ARBI – giving brain injury and stroke survivors a second chance

Take the UCT 130 Challenge!

Members and councils urged to participate in new marketing campaign

Check out the highlights from the UCT convention in Greenville, South Carolina
Earlier this year, UCT partnered with Precise Hearing and Ideal Hearing to offer an amazing hearing aid discount to all of our members. Precise and Ideal can help UCT members save thousands of dollars on hearing aids. They also have an A+ service rating with the BBB and provide decades of experience in the hearing healthcare industry.

Precise and Ideal demonstrated their commitment by attending this year’s UCT convention in Greenville. Stuart McMillin, Director of Business Development at Precise Hearing, said he was honored to be among so many kind-hearted people and impressed by the common thread of service in local communities that UCT carries as one of its core values.

Many of the members who attended the convention got to see and hear firsthand the quality of the products and services offered by Precise and Ideal Hearing, as well as the affordable prices.

Whether your hearing needs are urgent or you’re just curious as to what Precise and Ideal Hearing have to offer, now is the time to contact them. In addition to the exclusive discounts available only to UCT members, Precise and Ideal have pledged to make a donation to UCT’s 2018 charitable endeavors for every hearing aid purchased by a member between now and the holiday season!

Not only can you get the hearing aids you deserve – you can also help others in need at the same time.

For more details, give your patient care coordinator a call at:
U.S. Dental, Vision, and Hearing members: 877.741.5810
All other UCT members: 877.657.7760

For more information, call: 888.441.4558

Underwritten by The Order of United Commercial Travelers of America.
Note from President Numan Loafman

I am honored to serve as your UCT President for the next year, and I thank you for your support. Dianna and I look forward to spending time with many of you as we travel throughout North America and see for ourselves the good work that you do within your communities and your local and regional councils.

This issue of *The Sample Case* offers highlights of the 2017 UCT convention in Greenville, South Carolina. Greenville is a charming Southern city, and convention attendees had a lot of fun exploring it. We also managed to complete a lot of important business during our time there. Four amendments to the UCT constitution were adopted, the 2017-2018 Board of Governors was elected and installed, items and dollars were collected and distributed to the Meyer Center for Special Children, and special membership awards were presented. Look for all the details starting on Page 6.

With the convention wrapped up, it’s time for all of us – members, councils, the Board of Governors, and home office staff – to start focusing our efforts on increasing our membership, expanding our community service efforts, and raising awareness about UCT. How do we do this? By taking the 130 Challenge.

UCT Marketing Manager Kate Chillinsky presented the challenge at this year’s convention, and I’m fired up about it. It’s simple, really. Can you sign up one new member before June 1, 2018? Can you give up to 13 hours to a volunteer project or projects before then? How about donating up to 130 items to a local charity and submitting three photos of yourself in action? I intend to tackle it, and I challenge you and your local councils to get involved too. Find out how to get started by visiting the UCT website at [www.uct.org/130-challenge](http://www.uct.org/130-challenge) or by reading more on Page 4.

The theme for this membership year is “Blazing New Trails for UCT.” One of the common definitions of blazing a new trail is beginning a new undertaking or doing something that no one has done before, especially something that will be important for other people.

It’s time for all of us to step out of our comfort zones and challenge ourselves to blaze some new trails, to find different ways to grow UCT’s membership and make our organization a more recognizable and vital force across the U.S. and Canada. The tools are being provided for us – all we need to do is take action. It will not only help UCT, it will benefit all of the individuals and causes that depend on us. I look forward to working with many of you to make this happen during this membership year.
UCT is fast approaching its 130th anniversary on Jan. 8, 2018 – a major milestone made possible by our dedicated members and councils. You can help us mark the occasion by taking part in the 130 Challenge, a celebration of our members and councils and your commitment to fraternalism – and a great opportunity for others to learn more about UCT!

The 130 Challenge officially kicked off Aug. 1, 2017, and continues through June 1, 2018. The goal of the challenge, according to Marketing Manager Kate Chillinsky, is to increase membership, expand community service efforts, and raise awareness about UCT. Any level of participation is welcomed and encouraged.

No one is exempt from the challenge, which is broken down into four categories for members, local councils, the Board of Governors and the home office, with 3-4 “requirements” relating to membership recruitment and community service activity within each category that must be met within the challenge year.

“Most of the requirements for the 130 Challenge are things that many of our members and councils are already doing, like signing up new members and donating time and dollars to community causes,” Kate explained. We’re just incorporating it in a way that everyone can get involved. The challenge is meant to be a fun way for members to motivate themselves and their councils to recruit new members, give back to local communities and expand UCT’s presence across North America.”

Members, councils, Board members and home office staff have about nine months to complete the 130 Challenge. Participating councils need to fill out the 130 Challenge Report Form and return it to Kate at memberchallenge@uct.org at the end of each month. Individual members can submit the form as you go or turn it in once you’ve completed all of the criteria. The online form is available on UCT’s website at www.uct.org (click on the blue 130 Challenge button and download the form at the bottom of the guidelines page). Local council secretaries have received multiple copies of the form as well for those members and councils that would rather complete the forms manually.

You might be wondering “What do my council and I get out of this?” A lot, actually! Besides helping to grow UCT and getting lots of recognition through weekly Facebook updates, monthly email blasts, and mentions in The Sample Case – we’re also offering a brand new pop-up UCT banner for the first 10 local councils that complete EVERY council challenge requirement. If your council already has a banner, we’ll provide you with an alternative prize. There will be chances to win some prizes throughout the year too, and councils going above and beyond during the 130 Challenge will receive a special award for their efforts. Visit www.uct.org/130-challenge for more information.

