

ACT/UCT Dominion Grand No. 31

United Commercial Travellers of America

“ Where Community and Compassion Unite “

Issue 3

February 2011

Grand Counselor Report

The Grand Executive held a productive meeting on January 15,2011. We thank Gordon Ross for his input and guidance with respect to the wording of a By-law document to be voted on at the Grand Session in May and his assistance with the wording of the Neil Pickering Secretary's Award. Approval from Head Office for the Lapel Pins was received from David Knapp, Sandy Shafer and Larry Pilon on January 13<sup>th</sup>. The order has been placed with Mike Arndt in Edmonton, the same firm that produces our membership pins. We should have them in our possession before our Grand Session at the end of May. An invitation to bring greetings to the Manitoba- Saskatchewan Grand on Friday evening , April 29<sup>th</sup> was received and accepted. We look forward to seeing everyone in Red Deer for the Grand Session.

Respectfully: Serena Olsen Grand Counselor

Secretary News

Your Grand Executive has decided to have a new award for all Local Council Secretaries starting at our next Grand Session in May 2011 in Red Deer. This is in honor of Neil Pickering who passed away this past year. The award will be called the “ Neil Pickering Secretary or Secretary/Treasurer Award “. Gord Ross, Chairman of the PGCA, will be notifying all Councils by email. Each Council may nominate their respective Secretary for this honor. Please watch for the email and any further information pertaining to this new award as there will be more to follow. Hopefully all Councils will respond. Your Executive and the PGCA look forward to hearing from all Councils.

Rick Warner Grand Secretary

## Membership Retention

We are over the rush of the Festive Season and rolling into the New Year. Happy New Year to all Councils. I have just received the lapsed list for the New Year and we have 197 newly lapsed members across the Country. I will be contacting as many as possible to encourage them to rejoin their respective Councils. For those who requested a supplementary invoice all responded by paying their membership up to date.

Once again; comes the age old question. How and why are we going to attract new members for our Councils. Do we have reason for them to join up with ACT/UCT? I would like to know from any Council that has positive membership to pass on their success story. How are you attracting new members? Congratulations to the Councils that have even or plus memberships. Remember the potential rewards for having a positive membership and to the individual who signs up a new member. Once again I remind you to please bring your ideas to the Grand Session in Red Deer.

Dwight Hunter. Grand Executive Committee

## Public Relations

Sixteen of our Twenty Eight Councils continue to submit copies of their newsletters. Lots of information on activities and successes is evident and I hope all Councils are sharing their publication with key people and organizations in their Community. Some Councils have web sites to which the newsletter can be posted and can be shared through the various links at UCT ( [www.uct.org](http://www.uct.org) ) and ACT/UCT ( [www.act-uct.com](http://www.act-uct.com) ) . By clicking on the various links you can increase your awareness of who we are and what we do. For example: Did you know of the new FINAL EXPENSE PLAN that can provide coverage from \$ 3,000.00 to \$ 25,000.00. Our Grand Session in Red Deer should be a hoot. Don't forget your socks for the hop. The organisers are sure to celebrate their 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in style. Remember that you don't have to be a delegate to attend. Any active member can register to attend.

Respectfully submitted; Gil. Hartley Grand Executive Committee

## Safety

I hope all Councils are including Safety Topics at your local level. Besides the Safety Poster Contest which gets your youth involved in thinking and practicing safety, each Council Executive should promote safety among their members. It does help with your Medal of Honor credits. Of the annual reports received so far the use of guest speakers and donations to organizations such as Crime Stoppers is evident. Since the word " Traveller " is in our name we should always be prepared for safe travel, especially during inclement weather, with the appropriate gear to help you out in difficult situations. Remember; " Safety is Security " for you and your loved ones.

Gil. Hartley - Grand Executive Committee

## Cancer

As of this date, I have received 2 Local Council reports out of 28. If your Council is not making a monetary donation but are volunteering hours, could you please show these hours on your annual report. I thank you for your support.

Keep up the good work and please do your best to report before March 31<sup>st</sup>. All Councils reporting last year did a terrific job of raising money and volunteering. Thanks to everyone.

Looking forward to receiving your Cancer reports and to see the amounts raised plus the volunteering hours our Councils contribute to help cure this deadly disease.

Fraternally Melorie Davies Chair Cancer Committee ( [melorie@magma.ca](mailto:melorie@magma.ca) )

## Past Grand Counselor's Association

In Red Deer on May 26<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>, 2011, we will be having our elections for the coming year, and candidates are always needed to run our Great Organization.

Any member in good standing, that has completed one year as a Senior Counselor, as well as one year as a Past Senior Counselor, or who has been an Executive Member for six (6) years are eligible to run for a position on the Board.

The following positions are up for election this year:-

Grand Secretary – 3 year term- Rick Warner has submitted his name

Grand Treasurer- 2 year term – Sylvia Herman has submitted her name

Grand Executive – 2 year term- 2 to be elected

Gil. Hartley has submitted his name

Elly Opdenkelder has submitted her name

Grand Sentinel-6 year term, in the line-No names have been submitted

If you have any thoughts on running for any of the above positions, please advise Grand Secretary Rick Warner – [act-uct.grand@shaw.ca](mailto:act-uct.grand@shaw.ca) with your biography and also advise Gord Ross PGCA-Chair – [garco@tbaytel.net](mailto:garco@tbaytel.net)

Gord Ross PGCA – Chair.