



IOA TODAY



BRINGING YOU OSTOMY NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD



IOA EC BOARD HOLDS MEETING IN LJUBLJANA, SLOVENIA

FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR

Stuart Schaefer

This past June I had the opportunity to join IOA EC Board for their meeting Ljubljana, Slovenia. This was made possible with the financial support of some of the major manufactures. They include Hollister, ConvaTec and Coloplast. Look for more information about this meeting reported by Di Bracken acting IOA President in this current in this current issue.



If you have not visited the IOA Blog lately you have missed out on "Travel With Di". Di goes into great detail of traveling the world as an Ostomy. You may find the Blog via: <http://www.cblog.ostomyinternational.org/>

Now speaking of traveling remember to visit the Regional Contact Information page on the IOA Website:

<http://ostomyinternational.org/Regional.htm>

There you will be able related Ostomy contact information. This information in most cases includes email and Website addresses. In many cases you will also find phone numbers.

I hope you will find the time to read this entire newsletter. There are some good reports from across the globe. And remember to visit the IOA Website for your Ostomy related information: <http://www.sotomyinternational.org>.

HELLO EVERYONE

I am writing this message on behalf of our president, Vladimir Kleinwachter who is recuperating after recent surgery. You will be pleased to hear that he is at home after being in the hospital for longer than expected. Recovery can be a slow process but I know that we all send Vladimir our best wishes as he recuperates and hope that he will be back in good form soon.



Vladimir Kleinwachter, Di Bracken, Elizabeth English

Our Partners in Industry – Coloplast, ConvaTec, Hollister/ Dansac – cosponsored a most important Executive / Strategic Planning meeting on JUNE 19, 20, 21 2008 in Ljubljana, Slovenia following the WCET Congress. We were able to present a proposal for sponsorship for our proposed activities for 2008 – 2010 which will be reviewed by industry as their budgets are developed for the coming year. Minutes of the meeting have already been sent to member counties by e mail by our secretary Ann Favreau. A copy of the IOA Goals was also sent out at the same time. If you have not received a copy, please let Ann know at secretaryioa@ostomyinternational.org

There were a number of important issues discussed and I would like to bring to your attention just a couple. Let me

start with the results of the Task Force appointed to **work out a concept for the contents, structure and organization of IOA meetings**. There were six recommendations made by the Task Force which were thoroughly discussed before being accepted by the IOA Executive Council. The six recommendations follow:

1. IOA convene an **IOA World Meeting** to be held in 2010. Date to be determined.
2. Attendees will be limited to no more than two (2) delegates from each member association plus one observer.
3. The location of the **IOA World Meeting** will be in the Asian Region with preference being given to Thailand.
4. The **IOA World Meeting** will be fully funded by attendees through Registration Fees.
5. Duration of the **IOA World Meeting** to be three (3) days; no more than four (4). The first one and a half (1 ½) days should be devoted to World Council business. Pertinent programming will be held during the second one and a half (1 ½) days.
6. IOA select a committee to organize this **IOA World Meeting** on behalf of IOA.

Note

There was a change made to #5 with the decision made that the IOA World Meeting should be four days with one full day allowed for Regional meetings. Consideration will be given to having the IOA World Meeting begin with the Regional meeting giving the region the opportunity to discuss any IOA matters as well as regional issues before the World Council business meeting.

The Task Force members, Doug Graham, Coordinator; Di Bracken, Chair; Brenda Flanagan and Barry Maughan members offered to organize the first new IOA World meeting with the offer being accepted. Di Bracken has already written to the Thai Ostomy Foundation asking for their support for this new concept. One of the most important changes in regard to this new format is that the meeting will be completely organized by IOA through its appointed organizing committee. We will be in touch with you as soon as we have further details.

I would also like to make you aware of another Task Force that has been appointed to **review the dues structure and voting privileges of member countries**.

You will find an announcement about this task force in this newsletter. The members of the Task Force are Gerry Barry, Australia, chair; Gene Zapf, Canada, treasurer IOA; Knut Ellingsen, Norway, member. This is a most important issue for IOA. Please read Gerry Barry's announcement carefully and be an active participant. This is your organization and your views are important.

