



We are continuing to implement significant changes to reduce our operating costs and maintain a very proactive communications process with all of our Owners, simply much less of it by paper, mail, and postage. Our electronic WEB page updates at least each month and the ongoing Communiqué' Newsletter issued here is part of that process. We are eager to hear from you on these matters at anytime.....and you are welcome and encouraged to be part of the Owners volunteering to serve the CDOA in the coming years. We believe that Owners involved are Owners committed to positive results for all of our Owners at the Club Donatello.....what do you think?

HAVE A GREAT STAY AT YOUR CLUB DONATELLO!

Snuffing Out Smoking Rooms

The number of smoking rooms in Club Donatello will be cut from six to three, as soon as three of the rooms can be thoroughly cleaned and freshened, and software goods replaced as necessary.

The decision by the Board of Directors is in line with national hospitality property trends. Marriott Hotels recently announced a total ban on smoking. Before the CDOA takes that final step, it will consult with all of our Owners; a questionnaire will be in the November billing package.

Requests for smoking rooms are down to about 20 per month, less than one per day. When the Club is full, non-smokers are assigned to smoking rooms, and this is an area of Owner and Exchange Guest complaints. It was also noted that the matter raises a health issue for our Team Members who breathe dangerous second hand smoke when they enter a room.

Dues Collection to Become Stricter

Most Owners pay their annual dues on a timely basis, but the few who don't – some are habitually late – reduce the Club's cash flow and cost all of us in the collections process.

Dues notices go out on or prior to November 1 each year. They are due on December 1, delinquent on January 2, when an immediate late fee of 10% is imposed. (Reminders are sent out in mid-December). On January 15 an administrative fee of \$150 is added; an additional late fee of \$75 is imposed Feb. 6.

After 90 days, the Club files in Small Claims Court, where it has never lost a case.

Directors recognize that some Owners may be in financial straits. Some units may be tied up in estates disputes. The fiduciary responsibility required in our CC&Rs and Bylaws requires that the Directors may need to use an outside collection agency in cases where dues have not been paid for a year or more. A special CDOA Task Force will put together a detailed procedural/legal approach to the collections process for Board action prior to implementation. We will include provisions for liens (personal property/assets/business assets), quit claim deeds and title searches to ensure no other liens/mortgages exist on the delinquent PIU.

Committees Merge for Efficiency, Savings

To further streamline CDOA decision-making and reduce some internal costs, a number of Board-appointed Committees and Advisory groups are being merged.

The Club has already begun saving money by having some committee "meetings" conducted entirely by fax and email, instead of meeting in person at the Club. Although meetings have always been scheduled on early midweek days when occupancy is low, so as not to interfere with potential Owner use and room rentals, there are incidental costs in room cleaning, snacks or lunch, and mileage.

The Financial Management and Investments committees, which already have some overlapping Owner members, will be combined. CC&Rs/Bylaws/Rules and Nominating will be joined. So will the Marketing and Value-Added Services/Products committees. The Legal and Legislative Advisory groups will be joined into a new working committee. It was noted that pending legislative matters sometimes call for immediate response and can't wait for a quarterly meeting.

Committee members and chairs will be asked if they wish to continue to serve under the new merged structures, and we all hope that each of our Owners will agree to continue working together in these new teams.

Directors also voted to invite all past directors who are still Owners in good standing to join a Board Advisory Group, to help insure that the Club retains all of its institutional input, experience and talent.

Did You Know?

- ? Requests for room reservations made via the Club's web site are the first ones handled every morning by the reservations team, before the telephones are opened for the day.
- ? The Pacific Plaza Condominium Association, which is responsible for much of The Donatello building, also owns the nine trees/planter boxes outside the building and the nine marble landscape boxes. All CDOA Owners are also PPCA Owners.
- ? Four CDOA Team Members are now CPR certified.
- ? Flat screen and HDTV sets will soon be evaluated with a view to replacing sets next year, possibly in a joint purchase with the hotel.

August 26 - Club Donatello Family Reunion, in the Terrace room at the Donatello Hotel. This event honors those Owners who joined from 1984 to 1994. Join the Educational/Social events Ambassadors at a wine and appetizer reception from 3-6 PM. Bring pictures or memorabilia to share and to spark reminiscences about the past. The reception will be followed by a no-host prix-fixe dinner at Caesar's Italian Restaurant. Indicate whether you will attend the dinner when you reserve; seating is limited.

December 3 - Christmas Gala.

Every year the Club Donatello's Christmas Gala is a great holiday treat, and this year we return to the St. Francis, the standard of luxury in San Francisco since its opening in 1904. Befitting the Italian heritage of the Club Donatello, the gala is being held in the Colonial Room, which boasts an entire wall restored to its scene of the Tuscan countryside. The evening begins with a champagne reception and a silent auction in the Terrace Room, fifth floor, at the Donatello. Then, together we'll make the short walk to the St. Francis next door, for a sumptuous dinner, followed by dancing to the tunes of our Club Owners' favorite band, the Marsha Remas and Jules Broussard Quintet. Check out your finery and dancing shoes and reserve your place. Champagne, Dinner and lots of Dancing – All for only \$100 per person.

December 5 - Jersey Boys. 8 PM at the Curran. The NY Post called this show “too good to be true.” It's a musical about Rock and Roll Hall of Famers The Four Seasons: Frankie Valli, Bob Gaudio, Tommy DeVito and Nck Massi. This is the story of how four blue-collar kids became one of the greatest successes in pop music history. The show includes some of their great hits like "I Can't Take My Eyes Off of You". Prior to curtain time, there will be a reception in The Terrace Room at the Donatello. Price is \$62 per person inclusive of show and reception.

December 2007 - A first for the Club, the Social and Educational Events Committee is negotiating for a group rate on a pre-Christmas Danube River cruise, starting in Nuremberg and ending in Vienna, with stopovers in Regensburg and Passau The seven day cruise is called *Christmas Markets Along the Danube*. Travel on a private Grand Circle river ship, with stopovers at the local Christmas markets in Germany and Austria. While you cruise, learn about German Christmas traditions listen to choral concerts, and enjoy the beautiful scenery. Travel time is nine days, and there are optional extensions for Munich and/or Vienna. The 2006 prices start at \$1495 per person, including air fare from San Francisco and most meals. The 2007 prices have not been set. The plan is to leave after the Club Donatello Christmas party on December 4, so you can be home for Christmas with new memories to share. **Space is limited and the sign-up list is growing, so if you are interested at all, get on the mailing list by e-mail to Les Yeffa, Club secretary at lesscruz@aol.com.**