



These UOAA UPDATES are our way of communicating what is happening to you, our members. It is our hope that this information is being passed on to your members, either by including some of the news in your newsletters or by discussing it at your local support group meetings. People continue to ask, what is UOAA doing for me, and this is our way of answering this time-old question.

We continue to look forward to working with you and to being an active resource to ensure your success.

DECEMBER 19, 2007

ON A SAD NOTE:

OSTOMY WORLD LOSES 2 VERY SPECIAL PEOPLE ... MARY JANE WOLFE AND ALBERT WALLACE

Mary Jane Wolfe, UOAA's Secretary, died on November 8, 2007 from complications related to an infected wound. A courageous woman, Mary Jane never let her wheelchair prevent her from engaging in an active life. Organizer of a basketball team for disabled women at the University of Illinois and an Olympic medalist in archery demonstrates her determination to live a complete life. She was an institution at the Youth Rally, having missed only one in 28 years. She served in a variety of leadership positions for UOA and FOW-USA and most recently came forward to serve as an Officer on UOAA's Management Board of Directors.

Albert J. Wallace, who served as UOA's President in the early 80's, died on November 27th, 2007 at his home in Newton, Iowa at the age of 89. Al was noted for his warm handshake, his friendly smile and his ability to identify and recruit future leaders of UOA. He was a mentor to both Linda and myself. Al and his wife Helen had just celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary.

FALL 2007 ELECTION

As a result of the election that concluded on November 30th, two incumbent Directors, **LeeAnn Barcus** and **Steve Strizic** retained their chairs on the UOAA Management Board of Directors. The effort put forth by LeeAnn, Steve and the third candidate, Michael Guss, is greatly appreciated. If you have any interest in serving on the Management Board of Director, there will be an election this Fall to elect two Directors.

SPECIAL ELECTION

Nominations for candidates for the office of UOAA Secretary will be received at the UOAA Office until December 31, 2007. If you are, or if you know of someone who is, interested in serving in this position, please submit the necessary documentation now. If you do not have the forms, they may be obtained from Joan McGorry at oa@uoaa.org. Information about what the office entails may be obtained from Ken Aukett at kenaukett@uoaa.org. The term will commence of April 1st, 2008 and continue until December 31, 2009.

UOAA'S 501(C)(3) GROUP CHARITY STATUS

The groups listed below were included in UOAA's November 28th, 2007 submission to the IRS for inclusion under UOAA's 501(c)(3) Charity Status umbrella. Upon approval by the IRS, the Charity Status will be retroactive to the date of application. The next submission to the IRS for ASG umbrella coverage will be made in the Spring of 2008.

Ostomy Association of Birmingham Alabama
Ostomy Support Group of Tucson AZ
Ostomy Support Group of Saddleback Valley
Ostomy Support Group of North San Diego County
Silicon Valley Ostomy Support Group
Ostomy Association of Los Angeles
Osto Group
Southern Alameda County Chapter
Ostomy Association of Central Connecticut
Young Ostomate & Diversion Alliance of America
Clearwater Ostomy Support Group
Broward Ostomy Association
South Palm Beach County Ostomy Support Group
South Brevard Ostomy Association
Jupiter Ostomy Support Group
Ostomy Support Group of Middle GA
Cedar Rapids/Iowa City IA Area
Ostomy Support Group of Dupage County IL
United Ostomy Association of Greater Chicago
Southwest Suburban Chicago Ostomy Support Group

Macomb County MI Ostomy Support Group
South Central MN Ostomy Support Group
Joplin Ostomy Association, Inc
Lincoln Ostomy Association
Ostomy Association of New Jersey
Middlesex County NJ Ostomy Association
Morris County NJ Ostomy Association
Ostomy Support Group - Dayton OH
Akron Ohio Area Ostomy Association
Lancaster County Ostomy Support Group
Mercer County PA Ostomy Support Group
Heart of Texas Ostomy Support Group
U-Can-2 Survival and Support Group
Chippewa Valley Ostomy Support Group

IRS 900 N FILING

Once again I bring to your attention the fact that the IRS has a new regulation that requires small tax-exempt organizations whose gross receipts are \$25,000 or less, and who are not required to file form 990 or 990-EZ, to now file **Form 990-N**. This applies to all UOAA affiliated groups, including the ASGs who are included in UOAA's group return. The form will be filed electronically (via the Internet). The first filing deadline for the FY 2007 will be **May 15th, 2008**. The latest information about this filing can be obtained by calling IRS Customer Service at 877-829-5500 or from the IRS website: www.irs.gov/eo .

