

# THE OHIOAN

The official newsletter of the Ohio Grand Council

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## Message from the Grand Counselor - David Knapp

I have enjoyed my year serving as your Grand Counselor and I appreciate having had the opportunity to work with you. Thank you for the support, guidance, and encouragement you have provided me during the past year.

Wow, time has flown by and the Grand Session is right around the corner. I would like to encourage all of you to attend. It will be held in Worthington this year so hopefully that isn't too long of a drive for most of you. Room rates are a little lower, a breakfast buffet is included each day and we plan to have a lot of fun. We have a golf scramble and two interesting tours planned for June 9, one being an ice cream factory. Who wouldn't want to go to that? See inside for details.

Annually the Grand Counselor asks for items to be raffled off at the Grand Banquet benefiting UCT Charities. As in the past I am making this request that each local council consider donating a raffle prize with an approximate value of \$10 or more. Gifts will be collected during registration at the Grand

Session. I thank all of you in advance for supporting UCT Charities and people with mental disabilities.

We also plan to have a hospitality room for all to gather during the duration of the convention. So, I have one more favor to ask. To help keep costs down we will gladly accept any donations you or your council may give. Also if you have any favorite snack or treat you're proud of (and I know you do) please bring it along for all of us to enjoy.

Congratulations to councils Cambridge 588, Lancaster 6 and Cincinnati 2 for having the lowest percentage of lapsations within their respective category and to Columbus 1 for ending the year with a membership gain for the 2010-2011 membership year.

I wish Ron and Mary Lou Shively all the best during their year and encourage all of you to support them as you have supported me.

See you at the Grand Session.

David

## Message from the Supreme Sentinel - David Burt

The Supreme Board met in March and discussed many topics to be brought forth at our Supreme Session in July. There will be opportunities for delegates to voice their opinions, discuss business, vote on proposed amendments and of course there will be some fun and laughter while we are there.

Hopefully, many of you are aware of two recent programs UCT has become involved in; Operation Purple and American Special Hockey Association (ASHA). Operation Purple was a big success generating over \$15,500 to help send military kids to summer camp. UCT's partnership with ASHA has just begun and we are hoping it will grow throughout the United States and Canada. Have you read the recent Spring issue of *The Sample Case* telling us about these new programs? If not, you're missing out on some good articles.

Just recently, Phyllis and I, along with

members from Columbus Council 1, Lancaster Council 6, M.J. Terapak Council 144 and Gem City Council 3 were able to meet with players, their families and coaches and watch the Columbus ASHA team play the Pittsburgh ASHA team. More exciting news and stories will be shared at the Ohio Grand and Supreme Sessions.

I am looking forward to seeing our Supreme Counselor Stewart Wagner and First Lady Mary at the Ohio Grand Session. I also hope to see as many as possible in Jacksonville, Fla. at the Supreme Session.

My first year as a Supreme Officer is about completed. I'm learning a lot about the business side of UCT. I understand the fraternal side "Where Community and Compassion Unite."

Sincerely,  
David Burt

## Message from the Ohio Grand Membership Director

Ohio Grand Counselor David Knapp's membership year ended March 31, 2011. We knew we were faced with a challenge. We knew that things were not the same as 20 to 30 years ago. We asked that you do what you could to deliver the message to prospective members or reinstate previous members that had dropped out of UCT. We asked that you join together to show fraternalism in your local Council and the Ohio Grand.

The Swing-Thru-Ohio was successful in providing a final push for membership with many applications being presented to Supreme Counselor Stewart Wagner. Brother David Knapp and I thank all the writers in the Ohio Grand. We also thank those members who talked to prospective new members, even though the prospect may not have joined UCT at this time. Don't give up. Keep trying.

The Ohio Grand Council started the membership year, April 1, 2010 with 4,520 members. We ended the membership year on March 31, 2011 with 4,029. Unfortunately that is a loss of 10.84%. On the positive side 22 members from 12 of our local Councils wrote a total of 50 new or reinstated members for the Ohio Grand.

The local Council recipients of \$50 each from the Ohio Grand Council for the lowest percentage of lapsations within their respective category are :

**Cambridge 588**  
**Lancaster 6**  
**Cincinnati 2**

The checks will be presented at the Grand Executive Board meeting preceding the Grand Convention in June 2011. Thank you local secretaries and all who worked on lapsations.

As we close the 2010-2011 membership year, here is a challenge for 2011-2012 from Grand Junior Counselor Ron Shively; "We can top that 50 new or reinstated members of the past year. Tell A Friend"

Fraternally,  
David Burt-PGC  
Ohio Grand Membership Director

## What Are You Doing Now?

Is your council busy with a project for your community? Have you done something lately to benefit a worthy cause within your city or neighborhood? Did you see someone today that could use your help or benefit from the support of your council and take action? If you answered yes to any of the questions, congratulations. But, wait a minute, who else knows about it?

