



CHAPTER LEADER NEWS

Volume 3, Issue 6

December 2007/January 2008
Editor: Karen Bacher, Program Director

ARIZONA CHAPTERS JOIN FORCES TO SPREAD AWARENESS!

Us TOO International
Prostate Cancer Education &
Support Network

NEW SERVICE FOR YOU!!

**ATTENTION CHAPTERS
WITH WEBSITES:**

If your Chapter has a website,
please email the link to
terri@ustoo.org so we can pro-
vide a link to it from the
www.ustoo.org webpage.

*Wishing you a blessed holiday
season filled with joy!*

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The 2007 Senior Softball World Championships were held in Phoenix from October 19th --26th. Their website is www.seniorsoftball.com Terry Hennessy, CEO and Fran Dowell, Executive Director graciously accepted and supported the Arizona Us TOO chapters. They did this by running a free advertisement in their program, letting Us TOO speak at their management meetings, placing the " There is Good News " sheet in each team packet and allowing tables to be set up at each ballpark so we could pass out literature.

This was a dream come true for the Arizona Us TOO chapters to reach this large an audience. How large do you say?? There were 331 teams registered to play. This is over 5,000 players!!! The men were competing in age groups from 40 -- 80 years at ten ballparks. This is our target market!! Teams were from across the United States and Canada. So the Prostate Cancer awareness was given to a North American audience.

N/E Valley Phoenix Us Too Chapter director Chuck Voinovich and Rex Zeiger, Us TOO Regional Director/Coordinator said, " We were able to reach more men through Senior Softball in this week than we would with 5 years of local chapter meetings". Ted Hinderman and Rev. Phil Goldbeck, who spoke to the managers and manned tables said, " The Senior Softball was managed and organized better than anything they had ever seen". Also, the competition was awesome!

The good news does not stop there because Senior Softball-USA will be holding their World Championships in Phoenix in 2008 and 2009. Us TOO would like to thank this wonderful organization for their support and for caring enough for their members to allow us to raise Prostate Cancer awareness.

For more information on this event: contact Chuck Voinovich at: chuckvrealty@cox.net or you may contact the Arizona Volunteer Regional Director for Us TOO, Rex Zeiger at: [zeiger2123 @msn.com](mailto:zeiger2123@msn.com),


Us TOO®
PROSTATE CANCER
EDUCATION & SUPPORT

St Thomas Virgin Islands Us TOO Chapter Spreads Awareness Through Sept Screening

Charlotte Kimelman Cancer Institute Research Director Derrick Grant said screenings are especially important here since Caribbean men face an even higher rate of prostate cancer than African-American men, who they are twice as more likely to die from it than their Caucasian counterparts. By day's end, CKCI had tested 155 men for the disease. Grant said Saturday's turnout was better than last year's, not only because five more men showed up this year, but because last year's screening was free. This year, CKCI had to charge \$25 to offset the \$50 cost of each test.

What most impressed Grant was the fact that approximately 90% of the men opted for a DRE, or digital rectal exam, in addition to the blood screening which measures PSA levels, a possible indicator of prostate cancer. "It's a big change," said Grant, noting that last year, very few men opted for the DRE. He said television campaigns and outreach efforts by CKCI have helped turn around the thinking. "It doesn't make you less of a man to get the DRE."

"I absolutely refused to have the DRE," said Caswill Callender, Us TOO Chapter Leader, recalling his approach to the testing process. But one year, when his PSA level was high, "I had no choice." Now, he said he tells men, "Get over it." Callender, along with several friends, founded a local Us TOO Chapter at the urging of Callender's urologist John Franklin. Franklin told Callender about "Us Too", and the local chapter started last year, now meeting monthly at the Roy Lester Schneider Health Center. Anyone is welcome to join the survivors, sometimes to listen to speakers, sometimes to simply listen to each other.

