



## President's Message – June 2015

Bernard Jordaan

Our June *Voice* issue is the last before our annual convention in August. We do not print *The Voice* in July and August. Thank you for your continued support of *The Voice*. We want to thank all our members, clubs and Zones for their efforts to raise funds for our annual Walk-A-Thon in May. At the time of printing, we do not have a total for funds raised, as money is still filtering in. Many groups and businesses have made donations towards this fundraiser, as did individual members, for which we extend our tremendous appreciation and gratitude.

May 14, 2015, I attended another government meeting to further discuss the issue of "hospital parking fees." For many years, through our annual briefs and other means, this has been one of our major issues where we are seeking the total abolition of these charges. We totally agree with the Canadian Medical Journal that these charges are tantamount to "user fees" which countless seniors and families with low income can ill afford.

Immunization against shingles will continue to be high on our agenda, as those seniors that contracted this virus know how painful it is. Many seniors have personally born the cost of having themselves vaccinated with the HZ vaccine. I have no doubt we will see resolutions concerning this issue brought to the convention in August.

To our retiring board of directors, on your behalf I say thank you for your unselfish dedication and the time you devoted to the cause of the USCO. Our field reps play a very important role as they liaise between the board and our clubs. Your efforts keep us strong and vigilant, thank you all. Without our two staff members, Beverly and Maureen, we would not be able to function as we do.

THANK YOU AND HAVE A GREAT SUMMER.

A friend sent me this quote recently:

***Love fiercely, Forgive Quickly, Let Go Of What Doesn't Make You Happy, Grow.***





**Bernard was a guest of Mario Sergio, Minister for Seniors at the legislature during the budget presentation. The Seniors Community Grant Program was increased from \$1M to \$2M. Please have your clubs and zones apply as soon as the new grant application becomes available.**