One of the advantages of meeting in Ljubljana following the WCET Congress was the fact that we were able to welcome members of WCET to our meeting. The WCET President Elizabeth English, Judith Weller, Secretary, and

Mary Quigley, Norma Gill Chair joined the meeting at 9:00. Elizabeth English spoke about the need for cooperation between WCET and IOA to avoid duplication of programs. She presented the names of their new officers, committee chairs and journal editor. She noted that financial support from industry had declined and to maximize funding WCET was partnering with WOCN from the United States to hold a joint conference in June 2010 in Phoenix, Arizona. Let's work to see if IOA can have a presence at this meeting. It is always beneficial to meet with members of WCET and we look forward to working with them.

The date has been set for World Ostomy Day and we hope that you have **3 October 2009** marked in your calendar. Coordinator Peter McQueen has an announcement on the Website and as further information becomes available, we will post the information.

There is one thing I would ask of you. Please, if you change your e mail address, let us know. We cannot stay in touch with you if you do not let us know of any changes.

There are a number of national meetings taking place over the next couple of months as well as meetings of Alado, Asia and Europe. Please let Stuart and I know of any meeting you wish to advertise on the IOA Website. With so many people traveling, you never know who will show up at your meeting. It's always great to see someone from a different country.

Wherever you are in our ostomy world, I trust that you well. I hope that life is treating you kindly and my wish is that you stay well.

With affection

Di

Dielwen Bracken
Acting President



SOME THOUGHTS FROM THE TREASURER

As many of you are aware the Maria Seigl Friendship Fund was organized as a way to commemorate the wonderful work that Maria had done prior to her passing. The concept of contributions to this fund were that countries that had minimal funding could apply to this fund to seek assistance with the payment of their annual IOA dues. Over the past few years little if any activity has been generated through this fund and it is now time to reactivate it. We would ask every member country to consider making an annual donation to this fund. Any donation, regardless of amount, will be most appreciated and will go a long way to assisting poorer member

countries to continue with their association to IOA. As well, with extra funds in the account we can recommend many needy countries to apply for relief offered by this fund. Please consider this plea and make a donation to the MSFF now.

On a related note we remind everybody of the availability of a Patron Membership in IOA. This membership is open to individuals at an annual cost of CHF 50.00. Upon successful application each individual is presented with a lapel pin signifying membership which we recommend be worn with pride at all times. Further, after membership for three consecutive years each member is entitled to a 25% reduction in registration fees at World Council Meetings. Please seriously consider taking out a Patron Membership today.

Gene Zapf, Treasurer

IOA MEMBERSHIP FEES TASK FORCE

At the IOA Executive Committee Meeting held in Ljubljana, Slovenia on 21 June, it was decided that a comprehensive review would be undertaken of Annual Fees which are paid by Member Associations towards IOA administration costs and which also help fund Regional activities. At the same time the voting structure at World Council Meetings will also be reviewed.

A Task Force to carry out this review has now been established and the members are Gerry Barry (Australia), Chairperson, Gene Zapf (Canada) and Knut Ellingsen (Norway). The Task Force has put forward the following objectives to be used to guide the review.

Review of Fees

1. Review the Fee structure to see if it is the best arrangement for the way IOA presently operates
2. See if the present 9 level Fee structure can be reduced to a smaller number (about 5 or 6)
3. Try to spread the burden of funding IOA as equitably as possible
4. Address the concerns of our smaller members who may struggle to pay any increase
5. Review the definition of membership numbers of Member Associations for the purpose of the calculation of Fees
6. Ensure that proposals for adjustments in Fees take into account future revenue needs of IOA
7. Address any specific issues raised by member associations or the Executive Committee
8. Review the Fees for Associate Members

Review of Voting Entitlements

1. Review the voting structure to see if it is the best arrangement for the way IOA presently operates
2. See if, in conjunction with the changes in the Fee structure, the present 9 level voting structure can be reduced to a smaller number (about 5 or 6)
3. Ensure that any adjustment in the voting structure does not result in unacceptable distortion in voting entitlements
4. Address any specific issues raised by member associations or the Executive Committee
5. Consider the question of whether proxies should continue to be allowed and if so on what terms

The Task Force wishes to invite all Full and Associate Members and any other interested parties to put forward ideas or submissions on matters they would like the Task Force to take into account during the course of the review. The Task Force has been asked to provide a preliminary report by September so submissions should be forwarded as soon as possible but no later than 31 August to-

The Chairperson, IOA Fees Task Force

e-mail gabarry@bigpond.com.