"We invite women – oh yes," said Joseph Lambert, a survivor. "They need to know about this too – so, yes – wives, girlfriends." "But not both at the same time!" quipped Melvin Norman, another founding member, who recalls his doctor telling him he had a high PSA level. "I didn't know what a PSA was. I thought it was a government agency or something." Blondell quickly learned what PSA was when his level tested at 191. Still, he delayed seeking treatment for financial reasons. His hope now is that others don't make the same mistake he did. His cancer has spread to his bones. "Don't be like me. I'm on the waiting list. If you can't get rid of the cancer, you're just waiting til the cancer gets rid of you," he said. The St Thomas Virgin Islands Us Too Chapter meets regularly the second Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m.

Us TOO Home Office Staff Structure Change

Us TOO President and CEO Tom Kirk has had to make some tough decisions regarding the 2007—08 budget. One such change will be downsizing my position, Chapter Services Director. I will be leaving Us TOO at the end of November. I want to thank all the wonderful volunteers that I have had the pleasure of working with in my three years at Us TOO International. Starting December 1st, Terri Gibbons, Program Manager, will be assuming the additional duties of chapter services support. Please contact Terri for all your chapter needs by calling her at 630/795-1002 or through email at terri@ustoo.org. I wish you all the best in your continued journeys! Karen Bacher

Us TOO Central Oklahoma Chapter Helps Vietnam Veterans Fight Prostate Cancer

OKLAHOMA CITY – As a member of the U.S. Navy, Jerry Jewell spent eighteen years defending the country in locations around the globe. His service included two tours of duty aboard the U.S.S. Constitution during the Vietnam War. Jewell, a member of the ship's fighter squadron, served in the 'Blue Water Navy' from 1968 through 1969 and returned for a second tour in late 1969 through the spring of 1970.

During this time, U.S. forces were utilizing the powerful defoliating chemical, Agent Orange, in its efforts to uncover Viet Cong forces hiding throughout the war zone. Now, over thirty years later, the government recognizes Agent Orange as a source of many autoimmune diseases including diabetes and many forms of cancer.

Jewell discovered he had prostate cancer during a routine trip to his Urologist. After a Prostate-Specific Antigen (PSA) test came back elevated, he fought the cancer with proton radiation treatments funded by his private insurance. With his cancer in remission, Jewell now works to help other Vietnam veterans gain access to first class care regardless of their financial status.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has determined that a positive association exists between exposure to herbicides and the subsequent development of adenocarcinoma of the prostate (and 10 other diseases). Veterans who served in Vietnam between January 9, 1962 and May 5, 1975 and develop prostate cancer qualify for compensation no matter when the prostate cancer develops.

Veterans who served in Korea in 1968 or 1969 may also qualify. Navy and Coast Guard personnel who served aboard ships off the Vietnamese coast, or "Blue Water Navy," are seeking inclusion in the Agent Orange program and are encouraged to apply for benefits. Us TOO of Central Oklahoma, a Prostate Cancer awareness and support group, is working to inform veterans of the potential government aid available to them.

To apply for benefits, veterans may submit a Veteran's Application for Compensation or Pension (*VA Form 21-526*) immediately after being diagnosed with prostate cancer – prior to any treatment – to initially qualify for a 100 percent disability rating for at least six months. Applications filed *after* treatment may not be approved with a presumption that the cancer is cured, though may qualify for a reduced disability rating if treatment resulted in side effects.

"Veterans need to know that they have to file their paperwork and receive approval from the Veterans' Administration before seeking treatment for their cancer. The VA will only pay for treatment if paperwork is received in advance," said Jewell.

While the forms are available from the VA, Jewell strongly suggests utilizing a Veteran Service Officer (VSRs) to ensure the proper paperwork is correctly filed. "Veteran Service Officer's are veterans serving other veterans. We know the routine and what documentation is needed for the paperwork. We also lend our services to others for free," said Jewell.

