



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

Why do so many businesses become members of the Chamber of Commerce?

Through the Chamber of Commerce, businesses are choosing to invest in the continued prosperity of Cottage Grove. They are

joining a membership of other businesses who understand that there is an organization (the Chamber) who is working to improve the economic conditions of the community in countless ways that result in a more conducive environment for local businesses to thrive. We produce events that bring travelers to town who spend money in our shops, gas stations and restaurants. We advocate for the rights of small businesses through our connections with local, county and state government. We

provide educational opportunities for business owners and managers to become better at what they do and we provide networking opportunities so our members can promote their businesses. We also offer exclusive, free, or discounted opportunities for our members to advertise and market their companies.

To join the Chamber, most businesses pay annual membership dues starting at only \$250 per year! There isn't an ad you can buy that lasts an entire year and puts you in as many publications, both online and in print for \$250. The listing in our directory and community profile book alone is worth the annual investment and since we ourselves are a non-profit organization, most of our members are able to write off a portion of their dues as a qualified business expense.* (Consult your tax adviser).

It is difficult for Chambers of Commerce to quantify the value of their memberships because nobody ever walks into a store and says, "I'm shopping here today because the Chamber of Commerce..."

I can assure you though; the Chamber of Commerce refers people to local businesses every single day. To put it simply, we bring people to town and we help them find places to spend their money.

Below is a list of just some of the benefits that we offer to our member businesses:

Alphabetical and Categorical listings in our annual printed directory and on the Chamber's online directory at www.cgchamber.com

Space to display your business card or brochures at the Cottage Grove Visitor Information Center

A membership plaque and/or window decal to show the public that you invest in the community

Opportunities to host an open house or ribbon cutting ceremony for a grand opening, anniversary, etc.

Weekly emails from the Chamber keep you up to date on local news, events and important information

Recognition as a new and/or renewing member

in the newspaper and weekly email

What else does chamber membership provide for our business members?

- Visibility
- Credibility
- Advocacy
- Networking Opportunities
- Leadership and Professional Development Experience
- Education and Training Opportunities
- The ability to stay informed about Community News and Events
- Referrals to your business through the visitor center
- Sponsorship and Advertising Opportunities
- Chamber Gift Certificate Program! (This actually brings people into your store to spend money!)

Your membership dues make all of this possible. If you own or manage a business, consider the value of membership and invest in your community. Join the Cottage Grove Area Chamber of Commerce today!

Chamber Awards Banquet

Thanks to our members for casting your vote! Your vote has determined the winners of Non-Profit of the Year, First Citizen, and Business of the Year! The winners will be announced at our 70th Annual Chamber Awards Banquet on January 19, 2019 and we hope you'll join us. To make your reservation contact Beth via email beth@cgchamber.com or phone (541) 942-2411.

Presenting Sponsor: \$1500 - Premier table seating for 24

Oscar Sponsor: \$1000 - Premier table seating for 16

Red Carpet Sponsor: \$500 - Reserved seating for 8

Star Sponsor: \$250 - Reserved seating for 4

Individual Reservation: \$60



Many thanks to those who support our efforts by attending this Chamber program.

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

Local Lions Clubs raise funds to help build the Heartfelt House

The Heartfelt House, an \$8.4-million project, has sparked the imaginations and pulled at the heart-strings of a diverse group of donors, including individuals, corporations and community service clubs.

Entirely funded through philanthropy, the house is emblematic of the region's tremendous generosity. So far, more than 600 donors have contributed from \$10 to \$1 million, raising a total of \$5.8 million.

Set to open in June, the Heartfelt House will offer comfortable, affordable lodging to out-of-town families of patients at PeaceHealth Sacred Heart Medical Center at RiverBend in Springfield and University District in Eugene. The 20,208-square-foot house will be just a five-minute walk from RiverBend.

Lions Clubs International and local Lions Clubs have raised \$220,000 for the Heartfelt House. Lion Ed Gear has witnessed that generosity firsthand as he has talked about the Heartfelt House at clubs throughout the Willamette Valley, coastal and southern Oregon.

"I have not had to work hard to get that kind of donation," Gear said. "They just immediately started contributing and very much wanted to be a part of it."

The cause resonates with people, Gear said, adding that many Lions either know people who have stayed at a patient guest house somewhere in the country, or they've used one themselves.

A guest house lessens the financial burden of being away from home, but even more important, it can help ease the anxiety when a loved one needs hospital care.

So much can't be controlled when a family member is in the hospital, Gear said. "This part is in our control," he said. "We can help provide a warm bed, a kitchen and a place to let down."

The project is especially close to Gear's heart because of his role in bringing the Patterson Street patient guest house to Eugene. As a Lions Clubs International director in the late 1990s, Gear toured a guest house the Lions had helped establish in Christchurch, New Zealand. He and other club members saw the need for one in the southern Willamette Valley. They raised \$280,000 to help launch the Children's Miracle Network/Lions Patient Family Guest House on Patterson Street near the University District campus.

More than 20 area Lions Clubs have contributed to the Heartfelt House, including those in Eugene, Springfield, Alvadore, Junction City, Cottage Grove, Elkton, Sutherlin, Florence, Yachats, Mapleton, Coos Bay, Jefferson, Monmouth-Independence, West Salem, Brownsville, Halsey and Albany.

