



The Order of

UNITED COMMERCIAL TRAVELERS OF AMERICA

"People Helping People"



ACT/UCT DOMINION GRAND No.31

NEWSLETTER - WINTER 2013

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR SUPREME COUNSELOR

Carol and I are so honored to represent UCT this year .It all began at the 2012 Supreme Session here in our home town of Calgary, where I was installed as your Supreme Counselor. I hope those of you who attended had a great time here - and I hope you'll come back and visit again.

We are doing our traveling, which takes us to many places across Canada and the United States this year. The Prairies were our starting point - driving in the summer made a lot of sense! To our UCT members in Red Deer, North Battleford, Saskatoon, Prince Albert, Regina, Moose Jaw, Swift Current and Medicine Hat- the things you do for your communities are truly amazing! And as in most Councils, it seems to be the 80/20 rule: where 80% of the work is done by 20% of the dedicated and hard working members who make everything happen.

This past fall was a pretty busy travel time for us throughout the UCT country: if you're a facebook user, feel free to follow along with us. Carol is posting pictures and notes regularly. We travelled to Okanagan, visiting UCT folks from Kelowna, Kelowna West and Cranbrook. We spent a fabulous week in Virginia meeting amazing people from Galax, Lynchburg,Roanoke, and Martinsburg. The scenery - Blue Ridge Mountains, Shenandoah Valley and more are incredibly beautiful. We then went to Ohio for the "SWING", with Grand Counselor Ken Milliser. At large meetings in Columbus and Dayton, we had a chance to meet so many members from, many Council's. Truly, there are no more wonderful people than UCT people - they are so kind, welcoming, and hospitable - and they do amazing things in their local communities.

My message throughout has been twofold:

1. Let's celebrate UCT's long heritage of 125 years. My sincere "CONGRATULATIONS" to UCT people - what you do in your communities is truly inspiring. This is what UCT is all about.
2. To keep our fraternal order alive and growing for the next 125 years, we must find new ways of getting more and younger members to join us. Yes, this means we need to be open to changing the way we do things.

The key amendments passed at the last Supreme Session are geared toward encouraging younger people to join UCT: by reducing the number of members needed to start a Council to 10; by limiting the executive positions to three (President, Vice President, and Secretary-Treasurer); and by using social media instead of traditional monthly meetings to organize and facilitate work for a worthy, local cause.

Now we are ready to go! If you have young friends, or children, or grandchildren who are over 18, either working or still in college, please encourage them to join. So far, we've approved the forming of 2 new Councils and more are in the works, a pretty good start.

In looking at the membership numbers in our ACT/UCT Grand, I am confident that we can reach a plus one for the 2012/2013 year. I urge each of you to make a huge effort to sign new members, as I know you can.

Carol and I are so proud and so humble to have this wonderful opportunity to travel and meet just as many members as we can, to promote UCT, and to promote positive changes for our growth. We're celebrating 125 years of UCT this year and as our theme says, we're "still making history".

Fraternally Larry R. Pilon – Supreme Counselor

GRAND TREASURER

As we move into the New Year of 2013, I hope you all had a Joyous Christmas Season and I wish you a Healthy, Happy and Prosperous New Year.

I would like to thank all Members for their positive feedback and ideas with regard to reaching a balanced budget for the coming years. Executive Members have controlled expenses and purchases to help make this possible. Thank you all for this.

I still have Membership Expansion cheques outstanding from our Grand Session in Medicine Hat.

Edmonton South 1017, Ck # 143 Kim Johnson
Grand Prairie 1018 , Ch # 144 Rob Ostrom
Grand Prairie 1018, Ck # 147 Dustin Edey

The Per Capita Tax invoices for the quarter ending December went out the first week in January with only two Councils outstanding for September

I notice that a number of Councils are forgetting to pay the shipping and handling charges on their Supply invoices. You will find that information on the back side of your supply invoice/

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or require more information
Thank You and continued success!

Sylvia Herman - Grand Treasurer e-mail: theherms@shaw.ca

INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES AND MISCELLANEOUS CHARITIES

As we move into the New Year I want to thank you all for the good work being done in these two areas.