Last, but not least, what’s an anniversary without a party? Members who complete the challenge will be invited to the BIG 130 Celebration at next year’s UCT convention in Savannah, Georgia. Councils completing the challenge will have representatives invited to the bash as well.

“We encourage all of our members and councils to take the challenge,” Kate said. “It’s an ideal chance to motivate yourself, reenergize your local council, and do some good for your community. And, it’s a great opportunity for others to learn more about UCT. Any way you look at it, it’s a win.”

Questions, concerns, suggestions? Feel free to contact Kate Chillinsky or the fraternal staff at our special 130 Challenge email address: memberchallenge@uct.org. You can also call Kate at 800.848.0123 x1148.
The 130 Challenge consists of four categories:

**Members:**
- Sponsor 1-3 new or reinstated members. Reinstated members must have been out at least 24 months for sponsors to receive credit.
- Participate in the UCT Ways of Giving by completing 13 hours of community service and donating up to 130 items to a local charity. Community service hours can be broken down into a couple of hours a month or one big event.
- Submit three photos of yourselves in action to the home office.

**Local Councils:**
- Participate in the UCT Ways of Giving by completing at least 130 hours of community service and donating at least $130 and/or 130 items to a local organization.
- Host a social hour for all new members. This can be breakfast, lunch, dinner or even a coffee hour.
- Get at least one commissionable-insured member to become an active fraternal member of your council. **In areas where commissionable products aren’t available, local councils are required to sign up a new fraternal member under the age of 40.**
- Submit 10 photos of the council in action to the home office.

**Board of Governors:**
- Each Board member is challenged to become a Drummer by sponsoring 10 new or reinstated members.
- Participate in a community service day with fellow Board members.
- Submit three photos of yourselves in action.

**Home Office:**
- Participate in the UCT Ways of Giving by completing at least 130 hours of community service and donating $130 monthly to a local organization.
- Raise enough money to award two May E. Tisdale Scholarship Fund scholarships.
- Submit 130 photos of UCT employees in action.
Around 200 members, delegates and guests descended on Greenville, South Carolina, July 3-6, to share good times and valuable information and to recognize individual and council successes at UCT’s annual convention. The 2017-2018 UCT Board of Governors was elected and installed in Greenville as well.

Keynote speaker Warren Barhorst, CEO of Iscential, a Texas-based risk management, insurance and financial services firm, kicked things off by energizing and inspiring convention attendees with tips for leveraging – doing more with less. Julie Vreeland from the Minnesota Association for Volunteer Administration (MAVA) shared strategies for recruiting and retaining the “right” members while other presentations focused on UCT’s history and the 130 Challenge.

Take a look at the convention highlights on the next few pages and then start thinking about joining us for our 2018 convention being held July 2-5 at the Hyatt Regency in Savannah, Georgia. We hope you can make it!
Manitoba’s Charlene Claeys Godard named Volunteer of the Year

Charlene Claeys Godard of Glenboro, Manitoba was presented with the 2017 Volunteer of the Year award during the convention. “I’m honored to receive this Volunteer of the Year award,” Charlene said after being named this year’s award recipient, “but I feel that it doesn’t just belong to me. It belongs to my family and my community as well.”

Charlene has been a member of UCT’s Glenboro Council 943 for more than 20 years. According to Kevin Newton, who nominated her for the award, she uses her UCT local council to address the needs in her community by encouraging her fellow members to join her in getting involved in projects and events that make a difference for others.

Some of these projects include coordinating clothing drives for underprivileged families, planning Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter Cheer food drives for those in need, overseeing Meals on Wheels projects for seniors, and organizing the annual community bike rodeo and safety poster contests for local students.

In addition to the community service Godard spearheads with her UCT local council, she provides significant service on her own. She has tutored local students and helped organize high school graduations, managed and coached youth basketball, served as assistant coach for the high school girls’ fastball team, and managed the adult basketball team she plays on. And she has worked at the local summer Bible camp and on the Festival of Arts Committee.

Congratulations to Charlene and our thanks for her outstanding dedication to her local council and community.
Students take top places in UCT’s Safety Poster Contest

Young artists from across the U.S. and Canada were announced as winners of our annual UCT International Safety Poster Contest during the convention. Posters submitted this year in the public, private and parochial school and intellectual disabilities divisions focused on such issues as fire and electrical safety, water and storm safety, and the dangers of texting and driving. Great job, winners!

PUBLIC, PRIVATE AND PAROCHIAL SCHOOL DIVISION

UPPER LEVEL
First Place – Maegen Waldner, Minnedosa, Manitoba Council 926
Second Place – Evelyn Hart, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan Council 1027
Second Place – Trevor Nesbit, Saginaw, Michigan Council 43
Third Place – Coty Taborn, Jacksonville, Illinois Council 182

MIDDLE LEVEL
First Place – Justin Wiens, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan Council 1027
Second Place – Dylan Hrycak, Regina, Saskatchewan Council 266
Second Place – Cora Fuchs, Jacksonville, Illinois Council 182
Third Place – Andrew Sherman, Williamsport, Pennsylvania Council 350
Third Place – Jasmine Albert, Grand Falls, New Brunswick Council 854
Third Place – Kayden King, Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin Council 335

LOWER LEVEL
First Place – Logan Cochran, Bucyrus, Ohio Council 334
Second Place – Katherine Metzger, Williamsport, Pennsylvania Council 350
Second Place – Josh Fluker, Boissevain, Manitoba Council 940
Third Place – Anna Paton, Calgary, Alberta Council 1014
Third Place – J.D. Sonneborn, Jacksonville, Illinois Council 182
Third Place – Linda Henriquez, Moncton, New Brunswick Council 758

INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES DIVISION

UPPER LEVEL
First Place – Rebekah Dillard, Salem, Ohio Council 590
Second Place – Roman Ibarra, Racine, Wisconsin Council 337
Second Place – Alexis Cervantes, Frontier Council 727, Cheyenne, Wyoming
Third Place – Sara Holmes, Portage la Prairie, Manitoba Council 923
Third Place – Antony Gutierrez, Frontier Council 727, Cheyenne, Wyoming
Third Place – Nicholas Carr, Flagship City Council 216, Erie, Pennsylvania

MIDDLE LEVEL
First Place – Drew Lester, Coldwater, Michigan Council 452
Second Place – Gladys Maendel, Neepawa, Manitoba Council 924
Second Place – Rachel Yorke, Pictonian Council 879, New Glasgow, Nova Scotia
Third Place – Luc Gauvin, Grand Falls, New Brunswick Council 854
Third Place – Timmy Hayhoe, Frontier Council 727, Cheyenne, Wyoming
Third Place – Jordan Tillery, Roanoke, Virginia Council 174

LOWER LEVEL
First Place – Searlait Ryan, Jack Kidd Council 755, Saint John, New Brunswick
Second Place – Gavin Morris, River City Council 11, Portsmouth, Ohio
Second Place – Francis Fournier, Grand Falls, New Brunswick Council 854
Third Place – Grier Kyle, Hastings, Nebraska Council 109
Third Place – Anessa Vandeveer, Hastings, Nebraska Council 109
Third Place – Sophia Martin, Salt Lake Council 81, Salt Lake City, Utah
Charlie Cavallaro honored with UCT’s Lifetime Achievement Award

Johnston, Rhode Island’s Charles (Charlie) Cavallaro was named the recipient of UCT’s Lifetime Achievement Award during the convention.

“I’m proud and surprised to have been chosen for this year’s award,” Cavallaro said. “It’s an honor and a privilege to be part of an organization that gives so much to communities across North America. I really love the volunteering that’s such a big part of UCT.”

Through his work with UCT’s Providence Council 67, Charlie has dedicated a big part of his life to our organization for more than 53 years. During that time he has given 100 percent to UCT and, through it, to his community.

He serves as a trustee for the Chris Antonelli New England Scholarship Fund, helping to improve the care, rehabilitation and education of children and adults with developmental disabilities. He works side by side with his fellow council members to support veterans programs, Special Olympics, underprivileged children, kids with cancer, and babies with birth defects. And he supports the local food pantry, homeless shelter, blood bank, and animal clinic, actively making a difference where he lives.

Charlie has served through the UCT lines of offices at both the local and regional levels, earning his past president and past regional president honors. He is currently the New England regional president – again. He has served on every local and regional UCT committee over the years and has been a delegate-at-large at the annual convention.

Thank you, and congratulations, Charlie!

Meet your new Board members

A new UCT director was elected and a new chaplain appointed to the UCT Board of Governors at the convention in Greenville. Welcome, Ken and Susan.

UCT Director
Kenneth (Ken) Milliser

Ken was no stranger to UCT when he originally joined Columbus, Ohio Council 1 in 1974. His father was a member of Lancaster, Ohio Council 6, making Ken a second-generation UCT member. He has served through the line of local offices, earning his past local officer honors, and has been active on a number of local committees. In addition, he served as a delegate to the Ohio Regional Council convention, coached several youth soccer teams, and helped establish a youth golf tournament. He currently serves as the council’s volunteer coordinator.

Ken has also been involved at the Ohio Regional Council level, serving through the line of offices and earning his past regional president honors. He has served on a number of regional council committees and has been a regional delegate to the UCT convention. He has been on various committees on the international level as well.

Ken graduated from The Ohio State University with a bachelor’s degree in Animal Science, Nutrition, in 1975 and a master’s degree, thesis tract, in Research and Evaluation in 1987. He was employed by The Ohio State University for 36 years and retired in 2009.

In addition to his longtime UCT commitment, Ken is an active and dedicated member of the Pickerington Lions Club, where he progressed through the chairs to serve as president and on the executive board. Ken has always had a great love for singing and has performed in several choirs. In 1966 he was a member of The Ohio State Fair Youth Choir, and as a choir alumni he toured Europe in 1967 and marched and sang in the 1975 Rose Bowl Parade.

UCT Chaplain
Susan Vogel

Susan has been an active member of Denison’s Texoma Council 90 since joining UCT in 1982. She is the council’s longtime secretary and has received her past local president honors. On the Texas Regional Council level she has served through the line of offices twice and received her past regional president honors.

She has also served on a number of committees on the international level, including the memorial committee and being a teller for the election. A second-generation member, she is the daughter of Past International President William (Bill) Vogel.

Susan attended Grayson County College and the University of Dallas in Irving. She has been employed by several companies throughout her career that have provided her with extensive experience working with insurance and agents, including Dynavest Inc., Progressive National Life Insurance Company, Trailblazer Health Enterprises, and National Accounting System. She is currently the librarian at St. Mary’s School, and she likes to note that her first job was working at Texas Stadium the year the Dallas Cowboys won the Super Bowl for the first time.

In addition to her many UCT activities Susan plans the weekly liturgy services for her church, sings seasonally, and volunteers at local nursing homes.
Kudos to Council 755 for helping to sponsor the annual Princess Tea Party for the Children’s Wish Foundation of Canada, New Brunswick Chapter. More than 450 guests turned out for the party, a fantasy-come-true event that gives children a magical experience plus a special visit from fairytale friends and princesses – and this year a few superheroes too! The event featured entertainment, dancing, a stage show, music, storytelling, a princess parlor, face painting, an interactive meet and greet with princesses, and lots of fun. As a plus, funds were raised from the event to benefit the foundation – a definite win-win!

