

IOA MISSION, HISTORY, ORIGIN

ITS MISSION

The International Ostomy Association, an association of Regional Ostomy Associations, is committed to the improvement of the quality of life of ostomates and those with related surgeries.

It provides to its member Regional Ostomy Associations information; it advocates on all related matters and policies on the international level; it encourages the highest possible standards of surgery, medical attention and patient after-care for ostomates, and the use by medical professionals of trained ostomate volunteers as a member of the multi-disciplinary team organized to help rehabilitate ostomates; it helps to form new Regional Ostomy Associations; and, it motivates ostomates around the world to be engaged in forming and running Ostomy Associations.

HISTORY AND ORIGIN

The International Ostomy Association was founded in 1975 to associate, on a voluntary basis, National Ostomy Associations worldwide, in order to promote the health care of ostomates, to aid in their rehabilitation and to improve their quality of life. IOA is a non-profit-making, nonpolitical and religiously neutral organization concerned only with the health and welfare of ostomates. It advocates for the human rights of ostomates and is pledged to cooperate with medical, nursing and associate professions. IOA's organizational structure and governance were revised in 2010.

Why was there a need to change IOA?

It was apparent to IOA's membership, the ostomy product manufacturers and our allied professional medical partners that global social and economic changes were occurring that impacted the way IOA was doing business. IOA was having difficulty in meeting the 21st Century needs of the global ostomy community. Ostomy rehabilitation programs and initiatives that worked since IOA's founding in 1975 were no longer effective. A lack of financial and manpower resources resulted in new humanitarian programs designed to address these needs were not being developed or implemented. With sponsorships decreasing alternative ways to fund IOA's organizational operations had to be found. Confidence in IOA's ability to perform was lacking and support waning. For IOA to continue as a viable organization it had to react to these external factors. It was imperative to examine the way IOA was doing business and to make those changes necessary for it to regain its status as a worldwide authority on ostomy patient rehabilitation.

Who made the decision to make the change?

In 2009, IOA President, Dr. Harikesh Buch, appointed a Taskforce of former IOA leaders to examine the relevancy of IOA's Mission and determine if it accurately describes the organization

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as it needed to exist in the 21st Century. The Taskforce was mandated to define a new Mission and to propose changes in the present organizational structure and governance needed to fulfill this Mission. The result of the Taskforce deliberation was submitted to the IOA Executive Council for review and approval. Once approved by the Executive Council a draft of the revised Constitution was submitted to the IOA members for their review and proposed amendments as deemed appropriate. The amended document was then submitted to the IOA World Council meeting in Frankfurt, Germany, November 2010 where on 19 November it received final approval.

What was the “old” IOA Regional Alignment?

Prior to November, 2010, IOA consisted of 5 Regional Associations ... the Asociacion Latino Americana de Ostomizados (ALADO), the Asian Ostomy Association (AOA), the European Ostomy Association (EOA), the North and Central America and Caribbean Ostomy Association (NCACOA) and the South Pacific Ostomy Association (SPOA). The work of IOA was carried out by the World Council, IOA's highest authority, the Regional Ostomy Associations and the Executive Council.

What is the “new” IOA Regional Alignment?

After November, 2010, the “new IOA's” membership consists of 3 Regional Associations: the Asia South Pacific Ostomy Association (ASPOA), the European Ostomy Association (EOA), and, the Ostomy Association of the Americas (OAA) which was a result of merging ALADO and NCACOA. National Ostomy Associations comprise the membership of the Regional Associations. The Regional Associations are governed by the provisions of their independent Constitutions. The House of Delegates of each Region is its highest authority with the Officers elected by its HoD. Each Region is responsible for acquiring funds to carry out the work of the Region through dues collection and through the solicitation of funds, sponsorships and grants from industry partners and Foundations. Each Region is responsible for paying its pro-rata share of the expenses incurred by the IOA CC.

What is the “new” organization governance?

The affairs of IOA are managed by a Coordination Committee that consists of each Regional President and one other member from each of the Regional Associations as designated by the Regional Association. The IOA CC appoints a non-voting Secretary. The representatives determine which of them will serve as Chair. The IOA CC provides services common to all Regions by maintaining an IOA Internet website, coordinating World Ostomy Day, and serves as a source of advice and counsel to the leadership of a Regional Ostomy Association if called upon by the leadership to provide this service. The IOA CC will also coordinate the distribution of information among the Regional Ostomy Associations, assist in the planning and formation of new Regional Ostomy Associations, and serve as a point-of-contact for allied organizations and

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corporations internationally in scope. The Regions are responsible for convening period conferences to which all Regions are invited to attend.

Who are the current IOA Coordination Committee Members?

- Barry Maughan, Chair ... President ASPOA - jackieandbarry@xtra.co.nz
- Harikesh Buch, Representative from ASPOA bharikesh@hotmail.com
- Ria Smeijers, President, EOA h.j.smeijers@concepts.nl
- Anne Demick, Representative from EOA anne.demick@btopenworld.com
- Mariela Acero de Romero, President, OAA marielacero@gmail.com
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- Ann Favreau, Secretary ioaccsecretary@comcast.net

Where is the IOA Contact Office?

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Note: The IOA Contact Office is housed in the United Ostomy Associations of America's home office

What is the link to the IOA Coordination Committee Internet Website?

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- www.ostomyinternational.org