



The Order of

UNITED COMMERCIAL TRAVELERS OF AMERICA



"People Helping People"

ACT/UCT DOMINION GRAND NO.31

Newsletter – Summer – 2012

Where Community and Compassion Unite

Grand Past Counsellor

Another Grand Session was just completed in Medicine Hat for 2012.

Thank you to all Councils who attended and contributed to the business and social events. From all indicators it appears it was successful.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Grand Counsellor, and a very special thank you to my Executive for your trust and assistance while I was in office.

Congratulations to the new Executive for the upcoming year! I truly look forward to working with you as Past Grand Counsellor.

Fraternally yours,
Dave Syrota
Grand Past Counsellor

Grand Secretary

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Medicine Hat Council 1020 for a very well organized Grand Session. 20 of 26 Councils attended. Hopefully we can get the other 6 Councils to attend next year in Sudbury, Ontario.

Congratulations to Gord Ross of Thunder Bay Council 1039 on being our 2nd recipient of the Neil B. Pickering Secretary/Treasurer Award.

This past year I have tried to e-mail correspondence to our Grand Officers and Councils. This has helped in reducing our overhead as your Grand is trying very hard to bring in a balanced budget. Thank you to all Council Secretaries for giving me their e-mail addresses so that I have been able to accomplish this. I still need the odd Senior Counsellor's e-mail address to cut out all Royal Mail.

I'm still looking for one Council's New Officers and Local Council Committee reports that were due on April 20th. Please keep in mind that the A16 and A21 are due on July 2nd and I am still looking for these reports from 13 Councils. Remember if you do not get the A16 and A21 filed, that Supreme will start to hold back on any fund transfers to your Council. Last year Nanaimo Council lost out on their fund transfers as they did not complete the A16 and A21 to this date.

I hope that all Councils have a successful year. I look forward to hearing from everyone in the near future as I enter my 5th year as your Grand Secretary.

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Rick Warner PGC
Grand Secretary

GRAND TREASURER

The 2012 Medicine Hat Grand Session was most impressive with all the meetings, lodging and social functions outstanding. Thank you Medicine Hat Council you did an AMAZING job.

As Grand Secretary, this year I was faced with the challenge to bring forth a balanced budget. The necessary cuts were achieved and decisions were made to follow through with more adjustments in the coming year. The feedback from the Grand Executive was overwhelming; you have confirmed that we are all on the same page when it comes to Fraternalism.

How quickly time passes, this is my sixth year as your Grand Treasurer and I am looking forward to all the challenges that come with the New Year. Thanks to all the Executive Members and our Canadian Councils for your support throughout the year.

Please feel free to contact me by phone or e-mail at any time with questions, comments or just a friendly chat.

Fraternally

Sylvia Herman, Grand Treasurer

INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY AND MISCELLANEOUS CHARITIES

Hi Everyone

First let me thank all Councils for sending in their yearend reports for each of these worthy causes. Special recognition was given to Red Deer Council 1021 for their efforts on behalf of folks with intellectual disabilities. They raised \$ 17,500 and worked 2250 hours. Grand Prairie Council 1018 was recognized for their efforts supporting miscellaneous charities in their community. They raised \$ 13,338 and worked 515 hours.

Each Council received a certificate of appreciation at this year's Grand Session in Medicine Hat. Please review my reports in the Grand Session workbook to see how each of these great organizations spent their time and money.

Another year has started and my responsibilities are the same as last year. I will be chairman of the Intellectual Disabilities and Miscellaneous Charities Committees. I am looking forward to hearing all about your great efforts and passing along encouragement and information on developing an effective program in each of these areas. Please contact me if I can help in any way.

At the Grand Session in Medicine Hat I was honoured to be elected Grand Junior Counsellor. Each year is more interesting and more fun than the last. Please consider running for a Grand Executive position. I promise you it will be well worth the commitment.

