



CHAMBER NEWSLETTER

Our Mission: The Cottage Grove Area Chamber of Commerce promotes economic vitality through advocacy and collaboration with its members and the larger community.



Travis Palmer,
Executive Director

Director's Note:

If this is typically the "slow time of year," for your business, consider making this your busy time of year. Whatever you want to call it, "spring cleaning," "prep-time," "pre-game," it doesn't matter. What matters is that you take advantage of the temporary dip in business and use the extra time to make sure that your busy season goes as smoothly as possible. If you can fix the little things now, it's going to save you time and productivity later because the peak busy of your season is the worst possible time to have to fix problems that could have been prevented. Clean up hard drives and back up your computer systems. Purge old records that you don't need for accounting or historical purposes. Perform annual maintenance on your heating and air conditioning systems, replace all of your burned out light bulbs or consider upgrading to cleaner, brighter and more efficient LED systems. Have a conversation with your vendors and suppliers about what your expectations are for the next year. They might be able to foresee a product shortage or slowdown of delivery times that you can prepare for as long as you know about it in advance.

At the Chamber, our Annual Business Meeting is part of preparing for the year ahead. We released our annual report for 2016 and outlined our goals for 2017. We brought in speakers from the community to give our members some insight about trends that could positively or negatively impact their businesses. Finally, we encouraged attendees to give us feedback about what they think the chamber should be doing more or less of with our resources. As we move forward, we're also reaching out to our entire membership of businesses, advisors, and collaborative

partners to provide feedback about what is most important to the growth of our local economy. Would holding larger and more frequent events translate to more income for your business or would you rather see the Chamber focus more attention on advocacy and creating a more hospitable environment for local and start-up businesses to thrive? Asking these questions now, gives us the information and the time to plan and make changes within the organization at the time when it matters most.

There are other advantages to adding activity to your down time too. The old adage of "If you've got time to lean, you've got time to clean," is especially true for a business. Something as simple as reorganizing and cleaning the office can do wonders for a person's productivity, creativity, and their general demeanor about work. Busy people don't tend to spend a lot of time complaining because they are not sitting around thinking about how slow it is. They don't have time to dwell on the negative. The completion of even a menial task can give someone a sense of accomplishment and feeling good about the state of your businesses is one of the most important and impactful things you can do to make sure that you are ready for busier times ahead.

COTTAGE GROVE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE EDUCATIONAL FORUM -Sponsored by Banner Bank

The SafeTravel seminar is targeted

at businesses with regular international travel. Suggested attendees are business owners/founders, executive management, corporate counsels, HR directors, corporate security officers, and corporate stakeholders.

Seminar Speaker Steve Cash is a veteran of 40 years' experience in international business and U.S. national security. This training is part of a range of international travel and security training and field support provided by Talus Group (www.talusgroupplc.com), a Eugene, Oregon-based company.

This 90-minute presentation will address Corporate Duty of Care with regard to international business travel, tensions between company and traveling employee expectations, and an overview of topics ranging from personal security, travel planning, travel, preparing for the unexpected, street crime, abduction avoidance, protecting IP and more.

The seminar will be held at the Brewstation, 106 S. 6th Street on March 8, 2017. Doors open at 5:30, seminar is from 6:00 - 7:30pm.

Ticket prices:

Chamber Member

In Advance \$5.00 • At the Door \$7.00

Non-Member

In Advance \$15.00

At the Door \$17.00

Included: 2 free drinks with each ticket purchase

To register in advance, contact Travis Palmer, Director of the Chamber of Commerce (541) 942-2411, travis@cgchamber.com

MARCH BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

Trinity Lutheran Church will host Business After Hours on Thursday, March 16 from 5:30 - 7:00pm, 675 S. 7th Street. 2017 marks the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation and Trinity's 70th birthday. This event will give Chamber members the opportunity to learn about the church's history and its varied ministries.

Since Trinity offers a free meal to the community on Tuesdays and Thursdays, Chamber members will be able to enjoy a meal and witness this program in action. A tour and a history of the building will be given. Door prizes will include gift certificates to Trinity's July chicken barbeque and a quilt from Trinity's quilting ministry.

Please join us for a time to network with others, learn something new, and have some fun! And don't forget your business card to enter the door prize drawing. Your attendance reinforces the spirit in which the Chamber provides these monthly activities. Cottage Grove and Creswell Chamber members are encouraged to attend this classic, fun networking event!



CALLING PERFORMERS AND SPONSORS!

The 2017 Season of Concerts in the Park will be here soon. We are already reviewing bands and booking sponsors for this season so if you know of a band that you want to see at the Bohemia Park Amphitheater this summer, please have them contact the Chamber of Commerce with a sample of their music along with their booking contact information. We only bring back a few bands from the last season so be sure to let us know who your favorite bands were from last summer's line-up. If you enjoy the free concerts in the park, please consider becoming a sponsor or donor to help support the continued growth and success of the concerts. Call 541-942-2411 and ask to speak with Travis to learn more about how you can support the Chamber of Commerce Concerts in the Park.



2017 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

2017 Chamber Board of Directors:

Thank you for your hours upon hours of volunteer time, commitment, and service!

Officers

Candace Solesbee, President
Chloe Beckes, Vice President
Gary Manly, Treasurer
Joe Raade, Past President

Shampoo Dolls Salon
Jack Sprats
Cottage Grove Sentinel
South Lane County Fire & Rescue

Directors

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Dean Kruschke
Danny Solesbee
Don Williams
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Five Flying Monkeys
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South Lane Television
Carousel House B&B and Catering

Advisors

Tim Herrmann
Diana Knous
Richard Meyers
Shuana Neigh
Garrett Bridgens

PeaceHealth Cottage Grove Community Medical Center
Pacific Power
City of Cottage Grove
Cottage Grove Main Street Program
South Lane School District

Visitor Center Volunteers:

Heidi Abbott, Dotti Bittner, Tara Sue Hughart, Susan Jeppesen, Suzy Kanich, Marie Longfellow, Judd Van Gorder, Sharon Van Gorder, Penny Westling, Nolene Wheeler.

Staff:

Travis Palmer, Executive Director
Beth Martin, Office Manager
Mavis Bradsby, Bookkeeper

Five Year Vision Statement:
The Cottage Grove Area Chamber of Commerce promotes Cottage Grove as a prosperous destination community. Economic vitality is at the heart of everything we do. As a resource for businesses, we are the conduit that provides advocacy, marketing, education, and networking opportunities to over 300 members.