Twenty one of twenty six Councils have effective programs in place to assist with Intellectual disabilities. I hope to see last year's donations in the \$ 95,000.00 range with approximately 9,000 hrs of volunteerism exceeded this year. Your local Mental Health Associations will more than welcome your efforts to help them. Please contact your local branch to see what your Council can do. Helping out with Special Olympics is a good place to start.

Over \$ 120,000.00 has been donated with 2600 hrs of service to Miscellaneous Charities. This shows that our motto of "Where Community and Compassion Unite" is truly being applied.

I hope your annual reports will again show your proud community efforts.

Fraternally - Jack Blenkinsop - Grand Junior Counselor

CANCER

We were very pleased with the amount of \$ 60,126.68 raised or donated by 18 Councils and 173 members taking their time to volunteer 2,474 hours for Cancer for 2011. These Councils and Members are to be commended for their efforts. I would like to thank all Councils for submitting their 2011 Cancer Reports whether participating or not as this makes my job easier to complete my final report.

I am looking forward to receiving your Cancer Reports for Jan. 1st to Dec. 31st 2012 to be submitted by MARCH 31st 2013. These forms will be put together for a complete Grand Cancer Report to recap the money raised and hours volunteered for Cancer. I would appreciate it if "all Councils could please send in your Council Cancer Report forms whether your Council participated or not" to complete my Grand Cancer Report - with so much thanks!!!

There will be a presentation of 2 Certificates of Recognition to two Councils at the 20th Grand Session in Sudbury in May as follows

1. To the Council who raises or donates the most money: and
2. To the Council who volunteers the most hours.

I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas with your families and I would like to wish everyone all the best for the Year 2013!!!

With much thanks,
Fraternally,

Melorie Davies - Chair, Cancer Committee

802 -199 Holland Avenue, Ottawa, On. K1Y 0Y3 Ph. 613-729-6922 email melorie@magma.ca

MEMBERSHIP

As of the end of December our total membership was 2315. We continue to struggle with lapsing members and cancellations due to deaths. On the bright side we have six Councils (Medicine Hat 1020, Nanaimo 1004, New West Minister 1005, North Battleford 1028, Prince Albert 1029 and Swift Current 1032) that have managed to stay even with last year. Sherwood Park # 1022 and Sudbury # 1051 are in a plus situation. Congratulations to these Councils for their efforts.

As we continue with our efforts to maintain and grow our membership I would encourage all members to recruit younger members for the future of our organization.

Fraternally: L.Kuchelyma – Grand Conductor

PUBLICITY AND WELCOME

Remember to submit your newsletters for the Harry Aaron Award and a selected issue of your newsletter to Columbus for the Supreme Newsletter Contest .Our Grand has done well in the past and demonstrates that our Councils are active and successful in our respective communities.

Changes are being made to the web sites. Please take a few moments to view these sites and the associated links to see what is being done for the members and to get updates on insurance packages for the members. A link on the ACT/UCT Grand web site will be posted for the 2013 Grand Session.

For those of you who have not already done so, contact Joyce Pierre at the Calgary Head Office (jpierre@uct.org) to get on the email list for the North Of The Border News and to get additional information on insurance packages for Canadian members. You "Snow Birds" may want to check out the "Out of Country" travel insurance.

For you information the following web sites are there for your viewing pleasure:

- www.act-uct.com
- www.uct.org
- www.facebook.com/uctinaction

You can probably find enough information here to help you prepare for a "Welcome" meeting or "Know Your Benefits" meeting

Fraternally: Gil. Hartley PGC Grand Executive Committee

PAST GRAND COUNSELORS ASSOCIATION

One of the responsibilities of this group is to encourage and recruit candidates for involvement at the Grand Level and more specifically the Grand Executive. They encourage applicants for various positions for election each year.

The chairman of this association is Gord Ross PGC.

If you have an interest submit your Bio. For consideration to him at garco@tbaytel.net

INSURANCE PRODUCTS ANYONE?

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Contact Joyce Pierre at 1-800-267-2371 or jpierre@uct.org for more information

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Speak when you are angry and you will make the best speech you'll ever regret"
Lawrence J. Peter