



The Insider

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News from Inside the UOA Central Office

- UOA is pleased to announce a **new service to chapter newsletter editors**. More than 165 short articles taken primarily from chapter newsletters on everything from ostomy types to humor have been organized in 30 main subjects, and posted on the UOA Web site for chapter use in their newsletters. This is a members-only service that will be updated regularly. Please call 800-826-0826 or e-mail info@uoa.org for the address.
- There were bright lights and dancing girls in Las Vegas this month for **UOA's national conference**. More than 700 members and exhibitors enjoyed educational sessions, social events, networking and a rich display of new ostomy supplies and services. The flavor of the conference was greatly enriched this year, and it was exciting to see small children and their parents, teens, young adults and "J-pouchers" attending special sessions targeted to their needs, along with chapter members from all over the U.S. attending programs ranging from stress management to lab reports to estate planning. We know of at least one 30+ couple that got married during the conference, another that got engaged, and yours truly who renewed her vows of 25 years at a little wedding chapel presided by Elvis. Viva Las Vegas!
- Following the resignation of UOA Treasurer Brian Bowden, **George Salamy**, of the New York Ileostomy Chapter, was elected to serve a one-year term as **Treasurer**. **Susan Burns**, UOA of St. Louis Chapter, will replace George on the **board of directors** for a two-year term. We welcome these well-known and regarded volunteers to their new UOA leadership roles.
- The conference was a time to recognize our most **cherished leaders**, including the 11 past presidents who attended and celebrated the newly energized UOA and the 21st century approach to serving members. UOA's highest award, the **Sam Dubin Award** was presented to **Ann Favreau**, immediate past president, for her volunteer work at the national level, while the **President's Award** was presented to Government Affairs Chair and tireless advocate, **Linda King Aukett**. While both awardees were humble and honored, their expertise, wisdom, willingness to direct change and passion for the organization made them both stellar recipients.
- **Friends of Ostomates Worldwide (FOW)** presented its **FOW Service Award** for Donor Recognition to **Joan Lloyd**, Chicago's North Suburban Chapter, for assuming leadership and logistic support of the FOW warehouse of ostomy supplies shipped abroad.
- The **sound of money** was heard frequently in Las Vegas and not just in the casinos. Conference attendees were a generous lot as they helped UOA raise money for operating expenses. This year the annual **Fun Run** hosted by **Nu-Hope Laboratories** raised \$467 by runners, walkers and couch potatoes with assistance from **Gene Galindo, George Salamy** and **Marshall Glen**. The **Teen Network** successfully raffled a handmade afghan to raise \$500 and the first-ever meeting of the UOA **Red Hat Society** ladies enjoyed tea and a prize raffle that netted \$160. In addition, Minneapolis Chapter President, comedian, author and closing keynote speaker **Brenda Elsagher** donated \$350 to UOA from the proceeds of her new book, "*If the Battle Is Over, Why Am I Still in Uniform—Humor as a Survival Tactic to Combat Cancer.*" This touching and amusing book would make a perfect addition to your chapter lending library; contact bmelsagher@aol.com for details. Many thanks to all who donated for your generosity towards UOA!
- **Gracias a nuestros patrones! Cymed Ostomy Co.; Nu-Hope Laboratories; Hollister, Inc.; and Marlin Medical Supplies**, a new entry into ostomy supply distribution, have generously agreed to **fund translation** of six of the seven UOA patient care guides into Spanish. Once additional grants are obtained, these guides will be printed and distributed free of charge in Spanish-speaking communities throughout the United States. Is there another angel out there that will sponsor translation of the remaining guide for \$750? You will be serving the UOA mission to bring information and education to this underserved market.
- Please welcome the new voice of UOA, our receptionist **Sandy Stephens**. Welcome her to our family when you call as she aims to please!