The By-PaSS

Triangle Area Ostomy Association

OUR MISSION: TAOA strives to provide emotional and educational support for those with an intestinal or urinary diversion or who anticipate the surgery. We support The Friends of Ostomates Worldwide (FOW) by contributing ostomy supplies to be shipped to underprivileged ostomates in foreign countries.

UOAA United Ostomy Associations of America, Inc.
AFFILIATED SUPPORT GROUP

Nov 2026

President's Message

It's election season and our next meeting falls on election day. Speaking of politics, I urge you to contact your representatives about Bill HR 10787. This bill would slow down the Medicare competitive bidding for ostomy products. I know our representatives are probably focused on their campaigns, so maybe contact them later in the month. Or do it today and again in a few weeks. Information and a contact form can be found here: https://www.ostomy.org/take-action

See you all on Tuesday when we will take to skies with Air Force pilot, Josh Nelson!

Regards,
Dan Richards
President

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NEWS AND UPDATES

- The program for the November meeting will be with Joshua Nelson, ostomy advocate, talking about his recovery from Ileostomy surgery.
- The TAOA Board needs member support! We are currently looking for a Membership Coordinator.
- If you know of an event where you think TAOA would benefit from setting up an information table, please let Dan Richards know.
- If you think of a program that would be suitable for a Zoom meeting, please let Dan Richards or Lilo Wilson know.



TRIANGLE AREA OSTOMY ASSOCIATION (TAOA)

TAOA is a non profit organization dedicated to advancing ostomy health through advocacy, education, and professional interaction. We are an affiliated support group of the The United Ostomy Associations of America, Inc. Membership is open to ostomates, nurses and friends who support our mission. New members are always welcome. Please refer to the membership form on the last page.



WOC NURSE OUTPATIENT SUPPORT

UOAA Ostomy Services support

Enter your zip code into the UOAA web site to locate the nearest clinic in your area:
https://www.ostomy.org/outpatient-ostomy-services-locator/

WakeMed Raleigh, WakeMedCary, WakeMed North

https://www.wakemed.org/care-and-services/gastroenterology/treatments-and-procedures/colorectal-surgery/ostomy-support

Please call **919-350-7331** to schedule your appointment. Appointments are available Wednesdays between 12 pm and 4 pm.

UNC Hospital and Rex Hospital

Outpatient Ostomy phone line is **984-974-0154.** It goes to voicemail but is managed Monday through Friday by our WOCN team.

Duke Health

https://www.dukehealth.org/locations/duke-cancer-center-wound-ostomy-clinic
Call for an appointment **919-668-6688**

Duke Raleigh Outpatient Ostomy Clinic

https://www.dukehealth.org/locations/duke-raleigh-outpatient-ostomy-clinic
Call for an Appointment **919-954-3446**

Durham VA Medical Center

Reba Giles 919-286-0411 X 6177

Maria Parham Hospital

Kathy Thomas 252-436-1700

Duke Regional

Felicia Street 919-470-6145
Lisa Ellerbe
Grace Abellon

Group Officers and Contact Info

President: Dan Richards	919-624-3075
Vice President: Mary Brown	919-782-3957
Treasurer: Ruth Rhodes	919-782-3460
Secretary: Ruth Rhodes	
Newsletter: Alison Cleary	919-924-3325
Webmaster: Alison Cleary	clearyan@earthlink.net
FOW Coordinator: Jamal Sarsour	252-258-4431
Membership Coordinator. Vacant	
Program Coordinator: Lilo Wilson	Lidis89@hotmail.com
Prof. Advisor: Stephanie Yates	stephaniesyates@gmail.com
Social Media Coordinator: Allie Lake	allisonlake27@gmail.com

The Triangle Area Ostomy Association provides support for ostomy patients, caregivers, survivors and families. If you or someone you know needs assistance or support, please see the list of officers on page 2 to reach out and we will help you find the appropriate contact.

For more information about the Triangle Area Ostomy Association go to www.raleighuoa.org or look for Triangle Area Ostomy Association on Facebook.