Portage La Prairie, Manitoba Council 923 | Council 923 members turn out to volunteer at the annual MS Walk in Portage La Prairie. Members helped registered participants get all the information they needed to complete the walk – and raised awareness about UCT at the same time.

Jack Kidd Council 755, Saint John, New Brunswick | Kudos to Council 755 for helping to sponsor the annual Princess Tea Party for the Children’s Wish Foundation of Canada, New Brunswick Chapter. More than 450 guests turned out for the party, a fantasy-come-true event that gives children a magical experience plus a special visit from fairytale friends and princesses – and this year a few superheroes too! The event featured entertainment, dancing, a stage show, music, storytelling, a princess parlor, face painting, an interactive meet and greet with princesses, and lots of fun. As a plus, funds were raised from the event to benefit the foundation – a definite win-win!

Saginaw, Michigan Council 43 | Council 43 members Alan and Linda Poplewski present a $500 check on behalf of UCT’s Michigan’s Regional Council to representatives of I Support the 1%, a local organization raising funds and gathering food for any emergency needs military families in the community might have. The money was raised by Michigan members during their annual regional convention. Great job!

Salem, Ohio Council 590 | Ohio Past Regional President and Council 590 member Ron Shively, right, drops off seven boxes of AA batteries and school craft supplies to Andrew Garber, principal of Robert Bycroft School. The items were donated by members at Ohio’s regional convention for its annual service project. Robert Bycroft School provides comprehensive school-age services to children with developmental disabilities in Columbiana County.

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU goes out to UCT’s Past International Presidents’ Association which, in the wake of the devastation caused by Hurricane Harvey, made a generous donation to our disaster relief benefit to help members affected by the storm. The benefit provides up to $150 from the UCT home office to help members who experience a disaster like a hurricane, tornado, fire or flood.

If you’re a member who could use help through the disaster relief benefit, contact the UCT home office at 800.848.0123 x1146. If you would like to make a donation to the benefit to assist your fellow members, you can send your contribution to: UCT, c/o Sandy Shafer, 1801 Watermark Drive, Suite 100, Columbus, OH 43215.

UCT Home Office | Children and grandchildren of UCT’s home office employees take part in UCT’s Bring Your Child to Work Day to benefit the Mid-Ohio Foodbank’s Operation Feed campaign. The young volunteers packed up all the canned goods collected for the campaign and then set out to tour the food bank to see what happens behind the scenes. UCT has collected food and raised funds for Operation Feed for almost 20 years. This year’s campaign was another success with 25,634 meals raised for hungry Ohioans.

HURRICANE

HARVEY

Photo credit NOAA

HURRICANE

Harvey

10 THE SAMPLE CASE | AUTUMN 2017
Scotia Council 838, Halifax, Nova Scotia | Anne-Marie Kapetanakis, daughter of UCT Chairman of the Board Gorden Woodworth, accepts his Nova Scotia Curling Association Hall of Fame award for him, as he was out visiting our local councils on the day of the ceremony. Gorden was inducted into the Hall of Fame as a result of his dedication, passion and enthusiasm for curling and those involved with the game. Congratulations, Gorden!

Here’s a win-win – send us your information and we’ll send you a $50 gift card!

 Feeling lucky? Well, we’re feeling generous! Be one of the first FIVE members to EMAIL us regarding this email contest and you’ll win a $50 VISA GIFT CARD. That’s right, all you need to do is send us an email by Oct. 1!

● Be sure to put in the subject line – THE SAMPLE CASE CONTEST
● YOU MUST include your name, council #, address and phone number in the body of the email
● The first FIVE members to respond will win! Good luck!

Send your emails to Linda Fisher at lfisher@uct.org. Winners will be notified by email after Oct. 1.

Try out a newly appointed COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR for your local council!

What happens when the fraternal team starts brainstorming ideas… we come up with some good ones! How about the idea of a newly appointed (and only suggested) COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR position for your local council?

We’ve been wondering how we can free up some time for our local council secretaries to focus on the financials, reporting, minutes, and other vital tasks they’re responsible for. Enter a COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR! This new position will share information like new programs and contests, what’s new on the UCT blog, information on the UCT website, updates on the 130 Challenge, local council successes around North America, new products, and more! They’ll help to get this type of information both in and out so that everything is shared and all members are informed of all aspects of UCT! The duties are simple and one word can describe the job responsibilities… COMMUNICATE!

Are you the right person to be your local council COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR? If so, then you are:

● A member in good standing who attends local council meetings
● Someone with a valid email address who checks it at least daily
● Able to access a printer
● A subscriber to the UCT blog
● Able to navigate the UCT website

The Communications Chair will be the direct person of contact for the home office. It’s the Communications Chair’s responsibility to then email and/or mail the information they receive to all members of their local council. We also suggest they print out all information and read it at their local council meetings. What better way to keep all members of your local council involved and up-to-speed!

Nothing will change when it comes to what local council secretaries are currently receiving. We know that some of our members don’t have access to our blog or website, so we want to make sure the information we share is trickling down. This new position can help to enhance all communications – and get members excited about what’s going on within the UCT family.

If your council wants to participate and you already know who your Communications Chair will be, let us know ASAP!

Please email Linda Fisher at lfisher@uct.org the following information on your newly appointed Communications Chair: Communications Chair’s name, email address and council number.

