



UOAA UPDATE

GREETINGS!

I'm very excited to be composing my first UOAA Update as president of this amazing organization. Since the transition of officers in January, UOAA has been busy, busy, busy, and we haven't missed a beat. I am blessed to be working with such a talented team of national leaders, and I look forward to getting to know each of you serving in leadership of your local affiliated support group. UOAA exists to meet the needs of ostomates nation-wide, and your support groups are key to making that happen. We thank you for your commitment.

NEW OFFICERS and ASG ADVISORY BOARD

Your UOAA Management Board of Directors for 2010 is comprised of the following individuals:

Kristin Knipp– President
David Rudzin– President-elect
LeeAnn Barcus– Vice-president
Scott Bowling– Treasurer
Carol Haack– Secretary
Susan Burns– Director
Bob Parish– Director
Steve Strizic– Director
Lynne Kramer– Director

UOAA also has a new ASG Advisory Board. The advisory board provides advice and counsel regarding UOAA's activities, ensuring the needs and interests of the affiliated support groups are met. ASG Advisory Board members may also serve as a source of committee members for UOAA and candidates for national office. UOAA's 2010 ASG Advisory Board is comprised of the following individuals:

Jason Cesari– ASG Advisory Board Chair
Robert Cohen
Stanley Cooper
Bill Johnson
Wendy Leuder
Pat Parish
Kaytie Torango
Steve Vandevender

The UOAA ASG Advisory Board can be contacted through our website at http://www.uoaa.org/asg_resource_list.shtml

STRATEGIC PLANNING

The UOAA Management Board of Directors convened its 2010 Strategic Planning meeting January 22-23 in Libertyville, IL at Hollister Inc. In addition to discussing and voting on organizational business, the MBoD committed to undertaking several new projects beginning in 2010. Among them are a college and university outreach, the standardization of information manuals to complete and ASG in a Box program, the cultivation of minority ostomy communities, and an Ostomy Summit. More information will be made available to you as committees are formed and project outlines are completed.

WE'RE REMODELING!

New and exciting redesigns are coming to the UOAA logo and website. Watch for the unveiling in early spring!

ASG LEADERSHIP SEMINAR in ARLINGTON, TX

A seminar for leaders of UOAA Affiliated Support Groups will be held on Saturday, May 1st at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Arlington TX. A small block of rooms is available for those who want to



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come in Friday night or stay over Saturday night. There is no registration fee and **UOAA will provide a \$50 grant** (to help defray expenses) to each ASG with at least one representative at the meeting. If your ASG plans to attend, please RSVP to [Joan McGorry](#) or [Steve Strizic](#) ASAP (no later than April 26). For more information, see the attached flyer.

BODY SCANNERS, PAT DOWNS and CARRY-ON INSPECTIONS, OH MY!

Many of you or your group members have written to us or called with concerns over new TSA regulations in light of recent terrorist attempts. We want you to know that we are advocating for you, and have been in touch with the TSA. Attached is a hand-out from the TSA that outlines the rights of individuals traveling with a prosthetic device or external medical device. We hope that you will make this available to your members, and instruct anyone with further concerns to contact us directly. UOAA is in the process of designing a travel card that would help identify the carrier as someone that uses an ostomy appliance and may be helpful in communicating your needs to the TSA. Keep in mind, however, that TSA does not endorse such cards, and carrying said document does not ensure that you will not be inspected.

GO BLUE FOR COLON CANCER!

Help the Colon Cancer Alliance and UOAA raise awareness about colorectal cancer and the importance of screening by wearing blue on national Dress in Blue Day on March 5, 2010! Individuals, businesses and community groups are all encouraged to participate. Materials are available

through the Colon Cancer Alliance website at http://www.ccalliance.org/news_events_dress-in-blue.html

UOAA also has a limited amount of CCA Blue Star pins available by request for you or your group. Contact Joan in the UOAA office at 1-800-826-0826 if you're interested.

UOAA TO PARTICIPATE IN GREAT COMEBACKS NATIONAL AWARDS CEREMONY

The Great Comebacks™ Program began in 1984 under the leadership of Rolf Benirschke, with support from ConvaTec. It was designed to raise awareness of quality of life issues for people living with Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, colorectal cancer or other diseases that can lead to ostomy surgery. Today the Great Comebacks community has spread far beyond its original borders, raising awareness around the globe through inspirational individuals who have chosen to share their stories and offer hope to others facing these diseases and transitioning to life after surgery.

UOAA has participated in the Great Comebacks program for many years, and in 2008 became an official sponsor of the award. On March 2 and 3, 2010, UOAA's president, president-elect, vice-president and advocacy chair will be in Washington, DC to participate in the national awards ceremony and the advocacy efforts that accompany the program. Members of the Great Comebacks community, including your UOAA board members, will be making visits to Capitol Hill to talk with key members of the legislature about the topics most important to ostomates, including Medicare/Medicaid reimbursement and private



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insurance.

On the evening of March 3, the Great Comebacks national winner will be crowned. This years candidates are:

Tony Bell from Kansas, Central Region
Scott Bowling from Maryland, East Region (and UOAA treasurer!)
Fr. Dennis Donovan from Florida, Southern Region
Sylvia Hebert from Utah, West Region

JUST A REMINDER!

When you signed your affiliation papers to join the UOAA, you agreed that your group would have an ostomy patient visitation program and that your group would promote subscriptions to UOAA's magazine, The Phoenix. If you are in need of the official UOAA Visitor Training manual and video for training your group, please contact the UOAA office at 1-800-826-0826. UOAA relies on subscriptions to the Phoenix for revenue. One of the greatest ways you can support our organization is by subscribing to the magazine, ADVERTISING THE MAGAZINE IN YOUR ASG's NEWSLETTER, and encouraging your members to subscribe! If you need a ready-made advertisement to place in your newsletter, please contact the UOAA office.

SOCIAL MEDIA MAKES CONNECTING FUN and EASY!

Facebook and Twitter! They're all the rage, and UOAA has jumped on the bandwagon. These social media sites offer an excellent way to connect with other ostomates, not only from the US, but from around the world. They're also a

great way to stay abreast of what's happening inside UOAA and it's sister organizations and stay on top of newsworthy items relating to ostomies and diversion.

Join UOAA on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/United-Ostomy-Associations-of-America/169475247090?ref=ts>

Follow UOAA on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/UOAA>

MBoD ELECTIONS and WOCN of the YEAR AWARD

Keep your eyes open! In an email coming this week, you will be receiving information regarding nominations and elections for the 2 UOAA board director positions to be voted on this fall. Also enclosed will be directions for nominations of your favorite WOC Nurse for the UOAA WOCN Nurse of the Year Award. Directions and applications for both will be included in the email.

Wishing you health and happiness,