CCFA CROHN'S & COLITIS FOUNDATION OF AMERICA

CCFA SUPPORT GROUP

Date: Third Monday of the Month
Time: 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm
Place: Rex Healthcare
Contact: Reuben Gradsky

TRIANGLE BLADDER CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

Date: Second Tuesday of the Month
Time: 7 pm – 8:30 pm
Place: Ronald McDonald House Community Room (At the rear of the parking lot)
101 Old Mason Farm Rd, Chapel Hill, NC 27517
Contact: Ritchie Briggs 919-493-0551
trianglebcs@gmail.com
https://sites.google.com/site/trianglebcs/
These meetings are hybrid and can be attended via

DISCLAIMER: Articles and information appearing in this newsletter are not necessarily endorsed by the Triangle Ostomy Association and may not be applicable to every individual. Always consult your physician or WOC Nurse for all medical advice.



The Speaker for our November meeting

Joshua Nelson was diagnosed with Ulcerative Colitis, a form of Inflammatory Bowel Disease, in November 2017 at the age of 37. Within a year, his condition had progressed to the point where biologic medications and combination therapies were required to manage his disease. As his health continued to deteriorate, Joshua sought care from Inflammatory Bowel Disease specialists at Mayo Clinic in Rochester and the University of Minnesota Medical Center. After exhausting available medical therapies, he underwent surgery to remove his colon in November 2018. In February 2019, he completed his final surgery, resulting in a permanent ileostomy.

His experience fundamentally changed his approach to health and wellness. Following his first surgery, Joshua made a commitment to do everything within his power to never again allow illness to define or limit his life. His journey began with small, achievable goals. Initially, he focused on walking for just five minutes, believing that movement and circulation were important parts of the healing process. Five minutes became ten, then twenty, and eventually much more. Joshua consistently trains four to five days each week and has continued to refine his approach to nutrition, exercise, recovery, and overall wellness.

Joshua's journey also extends beyond his personal recovery. He is recognized as the first documented Air Force pilot to maintain flight status in a pressurized aircraft with a permanent ileostomy, demonstrating that an ostomy does not have to prevent someone from pursuing a demanding and active life. He graduated from the United States Air Force Weapons School in June 2025. He is a member of the United Ostomy Association of America, the Ostomy Association of the Minneapolis Area, and the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation, and he remains passionate about sharing his experience to encourage others facing chronic illness, ostomy surgery, or major life changes.



Through his story, Joshua hopes to demonstrate the power of perseverance, resilience, proper nutrition, physical fitness, and personal accountability—and to encourage others to take control of the aspects of their health and wellness that they can influence.





UPDATE to the UOAA Patient Advocacy Effort to Oppose Ostomy Supplies Inclusion in the Medicare Competitive Bidding Program.

Our top priority in 2025 became clear on June 30, 2025, when CMS released a proposed rule (CMS-1828-P) that could significantly restrict access to ostomy and urological supplies and the suppliers who provide them. The proposal would reclassify these supplies as "medical equipment items" to include them in the Competitive Bidding Program, despite their current legal protections and exclusion from bidding. CIOAA strongly opposed this proposal. At the end of 2025 CMS released the Final Rule in the Federal Register. Despite all of the opposition from industry, supply providers, medical societies, and patient advocacy organizations, this rule specifies that ostomy, tracheostomy, and urological supplies are medical equipment items mandated for inclusion under the DMEPOS CBP by section of the Act. This was not the ruling we had hoped for.

From 2025 UOAA Advocacy Impacts and Achievements

The latest updates (October 2026) show that the Access to Medical Supplies Act—introduced by Reps. Greg Murphy (R-NC) and Brad Schneider (D-IL)—would pause Medicare's inclusion of ostomy and urological supplies in the DMEPOS Competitive Bidding Program for five years, from 2028 to 2032, while CMS studies the impact.

Overview of the 2026 Legislative Updates

- **Bill introduction:** The bipartisan Access to Medical Supplies Act (H.R. 10787) was introduced in October 2026. aahomecare.org
- **Purpose:** To **pause Medicare's competitive bidding** for ostomy and urological supplies for **five years**, allowing CMS, industry stakeholders, and patient groups to evaluate the impact. PR Newswire
- **Reasoning:** These supplies are highly personalized, and stakeholders warn that competitive bidding could disrupt patient access. PR Newswire

Key Provisions

- **Five-year exclusion (2028–2032):** Ostomy and urological supplies would be excluded from Medicare's Competitive Acquisition/Competitive Bidding Program. house.gov
- **Technical Expert Panel:** CMS must convene a panel of patients, clinicians, suppliers, and manufacturers to evaluate the impact of competitive bidding. house.gov
- **Demonstration Project:** CMS will run a pilot to assess effects on patient access and outcomes before any national rollout. house.gov
- **RID Program context:** CMS previously designated these supplies for the national Remote Item Delivery (RID) bidding round beginning January 2028, prompting concerns. PR Newswire

Stakeholder Positions

- **AAHomecare:** Strongly supports the bill, emphasizing the need to protect patient access and avoid premature changes. PR Newswire
- **Lawmakers:** Both sponsors highlight the need for patient-centered evaluation before implementing sweeping procurement changes. house.gov

These updates reflect the most recent legislative activity surrounding the Access to Medical Supplies Act as of October 2026.

