



The Insider

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News from Inside the UOA Central Office

- The **Nominating and Election Committee** has announced the results of elections for the 2002-03 officers and board members. The following officers and board members were elected to serve from October 1, 2002–September 30, 2004: President: Ronald Titlebaum; Vice President: Dean Arnold; Secretary: Virginia Kasten; and Treasurer: Brian Bowden; Board Members: LeAnna Geurin; Beth McKenzie; Bonnie McElroy and LaVerna Reid. Barbara Schmidgall was elected to serve a one-year term, October 1, 2002–September 30, 2003.
- The United Ostomy Association has been elected to the **2002 Associations Advance America Honor Roll**, a national awards competition sponsored by the American Society of Association Executives, Washington, D.C. UOA received this recognition for its *Advocating for Medicare Reimbursement* project led by Linda Aukett, Government Affairs Chair. Beginning in 1998, the UOA engaged in consumer and supplier surveys, grassroots educational lobbying of Congress, analysis of ostomy supply usage patterns and retail market data, and met with government regulators and administrators to share findings. In April 2002, Medicare added codes and corresponding fees to improve overall reimbursement, enabling more dealers to provide supplies under the preferred “assignment” method. Congratulations to Linda for her tireless efforts!
- UOA has been accepted as an approved agency by the **Combined Federal Campaign**, a federal government employee charitable contributions program. UOA members who are federal employees can designate automatic donations to UOA using the national/international unaffiliated agency number **2629**. In addition, all workforce employees and retirees should be aware that more than 8,000 major employers and their subsidiaries have implemented corporate matching programs. For every dollar contributed by employees, retirees, and spouses of employees, the company will match at varying ratios. Please check with your employer and previous employer to see if they offer this program. Your gifts may now go twice as far!
- **FOW-USA** is happy to announce that after an extensive search they have located a new warehouse for receiving donated ostomy supplies. FOW collects
 - surplus donated ostomy supplies for shipment to places of need throughout the world. In all cases, the supplies are distributed to needy persons free of charge. Effective July 1, 2002, supplies may be sent to:
FOW-USA
4304 Regency Drive
Glenview, IL 60025.
- The 24th **Annual UOA Youth Rally** was recently completed at the University of Colorado, Boulder. This is one of UOA’s most important programs with everlasting outcomes for all participants. Ninety-nine campers attended from the U.S. and Canada, including eight from Hawaii. Fifty-five counselors and nurses donated their time and paid their expenses and registrations to attend the rally and care for the campers. The campers learned valuable self-dependent lessons, attended a variety of educational sessions, enjoyed a camper vs. counselor softball game, spent a day at an amusement park, and partied at the graduation dance. Most of all they left camp with a new set of friends across the country with similar medical conditions and the knowledge that they can live fully productive lives. UOA is grateful to all the counselors and nurses who were the backbone of the rally and also proud of the campers who were simply....kids. Our gratitude especially to Rally Chairs JoAnne Sisco and Vickie Weaver.
- Looking for new ideas for your chapter meetings?? The July chapter mailing contained a list of over 50 topics for **Chapter programs** that have been used by UOA chapters around the country this past year. Contact the UOA office for a copy of this list or e-mail: director@uoa.org.
- The Central Office reports the following **response to member needs** for June:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Telephone Calls: 1,656• E-Mail Inquiries: 419• Care Guide Sales: 209 copies, \$627• New Association Memberships: 35
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- It looks like the **National Conference** will be one of the best attended in years. Registration projections indicate that we will have the largest attendance in Philadelphia, August 14–17, since the 1998 conference in Washington, D.C. Gail Smuda and Mary Jane Wolfe have put together an outstanding event, and the program has been enhanced to also serve the needs of young adults and parents of children with ostomies. We look forward to seeing you in Philadelphia and wish you all safe travels!