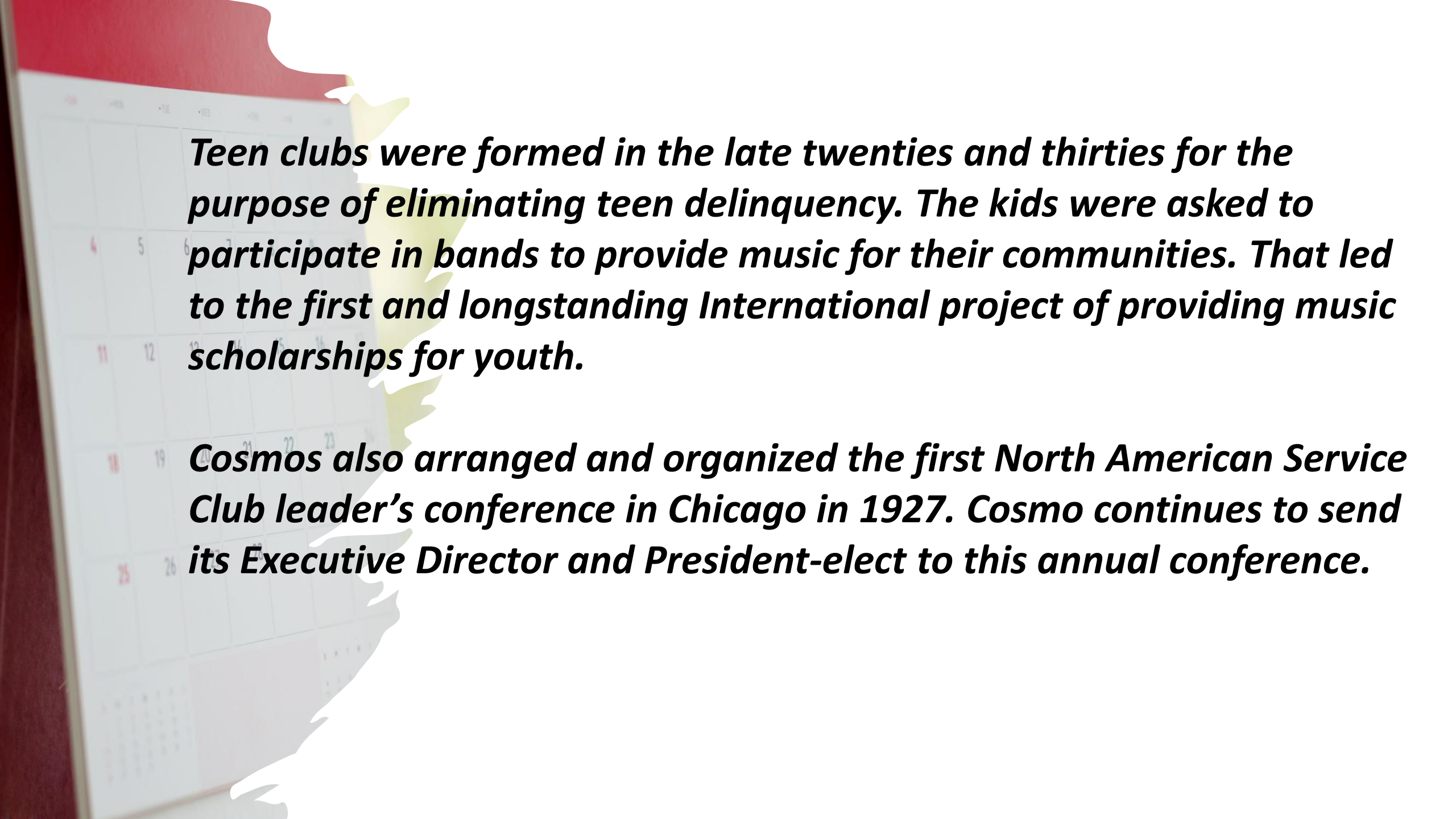
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Cosmopolitan spread quite rapidly but not easily. Just as it is today, the formation of a new club was a huge undertaking. But in our early days, the government did not provide the same level of services that is expected today. Other than national infrastructure like roads and bridges and national security, the government left the rest to the people. That said, people in the early 1900's were used to doing for themselves and found banding together to provide the extras for their community by joining organizations like Cosmos was simple. Later the idea of networking to obtain business or be known in the business community led to members seeking clubs like Cosmos.

