



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.

JANUARY 14, 2008

SPECIAL ELECTION

Ballots for the election of a Secretary to replace Mary Jane Wolfe will be put into the mail by the UOAA by the end of this week. The ASGs have until February 29th to return their ballots. I am attaching to this UPDATE the campaign messages written by the three nominated candidates. The term of the new Secretary will begin once the votes are counted, and end on December 31, 2009.

IRS 900 N FILING

To assist you with your filing I suggest that you check out the following IRS website: www.irs.gov/charities/ then click on "Annual Electronic Filing Requirement For Small Exempt Organizations – Form 990-N (e-Postcard) and at the bottom of this page click on Frequently Asked Questions.

As of today the IRS has not listed the website address where this filing is to be made! The filing deadline for FY 2007 will be **May 15th, 2008**.

CONSTITUTION AMENDMENTS

Just a reminder, you have until January 31st to send in your vote on the proposed amendments to UOAA's Constitution that were sent to you this past December. If you have any question about them, please don't hesitate to contact me at kenaukett@uoaa.org

IS DISCRIMINATION AN ISSUE?

Because they have a fecal or urinary stoma, are there members of your Group that are being discriminated against where they work, where they socialize or where they play? If they believe that they have been wronged and would like to do something about it, but are unsure of their rights ... UOAA can help. UOAA has retained the services of **Jennifer Jaff**, a lawyer who

specializes in assisting people with ostomies take on the "establishment". Jennifer is a person who can provide much needed advice and counsel at no charge to your member. This is an advocacy service paid for by UOAA. If you have a member who has a discrimination issue, and wants help, have them call Joan McGorry in the UOAA Office at 800-826-0826 to get the relief process started. Please announce this at your next meeting ... some people are just too embarrassed to ask for help!

COLONDAR:

Do you need a nice gift for a speaker, for your WOC nurse, for members of your Medical Advisory Committee, for members of your Groups' Board of Directors, or maybe just a 50/50 for your members? Then how about helping UOAA in its effort to help



promote colon cancer awareness. UOAA has signed on as a sponsor of **The Colon Club's "Colondar"** project. For \$ 15.00 each you can get a 2008 calendar that features colon cancer survivors who are under the age of 50 as models ... two of the models have ostomies! To get your Colondars, contact Joan McGorry in our Office at 800-826-0826 or e-mail her at oa@uoaa.org.

REGIONAL CONFERENCE – PALM BEACH OSTOMY ASSOCIATION

Dick Norman, President of the Palm Beach Ostomy Association advises that plans are taking shape for the Regional Conference his support group is hosting on Sunday, March 30, 2008, at the JFK Hospital, 5301 South Congress Avenue, Atlantis, Florida. Proceedings will begin at 9:00 am and continue until 5:00 pm. A small

block of rooms has been set aside at the Best Western Hotel in Lantana, Florida, at a rate of \$ 89.00/night + tax. There will be no registration fee for this event. A continental breakfast will be sponsored by the JFK Hospital and the luncheon by ConvaTec. There will be a product exhibition and stoma clinic. Additional information can be obtained from Conference Chair Dick Norman by e-mailing him at N1464@att.net (see attached flyer)

OSTO GROUP:

Ostomy supplies for the uninsured.

Osto Group is for sale!!!

Osto Group is a fast growing business that provides the uninsured in the U.S. with very low cost ostomy supplies, and we are making a profit. Visit our web site www.ostogroup.org to see what we do and how we operate. This is exclusively an Internet and telephone business. If any individual or group is interested in learning more about the possibility of taking over this business contact Bob Pleski, President of Osto Group via toll-free telephone **1-877-678-6699** or email him at bpleski@comcast.net. They have a financial history and growth projections packet that can be forwarded to interested parties.

(Editor's Note: It is felt by the UOAA MBoD that Osto Group provides a valuable service to those ostomates that do not have insurance coverage for their supplies. With Bob Pleski's announcement that he would like to retire, it is hoped that someone or some group can be identified that would carry on this good work.)

2008 TEXAS GYGIG RIDE

GYGIG Ride Director, Jay Pacitti, has advised that the Texas Ride has been moved up a week to **October 17-19**, with registration in La Grange, Texas on October 16th. Riders are needed for all 3 GYGIG rides!



MARCH: COLON CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

As part of UOAA's Advocacy Program, we are working with The National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable (NCCRT) in their efforts to advance colorectal cancer control efforts by improving communication, coordination, and cooperation among health agencies, professional organizations, and the public. The ultimate goal of the NCCRT is to increase the use of proven colorectal cancer screening tests among the entire population for whom screening is appropriate. To publicize this program UOAA has purchased 10,000 "Blue Star Pins" that will be distributed to the ASGs, at no cost to them, this February.



PROJECT UPDATE

Under the direction of Charlie Grotevant and Kristin Knipp, *The Phoenix* Editor, Ian Settlemire is working on the production of four content-specific issues of *The Phoenix* that can serve as a valuable part of your group's visiting program. Samples of these issues, each with a specific theme, i.e. Colostomy, Ileostomy, Urostomy and Continent Diversion containing articles that will be a valuable source of information and inspiration to a new ostomate, will be ready for distribution to the ASGs later this Spring.

FUTURE ASG LEADERSHIP SEMINARS

Two ASG Leadership Seminars are in the planning stage this Spring. One, in the April/May time frame will be in the St. Louis area, the other one will be June 21st in Orlando. Details regarding these events will be forwarded as they become available. Keep tabs on this page: http://www.uoaa.org/conferences_events.shtml

IN CONCLUSION

I wish to thank Hollister Incorporated for sponsoring our most productive Strategic Planning Meeting held the first weekend in January in their Libertyville, Illinois Offices. The prospects for UOAA's future are most promising. Good things have happened and will continue to happen throughout 2008.

With best wishes for now,

Ken Auhett, UOAA President