Thunder Bay, Ontario Council 1039 | Council 1039 members are working hard to make a difference and raise UCT awareness in their community by holding a 50/50 raffle to benefit the X-ray department of the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre. The fundraiser continues through November, and if all of the tickets are sold by then, the winner will take home $10,000 and the center will receive $7,500.

www.uct.org | THE SAMPLE CASE
More than 45 years ago in Calgary, Alberta, four simple words set into motion a life-changing mission for people with brain injuries. Soon after, the Association for the Rehabilitation of the Brain Injured (ARBI) was created. As fate would have it, in 1986 UCT’s Calgary North Council 1015 was introduced to ARBI, and the council has spent over a quarter million dollars in support and logged countless hours of volunteer service to the organization since then.

ARBI’s roots were planted in 1972 when Audrey Morrice uttered those four words: “I can help you.” She was speaking to her friend Alice Laine’s son Mel as he lay in a coma in the hospital. Critically injured by a hit-and-run driver, Mel sustained a severe brain injury. His family was given no hope for his recovery by the medical system, then Audrey blurted out those now famous words. She lived up to her promise, working tirelessly on Mel’s rehabilitation six hours a day, six days a week, for six years. Her creativity, determination and drive helped Mel relearn how to talk, walk, think and write, allowing him to lead a meaningful life once again.

Audrey, Alice and volunteers began helping other brain injury survivors in the basement of Calgary’s Woodcliff United Church. They founded ARBI in 1978. By 1989, the number of individuals needing services had grown, and ARBI expanded into its current location on Spruce Drive to accommodate its growing team of therapists, front-line staff and volunteers.

Today ARBI is the only non-profit community agency that provides long-term rehabilitation and family support for survivors of severe acquired brain injury caused by traumatic injuries related to falls, car crashes, sporting injuries, etc. and non-traumatic injuries caused by stroke, infection, and lack of oxygen. Thousands of individuals from across Alberta have benefited from ARBI’s expertise.

The organization has on staff close to 30 dedicated and passionate professionals that include physio, occupational and recreational therapists, neuro and clinical psychologists, speech-language pathologists, social workers, and a myriad of community rehab workers and program coordinators.

ARBI gives brain injury and stroke survivors a second chance, Executive Director and UCT member Mary Ellen Neilson said. With personalized rehabilitation and lots of encouragement, survivors can once again enjoy fulfilling lives in their communities and their families can look to the future with confidence and optimism.

ARBI provides intensive community-based rehabilitation and family support in a nurturing environment through three different programs. On-Site Rehabilitation provides one-on-one rehabilitation within ARBI’s facilities, which is assessed by multi-disciplinary therapists and carried out by volunteers, mostly local university students studying in the medical field.
Calgary North Council 1015 has had a special relationship with ARBI for over 30 years – and this year the UCT home office and Board of Governors got in on the connection by donating $10,000 to help the organization’s programs and services. Here Council 1015 members UCT Vice President Chris Phelan, left, and Past International President Larry Pilon stop by to share the great news.

Outreach Services offers rehabilitation for clients who are unable to come on site and provides training for family members in the home or community. Community Integration Programming helps transitional clients figure out life after ARBI by involving them in recreational activities like woodworking, music, swimming, cooking and gardening in safe group settings.

A perfect fit

Council 1015 supports a number of great causes in Calgary, Alberta, and the surrounding area, but the one that seems to feel like the best fit for members is ARBI.

Thirty-one years ago, Council 1015 member and officer Joseph MacDonald, who was and still is in the residential window and door business, was contacted by ARBI to see if he would look at some damaged windows that needed to be replaced. He called on ARBI and was given a tour and explanation of the type of work they did. Joseph was so impressed that his company wound up not only replacing the windows, it donated them as well. And at the next council meeting he shared everything he had learned about ARBI and explained why he felt it was the type of organization Council 1015 should support and be involved with. Council members agreed and the result has been a long and satisfying partnership.

“We got involved with ARBI because it was the perfect fit for UCT, with what we do and what we’re about,” said Past International President and Council 1015 member Larry Pilon. “We stay involved because of that fit – and because they need and appreciate our support and donations. While ARBI receives some assistance from the Alberta Government, approximately half of the funds required to support its operations and programs come from donations in the corporate and private sector and organizations like UCT. Our support makes a difference and as long as it continues to contribute to ARBI’s success, we’ll continue to provide it.”

Council 1015’s support for ARBI has taken many forms through the years, including involvement with the organization’s Christmas open house and its annual Calgary Stampede barbecue. But it’s the council’s platinum sponsorship of the McKinley Masters/ARBI Charity Classic golf tournament that has probably had the biggest impact. The tournament has raised more than $750,000 over the years and has had many members volunteering hundreds of hours to help make it a success.

“Our council had been talking about doing something like a charity golf event for some time,” Larry explained. “We asked if we could get involved with the charity classic and be the sponsor of the event in support of ARBI. Over the years we’ve stayed involved in organizing, promoting and trying to raise more and more funds for the event. We continue to be a major supporter.”

The charity classic is ARBI’s biggest fundraising event, Mary Ellen said. “Our yearly budget is around $2.7 million, and about half that is funded by donations. This year’s charity classic netted $115,000, which in this economy is a massive amount that will go a long way toward supporting our programs and services. ARBI might be small, but we make a big impact in people’s lives, and that’s made possible thanks in large part to organizations like UCT.”