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MINUTES TAOA MEETING October 6, 2026

Dan Richards opened the meeting with 12 in attendance. He reported that our Treasurer Ruth Rhodes fell and broke several bones. She required ankle surgery and is now recovering in rehab.

Michelle Brock, our Coloplast representative, talked about some of their new products and enhancements, such as some pouches now available in black. She also talked about Coloplast's Brava product and how the Brava sheet can be helpful for patients with "radiation dermatitis".

Our November meeting will be with Joshua Nelson, an ostomy advocate living with a permanent ileostomy. He will share his story of recovery with the power of perseverance and resilience. See details on P. 3.

Dan will tell us how the Run For Resilience Ostomy 5K and Ostomy Awareness Day celebration in October went.

Our next meeting will be on December 1st, 2026 via Zoom at 7:00pm.

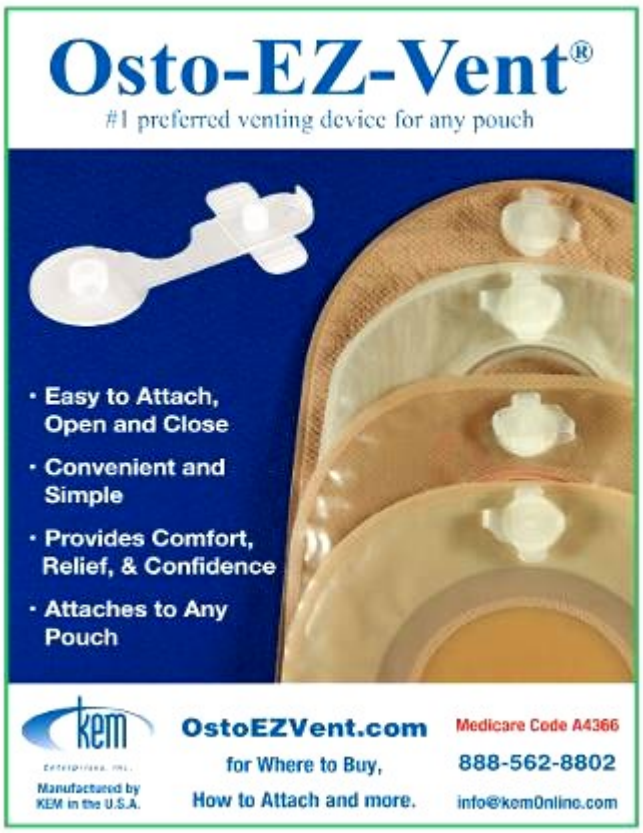
Respectfully submitted,

Mary Brown,
TAOA Vice President









TAOA MEMBERSHIP FORM

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY Date:_____

Name: _____ Spouse:_____

Address:_____

_____Zip:_____

Home Phone:_____Cell Phone:_____

Email Address:_____

Year of Surgery:_____

Type of Ostomy: [ ] Colostomy [ ] Ileostomy [ ] Urostomy (Ileal conduit)

[ ] Other:_____[ ] Support/No Ostomy

Comments (cont. on reverse side)_____

_____

[ ] Active Membership: Member for UOAA/TAOA. Annual Dues $20.00.

[ ] Courtesy Membership: Cannot afford dues at this time. (Confidential)

[ ] Affiliate Membership. WOCN's & Prof . Associates. Dues exempted.

IMPORTANT: ALL CHECKS MUST BE PAYABLE TO TAOA.

Enclosed: [ ]$20.00 Dues Pay to TAOA [ ]Cash [ ] Check [ ] Money Order

[ ]Donation (optional) $_____ For our support of FOW.

Mail payment with this completed form to:

Ruth Rhodes, Sec./Treas./ 8703 Cypress Club Drive/Raleigh, NC, 27615