It is expected that the preliminary findings will be the subject of a discussion paper which will be circulated to all Members before final proposals are considered by the Executive Committee. It should be noted that any changes to Fees will require a resolution of World Council and changes to voting entitlements will require a change to the Constitution.

Gerry Barry, Chairperson



SOUTH AMERICAN REGION - ALADO

I write this email to let you know that ALADO and Bolivia is right now advocated to two main activities, both are set for September.

The first one is a Stoma Care Training Class. It is being made with the help of Lions for Stoma Care, Modena, Italy. The project mainly consists of the training of doctors and nurses in stoma care with ostomates being involved.

ALADO will also be holding an Executive meeting which will be combined with ISCAP training as well Visitor Training.

We want to share with you how much we appreciate the help of the IOA and Lions for Stoma Care, Modena, Italy in the project for Latin America. It is the first time it occurs in

Latin America.

The second one its being held once the first activity is over in October by FOCUS 20/40 in Brazil. There will be a reunion of all young leaders to seek what kind of path should ALADO take in further years. The main subjects are going to be the Stoma Prevention Campaign and the Amendment of the Bylaws of ALADO.

Best Regards.

Teresa Antequera
 Presidente Asoc. Latinoamericana de Ostomizados
 Presidente Asoc. Boliviana de Ostomizados



ASIAN REGION - AOA

1. 6AOA Conference, Tokyo – Theme: "Quality of Life For Asian Ostomates"

Final Planning for the 6th AOA Conference which is scheduled to be held in Tokyo from the 13th to the 16th November 2008 is now in progress. The Organising Committee will meet for the last time in Tokyo some time is September, date not yet fixed. At this time preliminary reports suggest that there will be at least 300 to 350 attendees altogether, most of whom will be from Japan itself. But there will be at least one each from every AOA Member country, as the Japan Ostomy Association (JOA) is offering to sponsor one member from each of the poorer countries in Asia that cannot afford to pay their own way to attend 6AOA. There will also be some attendees from the rest of the World outside of Asia. Mrs Di Bracken, Acting President of IOA, and other IOA Executive Council members will also be attending.

The Congress itself will be held from the 13th to the 16th of November, at the Olympic Memorial Youth Centre in Shinjuku, Tokyo. Accommodation at the Youth Centre will be in single-bedded rooms, which although very small, have full facilities of en suite shower and toilet, fridge, telephone and TV, with breakfast provided. The cost is very affordable at JPYen 5,040 or approximately US\$48 per night, inclusive of the full breakfast. The Youth Centre is very centrally located, and is thus most convenient for those who wish to do some shopping and sight-seeing in the city as well. Some members of the IOA Executive have already expressed their desire to attend, and more are expected to make their reservations soon.

For those who wish to have more comfortable hotel accommodation at nearby hotels for approximately US \$134 per night for single rooms, and US\$190 for double rooms, this is also available.

Information may be on the JOA website: <http://www.joa-net.org/contents/en/index.htm>

The Registration Fee is US\$115 for delegates/attendees.

And US\$92 for accompanying persons.

2. 7AOA 2011. Dr M. Vafaei, President of the Iranian Ostomy Association, has given prior notice that Iran would like to host the 7th AOA Conference scheduled for 2011.

Our AOA Secretary will soon be sending out invitations for bids for the 7AOA to be presented at the House of Delegates' Meeting during the 6AOA in Tokyo. It is hoped that other Asian countries will also be interested in hosting 7AOA.

If you are interested in hosting 7AOA in 2011, please send in your bids early to our Secretary, Prof. M Takaishi, for presentation at the HOD Meeting in Tokyo on 14th November 2008.

3. The newly appointed 20/40 representative for Asia, Mr Ronald Lora from Manila will also attend the 6AOA together with his wife who will be assisting him as he is a wheelchair-bound paraplegic. Their return airfare from the Philippines is being sponsored by ALCARE, and it is hoped that their registration and accommodation costs at the Youth Centre will be sponsored by another Ostomy Appliance Manufacturer, to whom the AOA President made an approach during the IOA Executive Meeting with Industry in Ljubljana, Slovenia, on the 20th of June. A promise was made that they would look into it and let us know soon. I am confident that the approximately US\$600 total cost of registration and accommodation for Ronald Lora and his wife will be sponsored by the company.