VISITOR TRAINING MANUAL

For all of you that have been asking, the **UOAA Visitor Training Manual** will be ready for distribution electronically to all ASGs by year end. Our thanks to Lynne Kramer, Linda Aukett and Joan McGorry for making this happen

CONSTITUTION AMENDMENTS

Given that UOAA is still a young organization, as it becomes apparent that changes are needed in the Constitution to cover a point previously missed or to dot some "i"s and cross some "t"s, you will be asked to approve amendments recommended by the MBoD. Such is the case with the four that were mailed with your Annual Affiliation Fee notice. The deadline for submission of your approval of these changes is January 31, 2008.

ANNUAL AFFILIATION FEE

The deadline for payment of your 2008 Annual Affiliation Fee is January 1st, 2008. The fee will remain unchanged at \$ 2.00/member in your

ASG. For those groups that have reported "no members" the fee will be \$ 25. Groups that do not pay the AAF by May 1st will have their contact information removed from the mail contact list and placed in a linked sub-list. The MBoD recognizes the importance of having as many groups as possible listed on the website so that people in need can readily find the group nearest to them. Those groups in the sub-list will be classified as "Other non-affiliated groups". If your group cannot pay the AAF but wishes to remain as a member of UOAA, please contact either Ken Aukett or Treasurer, Dave Rudzin for the necessary accommodation.

UOAA MBoD APPROVES BALANCED BUDGET FOR 2008

At its Annual Meeting, October 25th and 26th, 2007 at the ConvaTec Corporate Headquarters in Skillman, New Jersey the MBoD passed a balanced FY 2008 Budget where Income and Expenses equaled \$ 288,750.

CONVATEC SHOWS SUPPORT FOR UOAA

Dave Johnson, President of ConvaTec, announced at the UOAA Annual Meeting held in the ConvaTec Offices in Skillman, New Jersey that ConvaTec will purchase approximately 20,000 copies of *The Phoenix* magazine to include in the information and sample kits they provide to new ostomates during 2008. Dave also stated that each ASG shall receive a one-year subscription to *The Phoenix* compliments of ConvaTec, to be used as reference material for first time attendees at their meetings. Promotion of subscriptions to *The Phoenix* is most important to UOAA since they are the organization's primary source of income.

REGIONAL CONFERENCE – PALM BEACH OSTOMY ASSOCIATION

UOAA's first 2008 Regional Conference will be hosted by the Palm Beach Ostomy Association and held on Sunday, March 30, 2008, at the JFK Hospital, 5301 South Congress Avenue, Atlantic, Florida. Proceedings will begin at 9:00 am and continue until 5:00 pm. There will be no registration fee. Additional information can be obtained from Conference Chair and support group President Dick Norman by e-mailing him at N1464@att.net

WOC NURSE OF THE YEAR AWARD

It's not too early to start thinking about that special person in your group that you would like to nominate for UOAA's WOC Nurse of the Year Award. The necessary forms will be sent to you in an upcoming UPDATE. The Award will be presented at the WOC Society's Annual Conference that will be held on June 22nd in Orlando, Florida.

WOCN INFO ON UOAA WEBSITE

We are pleased to advise that the following four WOCN-authored guides are now available on the UOAA website:

- Basic Ostomy Skin Care
- Convex Pouching Systems
- Discharge Planning
- Pre-operating Stoma Marking

You can find them at www.uoaa/ostomy_info/

An internal link has also been provided for persons who are searching for information, as well as a way to locate a WOC Nurse in their locale:

www.uoaa.org/links.shtml#professional_soc

COLONDAR:

UOAA is working with **The Colon Club** to promote colon cancer awareness.

As a result of our sponsorship of a "month" in their unique calendar, UOAA received 500 "Colondars" that we are offering for sale at the fixed rate of \$ 15.00 each. Each of the monthly models in the "Colondar" is a colon cancer survivor under the age of 50, and several have an ostomy! We feel that a **Colondar** will make an excellent door-prize for a monthly meeting, a gift for a speaker, or just for someone who wants to promote colon cancer awareness. You can get the full story at the UOAA website <http://www.uoaa.org/Colondar.shtml>



GYGIG 2007 DONATION and 2008 RIDE SCHEDULE

What Is Get Your Guts In Gear?

