

A community of friends enjoying enriched, vibrant and independent lives together

Meet Steve Degnen, Chair of the Marketing & Communications Committee

My wife Carol and I grew up in NYC, got married and lived in Paris for a few years. After those two boring cities, we decided to up our game and headed for the bright lights of Columbus OH, where we raised our family.

Our first visit to Charleston was an August vacation in the early '70's. The brutal heat, bugs and humidity were offset by the charm and beauty of the area. We returned for several summers. We were hooked.

On a snowy Ohio morning, Carol spotted a New York Times article about a new neighborhood called I'On in the sunny south. Charleston was the right size, close to the water, great history, architecture and food...magic criteria for a good retirement spot.



We move here in 2007 and officially started our retirement. Within a few months I became restless. I ran a design and marketing firm for 25 plus years. It was a great career but it did not teach me how to relax...definitely not good training for a happy retirement. I had to get busy.

At the time, I'On had many different clubs and activities but none of them were targeted to a broad range of ages. And I'On didn't have a community garden! So in 2009, I worked with the HOA and created one to give our neighbors a place to come together and form friendships through the simple act of gardening. It is still flourishing today.

My interest in design led me to volunteer on the IDC for 5 years. It was a challenging and rewarding experience, but not a great opportunity for making friends in I'On.

Today, I'm occupied designing and writing this IAH Weekly Newsletter and helping guide our marketing and communications efforts. Surrounded by amazing IAH volunteers makes this the best job I've had since moving to this wonderful neighborhood.

Happy Halloween,

Steve Degnen



This is a friendly reminder about the **LOWVELO biking event** in which Team I'On is participating. The goal is to raise money for the Hollings Cancer Research Center, a very worthy cause. First and foremost, a heartfelt THANK YOU to those of you who have already contributed to the cause! As of this writing we have collected \$4,525!

Your donations are so appreciated by us and by LOWVELO.

It's still time to contribute.

Go to <u>www.lowvelo.org</u> and click on the blue donate button. Put Team I'On in the Donation Search box and find our donation page under Pelotons. Hit the Quick Donate button and you're ready to go!

You may also contribute by mailing a check, payable to MUSC Foundation:

Hollings Cancer Center, 86 Jonathon Lucas Street, Suite MSC955, Charleston, SC 29425.

Please note on the check: "LOWVELO/Team I'On".









Wish us luck on November 6th! Thank you, Len Hanson, Peg Higgins, Penny Leighton, CJ Pelletier, Dick Stifel

Here's what's happening in 1st two weeks in November:

Monday, Nov. 1st 4:00PM - 6:00PM Great Decisions Discussion Group -The WHO's Responses to COVID 19



Join Brenda Uttaro for a discussion of the WHO's role in responding to international pandemics.



The Covid-19 pandemic has thrust the World Health Organization (WHO) into the limelight, for better and for worse. While some of the Trump administration's criticism of the organization was unfair, the response to the early stages of the pandemic left many experts wanting more from the WHO. What is the WHO's role in responding to international pandemics? What can be done to improve the WHO's response to future global health crises?

Great Decisions is America's largest discussion program on world affairs. The program model involves reading the Great Decisions Briefing Book, watching the monthly video and meeting via Zoom to discuss the most critical global issues facing America today.

Tuesday, Nov. 2nd at 2:00PM - 3:00PM IAH Women's Book Club Launch 125 Ponsbury Rd.



Are you a newcomer to I'On and IAH and wanting to join a book club? Or have you been a member of IAH and are interested in participating in a book club? In either case, this is an opportunity to become a founding member of the IAH Women's Book Club.

Penny Leighton will coordinate the launch meeting which will be held at her home. If you would like to join but cannot make the meeting, please contact Penny at penny.leighton@comcast.net.

As this event is being held at a private home, participants must be vaccinated. Also, please bring a mask.