4. The 5th Congress of the Asian Society for Stoma Rehabilitation (5ASSR) was successfully held in Kuala Lumpur on the 7th and 8th of March 2008. The AOA President attended the Congress, and so did several members of the Stoma Care Society of Malaysia from Penang and Kuala Lumpur, and also 2 directors from JOA. We were invited by the Congress organizers to attend, and our registration fee was waived. It was a good opportunity for us to meet with some ostomates, as well as with WCET nurses and surgeons, and members of the Ostomy Appliance Manufacturers Industry from all over Asia. We are grateful to the 5ASSR Organizers for kindly inviting us, especially to Professor Shindo, who I believe was the one who was instrumental in getting the invitation extended to us.

5. Ostomate Miss Noriko Takahashi, a director of the Japan Ostomy Association, has informed us that she has recently sent a shipment of Ostomy supplies to the Mongolian Ostomy Association (MOA) for free distribution to poor ostomates in Mongolia. This is the second time JOA has sent ostomy supplies to Mongolia, as part of their twinning exercise with the MOA. We are most grateful to the JOA. Last year, a delegation of ostomates from Japan visited Mongolia to help the MOA with their Stoma Care services. This is what "twinning" is all about. We help each other.

6. At the IOA Executive Council Meeting in Ljubljana from 19th to 21st June, one of the matters decided was that IOA World Conferences as we have known them in the past will no longer be held, for a number of reasons, especially escalating costs and lack of funds. Instead, smaller meetings of just the world council will in future be

organized by the IOA Executive in venues selected by the Executive. The first of these meetings will be held in Bangkok in 2010. Funding for the travel and hotel for this and future meetings will be met by the delegates themselves. Bangkok was selected for this first meeting for two reasons:

a. Asia has never hosted an IOA World Meeting even though twice before Asia was awarded a World Congress: Japan 1997, and Bangkok 2003: but both these were cancelled for different reasons.

b. Bangkok is a very convenient travel hub, and is in addition a cheap venue to host a Meeting in.

A small organizing committee selected by the IOA EC has been given the task of organizing this World Council meeting in Bangkok, to take place in 2010. Attendees will be limited to two delegates per Member Association and not more than one observer, funded by themselves.

7. Good News: The Ostomy Association Of India (OAI)), which defaulted on paying its dues for a number of years, and finally resigned from IOA Membership several years ago, has recently been rehabilitated under a new Committee. We have been informed by IOA Vice-President Dr Harikesh Buch who is a member, that the OAI will seek re-registration as an IOA member very soon. We wish to welcome them back into the fold.

8. I would like to urge all member country associations to send me regular reports of your activities for publication in our quarterly IOA TODAY, so that others will be informed of what we are doing.

Best wishes to all our Asian Members. If you wish to write to me, my email address is: cardosajd@gmail.com, and my telephone number is: 603-7725 7686

Dato' John David Cardosa
AOA President

EUROPEAN REGION - EOA



Here are some words about what is going on in Europe – or better said, in The European Ostomy Association. It will really be few words – but many more after the EOA congress in Brno in September this year. When you read this, there are just a few more days than a month to the congress which gives everyone involved a lot of work, but with a lot of good work from the local organizer, TA Service and Czech ILCO, I am confident that the congress will be a great success.

Just to-day (the 18. of July) good news has come that gives EOA the possibility to pay for more people wanting to take part in the twinning conference – which will be a major workshop during the congress. I am also very grateful to ia-UK, The Dutch Ostomy Organization, COPA and

NORILCO for economic contribution. Thanks – your contribution really lifted burdens away from my shoulders. Thanks of course also to Convatec for their great contribution and to other companies having exhibits in Brno.

There will be some very interesting topics to be discussed in Brno. COPA, Denmark, has given inputs that sure will engage people. Inputs also from Sweden about possible cut downs on reimbursement or on the number of ostomy appliances has resulted in a special workshop. It seems that some governments believe that all ostomates can manage with just one type of appliance! The IOA Executive Committee is concerned about the great number of countries belonging to EOA. More countries are knocking on the EOA door, and of course we will let them all in. This, however, makes it necessary to reorganize EOA – or don't it? If you come to Brno, you sure will join in to this very interesting discussion.