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The first name of our Club was the International Federation of Cosmopolitan Clubs, but we were not truly International until the establishment of the Winnipeg Cosmo Club in 1927. Canada clubs soon formed in Regina and Saskatoon in 1928. It wasn't until 1948 that we added the Mexico City club to our roles. That made us even more international and meant we covered much of North America.

At the time, the Cosmo clubs were all male. The ladies were referred to as Cosmopollys. It was the Canadians that asked for and received a name change for the ladies' group to Cosmo Pals.

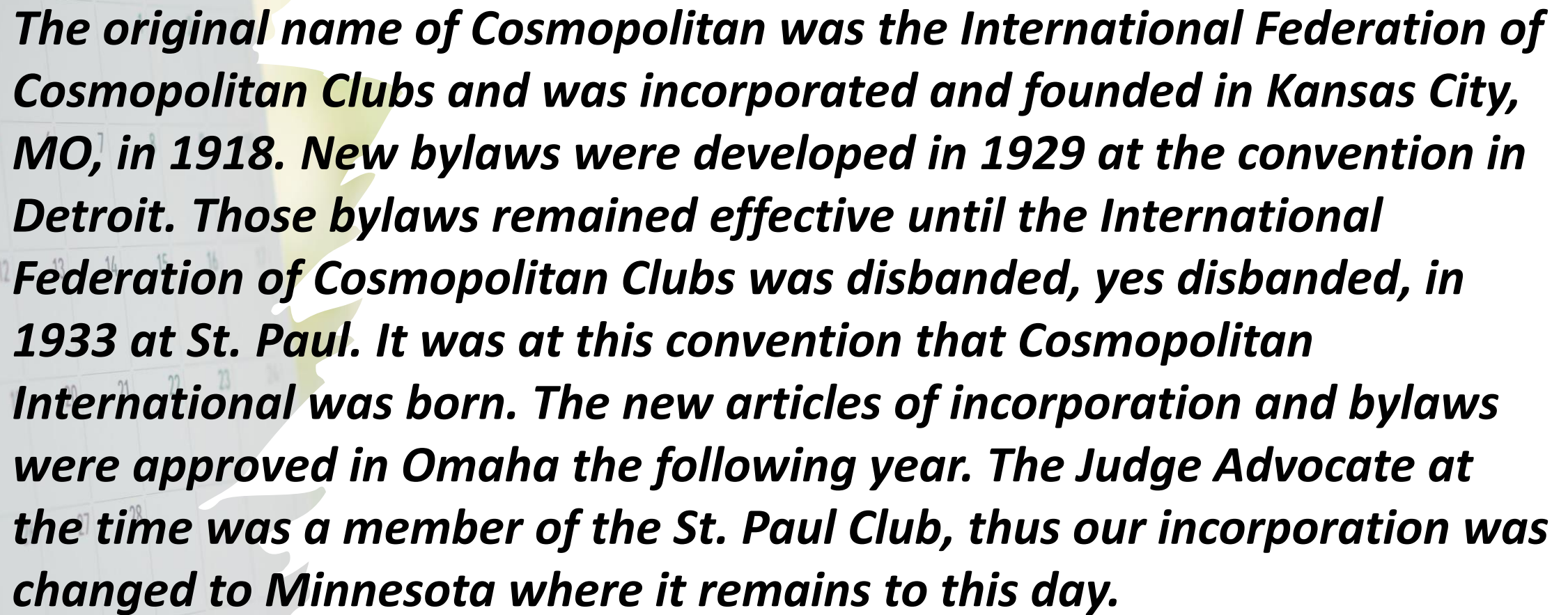
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Teen clubs were formed in the late twenties and thirties for the purpose of eliminating teen delinquency. The kids were asked to participate in bands to provide music for their communities. That led to the first and longstanding International project of providing music scholarships for youth.

