

U-CLUB NEWS



Rogue River Valley University Club

October 2016

Board Actions on Finance

At its August meeting the Club board reviewed Member reactions and progress on the Club Improvement Campaign. While the Campaign has received a number of contributions, for which we are appreciative, Members generally seem to be opposed to the approach which the Campaign envisioned – namely, to combine an effort designed to improve several facilities while simultaneously raising funds to stabilize the Club’s operating finances. The board originally had hoped that one or more Members would agree to create a “challenge fund” to match contributions by other Members and it was the board’s intention to use the challenge fund monies to make various improvements to the Club and use funds provided by other Members to pay off the Club’s line of credit. The board believes that some facility improvement will help in recruiting new (particularly younger) Members. However, as things unfolded the challenge fund didn’t materialize which left Members with the understanding that their contributions would be used for both purposes — a conclusion which some found illogical. The board also heard from some Members who advocated for a new assessment to stabilize the Club’s financial position in lieu of the Campaign..

Accordingly, *the board voted to both suspend the Campaign Improvement Campaign and impose a \$250 assessment effective with Members’ October 1 billing.* The assessment will not apply to new members (who joined in 2016) and will be used to retire the outstanding balance on its our line of credit which will both reduce monthly expenses as well as affirm our ability to operate in 2017. No portion of the assessment funds will be used for capital improvements.



Members who contributed to the Club Improvement Campaign can, at their option, apply their contribution to the \$250 assessment. Remaining Club Improvement Campaign funds will then be used by the board for the Club’s benefit at a later date. While the Club is discontinuing soliciting pledges for the Improvement Campaign, any newly pledged funds will be used for Club improvements along with the residual funds already pledged to the Campaign.

We expect October’s Speaker Lunch with Steve Lightman to be heavily attended. It is important that you register in advance to assure that you have a seat and meal. We encourage you to register promptly for this event. You can do so at [October Lunch Speaker](#)

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Previous Club Members included the Club in their estate plans and their generosity has helped create the experience you've enjoyed here.

Please consider leaving your mark on the Club's future by requesting a bequest invitation from [Jerry Jacobson](#) at 542-773-2727.

October 13 Speaker — Steve Lightman - Harry and David



One of the Club's newest Members, Harry and David's president, Steve Lightman, is a relatively new resident of the Rogue Valley but can point to a long and distinguished career as a direct marketing mover and shaker including CEO of The Sharper Image. He arrived in Medford in 2015 as part of Harry and David's acquisition by 1-800-FLOWERS. According to Lightman, "What I really bring to Harry & David is my marketing, my merchandising, my creative and my value proposition strategy about bringing value to the customer

that's a step above most." . Steve also brings a strong commitment to building on Harry and David's longstanding strong community relationships.

Register Now at: [October Lunch Speaker](#)

Members' Surviving Spouses

A sometimes misunderstood element of Club Membership is our long-standing policy regarding the surviving spouses of Members who pass on. The Club has long treated Surviving Spouses as continuing the Membership of their deceased spouse in almost all regards except voting privileges. As such Surviving Spouses are entitled to use the Club in the same fashion as Senior Members (which means that they do not pay dues or assessments but pay for lunches and special events they attend at Member rates. The main difference between Members Surviving Spouses is that, unlike regular Senior Members, they are the Club's guest for both our Summer and Holiday parties.

That also means that Members' Surviving Spouses are free to rent the Club for private events at Member rates and can come to lunch at any time (including Speaker Lunches) at the customary \$12.50 charge.

So, if you are a Member's Surviving Spouse — we hope you'll continue to join us at the Club as your schedule permits.

**Hold the Date
Third Annual Founders Dinner, November 17!**

Reservations — A Plea from your Staff and Board

We all lead busy lives and it's easy to forget making a reservation for a Club event which requires advance registration. And, with life's vagaries, sometimes it's easy to make a reservation and then forget to attend. Both of those slips cause real difficulty for the Club.

When the Club requires advance registration for an event, it does so for two reasons. First, we need to purchase enough food to handle the predicted attendees. Without an advance count, we run the risk of not having enough food to serve all attendees or we over-purchase and then waste Club funds. For catered events, such as the Summer Party, we need to provide a catering count four days in advance and the Club is then billed for that number of meals regardless of those who fail to attend. The Club thus bills Members for events for which they have advance-registered regardless of whether they actually attend.

The second reason for advance registrations is even more mundane. Our main dining room only holds 44 which is why we cut off registration when that number is reached. It is embarrassing and awkward for our staff if a Member who hasn't registered arrives and potentially takes a seat needed for someone who did register. And, of course, there's the issue of whether we have enough food for unregistered attendees.

While we know that you already know these things it's sometimes easy to not have them top of mind. **So, please, help us remain efficient and accommodating and register for events — and be understanding when they appear on your bill if, for some reason, you aren't able to cancel before the deadline for doing so.**



Bob Russell — Thanks for a Great Lunch Presentation!

Our September speaker was Bob Russell, owner of Eagle Point's Butte Creek Mill which was destroyed in a massive fire on Christmas Day, 2015. Now a representative of the Butte Creek Mill Foundation (to whom he has donated the property), Russell presented a comprehensive, compelling story about the mill and its deep associations with the community. Several Club Members who serve on the Foundation's board also helped explain the \$2 million project to return the Mill (the last water-powered historic mill west of the Mississippi) to life.

Thanks to Sue Kupillas for scheduling Bob and for her continuing work on our speaker series.

Your November bill will include the opportunity to remember our staff with a year-end gratuity. Please be generous in acknowledging their tremendous work on our behalf!

Lunch and Learn — October 11

How to Have Difficult Communications



Sandy Abell

October's *Lunch and Learn* will be held on Tuesday, October 11 and will be led by Sandy Abell. The topic is *How to Have Difficult Communications* and registration is now open at [October Lunch and Learn](#).

There are times when all of us need to have a difficult conversation with a colleague, customer/client, spouse or friend. How you prepare for this, find the right words, and manage the exchange, will determine the outcome. This Lunch and Learn will help you know how to best handle such situations.

Registration is now open at: [October Lunch and Learn](#)

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Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about our services and products

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