One of the new countries will be Bosnia. A group has been formed in the city of Banja Luka, from this one there will come two persons. At present there is work going on to bring in people from other parts of Europe that are not a part of the EOA family.

From time to time I get country reports telling about very bad conditions for ostomates, but also with hope for a better future. One such report has come for Palestine. I hope to see people from Palestine coming to Brno to hear more about the situation for ostomates there.

I will also mention that FOW (Friends of Ostomates) both in USA and Canada have appliances in stock which they can send to ostomates all over the world. I hope also one (or more) representative from FOW or FOWC can join us in Brno to get new contacts and also meet people from countries where the need for help is great.

Coming to Brno you will of course also take part in a lot of social activities, eat a lot of good food, taste the country's excellent wines and see the beautiful city and it's surroundings. Maybe you will also use a day or two in Prague (Praha) – the capital of The Czech Republic.

Go to www.ostomyinternational.org or www.ostomyeurope.org to read more about the congress and do your registration.

Arne Holte, President EOA

NORTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN OSTOMY REGION - CACOA



Greetings to readers of this July 2008 report. I am not aware of any unusual activities in our Region these past few

months and therefore there is not much exciting news to report. This may be a positive indication that all is well in our Region. It could indicate that it is so hectic in some countries that they do not have time to communicate. We, the Executive Council have been making some contacts and these may lead to better communication.

Future IOA World Council Meetings News

You may recall at our World Council meeting in Puerto Rico the motion, "That the IOA Executive Council shall appoint a task force for working out a concept for future meetings". The members appointed to the task force were from; Canada, Coordinator, Doug Graham and Chair Di Bracken, from Great Britain, Brenda Flanagan and from New Zealand, Barry Maughan. Six recommendations were presented to the IOA Executive Council at their meeting in Ljubljana, Slovenia and approved.

Recommendations

1. IOA convene an IOA World Meeting to be held in 2010. Date to be determined.
2. Attendance will be limited to no more than two (2) delegates from member associations plus one (1) observer.
3. The location of the IOA World Meeting will be in the Asian Region with preference given to Thailand.
4. The IOA World Meeting will be fully funded by attendees through registration fees.
5. Duration of the IOA World Meeting to be three (3) days; no more than four (4). The first one and half (1½) days should be devoted to IOA World Council business. Pertinent programming will be held during the second one and a half (1½) days.
6. IOA select a committee to organize this IOA World Meeting on behalf of IOA.

There were twenty nine (29) responses to the questionnaire sent globally by the task force and three (3) from our Region. They were; Asociacion Ostomizados de Puerto Rico, United Ostomy Association of America and United Ostomy Association of Canada. We thank all the respondents for completing this important questionnaire.

NCACOA Meeting

There will be a meeting of the countries of our Region on February 6 and 7, 2009 in the City of Colima in the State of Colima, Mexico. Colima is located approximately 400 kilometers south west of Mexico City. It is the home of our host Asociacion de Ostomizados de Colima. One fact I know is that the average temperature in Colima in February is 28°Celsius or 82° Fahrenheit. The average February temperature in Ottawa is -15°to -20°Celsius, about 0°Fahrenheit. More motivational information will come your way as arrangements are completed.

United Ostomy Association of Canada Conference

UOAC will hold their 11th Annual Conference in Hamilton, Ontario from August 14 to 16, 2008. Hamilton is

approximately 50 kilometers from one of the natural wonders of the world, Niagara Falls and approximately 70 kilometers from the Toronto International Airport. If you are interested in our conference please visit our website at www.ostomycanada.ca or contact our office by email: uoacan@astral.magic.ca. We will be happy to greet you.

Expectation?

A question I have been considering is what is the expectation of the countries of our Region? I have been reading old editions of IOA Today and other bits of information that I have gathered and looking back from today's vantage point I believe the vision was:

- The unification of the Region
- The expectations that countries with established programs would assist others to form association.
- The quality of life of all Ostomates in our Region would be improved.

