A Message from our CEO:
Dear Chapter Leaders,

As spring arrives, we are ferociously planning our 6th Roll on Capitol Hill (ROCH). The level of detail required to schedule over 200 visits with Congressmen, Senators and their staffs is intimidating, but our Washington staff and meeting planners get it accomplished. Developing our lobbying agenda and training materials for ROCH attendees as well as preparing handouts for them to leave with elected officials is preoccupying our
public policy staff at the same time as they are working with the new Trump administration to ensure that people with disabilities are not overlooked, or worse, discriminated against by any budgetary, regulatory or legislative measure.

When your chapter is represented at ROCH, your members speak for you to your Congressmen and Senators. Your chapter’s presence at ROCH also demonstrates to Washington that United Spinal Association is a large group with members in every state.

Thank you for your interest, commitment, dedication and willingness to help us articulate the needs and promote the rights of people with disabilities. If you are coming to Washington, I will see you there. If not, I encourage you to contact me at your convenience with comments and concerns. Together, we can change the world.

Yours truly,
James Weisman
President & CEO

CLM Quarterly Call Update:
As many of you know we had our quarterly Chapter Leadership Call on Wednesday, April 19th. If you missed the call you will be able to view the presentation by visiting the Chapter Leader Zone. (This will be posted by April 28th). [http://www.spinalcord.org/chapterleaderzone/](http://www.spinalcord.org/chapterleaderzone/)

New United Spinal Association Employee: Jose Hernandez - Program Specialist, will be assisting Jim Weisman with local, state and national advocacy issues as well as providing input on our programs and services.

Best of Luck Jose!
Our newest Chapter: Solano County, CA - Troy Plunket (Chapter Founder/President)

Troy sustained a Spinal Cord Injury from a motocross accident in 2003 at the age of 17; he was paralyzed at T8-9 with a complete injury.

In 2015 Troy founded Spinal Cord Injury Active Network. This is a positive network that connects Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) survivors and their families through peer mentoring, and promotes an active lifestyle towards mobility, independence and a higher quality of life.

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY!

Policy Update:

United Spinal has been opposing bills that want to roll back the Americans with Disabilities Act, such as HR 620, the ADA Education and Reform Act of 2017. In February 2017, Representative Ted Poe (R-TX-2) introduced H.R. 620 the ADA Education and Reform Act of 2017 limits the ability of people with disabilities to enforce their rights under the ADA to access places of public accommodation in the same manner as all other citizens. This bill would require individuals with disabilities to send a letter of notification to the business that it is out of compliance with the law allow 60 days for them to acknowledge the barrier and has another 120 days to fix the access problem. No other civil rights group is forced to wait 180 days to enforce their civil rights. Businesses could employ a “wait and see” approach, continuing to violate the law.

This bill is an attack on the ADA:
• HR 620 would limit the ability of people with disabilities to enforce their rights under the ADA to access places of public accommodation in the same manner as all other citizens.
• This bill would amend the ADA to require the individual with a disability to send a letter of notification to the business that was out of compliance with the law giving the business a grace period of 180 days in total before someone can file suit.
• This bill is trying to protect businesses at the expense of people with disabilities and this is not the answer.
Request to Policymakers:
Oppose H.R. 620 the Education and Reform Act of 2017 and oppose any legislation that would amend the Americans with Disabilities Act. This bill is not the answer small businesses are looking for to address lawsuits against their establishments. United Spinal Association wants to ensure that all stakeholders continue to advocate to enforce the ADA and expand access to ADA technical assistance through the ADA National Network.

I look forward to seeing many of you at ROCH. ROCH 2017 priorities are:
• Protect Access to Complex Rehab Technology and Related Accessories
• Support the Civil Rights of People with Disabilities
• Protect access to healthcare and disability services and benefits
• Ensure U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs accountability and sustainability and efficiency of the provision of veterans benefits
• Enhance employment services for veterans utilizing Department of Veterans Affairs Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Benefits Program (VRE)
For more information or to take action, visit https://www.unitedspinal.org/action-center/ or http://www.vetsfirst.org/vetsfirst-advocacy-action-center/

Peer Mentoring:
“No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted” ~Aesop

There is no greater support than that of your peers, which is exactly why United Spinal Association’s national peer mentoring program is growing in leaps and bounds. The goal of the peer-mentoring program is to ensure individuals across the country are connected to the very best resources to help people with SCI/D maintain independent and active lives. The mentoring is not only provided to people with SCI/D, but also their caregivers and family members, and shares guidance on all facets of living with SCI/D, including: employment, affordable housing, transportation, health care and education. Interested mentors attend a daylong interactive training which includes role-playing and group discussions—focused on how to develop critical mentoring skills such as self-management, goal-setting and problem-solving skills, and effective communication.