UCT has been helping our communities and the people within our communities for 123 years. We have always taken a step back and let the people we are helping have the spotlight. We always stay in the shadows. Well, that is what has been keeping UCT a very well kept secret. Now we want everyone to know what UCT is, what UCT does, and that UCT is right here in your community. We want you to publicize your council's activities. When you are scheduling a project for your community, notify your local newspaper, radio station, and the public access channel of your television station. Let them know who you are, what you are going to do, who is going to get the benefit

of your project, and how it will help their neighborhood.

Don't think of this as a way to pat ourselves on the back or to brag about what we are doing. Think of this as a way to let the public know that UCT is alive and well and here to make a difference. When our motto says "Where Community and Compassion Unite" we want everyone to know that is exactly what we mean. UCT has compassion for every community.

UCT has asked every council to appoint a Volunteer Coordinator to assist in selecting these projects for the council. Many councils have not yet taken that step. We are sincerely asking that if your council is one that is waiting to appoint a Volunteer Coordinator, do not wait any longer. UCT is counting on you to help get our name back in front of the public so that we are not such a secret any longer.

Keith Ward, PSC  
Community Outreach Manager  
kward@uct.org  
502.758.4280

## Alliance Council 261 sponsors Relay for Life Team

Alliance Council 261 sponsored a team for Relay for Life in Alliance, held at the University of Mount Union Friday, April 8 at 6 p.m. and concluded with a closing ceremony and awards program on Saturday, April 9 at Noon.

Rick and Dayle Gruszecki have been considering putting a team together for the past year to walk in memory of family members and friends lost to cancer.

The core team was made up of 15 people aging 11 to 60-year-olds, but on the day of the event 27 participants walked in the early hours that included 20 council members and 7 non members.

The team sponsored luminaries in memory of 22 family members and friends along with their own cancer survivors.

The theme of the event was "Party Like There Was No Tomorrow" with a vacation destination in mind. The team chose the country of Ireland because Gruszecki's niece Dana Ulman visited there before her death in Aug. 2003.

The team goal was to raise \$1,000 and when the dust settled at Noon for the closing and awards ceremony, Team UCT 261 finished with a bronze team award having raised \$2,910. Donations can still be collected and added to the team's total until Aug. 31, 2011.

Everyone agreed that it was a memorable event and felt blessed to be able to participate. Aptly put: They suffered greatly we suffered a little.

Fraternally,  
Rick Gruszecki, PGC of Ohio

# Details set for the Ohio Grand Convention

June 8-11 at the Holiday Inn Worthington

- Room rate is \$85 plus tax which includes a **breakfast buffet each morning**.
- For reservations call the Holiday Inn Worthington at **(614) 436-0700 by May 18, 2011**. The hotel is located at the intersection of N. High St. and Wilson Bridge Road just south of the U.S. 23 exit from I-270.
- Registration fee is \$30 per Delegate, Past Grand Counselor and Grand Officer
- **Grand Counselor Dinner** – Wednesday, June 8 at 7 p.m. in the hotel - \$17 per person
- **Opening Ceremonies** – Thursday, June 9 at 7:30 p.m. with reception following
- **PGC/Grand Officer Spouse Luncheon** – Thursday, June 9 - \$16 per person
- **Business Session** – Friday, June 10 at 9 a.m.
- **Ladies Luncheon** – Friday, June 10 - \$16 per person
- **PGC/Officers Luncheon** – Friday, June 10 - \$15 per person
- **Grand Banquet** – Friday evening - \$26 per person

**Please bring items for the Grand Raffle to be held at the Grand Banquet.**

## Grand Committees Attention!

As you are all aware, the Grand Session is coming up fast. The Committee reports are an important part of our convention.

If you are a chairperson of a committee, please be sure your report is ready or preprinted as much as possible when the convention convenes. If your report is a preprinted report, please send the report to the Grand Secretary well in advance so that it may be copied and inserted into the convention packets. Preprinted reports include: **Publicity, Safety, Mental Disabilities, Cancer and Youth & Drug Awareness.**

## 2011 Supreme Session just around the corner!

Believe it or not, our 124th annual convention at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront in Jacksonville, Fla., is coming up fast! The deadline for hotel reservations is **June 14, 2011**, so don't delay. Room rates begin at \$99 plus tax for single through quadruple occupancy. Please call the hotel direct for suites or for any special requests.

**Corporate Kids** – Child care and planned events for young people ages 3-18 will be provided during the convention by Corporate Kids Events. These services will be offered from 9 a.m.-9 p.m. on July 18 and 19. Registration is limited to the first 25 youth who sign up. The registration link is [http://conferencechildcare.com/event\\_registration.htm](http://conferencechildcare.com/event_registration.htm).