The strength of our Region and indeed that of the International Ostomy Association (IOA) is dependent on strong united regions. With a little effort we can improve communications, unite and improve the lives of others. I request that you contact me at doug.ncacoa@sympatico.ca to let me know the status of Ostomates in your country.

Respectfully submitted by
Doug Graham President,

George Salamy, Vice-President,
Jorge Vargas Morales. Executive Member

SOUTH PACIFIC REGION - SPOA



Both Australia and New Zealand are continuing to supply appliances to Indonesia, Tonga, Fiji and contacts are being sought in Papua New Guinea to ascertain what help can be provided there.

Recently an Australian nurse returned from Ethiopia where she had been working at the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital. The desperate need for urostomy appliances was conveyed to the Australian relief coordinator and communication links have been established, as a consequence the first shipment of appliances has been forwarded to the hospital where they have been gratefully received.

The president of ACSA Mr. Gerald Barry has recently received a significant award, the Member of the order of Australia (AM) for his services to the Ostomy community in Australia and his significant contribution to SPOA and IOA. The recognition of his service is very much deserved as

Gerald has and is a tireless worker in raising the profile of Ostomates everywhere.

The minister for health in New Zealand has announced that a national bowel screening programme will be instituted soon. This has been lobbied for by the FNZOS for some time. It will probably screen over 55's unless on a familial risk programme which is now in operation

The past president Frances Butler (SPOA as well) is resigning along with Secretary Robyn Tourell at the next AGM.

The New Zealand annual conference and AGM will be held at Greymouth on the west coast of the south island 8-10 August and the Australian annual conference and AGM will be held 9-11 October.

Peter McQueen, President SPOA

SOUTH PACIFIC UPCOMING CONFERENCE

The Annual Conferences of the South Pacific Ostomy members New Zealand and Australia will be held in August and October respectively.

The New Zealand Conference will be held in The Ashley Hotel at Greymouth on the west coast of the South Island on the 8th -10th August. Any enquiries to be directed to Norma Roberts's emailrobertsranch@xtra.co.nz.

The Australian Conference will be held at the Lakes Hotel West Lakes in Adelaide from 9th -12th October. The hosts for this conference are the Colostomy and Ileostomy Associations of South Australia. The theme of the conference this year will be "**Managing Change**". There will also be a **20/40 focus session** at this conference which will be held on Friday the 10th Oct. Any questions regarding the 20/40 session email Andrea Shaw at andrea.1.shaw@bigpond.com all other enquiries regarding the conference are to be directed to Mr. Ted Wohling c/- Colostomy Association South Australia email colosa@internode.on.net

Peter McQueen, President SPOA

20/40 FOCUS



Greetings

Spring always seems to waft of change and the 20/40 committee is no exception. When Sarah Mail (England) resigned due to increasing work conditions we realized

we had a vacant position to fill within EOA for a 20/40 representative. Fortunately, Per-Arne Skeide (Norway) has agreed to represent the 20/40 members of the EOA region. Ronald Lora (Philippines) has also joined the committee as the AOA representative. We are hoping to complete our committee by identifying a representative for the ALADO region in the near future.

Regional Events

AOA: Thanks to the work of Dato John Cardoso and the generosity of Mr. Norio Suzuki, 20/40 committee member Ronald Lora has been given sponsorship to attend the AOA congress in November 2008.

SPOA: Andrea Shaw will be attending the SPOA congress in Adelaide South Australia in October 2008.

NCACOA: Janet Paquet will be attending the NCACOA congress in Colima Mexico in February 2009. An invitation for 20/40 members to attend the UOAC National Conference this August in Hamilton, ON was extended and Ken Auckett (UOAA) has extended an invitation for 20/40 members to attend the 2009 UOAA Conference in New Orleans, LA in October of 2009.

We hope that having IOA 20/40 focus present at national as well as regional meetings will help promote and encourage more 20/40 participation around the globe.

Communication

It is certainly evident that ostomates in the 20 to 40 age range are very technologically savvy and prefer electronic communication and networking. It is conceivable that this group will correspond and communicate with one another strictly through electronic means. Plans to utilize the IOA blog are ongoing and each member of the 20/40 Committee will be using the blogs to report on the regional congress activities. Contacts are being made with country associations to also report on the 20/40 activities taking place at their national conferences.

