CHAMBER NEWSLETTER

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

Gary Manly has been so patient. This year has required us to change and rechange our budget to reflect the spending based on the pandemic and our move to our Main Street location. He did a great job in explaining the budget and helping me to move the funding around to reflect the spending. Gary has also been a creative resource for marketing and promotion. We will continue to work with Gary and the Sentinel. I appreciate his dedication and hard work.

I have my experiences with these board members, but Travis Palmer spent years with them. I reached out to Travis to share his favorite memories:

Candace and Danny Solesbee – You must write about them as a pair because they are nearly inseparable. When you need help, they show up ready to work and usually bring a workforce of other volunteers with them. If that is not enough, they'll usually even host the after party when the work is done.

Candace's love for Cottage Grove is obvious from the first minute you speak to her. From the moment she joined the board, she was both eager to learn and willing to contribute her time and talent to make Cottage Grove's business community thrive.

Danny was initially "volun-told" by Candace that he was joining the board with her and he quickly ascended the ranks due to his positive attitude, desire to make things better and willingness to show up and work hard. You simply will not find two harder workers than Candace and Danny.

Ruth Linoz is insightful and well-spoken and has served as a Greeter and Chamber board secretary for many years. Her leadership has been an asset to the Chamber and the value of her contributions to community planning, events and Chamber business discussions cannot be understated.

Judd Van Gorder has spent more time on the Chamber board and in Chamber committees than almost anyone in Cottage Grove. He was always the first to raise his hand when I needed a volunteer and he basically counted as two volunteers because he would inevitably bring his wife Sharon along with him. He never minced his words and you always knew what he was thinking. One of my favorite things about Judd is that he would often trick people into thinking he was asleep during board meetings but would suddenly chime-in to a conversation and you'd realize he was listening the whole time.

Gary Manly is one of those people who you always want to have on your board or in your committee. I could always count on him to show up and contribute in a meaningful way. He provided immeasurable support to the chamber both through his volunteerism and through the partnership that we had with The Sentinel. He was also a great sounding board for me whenever I wanted to talk about a new idea.

I think you will agree. We create a family. The Cottage Grove Area Chamber of Commerce Board is revolving. We have various talents and that is what makes our Board of Directors a solid representation of the Cottage Grove businesses and community.

Thank you, Danny, Candace, Ruth, Judd and Gary, for everything.

2021 Board of Directors

The current Cottage Grove Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors will vote in the new 2021 Board of Director's on January 20, 2021. We are lucky to have a wonderful list of people. We will share the results of the vote and introduce them in the next Chamber Newsletter.

2021 Chamber Ambassadors

Ruth Linoz, Jessica Benner, Debbie Chalmers, Alyssa Gomez, Susan Jeppesen, Valerie Nash, Linda Trombly, and Linda Lazar

The Cottage Grove Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors recently had the rewarding experience of participating with Community Sharing and the Tree of Joy program Christmas food box and gifts distribution, on December 21 from Trinity Lutheran Church. It was impressive to see the generosity of our community and inspiring that so many people volunteered their time to facilitate this day of giving. A total 484 food boxes were prepared and 538 gifts for children were donated. This successful event involved Community Sharing, Tree of Joy program also Be your Best and the Rural Organizing Project.

The Ambassador Monthly Meeting is virtual and held the 1st Thursday of the month at 5:30 pm.

Anyone interested in attending please contact:

Ruth Linoz
(541) 942-0456 x3

Welcome New Members

Simple Media Images

1100 Holly Ave
(678) 559-6084
alx@simplemediaimages.com
http://simplemediaimages.com

KMTR-NBC 16
3825 International CT Springfield
(541) 337-3865
Kathiedougherty@kmtr.com
http://Kmtr.com

Woodard Family Foundation
40 S 6th St, Cottage Grove
1-541-942-2458
https://www.woodardff.com

Linda Lazar
Friend of the Chamber and Newest Ambassador

New Membership Guide

As the renewal date approaches, we realize cash may be tight for some of our members. Now more than ever, our members need our staff working tirelessly as the voice of our businesses and all other members. We have redesigned our membership levels and are now encouraging members to design their own membership based on their business need. Please visit our website for more information.

Business After Hours

January Business After Hours will be hosted by Cottage Grove Area Chamber of Commerce on January 21st at 5:30pm. If you would like to participate and donate a door prize, give us a call 541-942-2411.

2020 Website Analytics

14,706 – Member Page Visits
46,071 – Member Pages came up in search results
22,540 – Event page views

Thank you to our 2020 Enhanced Members

Banner Bank

Cottage Grove Sentinel

Lane Electric
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

City of Cottage Grove Oregon

Lane Community College
Cottage Grove

South Lane School District

EPUD The People's Power

NW Natural®

Pacific Power

PeaceHealth Cottage Grove Community Medical Center

Walmart

Weyerhaeuser