



**United
Ostomy
Associations of
America, Inc.**

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UOAA - ‘ A NEW BEGINNING ’

What is UOAA?

The United Ostomy Associations of America or, “UOAA”, is a national network for bowel and urinary diversion support groups in America that has been organized to fill the void left by the dissolution of UOA.

It is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization, incorporated in New Jersey, managed by volunteers with the cooperation and utilization of outside professional help when required.

What does UOAA hope to accomplish?

The goal of UOAA is to provide a non-profit association that will serve to unify and strengthen the support groups in America, those former UOA chapters and other hospital based groups, that are organized for the benefit of people who have, or will have intestinal or urinary diversions, and for their care givers.

Therefore UOAA’s mission is

UOAA is an association of affiliated, non-profit, support groups who are committed to the improvement of the quality of life of people who have, or will have, an intestinal or urinary diversion.

It is dedicated to the provision of information, advocacy and service to, and for, its affiliated support groups, their members and the intestinal/urinary diversion community at large.

It is organized to grow and develop while remaining independent and financially viable.

Who can join UOAA?

Membership in UOAA is open to any former UOA chapter, or support group, such as those that have been formed by a medical professional, hospital or allied agency, that chooses to affiliate with it. Affiliation is also open to the former UOA network groups. Support Groups that affiliate are referred to as “**ASGs**”.

So then the members of UOAA will be the support groups?

Yes. You can look at it as an association of associations.

What about individual memberships in UOAA?

Members of ASGs will be members of UOAA. UOAA will have no national or association members. UOAA will not compete with the ASGs for members!

With no individual memberships how does UOAA communicate with ASG members and those new ostomy and continent diversion patients looking for information?

UOAA publishes a quarterly magazine, *“The PHOENIX ”*, to which ASG members, members of WOCN and any other interested party can subscribe. UOAA will display periodic information **“Updates”** on its website, www.uoaa.org . UOAA will staff a **Help Line, 800-826-0826**.

Please explain what you mean in your mission statement when you say UOAA is dedicated to the provision of information, advocacy and service to, and for, its affiliated support groups, their members and the intestinal/urinary diversion community at large.

UOAA will provide the following:

- **IRS Charity status**: UOAA will provide a **501(c)(3) charity status “umbrella”** for its affiliated members. Support groups can take advantage of this coverage and do not have to apply for their own IRS tax exemption. Under this umbrella, donations made to the ASG may be deducted from the donor’s Federal Income Tax.
- **Advocacy**: UOAA will continue to serve as an **advocate** for our community as it did in the past. It will provide a national forum to unify our voices for the common good of all people with bowel and urinary diversions at local, State and national levels, with emphasis on both private and governmental health care insurance, and on discrimination issues. The **Advocacy Hotline** will continue to be available via advocacy@uoaa.org . The advocacy “Capwiz” program will be featured on UOAA’s website.
- **Information**:
 - UOAA has established a comprehensive, interactive website, www.uoaa.org that includes an advocacy section; and General, Teen, Young Adult and Continent Diversion Network message boards. Links will be established to all pertinent websites and to our industry supporters. Bob Baumel serves as UOAA’s Webmaster.
 - UOAA will have an official quarterly magazine, *“The PHOENIX ”*, that can be obtained through subscription. The annual cost for a subscription will be \$ 25.00 payable directly to the publisher. UOAA has contracted with Ian Settlemire, former Editor of UOA’s OSTOMY QUARTERLY, to publish *“The PHOENIX ”*.
 - UOAA will send periodic electronic information Updates to the ASG contacts.
 - UOAA will maintain a library of articles on the website, suitable for use in member newsletters.

- **Conferences:** UOAA conferences will be held annually, alternating between Regional Conferences one year, and an Annual Conference the next. Regional conferences will be held in 2006 and the inaugural UOAA national conference will be held August, 2007, at the Lincolnshire Marriott Resort in suburban Chicago.
- **Referral Service:** UOAA's Help Line is 800-826-0826, the telephone number previously used by UOA. People seeking information about rehabilitative support will be directed to their local area UOAA ASG. UOAA will also establish an e-mail address ostomyvisitor@uoaa.org . People seeking an ostomy visitor will be directed by UOAA's Office Administrator to an appropriate local ASG or Network.
- **Network Support:** Logistical support will be provided as needed and requested to the following virtual Network support groups: the Teen network; the Young Adult (YODAA) network; the 30+ network; the CD network, and to GLO. UOAA will support the endeavors of the two groups that have recently incorporated and will be operating as independent entities: the Youth Rally Committee, & the Pull-Thru Network.
- **Liaisons:** In order to promote better working relationships between the UOAA affiliated support groups and their Allied Agencies, Liaisons will be appointed to, and invited from: ACS, ASCRS, CCFA, DDNC, FOW USA, FOW Canada, IOA, The Oley Foundation, The Pull-Thru Network, QLA, The Youth Rally Committee, UOA-Canada, and WOCN.