In Conclusion

The 20/40 Focus group members are finding a definite lack of commitment by our membership. Inquires are fleeting and few at best. Members in this demographic seem to be well adjusted and not interested in joining national or international 'support' groups. Most seem to want quick electronic information. Therefore, the committee feels that in order for 20/40 focus to survive and flourish we must concentrate more on working with the IOA webmaster to promote our mandate.

Janet Paquet
20/40 Focus Chair



FRIENDS OF OSTOMATES WORLDWIDE-USA

Ival Secret, President



The Friends of Ostomates Worldwide-USA (FOW-USA) is a non-profit volunteer organization that collects new, donated ostomy supplies from generous individuals and organizations in the United States, and ships them to countries where ostomates do not have access to these vital supplies. Founded in 1986, FOW-USA is managed by a Board of Directors, which meets twice a year at the

Directors' own expense, to work on issues related to our mission.

Here is how the FOW-USA organization works. Supplies are sent to a central warehouse in the United States, now located in a new site in Louisville, Kentucky. They come from a variety of sources: people with surplus supplies no longer needed; facilities that can no longer use supplies or are changing to other brands; ostomy support groups that may have supplies donated by members. At the warehouse, volunteers sort and put the same sizes and brands together.

Requests for supplies are received through the internet or referral from other sources. A volunteer Operations Director communicates with trusted individuals and with organizations in the receiving country, such as hospitals, clinics, doctors, WOC nurses, and ostomy associations, to identify product needs, and to ensure that the supplies will be distributed free of charge to needy ostomates. We also make sure that a health care professional trained in ostomy care is available to instruct ostomates in the use of the supplies.

Based on the specific needs, volunteers pack the items for shipment overseas. Supplies are put into boxes, and boxes make up a pallet.

Through donations, the Friends of Ostomates Worldwide-USA pays for expenses, including shipping the supplies. The cost to send packages to our overseas recipients is approximately \$2 per pound. Since our shipments may run up to 800 pounds per pallet, shipping costs are significant and we rely on the generous financial donations of people who believe in our important cause.

Our recipients have included Ethiopia, Chile, Iraq (Mosul), Nepal, Panama, Zambia, Bolivia, Palestine, Peru, Jamaica, Uzbekistan, Argentina, St. Lucia, and Zimbabwe. We would like to receive pictures, email messages, and stories from the people and countries who get our supplies.

We work closely with the Friends of Ostomates Worldwide-Canada to coordinate our efforts, as well as the

International Ostomy Association and its regional presidents.

Our website is: www.fowusa.org. Please check it out for our shipping history, available resources, and information on how to support us. We look forward to hearing from you in the future.

New address: FOW-USA, 1500 Arlington Avenue, Louisville, Kentucky 40206-3177.

UPCOMING EVENTS ACROSS THE GLOBE

New Zealand Conference will be held in The Ashley Hotel at Greymouth on the west coast of the South Island on the 8th -10th August. Visit their Website:

<http://www.newzealandostomy.co.nz/>

Coming up in the North and Central America and Caribbean Region will be the 11th UOCA Conference being held in Hamilton, Canada August 14-16, 2008. For more information you may view their Website:

http://www.ostomycanada.ca/uoac_annual_conference.htm

The 12th Congress of EOA Regional Conference will be held September 11-14, 2008 in Brno, Czech Republic. For information about this conference view:

<http://www.ta-service.cz/EOAcongress2008/>.

Taking place in the South Pacific Region October 9-12, 2008 in Adelaide, South Australia will be the ACSA's 39th National Conference 2008. Check out their Website:

http://www.australianstoma.com.au/coming_events.htm.

To top off 2008 the Asian Region will be holding their 6th Asian Ostomy Association Conference November 14-16, 2008. This conference will take place in Tokyo, Japan. To view more information about this conference view:

<http://www.joa-net.org/contents2/en/whatsnew/20070108.htm>

Of course we do not want to leave out the USA as they will be holding a number area conferences. To find out if there is one in your area view:

http://www.uoaa.org/conferences_events.shtml#florida_asg_leaders

Remember to view the IOA Website for more Ostomy related publications:

<http://www.ostomyinternational.org/publication.html>