



*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.*

**JUNE 5, 2009**

## □ NEWS FROM NEW ORLEANS

If you haven't met her, come to New Orleans this August and really get to know her! She is CoCo, the Colossal Colon. Thanks to an educational grant to UOAA by **edgemark** arrangements have been made with the exhibit's owner, The Colon Club, for CoCo to appear at our Conference. She is 40 feet long, 4 feet high and when crawling through her, or looking through one of the many viewing ports you will be able to learn about IBD, polyps, diverticula, hemorrhoids and other intestinal nasties. CoCo travels the country promoting awareness about diseases of the colon and encourages viewers to get regular check ups including periodic colonoscopy exams. She will be open to both UOAA Conference attendees as well as the general public on Thursday August 6<sup>th</sup> from noon to 5:00 pm; on Friday, the 7<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm August and on Saturday, the 8<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm in the Sheraton Hotel's ground floor Gallery Room.



## □ AGS LEADERSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS

The task was not easy, but our ASG Advisory Board, acting as an ad hoc Selection Committee, reviewed the nominations for this year's Awards, and have selected the following support group leaders:

- Robert Cohen of the Venice Florida Ostomy Support Group
- Stanley Cooper of the Philadelphia Ostomy Association

- Bill Johnson of the Chattanooga Ostomy Association
- George Salamy of the Morris County NJ Ostomy Association, and
- Steve Vandervender of the Peoria Area Ostomy Support Group

The Awards will be presented at the Recognition Luncheon on Thursday, August 7<sup>th</sup>, in New Orleans. Each recipient will receive \$ 500 to help defray their conference attendance expenses, and they will be invited to serve as a member of the ASG Advisory Board.



## YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE!!

UOAA, as one of the sponsors of the **Great Comebacks® Program** is delighted to share that once again we are looking to add new faces to the Great Comebacks family!

New this year, **Great Comebacks®** will honor those between the ages of 7 to 16 with the **Comeback Kids Award™**, an award that recognizes young people, who, despite having Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, or an ostomy, live active, productive lives while managing their illness.

But that's not all... this year also marks the **25<sup>th</sup> anniversary** for the Great Comebacks Program!

The Great Comebacks Program was established in 1984 by legendary San Diego Chargers placekicker Rolf Benirschke to provide guidance and inspiration for people facing the physical and emotional challenges of Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, colorectal cancer and/or ostomy surgery. Twenty-five years later, Great Comebacks continues to celebrate the achievements of courageous individuals, people who are helping to inspire others and raise the consciousness level of the public to where everyone will know someone who has faced one of these diseases and is now living well... often because of their surgery.

The deadline is fast approaching for this year's award process, but there is still time to enter. If you would like to share your story and offer inspiration and encouragement to others, or you know someone who would like to share their story, I encourage you to visit the "US Awards Program" page at [www.GreatComebacks.com](http://www.GreatComebacks.com) and submit a nomination for yourself or others by **July 15, 2009**. Eligible entries received after July 15, 2009 will be considered as part of the 2010 process.

If you have any questions, please contact Etanjalie Ayala at 212-445-8225 or [edayala@webershandwick.com](mailto:edayala@webershandwick.com).

## □ YOUTH RALLY

The **Youth Rally Committee, Inc.** is pleased to issue a forecast for smiles and great experiences for 120 campers at this year's Rally! They send special thanks to the UOAA ASGs that have found campers, helped do their paperwork, and sponsored their attendance. The 28 groups listed here have jointly sent enough funds to pay the registration fee for 38 campers – and some of them have spent additional funds on airfare. The camper fee is \$ 425 (which covers everything except travel between home and Denver airport) so you do the math. Their dedication year after year is outstanding!

