



CHAMBER NEWSLETTER

CHAMBER NEWS

Note from the Director

We hope you made resolutions for your business too! Making resolutions for the New Year is a tradition that many of us carry on but don't forget to make resolutions for your business. What changes do you want to make in the next year? What kind of growth do you want to see? Even if everything is running perfectly, what is your plan to make sure things stay that way?

At the Chamber's annual board retreat, we came up 5 goals for 2016 as well as a Vision Statement for where we would like to see the Chamber in the next five years. Here they are:

2016 Goals for the Cottage Grove Area Chamber of Commerce

- Increase membership by at least 25 per year
- Increase networking opportunities for members by at least one event per month
- Increase advertising efforts outside Cottage Grove (to bring more visitors and new businesses)
- Organize and be viewed as a "business conduit" and a resource for businesses
- Improve communication to members about legislative issues affecting business

5 Year Vision Statement

The Cottage Grove Chamber of Commerce promotes Cottage Grove as a destination community. We are the conduit that provides advocacy, marketing, and networking opportunities to over 300 member businesses.

In 2016 we hope you'll resolve to make the most out of your Chamber of Commerce membership. Pick one Chamber of Commerce activity to participate in each month and put it on your calendar today. You don't have to participate in everything that the chamber does, just pick one thing each month that relates to your own business goals and by the end of the year, you'll have accumulated a significant amount of time and effort to promote your business and achieve your professional goals. Check and update your business listing in our online directory. Each member has their own log-in for our website and we hope you'll take the opportunity to maximize your business' online presence. Finally, talk to other Chamber members about

what your goals are for growing your business. Most people genuinely want to help you succeed but they can't help if they don't know what you are trying to do. Your membership dues support hundreds of activities throughout the year that are designed to stimulate the local economy and make Cottage Grove a better community by providing networking, educational opportunities, and advocacy for local businesses. Tell us how we can better serve you and together we can all resolve to make 2016 a year for the record books.

Travis Palmer, Executive Director, Cottage Grove Area Chamber of Commerce

And The Winners Are.....

We appreciate your nominations for the residential light contest and are happy to announce the winners! 3rd place cash prize goes to Bert & Dwayne Taddei on the corner of Main and "R" street. Bert & Dwayne have taken care for many years to share the joy of Christmas with their light displays. 2nd place was awarded to the Conforths on Watagua Place. "My three kiddos worked hard on the display" says their mother. "And what a beautiful display it was. Their artistic vision brought forth a gingerbread house all lit up in the woods for people to enjoy." And this year's 1st place prize goes to Rich Herzog on South 4th Street. Wonderfully engineered, the lights dance to music you could hear on your radio by tuning in. It's been said it takes approximately 120 hours to get everything in place! Thank you Rich for sharing such a creative display with the community each year. We especially thank our sponsors for this contest -



Your support helps our community shine a little brighter at Christmas time!

It that time of year again!

Join us for a Red Carpet Event at the Cottage Grove Area Chamber of Commerce 67th Annual Awards & Installation Banquet. The banquet will be held on Saturday, January 16, 2016. Enjoy an elegant night to include Business of the Year and First Citizen Awards, Student and Teacher Recognitions, the Official Passing of the Gavel, cocktails, dinner, mixing, and more! It will be a fun time for all. Space is limited so don't delay, make your reservations today! 541-942-2411

Ticket prices:

- \$500 – Full table sponsorship (includes 8 dinners)
- \$250 – Shared table sponsor (includes 4 dinners)
- \$ 50 – Individual reservations

January Business After Hours

Join us at Cottage Theatre for this month's Business after Hours on Thursday, January 21 from 5:30 – 7:00pm, 700 Village Drive. Bring your business card to enter the door prize drawing, learn something new, and have some fun! Your attendance reinforces the spirit in which the Chamber provides these monthly activities. We look forward to seeing you there! Many thanks to those who support our efforts by attending this Chamber program.

January Membership Special!!!

Save over \$100 by joining the Chamber in January! For any business that joins the Chamber this month, we will waive the \$40 set-up fee, give you 3 FREE Chamber Weekly Ads (valued at \$20 each), and a \$15 credit to attend any one of our educational forums throughout the year. Contact Travis at 541-942-2411 to get signed up today!

What is the purpose of the Chamber of Commerce?

Simply put, the Chamber of Commerce is here to serve the business community. The Cottage Grove Area Chamber of Commerce has defined its purpose into four different categories; we Promote,

Expose, Support and Recognize local businesses. The Chamber promotes businesses through providing networking events where members can get to know fellow business owners and make valuable connections. Another way that the Chamber promotes its members is by referring all business inquiries to chamber members first. To help expose businesses, chamber members have access to low cost sponsorship opportunities. Becoming a sponsor for a chamber event is a great way to create name recognition for any business. We support local industries through "Shop Local" campaigns, e-mail connections, educational forums and many other services. The Chamber of Commerce offers exposure for organizations through web links and postings; we have approximately 5000 hits on our website each month. We also develop a user friendly business directory each year that we distribute to newcomers, visitors, and locals. The Chambers monthly newsletter offers another opportunity for companies to gain exposure. The newsletter informs the community about local businesses and community events. Last but not least, we recognize businesses for supporting the community because our local merchants have helped the city of Cottage Grove develop into the great place that it is today.

MEMBER NEWS

We encourage you to support Chamber member businesses and our local economy and "Shop Chamber Members first"!

NEW MEMEBERS:

Please join us and welcome our newest chamber member

Jane Dixon Team – Keller Williams Realty

Jane Dixon
2644 Suzanne Way
Eugene, OR 97408
(541) 729-6548

jane@janedixonteam.com
www.janedixonhomes.kwrealt.com
Real Estate

RENEWING MEMBERS

Thank you for your continuous support of our efforts through your membership and your commitment to helping make Cottage Grove a better place to live and do business! – Hoyer Accounting and Mangiano's Pizzeria



2015 Chamber Board of Directors, Advisors and Staff

Cottage Grove Area Chamber of Commerce

700 E. Gibbs • Cottage Grove, OR

info@cgchamber.com • www.cgchamber.com

P. (541) 942-2411 • F. 888-832-2045

2015 Chamber Board of Directors: Thank you for your hours upon hours of volunteer time, commitment, and service!

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Joe Raade, President	South Lane County Fire & Rescue
Candace Solesbee, Vice President	Shampoo Dolls Salon
Rhonda Worley, Secretary	CJW, LLC
Amanda Akers, Treasurer	Commonwealth Financial Network
Tiffany Thackara, Past President	Emerald Valley Resort Event Center

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Don Williams	Retired, Past Board President
Lloyd Williams	South Lane Television
Judd Van Gorder	Carousel Delicatessen & Ice Cream Shoppe

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Richard Meyers	City of Cottage Grove
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Krista Parent	South Lane School District

Visitor Center Volunteers:

Heidi Abbott, Bill Caldwell – Volunteer Coordinator, Tara Sue Hugart, Susan Jeppesen, Suzy Kanich, Sunny Kennedy, Chieko Tomasulo, Jim Vander Platt, Sharon Van Gorder, Sherry Wendt, Penny Westling, Nolene Wheeler.

Staff:

Travis Palmer	Executive Director
Beth Martin	Office Manager
Mavis Bradsby	Bookkeeper