A total of 264 mentors have been successfully trained through our program. Our most recent trainings were with our Columbus, CA Chapter and our Sacramento, San Francisco and Placerville CA Chapters. The program has successfully grown and flourished thanks to the generous funding from Hollister, Inc.

If you would like to get your chapter involved, please contact Lindsey Elliott at lelliott@unitedspinal.org and get your training scheduled for 2017!
Sacramento, San Francisco and Placerville CA Chapters

Reminder:

Please send us photos of your events!

We have created a form on the Chapter Leader Zone for you to quickly upload your photos and add descriptions if you choose.

Click here to upload Chapter photos
Chapter Contact Information:
Our resource center has notified us that they are finding outdated/inaccurate chapter contact information on our website. Please go the following link and find your chapter and make sure that the chapter contact information is correct: http://www.spinalcord.org/chapters/directory/
If you need to make changes you can go to the Chapter Leader Zone and look for the form “Chapter Listing Form” in the Quick Jumps section. You can fill this out online and submit and the information will be reviewed and then updated on the website. Please note that you can do this anytime you make a change.

Development:

Development Spotlight
Connecticut Chapter’s 2017 Twilight Gala

This month, we are focusing on the Connecticut Chapter’s 2017 Twilight Gala.
President, Bill Mancini, spoke about the wins and the challenges of the gala, celebrating its 6th year, on the April Chapter Call. Congratulations to Bill and his team for another great event!

To follow is an Overview with Insight & Strategies of the event followed by, in Bill’s own words, Best Practices, Lessons Learned and the “Secret Sauce” for success.

Overview of the Twilight Gala
Date & Location: Saturday March 11, 2017, The Aqua Turf Club (free parking), Same venue last 6 years
Time: 6:30 pm-Midnight
Details:
• 300 people attended. Gradual increase each year. Started with a small group of 125 seven years ago.
• Open Bar, Hors d'oeuvres, Dinner
• Live Auction and Silent Auction/Raffles
- Live DJ and Dancing
- Tickets: $150.00 - individual ticket
- $2000.00 - $20,000.00 corporate sponsorship levels

**2017 Insight & Strategies**
- In order to make up for loss of sponsorship(s) we reduced expenses
- We have a live auction where we ask for $500 donations towards our quality of life grants. This year we sold some prior to starting the event.
- Added smaller items to auction so that everyone could participate.
- Became more aggressive with Facebook.
- Invited all local U.S. Rep and Senators. Got responses from all members. Use event as an advocacy event as well.

**Best Practices**
- Have a committee to organize the event.
- Don't be afraid to fail.
- All fundraising is a learning process.
- Stay organized.
- Attend other events to learn from.

**Lessons Learned**
- Doing it on your own doesn't work. You need a team of people.
- Invite local legislatures.
- Add and make changes.
- People want to see where there money goes.
- Have members attend even if it’s for free.

**Secret Sauce**
Simply: Keep your sponsors happy
Go to http://www.sciact.org/gala.aspx to see the sponsors page and previous events.

**Disability Etiquette as a Fund Raising Tool**
Your Chapter Leader Zone has excellent resources to train your leaders, board members or key volunteers to present Disability Etiquette to local companies in return for a donation. You’ll find a PowerPoint presenters can use, a companion slide comment sheet and an instructional video so presenters can be Disability Etiquette “fluent” in no time. Recently, we’ve added a sample query that you can send to local companies’ human resources or community affairs contacts. Disability Etiquette is a win-win to raise awareness, capture potential donors or volunteers, and raise funds for your chapter.

**SAMPLE – QUERY – DISABILITY ETIQUETTE**

Dear Head of Human Resources Manager, Chief Operating Officer, or VP Community Affairs,
Fifty-six million people living in the United States self-identify as having at least one disability. Chapter Name, a chapter of United Spinal Association, would like to offer **Company’s Name** the opportunity to raise awareness, dispel myths and how to effectively communicate working alongside people with disabilities.

