



UOAA UPDATES are our way of communicating what is happening within UOAA to *you*, our members - and hopefully to *your* members too. We hope you are including some of the news in your newsletters or are 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.

NOVEMBER 7, 2009

❑ **WALMART STORE & SAM'S CLUB GIVING PROGRAM**

If your ASG is covered under UOAA's IRS Charity Status, or if you have your own IRS 501(c)(3) Charity Status, and have a project that you feel merits funding, consider applying to Walmart Store and Sam's Club Giving Program. Guidelines for this program can be found at

<http://walmartstores.com/CommunityGiving/8916.aspx>

If you are successful in gaining funds, please let us know so that we can share you experience with the other ASGs.

❑ **IRS UPDATE**

Prior to a September 30th submission to the IRS there were 58 ASGs under UOAA's 501(c) (3) IRS Charity Status. 29 more AGS were included in the September 30th filing, making the total now 87. The next filing with the IRS will be in March 2010. Those ASGs that have not applied to the IRS at some time in the past for their own 501(c)(3), are not hospital-based, or are already under UOAA's umbrella, are encouraged to come under at this time. It is as simple as writing a letter to the UOAA Office requesting that your group be included in the next March 2010 submission. Remember that ASGs cannot continue to use UOA's 501(c) (3) since UOA no longer exists.

❑ **FROM JOAN MCGORRY**

The Annual Affiliation Fee for 2010 will be mailed from the Office on December 1st. The rate will remain at \$ 2.00/member or a flat rate of \$ 25 for those small and hospital-based groups whose members do not pay dues. Also, election ballots need to be returned to the Office no later than November 30th.

❑ **ALLY'S LAW PASSED IN CONNECTICUT**

Doug Shefsky from West Hartford, Connecticut has reported that The Restroom Access Act went into effect on October 1st. Congratulations for efforts by Doug and others to make this happen.

❑ **LETTERS, WE GET LETTERS, WE GET STACKS AND STACKS OF LETTERS**

The following is just one letter that we received recently: *"I just wanted to send my sincerest thanks to your organization for having such comprehensive information about ostomies and support information as well ... and all in one easy to find location. I am a Recreation Therapist who was recently helping a patient research for recommendations for his continued daily & leisure activity pursuits with his new ostomy. We were thrilled to find all the information to answer his questions and give him the confidence to still 'have a life' after he discharged home. Thank you and please keep up the good work.*

Sincerely,

*Christine Ortman MA CTRS,
Rogers City Rehabilitation Hospital"*

❑ **SURVEY**

Please pass on the following information to your members about another ostomy product-related survey that is being conducted by Innovative Concepts: Your ASG members can start calling the toll free number 888-533-4939 on Wednesday, November 11th. The study will close on Friday, December 18th. All ostomates who complete the survey will receive \$30, and a referral fee of \$30 will be paid to UOAA for everyone who says they were referred by UOAA. The survey should take 20 minutes to complete. A few extra dollars in the pocket with the holidays coming on is good!

❑ **CORPORATE MATCHING GIFTS**

In the very near future UOAA will have a link on its website that will allow you to determine if the company you or your ASG members works for has a corporate matching gifts program. This means that the value of any donation made to UOAA will be doubled or even tripled! A great way to make sure our bottom line stays in the black.

□ GREAT COMEBACKS AWARD RECIPIENTS



South Region recipients are:

Regional Award: Father Dennis Donovan SDB, 55, Tampa, FL

Ida Brudnick Scholarship: Tyler Kalbax, 17, Miami, FL

Comeback Kids: Sara Biesiadny, 17, Grapevine, TX
(Note: Sara has been a Youth Rally camper)

Central Region recipients are:

Regional Award: Tony Bell, 28, Harveyville, KS

Ida Brudnick Scholarship: Nadia Deane, 18, DePere, WI

Comeback Kids: Laurel Schwartz, 16, St. Paul, MN
(Note: Tony was a Youth Rally camper and is now a counselor)

East Region recipients are:

Regional Award: Scott Bowling, 38, Annapolis, MD

Ida Brudnick Scholarship: Cheryl Ebbinghaus, 24, Groton, CT

Comeback Kids: Sarah Vasikakos, 18, Annadale, VA

(Note: Sarah has been a Youth Rally camper; Cheryl was a Youth Rally camper and is now a counselor; and, Scott was a Youth Rally camper and is now UOAA's Treasurer Elect)

West Region recipients are:

Regional Award: Sylvia Prothro Hebert, 42, Park City, UT

Ida Brudnick Scholarship: Misty Foster, 24, San Mateo, CA

Comebacks Kids: Jamie Nakamura, 16, Honolulu, HI

(Note: Misty and Jamie have both been Youth Rally campers)

From the number of Award recipients listed above, you can see the positive results of your contributions to the Youth Rally!