Wednesday, Nov. 3rd at 10:00AM - 11:00AM En Plein Air Painting Avant Garden Park (South side of West Lake)

I'On At Home artists, join us for En Plein Air painting. If you are an artist and you'd like to meet other artists from I'On, join us for outdoor painting. We will meet every other week for a fun morning. You don't have to be a Claude Monet. All experience levels are welcome including those who just want to come by and check it out. We just get together, paint and have fun.



Myrto Tsavalas has artfully organized this event!

Thursday, Nov 4th at 8:30AM - 9:30PM IAH Biking Group



Hop on your bike and join our IAH biking group. Meet us at the I'On Club parking lot every Thursday morning for an hour ride. All levels are welcome. Please be sure to bring a helmet and water. We will be passing in and out of I'On so participants can stop when they want.

Joe Fanelli keeps our Bike Group rolling!

The group will depart from the club promptly at 8:30AM.

Thursday, Nov 4th at 8:45AM - 12:30PM Capers Island Wildlife Exploration Isle of Palms Marina (50 41st Avenue C-6)

Enjoy a 3.5-hour excursion as we sail to Capers Island, one of the few remaining undeveloped barrier islands. We cruise through winding tidal creeks to find diverse wildlife living in this salt marsh environment. Common sightings include bottlenose dolphins, ospreys, pelicans, bald eagles, herons, egrets, and more. As we arrive on Capers Island, you have about an hour and a half to explore its pristine "bone-yard beach" and interior freshwater ponds.



Capers provides excellent opportunities for shelling, bird watching and photography.

Please arrive at the Isle of Palms Marina by 8:45 AM. Meet at the green "Barrier Island Eco Tours" sign on the right side of the "Marina Market" general store. Check in with the Captain who will give you a free parking pass and direct where to park and board the boat. Boarding begins at 8:45 AM with departure at 9:00 AM.

Go to the IAH website for event details.

Herb White is the Skipper in charge of this event!

Sunday, Nov 7th at 3:00PM to 5:00PM Bocce & Booz e Avant Garden Park (South side of West Lake)



Come play the ancient game of Bocce. There's a reason the game has endured for centuries. It's easy and fun. We'll meet on the Bocce court in Avant Garden on the corner of Westlake and Latitude.

Bring your beverage of choice. No skill is required but a sense of humor helps! Bocce Queen Kathy Coffman is in charge of this event.

Monday, Nov. 8th at 11:00AM IAH Programs Committee Meeting (Zoom meeting)



Tuesday, Nov. 9th at 2:00PM - 3:00PM IAH Public Affairs Panel

(Zoom Meeting)

Plan to join the I'On at Home Public Affairs Panel to hear a discussion of the latest developments in the longstanding infrastructure bill, which is currently the topic of heated debate in the Congress.

Should Congress reach agreement by November 9, the panel will focus on what the bill means and what it will cost, politically and economically, to both parties and to the taxpayers. If agreement has not been reached, they will discuss the reasons for the delay and its ramifications.





The second topic is the threat posed by China's potential intervention in Taiwan. With the increase in saber-rattling by the Chinese, the panel will focus on the likelihood of military action against Taiwan and what this could mean to U.S. foreign policy, the semiconductor industry, and general stability in Asia Pacific.

Brady Anderson and Bill Sage will bring their expertise to the discussion of these topics, which will be moderated by Tom Martin.

Wednesday, Nov. 10th at 5:00PM - 6:00PM IAH Happy Hour at Community Table



Grab a cool drink, some delicious appetizers and celebrate with your fellow IAH members at Community Table. We'll be celebrating indoors.



Cha Ching...Happy Hour pricing on wine and appetizers

Cheers to Peggy Watt for putting this together!

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CLICK HERE to go to the IAH Website and signup for these and other events and programs.

We're always searching for new subjects and activities that interest you. Please email your ideas to Joe and Peggy, your IAH Programs co-chairs.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

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Peggy Watt: peggy.watt@comcast.net



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