“Individuals who have suffered brain injuries – and the people who care about them – belong to a club that under certain circumstances anybody could belong to,” Mary Ellen expressed. “They’ve been dealt a pretty poor hand, and their determination to get their lives back is impressive. ARBI is all about giving them hope so that they can do just that. That’s at the core of what we do, every volunteer and every staff member. We work every day to help these people get back the best life they can.”

To learn more about ARBI, visit www.arbi.ca.
Making a Difference in the Lives of Students

Fifty college-bound students across North America received $500 scholarships this year from the May E. Tisdale Scholarship Fund to help them meet their education costs.

The fund has been granting scholarships to the children and grandchildren of UCT members for more than 55 years. Each year the number of scholarships given varies according to contributions received. This year 50 scholarships were awarded, thanks to the generosity of individuals and councils.

The May E. Tisdale Scholarship Fund is supported solely through memorials, gifts and donations and is administered by Auxiliary Past International Presidents.

FIND OUT MORE

Scholarship applications may be obtained from:

- Chairperson Sandra Stough, P.O. Box 429, Dillsburg, PA 17019
- Home office at lfshe@uct.org or at 800.848.0123 x1130
- www.uct.org under UCT in Action
- Regional and local council secretaries

All applications are due by no later than June 15, 2018.

Christopher Adams
Dayton, Ohio

Nicholas Applegate
Crawfordsville, Florida

Lucie Beaulieu
Drummond, New Brunswick

Nicole Benko
Kaukauna, Wisconsin

Lindsay Bernstram
The Pas, Manitoba

Hundter Beeds
Jania, Nebraska

Mikaela Basham
Benfield, Illinois

Olivia Casada
Thompson Station, Tennessee

Peighton Coleman
Tuttle, Oklahoma

Camille Copperthite
Winter Springs, Florida

Courtin Cottrell
Elizabeth, West Virginia

Chelsea Dearsley
Baldor, Manitoba

Dawn Ewald
Hunting, Illinois

Evan Fehr
Winkler, Manitoba

Daniel Holzer
Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan

Chelsea Fawcier
Winter Island, Rhode Island

Shelby Gillies
Neepawa, Manitoba

Nicole Guden
Marshfield, Wisconsin

Caitlin Hakinson
Aurora, Nebraska

Hailey Harshorn
Oviedo, Florida

Donavin Logan
Regina, Saskatchewan

Jasmin Johnson
Ridgeview, Missouri

Kaitlyn Tonkin
Vernon, Connecticut

Zoe Selimos
Regina, Saskatchewan

Rebecca Levesque
Saint-Andre, New Brunswick

Donavin Logan
Regina, Saskatchewan

Rikki Logan
Regina, Saskatchewan

Madison Miller
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Kaitlyn Johnson
Ridgewood, Nova Scotia

Luke Johnson
East Hampton, Connecticut

Larissa Jones
Marinville, Alberta

Erin Roeges
Baldor, Manitoba

Kyla Schroeder
Hastings, Nebraska

Zoe Sellmes
Regina, Saskatchewan

Allison Siler
Bronson, Michigan

Tyler Singleton
Royal, Arkansas

Natalia Soto
Winter Park, Florida

Glenda Stewart
Stellarton, Nova Scotia

Kylie Schroeder
Hastings, Nebraska

Justin Taylor
Galena, Virginia

Kaitlyn Tunkin
Vernon, Connecticut

Kelly Walker
Flint, Michigan

Chase Windmuller
Flore, Montana

Ethan Wright
Gilbert, Arizona

Zachary York
Edmonton, Alberta

FIND OUT MORE

Scholarship applications may be obtained from:

- Chairperson Sandra Stough, P.O. Box 429, Dillsburg, PA 17019
- Home office at lfshe@uct.org or at 800.848.0123 x1130
- www.uct.org under UCT in Action
- Regional and local council secretaries

All applications are due by no later than June 15, 2018.
The UCT Heaston Scholarship Program and application guidelines are available for download at www.uct.org/UCT in Action. For more details contact Linda Fisher at lifisher@uct.org or at 800.848.0123 x1130.

Past Regional President Deaths

This list reflects reported Past Regional President deaths from April 1, 2017, through July 15, 2017.

Jesse P. Arzecz - Andrew Jackson Council 226, Jackson, Mississippi
Patricia A. Cooper - Beaver Valley Council 464, Beaver Valley Council 464
Ronald J. B. Pifer - Orillia, Ontario Council 1064
Paul C. Morneau - Valley Council 463, Phoenix, Arizona
Robert J. Huber, Jr. - Centralia, Illinois Council 211
Michael Kurtz - 411
Ryan K. Hogan - 2
Joshua A. Hufstetter - 2
Donald W. McMenamin - 2
Lloyd W. Nettles - 2
Sarah K. Akins - 2
Robert J. Schulze - 2
Ryan W. Brown - 1
Geraldine White-Marlino - 1

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15
Members and youth come together to impact communities across North America

UCT local councils across North America have been making a difference in their communities by joining with local youth to create and carry out joint community service projects for Join Hands Day for 17 years.

This year 13 local councils reported Join Hands Day projects. Here’s a shout out to the members and the youth they joined with to improve their communities by cleaning and sprucing up local parks, highways, schools and towns, supporting Special Olympics, and adding some color to the lives of seniors.

**Cranbrook, British Columbia Council 1023**

Ten members teamed up with youth from various local groups to volunteer for the 32nd annual Children’s Festival. The group helped with many of the festival’s free activities including face painting, hair decorating, cookie making, still walking, magic tricks, juggeling lessons and more.

**Sudbury, Ontario Council 1051**

Nine members joined with youth from the Dolphin Diving Club and their friends to clear litter from a section of Regional Road. The group got down and dirty filling nearly 40 garbage bags and celebrated with a barbecue afterward.

