



President's Message – February 2016

Gerry Graham

Well January has come and gone and hopefully you had an enjoyable visit with family and friends. Staying in touch with each other and keeping in touch whether through families, volunteering or through your club is important as it keeps you active and connected in your communities.

Many of our members may not know that *The Voice* is mailed out 10 times a year. That does not mean your board is not out there every day working on your resolution, typing and writing letters on our computers to the Ministers and Policy advisors and going to Queens Park on your behalf. Your board and I feel it's an honour and privilege to represent all our Ontario members in a collective and respectful manner as we move forward. We thank you for your continued vote of confidence and with your encouragement we will all continue pushing forward. USCO members will never stop helping seniors.

We now have a USCO facebook account (www.facebook.com/uscont). Check it out let us know what you think. If you are not great on a computer, get a teenager, son or daughter to show you how to download the USCO Facebook and at the same time get them interested in the work the USCO does as they may be our future members.

At end of the day we are looking for the next generation of seniors to take our jobs. We also encourage all clubs to share *The Voice* with all their members. We are also looking at You Tube as another way to get our message across. Personally I will need help with that. Oh well I will deal with that when we get it.

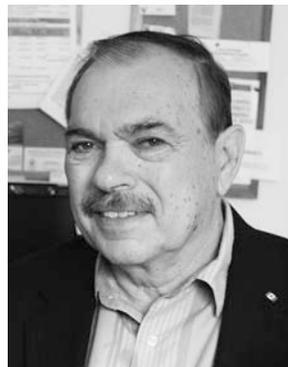
I would like to take a moment to thank the full USCO Board of Directors as one of the best boards I have ever worked with. They are spread throughout all Ontario. There are 10 executive officers and some way by crook or by hook and when called upon we manage to visit as many clubs as possible. Which is good in a way as that means an officer that is close to a particular club may be able to make a visit, depending on funding and distance.

I can't finish without mentioning Bev and Maureen, our two staff members. They really do a lot of work through their dedication to the USCO. More times than not they give freely their time and talents. Getting *The Voice* out takes a couple of

weeks; they correlate it at the office on long tables, package it and mail it without missing a beat. They are always there to answer the phone and assist with administration. They are amazing.

However more times than not we are running on a shoe string. This was the reasoning of increasing our dues by \$1 a year - not much considering the benefits we receive from the provincial government. Getting significant cuts or a cap at hospital parking lots will alone take care of the \$1 increase. We have many outstanding issues and through your resolutions they will be addressed. There is a cost to these meeting in Toronto and moving forward step by step we will get there. We trust everyone understands that.

***Life is Like a Camera...Focus on what's important,
Capture the good times, Develop from the negatives,
And if that doesn't work, take another shot.***



President Gerry Graham