Cosmos also arranged and organized the first North American Service Club leader's conference in Chicago in 1927. Cosmo continues to send its Executive Director and President-elect to this annual conference.

Our presence in Western Canada Federation is third on the federation hierarchy behind Cornbelt and MoKan. Our Mexico City club produced an International President in Luis Otero. Other Mexico clubs were formed, but none survived.

Cosmopolitan began to grow during the middle of the last century. Clubs sprang up throughout the US and Canada. The concentrations were primarily in the Midwest and Western Canada, just as it is today. We had clubs in such places as Washington, DC, Chicago, Philadelphia, St. Paul, and Seattle. Small towns were also in the mix. Do the names Pekin, Belle Fourche, Holdrege, Longmont, and Lethbridge sound familiar? Each of those smaller communities was once a part of the Cosmo heritage.



The original name of Cosmopolitan was the International Federation of Cosmopolitan Clubs and was incorporated and founded in Kansas City, MO, in 1918. New bylaws were developed in 1929 at the convention in Detroit. Those bylaws remained effective until the International Federation of Cosmopolitan Clubs was disbanded, yes disbanded, in 1933 at St. Paul. It was at this convention that Cosmopolitan International was born. The new articles of incorporation and bylaws were approved in Omaha the following year. The Judge Advocate at the time was a member of the St. Paul Club, thus our incorporation was changed to Minnesota where it remains to this day.

The war years were soon upon us. Cosmopolitan International survived the Great Depression and would survive the war. It did so without an International Convention for six straight years and with many officers serving multiple terms. This included our International President J. Lew Garver who served from 1941-1946.

In 1957, the first issue of COSMOTopics was sent to press. Articles reflected on fundraisers, community projects and civic involvement just like today.

Cosmopolitan survived the depression and war because just like today, we have something of value to our communities. As we approach these current economic times and pressures of our world, we can look to our history and see how we are much like our predecessors in their commitment.

Trail



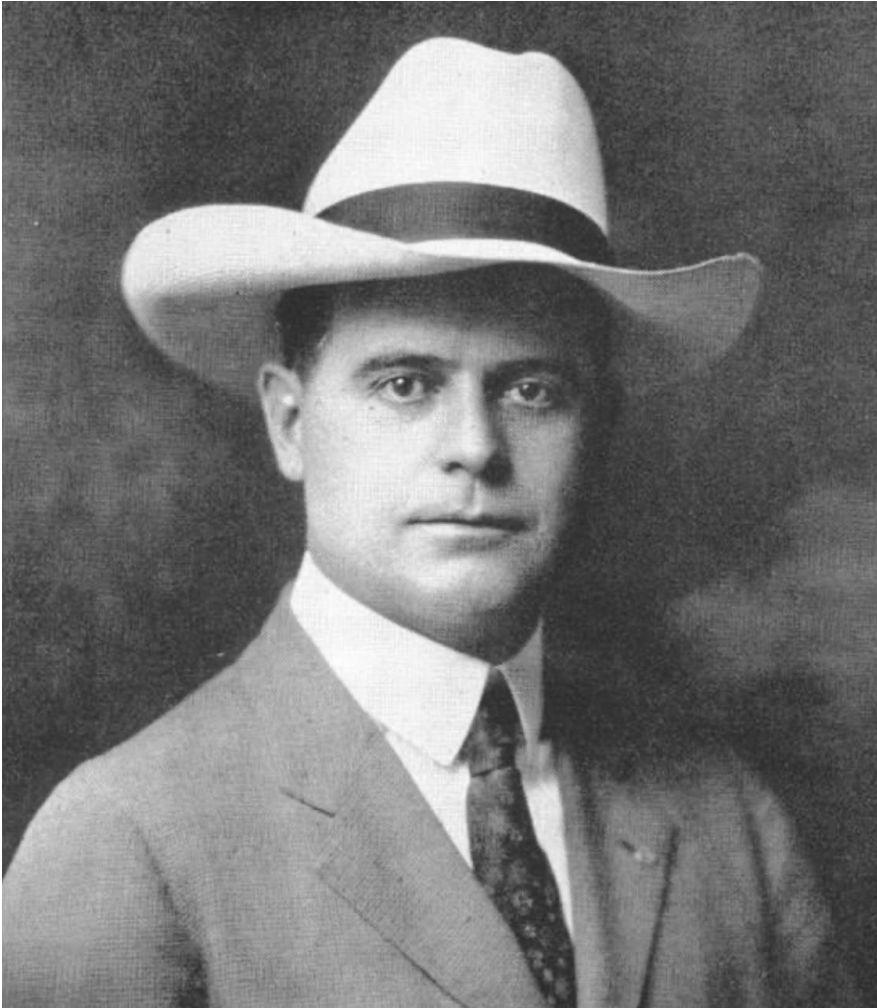
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Cosmo Skate Park