**Columbus, Ohio Council 1**

Eight members and 19 kindergarten students from Livingston Elementary School came together to landscape the school’s sign and several flower beds.

**Mile High Council 15, Denver, Colorado**

Members, teachers and students at Northfield Elementary School spent six months collecting over 100,000 pop tops for the local Ronald McDonald House to recycle for cash.

**Providence, Rhode Island Council 67**

Members and local youth put some muscle into sprucing up Homestead Garden Park, mowing, mulching and planting flowers.

**Janesville, Wisconsin Council 108**

Six members and five Special Olympics athletes teamed up to hold a Seeds of Hope campaign at a local credit union, raising $700 for the Janesville Agency 7-02 Special Olympics of Wisconsin.

**Regina, Saskatchewan Council 266**

Seven members and nine UCT Junior Soccer players brightened the lives of residents of Regina Lutheran Senior Home by creating and delivering small pots of spring flowers to female senior citizens in honor of Mother’s Day.

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**James B. Chrisp Council 448, Brandon, Manitoba – Members of the Brandon Army Cadets clean up a wide swath near a local highway as part of their project with Council 448.**

**Providence, Rhode Island Council 67 – Members and youth come together to celebrate their success at mowing, mulching, and planting flowers at a local park.**
Columbus, Ohio Council 1 – Members and students from Livingston Elementary School get set to do some landscaping to brighten up the school.

Neepawa, Manitoba Council 924 – The Neepawa Brownies put the finishing touches on one of the flower beds along Highway 16 where they and members of Council 924 planted petunias.

Sminnedosa, Manitoba Council 926 – Members and local soccer youth add some color to Main Street with their beautification project.

Neepawa, Manitoba Council 924 – Members and seven Neepawa Brownies got creative and planted red and white petunias in beds along Highway 16 to commemorate Canada’s 150th birthday. The group enjoyed a hot dog lunch afterward.

Minnedosa, Manitoba Council 926 – Six members and 22 soccer youth rolled up their sleeves and spent an afternoon cleaning up litter and planting flowers along Main Street for the local Community in Bloom event. The council treated everyone to a barbecue at the end of the day.

Glenboro, Manitoba Council 943 – Ten members joined with 89 students from Glenboro School to clear litter from the school’s yard – and the entire town. Younger students focused on the yard while older students took on assigned streets.

Williamsport, Pennsylvania Council 350

Members partnered with 64 local youth to volunteer for the annual Williamsport Soap Box Derby. The group helped participants with their racers and other necessary activities throughout the day.

Logansport, Indiana Council 354

Nine members and 20 Boy Scouts got together to clear debris and branches from along a local river bank and deposited them into a nearby field to create a nature habitat.

James B. Chrisp Council 448, Brandon, Manitoba

Members joined with youth from the Brandon Army Cadets to clean up litter along 10 kilometers of a local highway. The council later donated $500 to the cadets as a thank you.

Neepawa, Manitoba Council 924

Six members and seven Neepawa Brownies got creative and planted red and white petunias in beds along Highway 16 to commemorate Canada’s 150th birthday. The group enjoyed a hot dog lunch afterward.

Minnedosa, Manitoba Council 926

Six members and 22 soccer youth rolled up their sleeves and spent an afternoon cleaning up litter and planting flowers along Main Street for the local Community in Bloom event. The council treated everyone to a barbecue at the end of the day.

Glenboro, Manitoba Council 943

Ten members joined with 89 students from Glenboro School to clear litter from the school’s yard – and the entire town. Younger students focused on the yard while older students took on assigned streets.

Community service is a primary objective for UCT local councils – especially during the year of the UCT 130 Challenge. Join Hands Day is a perfect way to get your council involved in volunteering and to make younger individuals aware of who we are and what we do.

Join Hands Day traditionally takes place on the first Saturday in May, though local councils can conduct events any time during the year. More details are available on the Members’ Area of our website at www.uct.org.
You can also contact Linda Fisher at lfisher@uct.org or 800.848.0123 x1130.
Now that fall is here, it’s time to start thinking about the new community service opportunities that come with the change of seasons. Homeless shelters are preparing for upcoming cold weather. Food banks are stocking up to help hungry individuals and families during the holidays. Local charities are holding the last of the walk-a-thons to raise funds for their projects. It’s a great time to do something meaningful – and chalk up community service hours for the 130 Challenge! Here are five easy ideas you might consider:

1. With the weather changing it’s a great time to clean out your closets and give those gently used items you’ll never wear again to area homeless shelters or thrift shops. You have to clean out your closets anyway, right? Get your fellow members to join in and you can meet your “donate up to 130 items to a local charity” 130 Challenge criteria and tick it off your list!

2. Gather your council members together to collect combs, toothbrushes, shampoo, razors, etc. to make “I Care” kits for homeless individuals and donate them to your local homeless shelter. Fall and winter are crucial times for shelters, so you might want to check with them first to find out their most-needed items.

3. Want to dedicate time to a worthy cause and also benefit your personal fitness? Fall is an excellent time to participate in runs/walks for causes. Get some exercise while raising awareness – and funds – to support worthwhile causes like disease research, children’s programs, veteran’s support and more. Turn out for a couple of walks and you can check off your 130 Challenge “complete 13 hours of community service” criteria!

4. October is the perfect time to start working on Thanksgiving food drives for hungry individuals and families. Team up with a local homeless shelter or soup kitchen to determine their needs for the holiday and how you can help. While you’re at it, start recruiting your council members, family and friends to volunteer to serve food on Thanksgiving Day. This is another great way to earn those 13 hours or build toward those 130 hours of service for the 130 Challenge!