Thank you ... Linda Aukett Secretary/Treasurer YRC

□ OSTOMY PATIENT SKILLS KIT

Under the direction of the American College of Surgeons, 10,000 "Ostomy Patient Skills Kits" will be produced for distribution by surgeons to their patients

before they undergo ostomy surgery. The kits are designed to provide information about stoma management appliances and techniques. UOAA was part of the Taskforce asked to review the kit's contents and endorse the program. Our MBoD gave the requested endorsement. At UOAA's request an information card providing contact information for UOAA and its ASGs will be included in the kit.

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The GYGIG 2010 Rides will be held in New York on the first full weekend in June; in the Seattle area in early August; and, in the Midwest on the last weekend in September or the first weekend in October with the entire ride held in Wisconsin. It's not too early to start planning to participate and getting in shape for these 210-mile, 3-day rides.

□ "UOAA, RENO AND YOU"



Keep up to date with what is happening in Reno. Visit www.renotahoe.com. Monday, August 7 through Thursday August 11 are the dates for our next national gathering at the Nugget Hotel in exciting Reno, Nevada. Start thinking now about joining us for this stellar event. Be part of the 800+ attendees we anticipate!!!

□ COLON CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

The Colon Cancer Alliance organization has invited us to **March** into **Colon Cancer Awareness month** in March, 2010 (see attached letter). As part of their awareness program they are inviting everyone to wear blue on Friday, March 5th. What can your group do to promote colon rectal screenings? Start planning now.

❑ ASG DISCUSSION BOARD

Have you visited the ASG Discussion Board yet at <http://www.uoaa.org/forum/viewforum.php?f=26> ? From the looks of Board entries you don't have to be Dick Tracy to see that you have not. This is the place where you can ask the questions that you want to ask about leadership problems you are experiencing with your support group. Difficulty finding new leaders, getting doctors to use your visiting program, holding on to your members, planning interesting meetings ... these are just a few of the topics that you might find addressed ... but this will not happen unless you ask the question or provide an answer for someone else. This is where you can share your successes and let others know what you did that worked. It is there for you ... use it!

❑ SUBSCRIPTIONS TO *THE PHOENIX*

To those ASGs that carry an ad for *The Phoenix* magazine in their newsletters and urge their members to subscribe ... ***we thank you.*** For those that do not, please consider doing so. The income derived from our share of the subscription fee is one of UOAA's major revenue sources.

❑ IN CONCLUSION

At UOAA's Annual Meeting held on October 23rd and 24th in the Skillman, NJ corporate offices of ConvaTec and the North Brunswick, NJ American Cancer Society Office, acknowledgement was made by the MBoD of the dedicated service and commitment to the cause of ostomy rehabilitation to those national leaders stepping down, their term in office expiring on December 31st, 2009.

Leaving the ASG Advisory Board are:

Chairman, Demi Cotrupe
Member, Eileen Bohrer
Member, Harvey Shatz

Leaving the Management Board of Directors are:

Vice President, Bob Baker
Secretary, Susan Burns
Director, Steve Strizic

(Note: Since Susan, Steve and Harvey are running as candidates for the 2 MBoD Director seats that will become vacant on December 31, 2009, two of the 3 candidates will return to the National spotlight.)

❑ OTHER BUSINESS - PASSAGES

Since this was the last UOAA Management Board of Directors Meeting that I will be chairing as UOAA's President, the picture below is of the official passing of the gavel to our incoming President, Kristin Knipp.



55 days and counting!

My very best wishes for now ...
and Happy Turkey Day from the Aukett's!

Ken and Linda