



*These UOAA UPDATES are our way of communicating what is happening to you, our members. It is our hope that this information is being passed on to your members, either by including some of the news in your newsletters or by discussing it at your local support group meetings. People continue to ask, what is UOAA doing for me, and this is our way of answering this time-old question.*

*We continue to look forward to working with you and to being an active resource to ensure your success.*

**JULY 30. 2007**

## **IMPORTANT ISSUE:**

### **IRS FINALLY MAKES A DETERMINATION**

As a noted reporter used to say, "There is good news in our land tonight"!

After 13 months, the IRS has finally approved UOAA's application to include designated affiliated support groups under its 501(c)(3) Charity Status! The umbrella is open! The period of frustration experienced by those support groups that applied to UOAA for coverage, and provided the additional information, and prepared the required financial plans, and modified their Bylaws ... is finally over. The submission deadlines have been met and the government audits are finished. Today I received "THE" letter from the IRS. These groups now have their desired 501(c)(3) coverage ... backdated to June 6, 2006.

The 28 groups that hung in there and opened the door for UOAA Charity Status Group Coverage are:

- Charlotte County Ostomy Support Group
- Cleveland Ostomy Association
- Continent Diversion Network
- Greater Kansas City Chapter
- Greater Orlando/Central Florida Ostomy Association
- Keokuk IA Ostomy Support Group
- Meriden-Middlesex Ostomy Group
- Ostomy Association of Contra Costa
- Ostomy Association of Greater Hartford
- Ostomy Association of Greater St. Louis
- Ostomy Association of Long Island/Nassau
- Ostomy Association of North Central Oklahoma

- Ostomy Association of Southern New Jersey
- Ostomy Association of West Texas
- Ostomy Connection of Charlotte
- Ostomy Support Group EV/AZ
- Ostomy Support Group of Lawton-Ft. Sill
- Ostomy Support Group of the Mid-Hudson
- Ostomy Support Group of Northern VA
- Reno Ostomy Association
- Rhode Island Ostomy Association
- Santa Barbara Ostomy Support Group
- Snohomish County Chapter
- Staten Island Colostomy Foundation
- Staten Island Ostomy Association
- Tri-Cities Regional Ostomy Association
- UOAA Teen Network
- Warren County New Jersey Ostomy Association

For those groups that did seek Charity Status under UOAA's 501(c)(3) when it was first offered in the Spring of 2006, but have since come to conclusion that it might be a good thing to have, I have some good news for you. Now that UOAA has been granted Group Charity Status, it is now up to UOAA to determine if the IRS regulations are met by a group, rather than having to wait for the IRS to make a determination. This will increase the speed at which applications can be processed.

Towards the end of the year, tax filing information will be made available to those groups under UOAA's umbrella. The filing process is quite simple, but must be done.

One of the things that this activity brought to light was the fact that there are some Ostomy Groups that have incorporated in the past, but, over the years, have not met the filing requirements

imposed by the State of their Incorporation. For instance, in New Jersey, a corporation has to submit an "annual report" at least once every three years. If it does not, it will have re-filing fees and financial penalties imposed ... it can be expensive. So if your group is incorporated, make sure you are aware of your State's annual report filing regulations.

I would be remiss if I again did not thank Sheldon Sokol, our noted legal counsel, and his associate Giovina Taraschi who made the successful completion of this undertaking possible!

In closing, for those of you who will be joining us in a couple of weeks at the Lincolnshire Marriott for UOAA's Inaugural National Conference ... I look forward to greeting you. For those who have not signed up yet ... hey, there still is time! Join the crowd, there's gonna be a good time had by all!

Best wishes for now,

*Ken Aukett*