



President's Message – October 2017

Bernard Jordaan

As the colder weather sets in, our snowbirds, are preparing for their trips down to warmer climes. Many of them, owning property down there, are worrying what damage Hurricane Irma has done. Our thoughts are with all of you and we wish you well.

Again we want to remind our members going South or doing any kind of travelling during the winter months, please ensure you have adequate insurance. Over the many years, we have partnered with Johnson Insurance, a Canadian company that gives the U.S.C.O. a percentage back on all of our policies with them. The only insurance company in all of Canada that does this. Please give them a call when you require any kind of insurance, they do support us.

Flu season is upon us and we gently remind you to "get the flu shot." As we age, our immune system deteriorates. It is imperative that all older adults ensure they protect themselves in order to stay out of hospitals, where possible.

For the past two years, the U.S.C.O. has asked the Province to provide the Fluzone High-Doze Influenza Vaccine, FREE for all seniors. This is one of many ongoing resolutions that we have presented to the Provincial Government. This vaccine is administered to millions of US citizens, so why not to those of us who request it here in Canada.

Many of our members, including myself, paid for this vaccine last year out of our own pockets and can attest to its benefits.

Most of the work of the U.S.C.O. Executive Board is done in the various committees, normally set up with a chair. Most of the committees are listed in our By-Laws and Constitution. All meetings are held via telephone conferences as a cost saving measure.

Most clubs are now back in "full swing." Enjoy all your activities and keep well.

Diets are like boyfriends – it never really works to go back to them.

British writer - Nigella Lawson



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Attachments: Membership information letters from USCO President Bernard Jordaan, "Do You Know" and "Clubs And Zones".

THE UNITED SENIOR CITIZENS OF ONTARIO

Incorporated May 29, 1961

3033 Lakeshore Blvd., West, Toronto, Ontario M8V 1K5

Telephone: 416.252.2021; Toll Free: 1.888.320.2222; Fax: 416.252.5770

Website: www.uscont.ca; E-mail: office@uscont.ca

President: Bernard Jordaan

Secretary: James Laidman

DO YOU KNOW?

The annual convention costs us over \$32,000.00 and delegate registration brings in only \$22,500.00.

Fortunately we receive some funding from the government to offset this "loss".

Conventions are run to Roberts Rules of Order and procedures are printed in the agenda booklet.

The Executive cannot effect any changes to the constitution and bylaws. Any change has to be approved by 2/3 of the delegates present at the convention.

When clubs submit resolutions, the board is obliged to present these resolutions as received. So called "friendly amendments" are acceptable. Any significant change has to be approved by the club concerned.

For the past two years the U S C O has been fortunate to receive funding from Sanofi Pasteur towards the annual convention. Without this extra financial support the U S C O would be in the RED following these annual conventions.

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CLUBS AND ZONES

Clubs and Zones affiliated with the USCO are totally autonomous and independent.

They have their own Constitutions and By-laws.

The USCO Constitution and By-law is the “bible” for the executive board of directors and not a document for clubs to adhere to.

While the province is divided into 40 zones, not all zones have an elected zone executive.

These zone executive plays a very important role in getting clubs together to share common concerns.

The social aspect, in zones, cannot be over-emphasized when rallies are being held to bring clubs together.

It is desirable that each zone has a field representative to liaise between clubs, the office and board of directors. Too many zones do not have a field representative resulting in a breakdown of effective communication within the structure of the USCO.

There remains much work to find field representatives to fulfill this very important role.

Like the board of directors, this is a volunteer position; however, members are compensated for official travelling purposes.

We cannot stress enough, the important role and link that our field representatives play within the United Senior Citizens of Ontario.