



# The Insider

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## News from Inside the UOA Central Office

- The 50 **Youth Rally counselors and nurses**, led by chairs Vickie Weaver and JoAnne Sisco, have received the **Daily Points of Light Award** for outstanding volunteer service. On March 8, visit [www.dailypointsoflight.org](http://www.dailypointsoflight.org) where they will be recognized as **The Nation's Volunteer Group of the Day**. We know UOA volunteers help for the love of the cause, so it is especially sweet when recognition comes along! This honor is well earned and very richly deserved!
- Have you identified a rider for the **Get Your Guts in Gear Ride for Crohn's and Colitis** taking place in New York June 11-13? Wouldn't it be great to have a "Team UOA" in this fund-raising event with riders proudly wearing the UOA logo? If this isn't feasible, **UOA's official rider Ian Settlemire** is seeking support for his goal to raise \$5,000. Click to [http://www.uoa.org/donations\\_ibdride.htm](http://www.uoa.org/donations_ibdride.htm) to make a donation or send your check to: Get Your Guts in Gear, 593 Vanderbilt Avenue, PMB 108, Brooklyn, NY 11238. Be sure to put Ian's name in the memo part of your check. And we thank the many UOA members who have already contributed to this extraordinary effort by a UOA staff member.
- UOA chapters have once again been invited to participate in the **Chapter Participation Program** and celebration designed to encourage local chapters to assist UOA in fundraising. Chapters will be recognized at the national conference opening session, on the Wall of Honor and in print materials acknowledging our most generous donors. Join the parade on stage in Louisville by becoming part of this program!
- For over 15 years, UOA has supported the education of registered nurses desiring a career in WOC(ET) nursing through the **Archie Vinitzky Scholarship Fund for WOC(ET) Nursing**. Help support a nurse in your area to receive the necessary training and then make that nurse a vital part of your chapter visiting program. Contact the UOA office for an application.
- March is **National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month**. To encourage visibility, the Colon Cancer Alliance has "Awareness Kits" available for use at: [www.ccalliance.org/events/current/march2004/march.htm](http://www.ccalliance.org/events/current/march2004/march.htm) and is also selling a **Buddy Bracelet** that reminds you and your friends and family to get screened for colorectal cancer. The National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable has introduced a new symbol of hope to signify the fight against colon cancer that you can see on the UOA Web site, [www.uoa.org](http://www.uoa.org), or at [www.nccrt.org](http://www.nccrt.org). Talk to your health care professional about colorectal cancer.
- **Save these dates: November 12–14, 2004**. When the chapters of the Delaware Valley Region in Southern New Jersey, Greater Philadelphia, Lower Bucks County, PA and Delaware will host a **regional educational conference** on ostomy issues. Program details and registration details will be available shortly.
- Be sure to tune in to ABC's **20/20 on either Friday, March 5 or 12** (date may change) to hear Barbara Walters share e-mails received as a result of the recent interview with journalist Meredith Viera on her husband Richard Cohen's ostomy surgery. ABC, 20/20, Barbara Walters and Meredith Viera have been "deluged by messages from viewers who pointed out the lifesaving benefits of the procedure," following the interview. We are hopeful that Barbara will provide UOA's 800 telephone number and Web address. Better yet, we'd like to see a show devoted to the topic! Meanwhile, let's hold off on sending additional messages. We don't want to be accused of being a nuisance. We have been heard!
- UOA has recently changed to a new service to handle **vehicle donations**. The new number to call if you have a car, truck or boat to donate is: **800-799-2462**. They do all the work for you, UOA receives a donation and you receive a tax deduction
- Late last winter, UOA conducted a **lapsed member campaign** to encourage chapter, association and professional members who had not renewed their UOA membership to rejoin. Former members were given the opportunity to rejoin their prior chapter or join as an association member. I am happy to report this campaign was successful and we are still receiving renewals. We will continue this approach on a quarterly basis.
- **Where do UOA members live?** We recently did a ZIP Code analysis and discovered 33% live in the Midwest, 26% live in the Northeast, 20% are in the Southeast. 20% are in the West and 1% are from U.S. territories and foreign countries. California has the largest number of members with 2,449.
- **Care Chest of Sierra Nevada** is another nonprofit organization that provides **free ostomy supplies** primarily to people in need in Nevada. For details, call 775-829-2273 in Reno, NV.