Dale Graham, agrees, "The paperwork required to receive compensation is confusing because of the amount of information the government requires. If a person is unfamiliar with the process, it is can be very challenging to complete." Veteran Service Officers are located at all VA Regional Offices, in VA medical centers and at most VA clinics. For help locating a VSR near you, contact the VA Benefits office: 1-800-827-1000.

Jewell and Graham, along with other volunteers, work twice weekly with veterans filing Agent Orange claims. The group helps about 50 veterans per session file claims and learn about disability benefits available to them. As Vietnam veterans age, the number of people the group helps also continues to rise. "The effects of Agent Orange are really coming to light now, 35 years after many veterans did their tour of duty in Vietnam," said Graham. "I've been a VSR for about 15 years now and the number of veterans seeking help has really risen in the last five or six years."

Veterans who meet Agent Orange compensation requirements will need a copy of DD Form 214 verifying their presence in Vietnam, and a copy of the prostate biopsy pathology report (If unable to locate the DD Form 214, a veteran service officer or the VA can assist in obtaining a copy). Once the paperwork is filed, a response from the VA can be expected in 30 days to nine months. Most veterans will begin getting compensation for their treatments about three months after filing.

Us TOO of Central Oklahoma monthly meetings feature health professionals who provide valuable information, as well as the opportunity for patients and their spouses to discuss problems and anxieties related to prostate cancer, with the goal of improving the quality of life. US TOO of Central Oklahoma's sponsor is Deaconess Hospital and Integris Health.

For filing information contact: Vietnam Veterans of America: 800-VVA-1316 The director of veterans benefits will connect you with a service representative in your area .

Us TOO University on DVD Now Available For Loan

Us TOO International
Prostate Cancer Education &
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We are thrilled to announce that several sets of DVD's are available for loan in the Us TOO University lending library. Specifically:

DVD's from Columbia, South Carolina, September 29-30, 2006

DVD's from Austin, Texas, May 11-12, 2007

Each set of DVD's includes key sessions from each event and hours of terrific information. The Friday evening community symposium sessions make for terrific chapter meeting topics. The Saturday sessions are excellent refreshers for those who attended and outstanding information for those who missed the event.

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Phone: 800-808-7866

Fax: 630-795-1602

E-mail: ustoo@ustoo.org

Contact Terri Gibbons
Us TOO Program Manager
at Terri@ustoo.org

The DVDs include the following sessions:

Columbia: Friday Night Forum: Keynote and breakout sessions on surgery, radiation, chemo, and intimacy solutions.

All Us TOO U chapter leader sessions.

Austin: Living Well... with Prostate Cancer: Breakout sessions on incontinence solutions, intimacy and prostate cancer, da Vinci robotic prostatectomy, emerging treatment solutions.

All Us TOO U chapter leader sessions.

To check out a set of DVD's, call Jackie at 800-808-7866 or email at jackie@ustoo.org. Sets are limited, so you may only keep the DVD's for one month. Feel free to make copies of them for your chapter to keep.

“VIRTUAL” TEAM MEMBER ROCKS THE EVENT!



Special thanks go out to South Austin Texas Chapter Leader Mike Jones for being the top individual fundraiser for the Greater Chicago Prostate Cancer Run, Walk 'n Roll! The event took place in Chicago on September 16. Mike joined “TNT” and participated in the event all the way from Austin, Texas. He raised \$4,285 dollars.... WAY TO GO MIKE JONES!!!

There was also great participation from the Don Johnson Chapter who's team raised a total of \$14,267 and Northwestern Memorial Prostate Support Group who raised \$6,195! Teams who raised \$1,000 or more earned a team “Battle Flag”. Thank you to all of the Chapters who participated, and also to all of the volunteers who came out on race day!

Come and join us next September 08'.

Team “TNT” from left to right, Laurel Clark, Pam Majer, Michele Kuhlman, Denise Burgess, Mary McInerney, Gabriele Burgess, and Us TOO Staff member, Terri Gibbons show their thanks!