Our expertise in Disability Etiquette will benefit your human resources operations while demonstrating **Company’s name’s** commitment to inclusion and diversity in the workplace, as well as in your community. The presentation, typically an hour, offers tips on interacting with people with various disabilities, including spinal cord injuries, multiple sclerosis, autism, and traumatic brain injury.
We can offer a Disability Etiquette training at your workplace and the associated fee of $ will be donated back to our chapter to fund chapter events, peer mentoring, and community awareness events in our area. Additionally, all employees will receive a copy of our Disability Etiquette publication that has been widely distributed since 1998.

We appreciate your consideration to share Disability Etiquette with your team members and we look forward to scheduling a presentation.

Sincerely yours,

Name
President, Chapter Name
Phone/email
Website address

Notes:
Suggestions for fee – between $250 – $500 (or more) depending on size of company and number of employees you will be training. Disability Etiquette publication is $3 per copy and you can either build that in to the cost or charge that in addition to the fee.

Supporter content:

**Take Advantage of Hill-Rom’s Patient Advocate Services – Empower health at home**
Please take note of how clinical beds at home can effectively assist caregivers, aid in advanced positioning, offer a safer environment for transfers, and provide a variety of solutions for SCI/D individuals. United Spinal has partnered with Hill-Rom as they offer comprehensive resources to collaborated and educate individuals and their doctors and clinical team on the best product options that align with their documented level of care. They also work with your insurance and their entire clinical team that may include doctors, nurses, case managers, PT/OT, home health, wound care professionals, other advocates among others. Hill-Rom manufactures specialty hospital beds, therapy surfaces, prevention mattresses, electric lifts and slings.

**Chapter Leaders** – Please contact Tricia Litzinger, RN, BSN, CCM, CDS, WCC, Director of Case Management and Clinical Services at 812-212-2563 for clinical consultation for referrals and to discuss how your chapter can receive information for chapter events or make a presentation to your members via a call or in person.

**United Spinal Members** – Contact Hill-Rom’s Patient Advocates to take advantage of their highly skilled team to discuss how a specialty bed at home could improve independence and achieve healthier outcomes. Patient Advocates can be reach at 800-833-4291. Tell them United Spinal referred you.

WEBSITE: [https://homecare.hill-rom.com/](https://homecare.hill-rom.com/)
Chapter Resource:

NonprofitReady.org

NonprofitReady.org is an open online learning initiative from the Cornerstone OnDemand Foundation. Thanks to the generous support of experts from across the nonprofit sector, NonprofitReady includes over 300 free, self-paced online learning courses and resources covering the most essential areas of nonprofit

Below are specific training titles we have identified that will help you in your day-to-day work. To get started, click on the link of the training you want to begin. You will come to a page that features the training title and description. Click “Request.” Once you click request you will be prompted to sign-up for Nonprofitready.org and create a free account (this is free but your contact information is needed in order to track your progress). Please fill out this form. After you complete it, you will then be able to access the free training.

- Introduction to Fundraising Plans
- Accounting Essentials
- Introduction to Nonprofit Finances
- Nonprofit Finance Fundamentals
- How the Board of Directors Impacts Non-Profit Success
- How to Get People to Open Your Newsletter
- Moving Hearts & Minds – The Power of Storytelling within Nonprofits
- Evaluating Nonprofit Programs: Best Practice and Common Pitfalls
- Becoming a Leader: Leading Your Own Development
- Approaching Grantmakers for the First Time
- Quick Guide to Online Fundraising
- Building the Foundation for Volunteer Involvement: Part 1

Other titles you might want to consider based on the themes above that are highly rated

Think Money First with David Greco
Nonprofit finance expert David Greco walks you through a self-paced, 5 part video series on how to run your nonprofit as a sustainable enterprise, ending the cycle of scarcity. This curriculum includes practice budgets and formulas that you can apply to your own budgets. http://bit.ly/2nwrjI9