**Give Us a Break** – Grand and local councils and/or individuals that would like to sponsor a coffee break at this year's convention may do so by making a minimum donation of \$100 by no later than June 17. Signs recognizing each contribution will be posted at the convention.

Please send donations, payable to United Commercial Travelers, to: **UCT, Attention: Ann Marshall, 1801 Watermark Drive, Suite 100, P.O. Box 159019, Columbus, OH 43215-8619.**

**Our second annual Supreme Session community service project** is collecting toiletries for the Sulzbacher Center in Jacksonville, Northeast Florida's only provider of comprehensive services for homeless men, women and children. Travel sized items are preferred. Needed items include soap, lotion, deodorant, toothpaste and toothbrushes, disposable razors, shampoo and conditioner, lip balm, bug spray, sunscreen and flip flops.

You may ship items to the Home Office by no later than **June 1** to: **UCT, c/o Jen Chillinsky, 1801 Watermark Drive, Suite 100, Columbus, OH 43215** and we'll make sure to take them to the convention for you. Don't forget to include your local council name and number when sending items.

### Golf outing and tours offered June 9 at Grand Session

**Golf Scramble** – 12:30 p.m. tee time  
Notify John Thompson at [johnsusiet@yahoo.com](mailto:johnsusiet@yahoo.com)

**American Whistle Corporation** – 1 p.m., \$4 per person. Please include tour fee with Grand Session registration form. Transportation on your own.

American Whistle Corporation has the unique manufacturing ability worldwide to die-strike your logo into the top of a solid brass whistle. Since 1956, we have been committed to made in America and to delivering the ultimate in personal safety tools. We are proud to manufacture THE American Whistle, used by millions of Americans across all walks of life. [www.americanwhistle.com](http://www.americanwhistle.com).

**Graeter's Ice Cream Factory** – 2:30 p.m., No cost-Transportation on your own.

Learn more about Graeter's by taking a tour of the production facility at the Bethel Road location in Columbus. You will be guided through the factory by an experienced tour leader who can answer your questions. You'll enjoy an informative video and see our unique French Pot process that makes only two gallons of ice cream at a time.

David Knapp  
UCT Ohio Grand Council  
2491 Gardenia Drive  
Columbus, OH 43235



## UPCOMING events – mark your calendars

**June 8-11, 2011 - Ohio Grand Session** will be held at the Holiday Inn Worthington. The hotel is located at the intersection of N. High St. and Wilson Bridge Road just south of the U.S. 23 exit from I-270. Room rate is \$85 plus tax which includes a breakfast buffet each morning.

**July 17-20, 2011** - The **UCT Supreme Council Session** will be held at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville on the Riverfront. You may register by calling the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville at **(888) 233-1234**. Make sure to identify that you're with United Commercial Travelers. The hotel address is 225 East Coastline Drive, Jacksonville, FL 32202. You may also register online at [www.uct.org](http://www.uct.org).

**Aug. 27, 2011 - Ohio Grand Golf Scramble** - Noon at the Bucyrus Country Club, \$30.00 per person with cart. Contact John Thompson at (740) 927-8478 or at [johnsusiet@yahoo.com](mailto:johnsusiet@yahoo.com) with reservation or for more information.

**Aug. 27, 2011 - Bucyrus Council 334** will hold their annual Corn Roast at 6 p.m. at the Crawford County Conservation Club. Contact Lester Fritz at **(419) 562-2395** or at [lfritzjr@columbus.rr.com](mailto:lfritzjr@columbus.rr.com) for more details.

### In Memoriam

**Ralph Hurley** - PGC - Ralph Hurley, 85, of Bellefontaine, passed away at 9:21 p.m. on Sunday, February 13, 2011 at Mary Rutan Hospital. He was born in Bellefontaine on April 9, 1925. On June 12, 1974 he married the former Audrey LaDonna Neer in Bellefontaine and she survives along with a brother, Charles Hurley of Bellefontaine; sisters, Ruth Avis Idle of Marysville and Janet Pauline Henman of Springfield and numerous nieces and nephews. He was a member of UCT since 1962 and was Past Grand Counselor of Ohio in 2003.

**Wes Ward** - PGC - Wesley Ward of Huber Heights, passed away Thursday, April 14, 2011 at Kettering Medical Center. Wesley was born in Middleport, OH on Aug. 6, 1931. Wes is survived by his loving wife of 60 years, Wilma Price Ward, his son Richard, daughter Cathy Moorman and son Gary; brothers Charles David, Keith and Dale; sisters Charlene Darst, Rosanna Simmons, and Karen Spiess and many relatives and friends. He served in many capacities during his 47 years of membership for UCT, including Senior Counselor of Gem City Council 3 and Past Grand Counselor for the Ohio Grand in 1987. He was treasurer for the AMOB.