Jack Blenkinsop Grand Junior Counsellor

Chair. – Intellectual Disabilities and Miscellaneous Charities

VOLUNTEER CO-ORDINATOR

As Grand Volunteer Co-ordinator, it is my duty to see that all Councils have a local Volunteer Co-ordinator in place. The primary duty and responsibility of the local Co-ordinator is to recruit and manage volunteers who participate in a variety of community service, volunteer programs and other events; work within the community organizations and build co-operative relationships with local and provincial entities. This person acts as the primary contact for individuals wishing to volunteer in their communities.

A manual that describes the duties of a Volunteer Co-ordinator, provides suggestions for projects and how to create public awareness of UCT in the community is available by accessing the UCT web site, logging in as a member and clicking on VOLUNTEER CO-ORDINATORS. You may also contact me and I will e-mail you a copy.

For those Councils who already have a Volunteer Co-ordinator in place, please let me know who that person is and what they are doing. Reports from Volunteer Co-ordinators should be sent to me on regular basis. Reports can be mailed to me at #7 14325-82 Street NW, Edmonton AB T5E 2V7, e-mail l.mcdermott@shaw.ca or fax to 780-475-6018

I will do my utmost to address any questions or concerns you may have regarding appointing or being a Volunteer Co-ordinator. You may contact me at the above address or by phone at 780-475-0451
Fraternally
Lil McDermott
Grand Page – Volunteer Co-ordinator

MEDAL OF HONOR AND SAFETY

The Medal of Honour program is a great way for Councils to generate revenue and promote the activities/ hard work that you're Council does in the community. Check out the UCT web site for a complete list of this year's winners.

The annual safety poster contest continues to be a success. At this year's **Grand Session** in Medicine Hat the following winners were selected to continue on at the Supreme Session competition:

REGULAR EDUCATION: Upper – Shelby MacDougal Calgary 1014
Middle – Mackenzie Aarstead Saskatoon 1031
Lower – Grace Mytroen Calgary 1014

Intellectual Disabilities: Upper – Will F. Calgary 1014
Middle – Rodney T. Calgary 1014
Lower - Julian Calgary 1014

We also had five winners at the **Supreme level**. Congratulations go out to the following:

REGULAR EDUCATION: Upper – Mackenzie Aarstead Saskatoon 1031 2nd Place
Gracie Mytroen Calgary 1014 3rd Place

Intellectual Disabilities: Upper – Will F. Calgary 1014 2nd Place
Julian Calgary 1014 3rd Place
Rodney T. Calgary 1014 3rd Place

The winning posters can be viewed on the UCT web site at www.uct.org and click on news and select safety poster winners. I would encourage all Councils to consider sponsoring a Safety Poster Contest. Our Grand is a perennial winner and this is an excellent way to get involved in your community.
Fraternally

Monique May Grand Sentinel

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CANCER

As a Cancer survivor myself since the young age of 26 years, I would like to thank Grand Counsellor Lyle Silzer for appointing me as Chair of the 2012/2013 Grand Cancer Committee. I am looking forward to my third year as Cancer Chair and working with your local Cancer Chairs.

We had an excellent year for 2011 with 18 of our 26 Councils raising or donating \$ 60,126.68 and 173 members volunteering 2,474 hours for the Cancer Society. I appreciated receiving the reports from the other 6 Councils not participating to finalize my report for the Grand Session.

Two Certificates of Excellence were presented in Medicine Hat at the 19th Grand Session June 6th to 10th with congratulations to the following Councils:

- a. EDMONTON COUNCIL 1016 for highest donation of money raised \$ 22,636.00 (180 hours and 32 people) and
- b. CALGARY COUNCIL 1014 for most hours volunteered at 1054 hours (\$10, 00.00 and 60 people).

I am looking forward to local Council participation with your ongoing projects and fund raisers for Cancer for 2012 and please don't hesitate to call me.

Your Grand Council appreciates our local Council raising and donating money plus the many dedicated hours of volunteering to Cancer and together we will do our best 'TO MAKE CANCER HISTORY'.