Moving Hearts and Minds –The Power of Storytelling with Nonprofits
Storytelling is a highly effective engagement style for fundraising campaigns, membership drives, and educational outreach. Stories enable us to find common ground, and are instruments of empowerment and emotional connection. This 45 minute recorded webinar will provide you the essentials of how to use storytelling in your day-to-day work. http://bit.ly/2otx1sO

The Happy Healthy Nonprofit Professional: Impact Without Burnout with Beth Kanter and Aliza Sherman
This 50 minute recorded conversation with Beth Kanter and Aliza Sherman provides concrete tips for individual self-care to help nonprofit professionals and social change activists embrace a happy healthy work/life balance. http://bit.ly/2otn8yp

This information along with a brief overview of NonProfitReady.org is located on the Chapter Leader Zone under Web Tool Box.
Resource Center Update:

Activity
United Spinal Association Information Specialists responded to incoming live phone inquiries, returned voice messages and monitored direct email inquiries entering the Resource Center via web form or other email sources such as staff member referrals.

March cases closed 324
Total interactions, all closed cases 812
Closed cases by category:
01 Abuse & Neglect 10
10 Accessibility
01 Adaptive Sports & Recreation 07
07 Advertising
07 Benefits & Social Services
11 Donor Services
23 Health & Wellness
09 Housing
55 Member Services
09 New injury cases
18 Organization/company Inquiry
09 Other SCI/D Related
87 Peer Support
02 Psych & Social Services
07 Research & Clinical Trials
17 Wheelchair related

Employment Opportunities:
We have partnered with many employers who are seeking to hire people with disabilities. Attached and below are some of the current opportunities presented by these companies. Feel free to distribute to your networks. Please be sure to indicate United Spinal in referral field.

CVS – https://www.dropbox.com/s/m0hqibzd2swt5mu/CVS%20Jobs.xlsx?dl=0
Mobility Ventures - http://www.amgeneral.com/careers/

Excellus Blue Shield –

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<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17-0392</td>
<td>Value Based Payment Engagement Manager</td>
<td>Rochester, Syracuse or Utica</td>
<td><a href="https://re12.ultipro.com/EXC1006/JobBoard/JobDetails.aspx?_ID=4E54421D4DEFC522">https://re12.ultipro.com/EXC1006/JobBoard/JobDetails.aspx?_ID=4E54421D4DEFC522</a></td>
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### Pratt & Whitney

#### Entry-Level

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<td>Assoc Eng, Aero/Thermo</td>
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<td>27-Mar-17</td>
<td>45915BR</td>
<td>Assoc Eng, Customer Technical Support</td>
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<td>31-Mar-17</td>
<td>46104BR</td>
<td>Entry-level Structures Engineer Fan-Externals</td>
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<td>30-Mar-17</td>
<td>46127BR</td>
<td>Enterprise Capacity &amp; Materials Planning Associate</td>
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<td>29-Mar-17</td>
<td>46163BR</td>
<td>Associate Design Engineer - Compression Systems</td>
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<td>30-Mar-17</td>
<td>46348BR</td>
<td>Repair Development Engineer, Entry Level</td>
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<td>29-Mar-17</td>
<td>45045BR</td>
<td>Engineer, Aero/Thermo</td>
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<td>27-Mar-17</td>
<td>45469BR</td>
<td>Program Integration Analyst</td>
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<td>26-Mar-17</td>
<td>45892BR</td>
<td>Paralegal for VP &amp; General Counsel, P&amp;W</td>
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<td>29-Mar-17</td>
<td>45898BR</td>
<td>Configuration Management Analyst</td>
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<td>26-Mar-17</td>
<td>46020BR</td>
<td>F135 Field Service Engineer - CT Based/Pool</td>
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<td>26-Mar-17</td>
<td>46027BR</td>
<td>F135 Logistics Material Manager - Japan Airframe FACO</td>
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<td>30-Mar-17</td>
<td>46304BR</td>
<td>Analyst, Materials</td>
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<td>1-Apr-17</td>
<td>46416BR</td>
<td>Software/Computer Engineer</td>
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<tr>
<td>31-Mar-17</td>
<td>46439BR</td>
<td>Structures Engineer</td>
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#### Mid-Level

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<td>45610BR</td>
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<td>45838BR</td>
<td>Cell Leader</td>
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<td>29-Mar-17</td>
<td>45887BR</td>
<td>HR Specialist, Talent, Inclusion, &amp; