



# The Insider

March 2004

Volume 3, No. 3

## News from Inside the UOA Central Office

- Start singing “My Old Kentucky Home,” as plans are being finalized for the **2004 National Conference**, August 4–7 in Louisville. The preliminary schedule of events, registration, hotel and exhibitor information are available at: [http://www.uoa.org/events\\_conference.htm](http://www.uoa.org/events_conference.htm). When you reserve your hotel room through the UOA room block and receive the discounted conference rate, you will also be eligible for a **drawing to receive a free registration** to the 2005 conference in Anaheim.
- **It’s time to support a camper for the Youth Rally and a family** that has a child with an ostomy to attend the national conference. If your chapter is raising money, please be sure to send that money through the UOA Central Office, even if you are sponsoring a local child or family. We guarantee that your funds will be dedicated to the child or family of your choice, and your chapter will receive credit for the donation. Your chapter may be eligible to join the Phoenix Society, and UOA will receive credit for additional fundraising dollars. This improves our ability to obtain grants and government funding. Contact [jsmith@uoa.org](mailto:jsmith@uoa.org) with any questions.
- And speaking of the **Youth Rally**, **free videos** of the 2002 and 2003 rally are available to chapters from [brustad@uoa.org](mailto:brustad@uoa.org). This makes a great ready-made program for a future chapter meeting. 2004 Youth Rally **Camper and Counselor Applications are now available** on the UOA Web site at: [http://www.uoa.org/events\\_youth.htm](http://www.uoa.org/events_youth.htm).
- We were all disappointed that the producers of *20/20* decided not to comment further on the response they received to their February interview with Meredith Viera regarding her husband’s ileostomy surgery. However, we were pleased to read the following by **Barbara Walters on her Web site**: “We’ve been getting some interesting e-mail from viewers who take a different view of another difficult subject discussed on *20/20* a couple of weeks ago: ostomy surgery. You may recall that in my profile of Meredith Viera and her husband, Richard Cohen, Richard was outspoken about how much he hated wearing a colostomy bag. He needed to be surgically hooked up to the bag during his treatments for colon cancer. ... But we received a deluge of e-mail from viewers who pointed out the lifesaving benefits of the procedure, and felt we should stress that the advantages outweigh the discomforts. Duly noted; we don’t think any patient would disagree with that!” This is a very positive comment on a topic that is not often discussed in public.
- If our experience with *20/20* taught us one thing, it’s that as a group we have the ability to **make our voices heard**. If you want to affect insurance companies’ policies and health care legislation involving Medicare and Medicaid outcomes, **sign up on UOA’s Advocacy Action List** at <http://capwiz.com/uoa/home/>. This will identify you as someone we can call on for support and grassroots lobbying activities when we need to mobilize and speak out on important issues. On this page you can also write letters to your elected officials, communicate with your local media about public policy issues or chapter events and follow appropriate bills and votes.
- Did you **Tip a Teen** this month? UOA’s **Teen Network** is raising money to support their activities by asking teens to do a chore and then donate the earnings to UOA. If you have a teenage neighbor, child or grandchild, “hire” them to sweep your garage, carry your groceries, take in your mail, feed your goldfish, etc., and then let them demonstrate their generous nature by donating their fee to the UOA Teen Network. Click [http://www.uoa.org/teen\\_tipateen.htm](http://www.uoa.org/teen_tipateen.htm) for details. It’s not too late to Tip a Teen!
- Many thanks to the chapters who have joined the Phoenix Society and already make their pledge to support the **Chapter Participation Program**. About half of them are new to the program this year and we look forward to celebrating their generosity this summer in Louisville. These chapters understand that UOA cannot serve its mission without adequate funding. The deadline for participation is June 1.
- **Ian Settlemire**, UOA’s director of communication services and *OQ* editor is the official UOA rider in the **Get Your Guts in Gear Ride for Crohn’s & Colitis**. He is almost half way to his goal of raising \$5,000 to increase awareness and funds for IBD research. We are grateful to those supporting him, including the very effective fund raising done by the Staten Island, NY Chapter. The chapter is soliciting contributions from members and then matching up to \$200 from their treasury. Another example of Terry Alessi’s fine leadership and generosity. But **Ian needs your help** to reach his goal; contact [http://www.uoa.org/donations\\_ibdride.htm](http://www.uoa.org/donations_ibdride.htm).
- As noted in the January Chapter Mailing, please encourage your members to **renew their memberships in a timely fashion**. Under our new policy, unpaid memberships will be discontinued three months after the expiration date. We know you don’t want to miss an issue of the *Ostomy Quarterly*, so don’t delay renewing.