



# The Insider

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## News from Inside the UOA Central Office

- Watch your mailbox to be part of the democratic process! Ballots for the **2003 Election** for three positions on the UOA Board of Directors have been mailed to all chapters, along with a brief profile of the nine candidates for office. These profiles will also be printed in the spring issue of the *OQ* and posted on a private URL on the UOA Web site. The election of UOA's Board of Directors is serious business, and we want you to have the most complete information from which to elect your representatives. As a result, all candidates have recently been asked seven questions to determine their capabilities, skills, experience and aspirations. Answers will be posted on our Web site, again on the private URL that only chapter leaders can access. We will be sending this private URL to chapter leaders for whom we have e-mail addresses in the coming days.
- Make your life easier! Meet your **Area Services Directors** (ASDs); they can provide chapter support to make your chapter leadership roles easier and more effective. Western states' chapters are served by **Steve Strizic**, Tacoma, WA, (253) 531-9288, [sstriz@nventure.com](mailto:sstriz@nventure.com). East Coast states are served by **Helen Dubois**, Suffolk, VA, (757) 934-0705, [helendubois@msn.org](mailto:helendubois@msn.org) and **Dan Tyrrell**, Novi, MI, (248) 348-2496, [dantyp@prodigy.net](mailto:dantyp@prodigy.net). **Ginnie Kasten**, Glen Ellyn, IL, is the Area Services Director for Midwestern States, (630) 469-8185, [castenet@aol.com](mailto:castenet@aol.com); and **Velma Byler**, Leon Valley, TX, (210) 681-2567, [vlby@stic.net](mailto:vlby@stic.net) serves the South/Southeast area. A complete list of states and Field Service Personnel by area can be found on the UOA Web site at [http://www.uoa.org/chapters\\_field\\_personnel.htm](http://www.uoa.org/chapters_field_personnel.htm).
- If you know of a family that has a child with an ostomy or related procedure that would benefit from attending the national conference August 10–13 in Las Vegas, let them know about the financial aid that UOA provides. The deadline for **Parent's Scholarship Applications** has been extended to May 1. Visit <http://www.uoa.org/parentschol.htm> for information and an application. A conference that has all ages represented is a richer event, so let's spread the word that this assistance is available.
- Do you have the **latest Medicare codes and fees** for ostomy pouches as of January 1, 2003. The advocacy pages of the UOA Web site contain details of the new codes, the eliminated add-on codes, other changes and what they mean to you. Print this information from: [http://www.uoa.org/advocacy\\_medicare3.htm](http://www.uoa.org/advocacy_medicare3.htm). We are grateful to our Government Affairs Committee for their work in improving Medicare coverage for ostomates.
- If you live within driving or Amtrak distance of Philadelphia, help promote the May 31 **Ostomy Education Seminar** sponsored by ConvaTec and UOA. Speakers will address divisionary surgeries, ostomy care, pouching techniques, psycho-social issues, UOA resources and advocacy issues at the Philadelphia Hospital. The UOA Web site, [www.uoa.org](http://www.uoa.org), now contains registration and additional details. This is a great opportunity to help educate the medical community on the East Coast.
- Who are our members? Our new **membership information database** tells us that one percent of our members are under 17-years old, one percent are 18–25, two percent are 26–39, 30 percent are 40–65 and 64 percent are 66 and over. In addition, 31 percent have a colostomy, 34 percent have an ileostomy and 10 percent have a urostomy. Remaining members either do not specify, have other related procedures such as j-pouches, continent urostomies and pull-thrus or represent the medical profession.
- Did you know that UOA has a **Continent Diversion Network**—a national support group for people who have or plan to have a continent diversion surgery (j-pouch, pelvic pouch, Kock pouch, ileorectal anastomosis, etc.)? This network offers a newsletter, an online discussion board, special programming at the UOA conference, printed literature, videos, product information and other resources on their Web site at: <http://www.ostomyalternative.org/>, or call (800) 456-7494 for additional information.
- Looking for a reason to celebrate? April 27–May 3 is **National Volunteer Week**—time to say thank you to all of our dedicated UOA volunteers! June 1 is **National Cancer Survivors Day**. This year's 16<sup>th</sup> annual Celebration of Life recognizes America's 8.9 million cancer survivors and their supporters. For specific events in your community, call (615) 794-3006 or e-mail [ncsd@aol.com](mailto:ncsd@aol.com).
- The Central Office reports the following **statistics and member needs** for March:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Care Guide Sales: 653 copies</li><li>• Phone Calls: 770</li><li>• E-Mail Inquiries: 261</li></ul>
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