Fraternally

Melorie Davies Grand Executive Committee Chair Cancer Committee

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MEMBERSHIP RETENTION AND EXPANSION

EXPANSION: Remember our year began on April 1st, and to date 10 new members have been signed. The same recognition for adding New Members is: 1 - \$ 20.00, 2 - \$ 30.00, 3 – or more \$ 40.00. Our goal for the year is 200 new members. We can do it if we try. While out in your communities always make them aware of what we stand for – WHERE COMMUNITY AND COMPASSION UNITE. Do not become discouraged; think and act positively.

RETENTION; One of the most important aspects of our membership in our GREAT ORGANIZATION is retaining our current members. We must SEEK EVERY INDIVIDUAL out when it appears theirs dues have lapsed. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT FOR THE BENEFITS THEY MAY LOSE AND FOR THEIR INDIVIDUAL WELL BEING.

Councils, please feel free to contact me VIA telephone or e-mail serena99@telus.net with any suggestions you may have. We will succeed together.

Fraternally

Serena Olsen Grand Executive Committee – Chair Membership Expansion and Retention Committees

YOUTH AND DRUG AWARENESS

Twenty three Councils sent in reports regarding their involvement with Youth and/or Drug Awareness. Of these eight reported that they did not have any activities if this area. Thank you to Councils 1017, 1018, 1021, 1024, 1031, 1039, 1047, and 1067 for keeping in touch.

DRUG AWARENESS: Council 1016 donated \$ 6500.00 to facilities which helped to educate youth on drug awareness.

YOUTH: Thirteen Councils were involved with youth in their communities.

1002 Kelowna, 1003 Kelowna West (\$ 4724.00), 1014 Calgary (\$ 20,000.00), 1015 Calgary North (\$ 16,600.00), 1018 Grand Prairie (\$ 13,938.00), 1020 Medicine Hat (\$ 10,500.00), 1022 Sherwood Park (\$ 5,000.00), 1023 Cranbrook (\$ 29,750.00), 1027 Moose Jaw (\$ 9,900.00), 1028 North Battleford (\$ 700.00), 1049 North Bay (\$1,000.00), 1051 Sudbury)\$3,280.00) and 1065 Toronto East (\$2,800.00) for a total of \$ 117,192.00 .

Altogether, members volunteered 3,000 hrs to help our youth in 2011/2012.

If I have missed anyone let me know and I will update my report. Thank you to the twenty one Councils who sent in reports. I know that your hard work is appreciated by all recipients. We can all look forward to a New Year with new opportunities.

Fraternally

Elly Opdenkelder – Grand Executive / Chair Youth and Drug Awareness Committee.

PUBLIC RELATIONS/WELCOME

As we move into our fiscal year it is becoming more obvious that Councils are reaching out into their communities. This bodes well for increasing the awareness of our value to and participation in the community. I would encourage all Councils to consider hosting an open house type meeting whereby members are requested to bring a guest.

Council newsletters continue to be excellent PR tools that should be shared with your community and potential members. The competition for the Harry Aaron Award and the Supreme Awards get more difficult to judge each year as you the Local Councils support you editor in their production.

Congratulations to Sudbury Council 1051 for winning this year's Harry Aaron Award and the 1st Place recognition from UCT at the Supreme level.

Some other quick highlights from the Supreme Session include our ability now to proceed with creating alternative local Councils with as few as 10 members. Our Grand is proud to have its first Supreme Counsellor in the person of Larry Pilon from Calgary (Congratulations Larry) Gordon Woodworth from Atlantic UCT Grand was elected as the third member from Canada to the Board and Chris Phelan becomes our Supreme Chaplain

Several others of our members were elected or appointed to Supreme positions. Jack Blenkinsop – State of The Order, Melorie Davie- Canadian Delegation and Gary Mighton- UCT Charities Trust Fund. Jerry Giff will also chair the Canadian Operations Task Force.

Watch for the complete report on the Supreme Session which is to follow.

Remember to sign on with the UCT members section of the UCT web Site at www.uct.org to keep up to date.

Fraternally

Gil. Hartley PGC Grand Executive Committee Chair PR/Welcome Committee

YOU'RE THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

“We don't know who we are until we see what we can do” Martha Grimes