Many other groups and individuals also are generously supporting the Heartfelt House. One example is Oregon Community Credit Union (OCCU), which created a foundation earlier this year to deepen its involvement in community service. The foundation's inaugural gift was \$500,000 to support the pediatric wing of the Heartfelt House. "We have a longstanding relationship and are a longtime supporter of Children's Miracle Network and believe that investing in the health and well-being of the youngest in our community is a good way to support the strength of the entire region," OCCU President and CEO Ron Neumann said.

The 20-room guest house will have a 10-room pediatric wing and an a 10-room adult wing. It will be a collaboration between PeaceHealth, which will own the land and building, and Ronald McDonald House Charities, which will oversee day-to-day operations. Guests will pay from nothing to a modest fee, depending on their circum-

stances. But no one will be turned away because of inability to pay.

"It's our hope that the Heartfelt House will provide a place where families in our region can be loved and receive the support that they desperately need during their most challenging times," Neumann said.

Chamber Calendar

If you have an event you want published on our website calendar, please, please, please submit it to:

Go to www.cgchamber.com

Click on "Event Calendar"

Click on "submit new event"

Fill in the blanks and submit

Once your event is approved, it will appear on the community calendar. For more details on the events listed below, visit the

Event Calendar on our website at www.cgchamber.com. (Chamber events in bold)

*Bingo every Friday night at the American Legion Hall

January

- 10 Greeters Committee**
- 10 Startup Coffee Meetup
- 12 Annual Bald Eagle Count
- 14 Regular City Council Meeting
- 15 Third Tuesday Poetry Night at Axe & Fiddle, hosted by Kalapuya Books
- 17 Business After Hours – Travel Lane County @ Iris Vineyards**
- 19 Chamber Awards & Installation Banquet**
- 21 Promotions Committee**
- 24 Greeters Committee**
- 28 Regular City Council Meeting

February

- 7 Romeo and Juliet Opening @ Cottage Theatre
- 11 Regular City Council Meeting
- 13 Chamber Annual Business Meeting**
- 14 Greeters Committee**
- 14 Startup Coffee Meetup
- 18 Promotions Committee**
- 19 Third Tuesday Poetry Night at Axe & Fiddle, hosted by Kalapuya Books
- 21 Business After Hours**
- 25 Regular City Council Meeting
- 28 Greeters Committee**

2019 Chamber Board of Directors, Advisors and Staff

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

Officers

Danny Solesbee, President
5 Flying Monkeys

Ruth Linoz, Secretary
South Lane Wheels

Gary Manly, Treasurer
Cottage Grove Sentinel

Chloe Beckes, Past President
Jack Sprats Restaurant

Directors

Cameron Reiten, Legislative Chair
KNND AM 1400

Cassandra Washburn, Greeters Chair
Oregon Aviation Historical Society

Chrissy Chapman
Covered Bridge Brewing Group

Judd Van Gorder
Carousel House B&B and Catering

Kate Brown, Promotions Chair
Parent partnership

Stan Simonsen
Cascade Home Center

Advisors

Tim Herrmann
PeaceHealth Cottage Grove Community Medical Center

Richard Meyers
City of Cottage Grove

Ryan Gifford
Giffors and Gifford Attorneys at Law

Garrett Bridgens
South Lane School District

Visitor Center Volunteers:

Heidi Abbott, Dotti Bittner, Suzanne Huebner-Sannes, Tara Sue Hughart, Susan Jeppesen, Nancy Kretzschmar, Marie Longfellow, Judd Van Gorder, Sharon Van Gorder, Penny Westling, Sherry Wendt, Nolene Wheeler.

Staff:

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

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Congratulations - Business of the Quarter Recipients!

Business of the Quarter is awarded by the Greeter committee based on a consumer experience had during the awarded quarter. Businesses must be a chamber member for 1+ year to qualify.

Quarter 3 - Commonwealth Financial

We have worked with Matt Parsons and Commonwealth Financial for the last several years, both personally and with several non-profits. Of recent, they have proven once again that Matt and his staff are always knowledgeable, courteous, and kind. Matt is not only a great Financial Advisor but a stand up part of the Cottage Grove community."



Quarter 4 - Dirtcheapcopies.com

"We have worked with Dirtcheapcopies many times over the last two years and have had only positive experiences. DJ and staff are knowledgeable, kind, and always professional. They are quick with both quotes and production and are always willing to answer questions. They also are incredibly supportive of many of the non-profit businesses in Cottage Grove. They are true givers in this community."



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Special Thanks to our 2019 Enhanced Members

- PLATINUM PLUS** • Cottage Grove Sentinel
- GOLD** • Pacific Power
- SILVER**
- Banner Bank
- Blackstone, Inc. – Windermere Real Estate
- City of Cottage Grove
- Emerald People's Utility District
- Lane Community College Cottage Grove Center
- Lane Electric Cooperative
- Northwest Natural
- PeaceHealth Cottage Grove Community Medical Center
- South Lane County Fire & Rescue
- South Lane School District
- Weyerhaeuser