

Pikes Peak Ostomy Association Meeting Minutes
March 10, 2020

Meeting called to order around 6:35 p.m.

Justus Anderson introduced the evening's "Chips and Chat," assuring attendees that we had wipes and cleaning supplies on hand to prevent the spread of bacterial and viral matter. There is concern about coronavirus on top of the usual flu and cold concerns.

David Ascarelli asked if the United Ostomy Association of America (UOAA) has come out with a statement about supplies in light of the threat of quarantine or shortages.

[I did check their website. Seems production has not been affected as of March 4. Here's a link to the article on their page: <https://www.ostomy.org/coronavirus-is-not-affecting-ostomy-supply-production/>]

Justus reiterated the purpose of the group, which is to support each other and get to know each other, share information about lifestyle, problems, solutions, and products. The group is not endorsing products, but members can share their experiences.

Ashley spoke up about her advocacy work nationwide. She is married to someone in the military and they have lived in various places in the US. She has attended many different OA support groups and spoken to legislators about issues facing ostomates. She recommends the UOAA website for more information about advocacy and current issues. Justus recommended joining the group and reading their official publication, Phoenix, to get answers to questions that ostomates deal with.

Here's a link to their publication: <https://phoenixuoaa.org/>

Justus talked about UOAA website offering travel communication cards people can print out indicating that they are ostomates. These cards are designed to streamline communication with TSA workers in airports.

Here's a link to their information about these cards: https://www.ostomy.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/travelcard_20170711.pdf

Schedule for upcoming meetings: **(President's note added March 17, 2020: Meetings are cancelled for the next 60 – 90 days. We will do our best to keep you informed about upcoming events. Stay tuned! Justus)**

April: Dr. Sonja Burke, psychologist, will be presenting about the various issues ostomates face on April 14.

May: Dr. Willard will present on May 12.

June: in lieu of a meeting, we will go out for lunch at Edelweiss on Saturday, June 13.

Please RSVP by June 9.

Visitor Program: PPOA will conduct training during the summer to prepare people for visiting new ostomates and helping them adjust after their surgery. Topics include HIPAA, learning what visitors can and cannot do, understanding emotional issues that ostomates face, role playing, and active listening practice.

VeEtta Bradley is the trainer for that. We will post more information soon.