Who are the people putting UOAA together?

UOAA'S Organizing Steering Committee consists of:

President ... Ken Aukett; Vice President ... Julielyn Gibbons; Treasurer ... Dave Rudzin;
Secretary ... Ginnie Kasten; Director ... Charlie Grotevant; Director ... Ron Titlebaum

In the Fall of 2006 the Affiliated Support Groups will elect a new Managing Board of Directors. The new officers and directors, including a President-Elect, will take office on January 1st, 2007. Ginnie Kasten will serve as Chair of the Nominations and Elections Committee. N&E Committee members include Mary Beth Akers, Stanley Cooper, Kathie DiPonio, Kellie Strittman and Steve Strizic.

In addition to the Officers and Directors serving on the Organizing Steering Committee the following people are also serving UOAA: Joan McGorry as Office Administrator; Linda Aukett as Advocacy Chair; Bob Baumel as Webmaster; Ian Settlemire as publisher of "*The PHOENIX*"; Sheldon Sokol as Legal Advisor; and, Kristin Knipp as Conference Planning Committee Chair.

What is UOAA's Official Address?

UOAA's Contact Office is located in the home of its Office Administrator, Joan McGorry. The official mailing address is **P.O. Box 66, Fairview, TN 37062**. Joan can be reached by telephone at 800-826-0826 or by e-mail at oa@uoaa.org or info@uoaa.org

How will UOAA be financed?

UOAA will receive income from the following:

- UOAA's primary source of operating revenue will be the 50% split of *The PHOENIX* subscription fees. The other 50% and the advertising fees will go to the publisher who will produce and distribute the magazine and maintain the subscription list for UOAA.

- The Managing Board of Directors has the right to set an Annual Affiliation Fee, AAF, payable by the ASGs. For the 2006 FY this fee has been waived. A fee of \$ 2.00 for each member reported to UOAA on the affiliation form submitted by the support group, will be payable on January 1, 2007. The Annual Affiliation Fee for a support group that wishes to join, but chooses not to report any members will be \$ 25.00
- UOAA will solicit advertising for the website.
- UOAA will seek industry sponsorship of key programs.
- UOAA will have a Board of Trustees who will be responsible for fund raising activities. Ron Titlebaum is Chair of the Board of Trustees.
- Individual and corporate contributions. As an example, UOAA will be a recipient of funds from the “Get Your Guts in Gear” bike-a-thon that will raise funds for charitable entities like UOAA and other IBD related associations, in two bike rides scheduled for 2006, one on the East coast, and one on the West coast.

Note: UOAA’s operating budget for FY 2006 will be approximately \$ 180,000.

One question that has not been addressed is that of support group voting rights.

An ASG will receive one vote for every member that is used in the calculation of its Annual Affiliation Fee. ASGs that do not report any members will be eligible to cast 12 votes.

OK, now that I have read the above information and the UOAA Constitution, how does our group go about affiliating???

To affiliate with UOAA complete an Affiliation Form available at the UOAA website, from the Office Administrator, or from **The Phoenix**. In doing so you are attesting that you have read and understand UOAA’s requirements for membership which include:

- Acceptance of UOAA's Constitution and agreement to support UOAA’s mission, programs and activities;
- Payment of the Annual Affiliation Fee as determined each year by the UOAA Management Board of Directors;
- Agreement to encourage support group members to subscribe to UOAA's magazine, **The PHOENIX**;
- **Provision of an e-mail address** where communications can be sent;
- *******Note: affiliations will not be accepted if an e-mail address is not provided!**
- Agreement to have an active patient “Visiting Program”.
- Agreement that upon dissolution of the group it will give any remaining funds in its treasury to a viable 501(c)(3) charity/s, with strong preference to UOAA, or to other organizations that provide support to ostomates.

“By affiliating with UOAA you will be joining an organization that is dedicated to increasing your viability as a support group, and, to improving the quality of life, after surgery, of your group’s members and the ostomy/continent diversion community it serves.”