5. Demonstrate your thankfulness toward troops who may be away from family this Thanksgiving by creating and sending care packages. There are many veterans’ organizations that appreciate this kind of support. The best place to start to find out how you can help is by contacting the American Legion or the Royal Canadian Legion, depending on where you live.

The potential for volunteering opportunities is endless, and as you can see, you can put as much or as little time into it as you want. Need some help getting started? Contact Community Outreach Manager Keith Ward at kward@uct.org or at 800.848.0123 x 1131 for ideas and assistance.
More and more UCT members are getting on board with the web and social media and using them to get connected and informed and to engage with other members. Others, however, love the idea of venturing online, but are hesitant for fear the learning curve is too steep. If this is you, here are some basic facts about what UCT is involved with. Take a look – you might just want to go further!

Website
A website is a connected group of pages on the World Wide Web regarded as a single entity, usually maintained by one person or organization and devoted to a single topic or several closely related topics. UCT’s website is all about, well, UCT – who we are, what we do, and what we have to offer.

When we say “check out the website” or “you can find it on our website” we’re referring to www.uct.org. Take a few moments to see what’s on there and to familiarize yourself with the various projects, programs and forms that are available to you.

Facebook
Facebook is a popular free social networking website that allows registered users to create profiles, upload photos and video, send messages and keep in touch with friends, family and colleagues. The site includes public features such as pages, groups, events, and the marketplace.

Getting started with Facebook can be as easy as visiting www.facebook.com and following the prompts. Though it might seem daunting at first, try to stick with it. Many UCT members are on Facebook sharing personal and local council news. It’s a fun way to get connected and stay engaged! Once you’re a part of the Facebook community, don’t forget to like UCT’s page at www.facebook.com/UCTinAction.

Once you really get the hang of Facebook, make sure you check in on the UCT page weekly or even daily. We’re constantly posting about our members, our local councils and all the good things connected to UCT.

Blog
A blog is a regularly updated website or webpage that allows individuals, companies and organizations to share information in an informal, conversational way. Blog is a short form for the word weblog and the two words are sometimes used interchangeably.

UCT’s blog is a webpage on our website, and it’s chock-full of information about our programs, events and council news. It’s easy to get and stay connected – just go to our website at www.uct.org and enter your email in the blog subscription box in the upper right-hand column, and click “Subscribe.” You’ll get an email notification each time there’s a new blog post. It’s a great way to keep up to speed with what’s happening within the organization.

It’s never been easier to use technology to keep in touch. If you’re interested, but feeling a little unsure, contact Marketing Manager Kate Chillinsky at kchillinsky@uct.org or at 800.848.0123 x1148 for help getting started.
Blazing New Trails for UCT

The theme for 2017-2018 is “Blazing New Trails for UCT.” That’s because we’re going to be blazing new trails throughout the membership year to get members excited and more involved in their councils and communities. We’re exploring new ways to generate UCT awareness and grow our membership. And we are focusing on adding new products and increasing sales of our insurance products.

As we head toward UCT’s 130th anniversary in 2018, we’re encouraging everyone to get on board with the 130 Challenge, a nearly year-long effort that calls on members, local councils, the UCT Board of Governors, and the UCT home office to get involved in local community service, expanding awareness of UCT and bringing new members into our organization. The challenge gives all of us a chance to contribute to the success of our organization – while having a lot of fun in the process. Find out all the details by visiting UCT’s website at www.uct.org or by emailing memberchallenge@uct.org. You can also contact Marketing Manager Kate Chillinsky at 800.848.0123 x1148. Consider this your challenge to get involved!

We’re also adding new insurance products to our portfolio, something that should help us attract new agents and increase our profit and bottom line. We need increased sales of insurance products to continue our support of those less fortunate and to strengthen our commitment to our communities.

A lot is going to be happening throughout the coming year, so please stay informed by visiting our UCT website at www.uct.org, liking our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/UCTinAction, subscribing to our UCT blog on the website, and opening all of the mail and emails sent to you by the home office. We don’t want you to miss a single thing.

By blazing new trails through using our imaginations and stretching ourselves personally and as an organization, I believe we will grow our membership and make UCT a more vital force across North America. I look forward to working with many of you to do just that.

Numan Loafman

Welcome to UCT Membership Development Awards

An important part of our organizational culture is built around how we share the UCT message and welcome new members. UCT Membership Development Awards is our way of thanking you for helping us grow.

UCT has once again partnered with Boost Rewards, a web-based, integrated program for rewarding and tracking member performance and retention. Backed by integrated partnerships with the Internet’s largest retailer, Amazon.com and with Visa, Boost offers online, point based programs that allow flexibility in selecting awards. What does this mean for you? In the U.S., it means you’ll be able to reward yourself with items of your choice from a catalog of thousands of products! For Canadian members, you can receive VISA gift cards for recruiting new members.

UCT is proud to offer this program, and we look forward to meeting new members who are excited to share in this year’s theme of “Blazing New Trails for UCT.”

*Rules information for 2017-2018

Only new or reinstated insured members sponsored through one of UCT’s non-commissionable products and/or fraternal membership qualify for award credits. Applications must be received and approved at the Home Office between April 1, 2017, and March 31, 2018. Reinstated members must have been out at least 24 months for the sponsors to receive new award credits. Those wishing to attain President’s Club status must sponsor 50 or more new or reinstated members who have been out at least 24 months. Further, the new and/or reinstated members must still be members in good standing at the end of the membership year in order for the sponsoring member to attain President’s Club status.