Get Your Guts in Gear, Inc. is a small independent charity created to raise awareness about Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis, and to raise funds for other charities that support research, education, and patients who are living with IBD or ostomies. GYGIG's mission also includes empowering individuals affected by Crohn's, Colitis, or ostomy surgery through participation in large-scale athletic events in a supportive community atmosphere.



As a benefactor of the Get Your Guts in Gear rides in 2007, UOAA received a check from GYGIG for **\$ 63,840 !!**

It is not too soon to think about the 2008 rides... as a rider, a crewmember or a supporter. These rides take place:

- In New York on June 6th to the 8th
- In the Seattle WA Area, August 1st to the 3rd
- In the Austin TX Area October 17th to the 19th

ADVOCACY HIGHLIGHTS

I am most pleased to advise that Linda Aukett, UOAA's Advocacy Chair, has been elected Chairperson of the Digestive Disease National Coalition, for 2008 and 2009. DDNC is an advocacy organization comprising the major national voluntary and professional societies concerned with digestive diseases. The DDNC focuses on improving public policy related to digestive diseases and increasing public awareness with respect to the many diseases of the digestive system. DDNC members work cooperatively to improve access to and the quality of digestive disease health care in order to promote the best possible medical outcome and quality of life for current and future patients with digestive diseases.

Linda has also been invited to participate as the Public Member of a Joint Taskforce organized by the WOCN Society and the American Society of Colon Rectal Surgeons to develop guidelines for ostomy. That work will begin in January.

NATIONAL COLORECTAL CANCER ROUNDTABLE BLUE STAR PROGRAM

The National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable (NCCRT) is a national coalition of public, private, and voluntary organizations whose mission is to advance colorectal cancer control efforts by improving communication, coordination, and collaboration among health agencies, medical-professional organizations, and the public. The ultimate goal of the Roundtable is to increase the use of proven colorectal cancer screening tests among the entire population for whom screening is appropriate. <http://www.nccrt.org/>



To publicize this program the NCCRT has designed a blue star pin. As a show of support UOAA has purchased 10,000 pins that will be distributed this February to all of its ASG at no cost to the ASGs.

PROJECT COORDINATORS

As I have written in the latest issue of *The Phoenix*, UOAA has embarked on some ambitious projects. The first step will be to define the project in depth; then work out the details; determine the cost; write a grant or find a sponsor to finance it; and finally, to actually undertake and complete the project. As part of this process each of the projects has been assigned a coordinator. The coordinator's first job is to assemble a "project team". This is where you come in ... if, after reading about the following 8 projects, you feel that this is an initiative that you would like to be involved with or you would like more information about the scope of the project, please contact the listed coordinator and let them know of your interest. We are anxious to get as many people involved as we can! The projects are:

1. Visitor Training Video and DVD ...
Dave Rudzin ... rudyman22@uoaa.org
2. Update Ostomy Guidebooks ...
Lynne Kramer ... Lkramer22@verizon.net
3. Timeless *The Phoenix* Magazine ...
Charlie Grotevant ... cgrotevant@uoaa.org
4. Increase Exposure of UOAA in Medical Community ...
Steve Strizic ... SteveS@uoaa.org
5. UOAA Ambassador Team Program ...
Kristin Knipp ... kristinknipp@uoaa.org
6. "Nothing I Can't Do" Video/DVD ...
Bob Baker ... bobbaker@uoaa.org
7. Convene Advocacy Oriented Conference ...
Ken/Linda Aukett ... kenaukett@uoaa.org
8. Partner with the WOCN to Improve Education of LPNs & RNs About Ostomy Care for the New Patient ...
LeeAnn Barcus ... LeeAnn@uoaa.org

IN CONCLUSION

My next UPDATE will be after our Strategic Planning Meeting that will be held January 4th and 5th, 2008 at the Corporate Offices of Hollister, Incorporated, who have provided an Educational Grant to make this event possible.

Some of the strategic issues that we will be discussing are: How can we attract ASG leaders to participate in UOAA National activities? What has to be done to expand communications with the public, possibly through the establishment of a UOAA Blog? Define UOAA's future administrative operation requirements; How can UOAA develop closer relationships with kindred associations? and, What can we do to improve the world's perception of "ostomy"?

With the holiday and flu seasons upon us, the thought for the day is ... rest, avoid crowds, drink lots of water, and enjoy the moment. 2008 will come soon enough!

With warmest wishes,
Ken Aukett - President, UOAA