CLUB HISTORY



Cosmopolitan International began its long and storied history in Kansas City, Missouri in 1918 where the club was formally chartered and incorporated as the International Federation of Cosmopolitan Clubs. Our founder, attorney Patrick J. Hodgins, had for several years experimented with and started service and civic clubs in the Oklahoma City and Tulsa area. An attorney by trade, Hodgins moved his law practice to Kansas City and shortly founded the first Cosmopolitan Club. Hodgins wanted a civic organization that fully adopted the ideals of Unity of purpose, Service to the community and Action on the part of all members. The name Cosmopolitan was selected because of the meaning of “citizen of the world.”

Cosmopolitan was established for the principal purpose of bettering our communities by providing service and support to worthwhile projects. As with many of the service clubs in existence then and today, Cosmopolitan clubs and members saw needs in their respective communities and sought to fulfill those needs. That same practice is central to the Cosmopolitan role today in our commitment to our communities, our clubs and the fight against diabetes.

Cosmopolitan quickly grew with clubs springing up in St. Joseph and Independence, Missouri and followed closely by Kansas City, Kansas and Wichita. The clubs went international with the chartering of our first Canadian Club in Winnipeg in 1927. Mexico was added with the founding of a club in Mexico City in 1948. In 1933 our organization was reborn as Cosmopolitan International, the name we still hold today.

- 1918 International Federation of Cosmopolitan Clubs incorporated in Kansas City, Missouri.
- 1927 Cosmopolitan goes international with the chartering of the Winnipeg Club.
- 1933 Cosmopolitan International name change
- 1976 Cosmopolitan International Foundation established
- 1977 Cosmopolitan International formally adopts Diabetes as our focus, Cosmopolitan Diabetes Foundation established



Time Line

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- 1978** Cosmopolitan pledges to establish our first center at the University of Missouri in Columbia. Over \$1,000,000 raised.
 - 1983** Cosmopolitan International Diabetes and Endocrinology Center in Columbia, MO opens its doors.
 - 1984** Cosmopolitan International pledges \$1,000,000 to establish our second center at Eastern Virginia Medical School.
 - 1984** Cosmopolitan Foundation Canada is established
 - 1992** Cosmopolitan Diabetes Institutes begins at EVMS.

Time Line

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- 1995** \$100,000 raised to fund the Valerie Millar Outreach Program at the University of South Dakota.
 - 1999** Cosmopolitan pledges \$750,000 to fund INGAP research at EVMS and McGill University in Montreal
 - 2006** Pledge goal reached for EVMS and McGill.
 - 2018** Cosmopolitan International
 - Today** celebrated 100 years as a Service Club Organization.
Cosmopolitan International continues its work

Time Line