From: United Ostomy Associations of America  
Date: Saturday, Feb 18, 2017  
Subject: UOAA February Newsletter!

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Monthly Ostomy News and Events

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February Newsletter

Monthly newsletter of the latest news and events from United Ostomy Associations of America and the ostomy community.

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www.ostomy.org

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From the President

You deserve the spotlight.

In affiliated support groups (ASGs) all around the country tireless volunteers give back to the ostomy community day after day. Countless individuals also gather surplus supplies, visit new ostomy patients in the hospital and do critical outreach in their communities. Some of you are even pioneers of your unique ostomy and continent diversion surgeries, or do amazing physical feats.

Help us celebrate these accomplishments by sharing your stories and photos with us. We may feature them in an upcoming newsletter or online. Also, be sure to support Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month and bring much needed local attention to your ASG by submitting a letter to your local newspaper or blog editor. Highlight the resources that you offer to the community. We know that many new patients remain unaware of the many resources available to them.

Our advocacy and outreach efforts are bringing together people from around the nation and you are not alone as we work together for a better future for all those living with an ostomy or continent diversion.

Thank you for all that you do.

Susan Burns  
UOAA President
Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month

Spread Awareness and Call Attention to Your Local Ostomy Support Group this March

SAMPLE LETTER TO THE EDITOR

This sample letter to the editor can help you raise awareness about Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month in your community and connect readers who have had, or may have ostomy surgery to your local affiliated support group and the resources of UOAA. Use it as a generic guide to write your own personal letter. Then submit your personalized letter to your local newspaper. Tip: Be sure to check for any word limitation restrictions when submitting letters to your newspaper; typically, letters are under 250 words.

Word Document

Dear Editor,

As a recipient of lifesaving ostomy surgery, I am writing in support of March 2017 as Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month.

Colorectal cancer is the third most common cancer diagnosis among men and women combined in the United States. There is currently no cure, but it’s 90 percent treatable if caught early with a screening. American Cancer Society estimates there will be over 135,000 new cases and over 50,000 deaths this year.

I am a volunteer with a local affiliated support group of United Ostomy Associations of America. Sometimes colorectal cancer is treated with surgery, including colostomy or ileostomy surgery that may be temporary or permanent. I’d like your readers to know that if they have had, or need to have, lifesaving ostomy surgery because of colorectal cancer or any other reason, education and peer-support are available. Ostomy surgery creates an opening (stoma) in the abdomen that allows for the removal of bodily waste into an external ‘pouch.’ UOAA works toward a society where people with ostomies and continent diversions are accepted as the healthy and active individuals they are.

Ostomy patients of all ages and their families, friends and caregivers are welcome at meetings of (insert local support group name). Please join us (insert your meeting location, time) and contact (website leader email or phone #) with any questions.

Talk to your doctor to see if you are due for a colorectal cancer screening. To find out more information on living with an ostomy contact United Ostomy Associations of America, www.ostomy.org or call 1-800-826-0826.
Advocacy News:

Help Us Reach Legislators in All 50 States in the Affordable Care Act “Repeal and Replace” Debate

Jeanine Gleba
UOAA Advocacy Manager

The big news on the Hill is that on February 10, 2017, Congressman Tom Price was confirmed as the new Secretary of the US Department of Health and Human Services. This will have implications for the “repeal and replace” health reform process and we will keep you posted as details arise.

If you have not already contacted your legislators regarding the importance of preserving critical patient protections from the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, we encourage you to take action on our website and share your ostomy story with your own legislators. To date we’ve had constituents send messages to legislators in 33 states. With your help we can reach the legislators in all 50 states! Now is the time to have your voice heard!

We also continue to closely monitor any action taken with Medicare Competitive Bidding. Read our latest update here.

We are Stronger and Louder Together!

Advocate with an App

Now you can take action on UOAA’s latest advocacy alerts wherever you are with our new free app for your smartphone!

Mobile App Instructions
Download Now! It’s Quick and Easy

1. Search for "votervoice" (one word) in your App store, or you can use one of these links:

   Google Play App
   iTUNES App

2. After you have downloaded the App, you will be prompted to enter your email address. A verification code will be sent to that email account.