Anne Arundel, MD; Baltimore, MD; Birmingham, AL ; Broward Co, FL ; Central CT ; Cleveland, OH ; East Valley, AZ ; Flint, MI; Greater Lansing, MI; Hutchinson, KS; Joplin, MO; Kankakee, IL; Kansas City, KS; Las Vegas, NV; North Central Oklahoma; Northern San Diego Co, CA; North Suburb Chicago, IL; Oklahoma City, OK; Orange Co, CA; Los Angeles, CA; Saddleback Valley, CA; Silicon Valley, CA; Snohomish, WA; Sonoma, CA; St. Louis, MO; Southwest Suburban Chicago, IL; Tucson, AZ; Waterville, ME

The **2009 Youth Rally** will be held from **July 11<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup>** at the University of Colorado's Boulder campus. Is there a teen in your support group who would benefit from attendance at this event? It's not too late, but **HURRY** to get their application in! Find it at [www.rally4youth.org](http://www.rally4youth.org) or contact Linda at: [laukett@rally4youth.org](mailto:laukett@rally4youth.org) .

## □ "GET YOUR GUTS IN GEAR" IN 2009

The word is in that our senior statesman athlete, Charlie Grotevant, will be riding in the inaugural Midwest GYGIG bike ride this October 2<sup>nd</sup> through the 4<sup>th</sup>. Charlie's wife Joyce will be driving their van as part of the support crew. These rides raise funds for organizations, like UOAA that promote awareness about IBD and the ostomy surgery that these diseases often necessitate. Each rider is challenged to raise

a given amount. Last year UOAA received almost \$40,000 as its share of the net ride proceeds. I urge you to consider supporting Charlie and his wife as they for all of us. Charlie's ride number is **Rider MW-17** and Joyce is Crew **MW-C11**.

For more information, and to make a donation, visit the GYGIG website at [www.ibdride.org](http://www.ibdride.org). And while you are at it, why not sign up for the August 7<sup>th</sup> through the 9<sup>th</sup> ride in the area north of Seattle, enjoying the summer scenes of the Skagit Valley and the Cascade Mountains. Or join Charlie cycling through the rolling fields of northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin on October 2<sup>nd</sup> through the 4<sup>th</sup>.

□ **WORLD OSTOMY DAY... October 17<sup>th</sup> 2009**

To showcase talents and people and to create lasting memories in conjunction with World

Ostomy Day Hollister is again sponsoring a

**World Ostomy Day Photo Contest.**

The theme for WOD 2009 is **“Reaching Out.”**

We know there are thousands of ostomates who “reach out” each day -- and in every way, living to the fullest with your families or on vacation, during work and with your grandchildren, and while volunteering or tending to pets. We know you're out there “reaching out” and that's the type of image we want you to capture. Summer is upon us ... what a great time for those Kodak moments. Snap the shot, submit the photo, and who knows, you may win a \$ 250 award for your Support Group.

**“SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY”**

**Please submit your entries by August 1, 2009 to:**

Diane Owen  
Hollister Incorporated  
2000 Hollister Drive  
Libertyville, IL 60048 USA  
E-mail: [wod2009pc@hollister.com](mailto:wod2009pc@hollister.com)

□ **PATIENT RESOURCE GUIDES:**

I hope that you are using our new Ostomy Patient Resource magazines as part of the educational material that you provide to the new ostomates you see, either as part of your Visiting Program or at your monthly meetings. We have a new supply and you are most welcome to them. They are free for the asking, but there is a nominal charge for postage. Call either Joan McGorry or Linda Torres at UOAA's Office ... 800-826-0826 .. to place your order.

□ **COMING SOON!**

Within the next several months you will be receiving a great DVD to go with your UOAA Visiting Program Manual distributed to all ASGs last year. This was produced professionally under the direction of Dave Rudzin and will really enhance your Visitor Training!

□ **IN CONCLUSION**

Tomorrow Linda and I will leave for St. Louis to attend the 41<sup>st</sup> WOCN Society's Annual Conference. UOAA has been given a complementary booth in the Exhibition Hall where we will distribute information about UOAA's varied projects and activities and spread the word about the great support groups that are organized to assist their patients. It will also give us the opportunity to present UOAA's WOCNurse of the Year Award to Sonya Perry of Charleston, West Virginia. It is too bad that this award has to be limited to only one person ... all WOC Nurses are special to us!

We will return home in time to leave again for the GYGIG New York ride that starts at 7:00 am on Friday, June 12<sup>th</sup> leaving from Pier 84 in NYC. I will be worn out just driving my car the 210 miles to the end of the ride in Saratoga Springs. Some day I will run out of excuses and just have to hop on a bike .... Some day maybe!

Best wishes for now,

Ken Aukett