3. After verifying your email, you will be brought to a ‘Find Association’ page. Start typing in ‘UOAA’ and an option for ‘UOAA’ will appear directly below where you were typing. Click/touch that full name & you’ll then have access to the VoterVoice mobile app.

Click Here To Contact YOUR Lawmakers
UOAA Partners in Ostomy Webinar

You can still view educational slideshow online

On February 14 UOAA partnered in a webinar hosted by Fight Colorectal Cancer. “Navigating the Ostomy Experience” was presented by UOAA MBoD member and CWOCN Joanna Burgess-Stocks. It covers a broad spectrum of topics in 60 minutes and is an especially helpful education tool for the new, or soon to be, person living with an ostomy. You can still share, listen or watch the presentation online. Or you can see Joanna speak in person with a new presentation at our conference this summer!

Webinar Link

Education for Everyone at National Conference!

6th National Conference
Tues.–Sat., Aug. 22–26, 2017, Hotel Irvine, Irvine, California

All Are Welcome. Come, Share, Learn August 22-26 in Irvine, California.

Inspirational Talks, Stoma Clinic, Educational Workshops, Social Events, ASG Leadership Academy, Exhibit Hall and more!
Programming Features

Healing with Humor
Ostomy Basics ... Colostomy, Ileostomy, Urostomy and Continent Diversion
Ask the WOCNurses
CEU accredited Ostomy Education Programs for WOCNurses and Non WOCNurses
Continent Diversion rap session
Continent Diversion BCIR
Pregnancy and Other GYN Concerns
Gynecological Cancer Issues for Women
The Journey with Crohn’s Disease and an Ostomy
Chemo and Radiation Effects on an Ostomate
Fecal Microbiota
Prostate and Other Male Ostomate Issues
Spouses and Partners Workshops
SBS Diagnosis, Treatment and Nutrition
Caregivers, Family and Friends Interactive Discussion
Drugs and Your Ostomy
Peristomal Hernias
Affiliated Support Group Leadership Academy
21+ Issues Open Rap
Gay and Lesbian Open Forum
A SG Leadership Rap Session; and Newsletters
Tai Chi Sessions
The New Post-Op Sexual You
Advocacy Updates and How to Get Involved
Insurance and Medicare Issues
Psychological Concerns
Cancer and Genetics
Fitness and Exercise
Nutrition, Pre and Probiotics

Check Ostomy.org for Latest Programming, Hotel and Schedule Information

Register Today!

We Want to Hear Your Local Stories!

Is your local Affiliated Support Group (ASG) doing great things? Do you have a volunteer whom you’d like to honor with a national shout-out? Are you reaching out to make a difference in your community? Everyone loves stories about the accomplishments you and those in your group are achieving. Let us know about them for a possible feature in the next newsletter or online, and
remember to send along a photo as well. Let us help you get the word out about how you are making a difference!

Contact: Ed Pfueller
Communications & Outreach Manager
ed.pfueller@ostomy.org
1-800-826-0826

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**FOW Supply Request**

It’s not too late to make a resolution you can keep. Encourage your members to send their unused ostomy supplies to Friends of Ostomates Worldwide–USA at FOW-USA, 4018 Bishop Lane, Louisville, KY 40218-4539. They will help needy ostomates have a happier and healthier year. You can read their inspiring stories on our new website [www.fowusa.org](http://www.fowusa.org). Thank you for your continued financial and product support. We appreciate it.

Ann Favreau, President of FOW-USA

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**Events: 2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>UOAA Rep</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 12-14, 2017</td>
<td><a href="http://example.com/wound-care-institute">Wound Care Institute</a></td>
<td>Branson, MO</td>
<td>Susan Burns</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 1</td>
<td>Iowa WOCN Society-Ostomy Education Day</td>
<td>Des Moines, IA</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 18</td>
<td>Woundstock Too</td>
<td>St Louis, MO</td>
<td>Susan Burns</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 22-26</td>
<td><a href="http://example.com/uoaa-national-conference">UOAA National Conference</a></td>
<td>Irvine, CA</td>
<td>Staff and MBoD</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Contact: [ed.pfueller@ostomy.org](mailto:ed.pfueller@ostomy.org) to add your event to the list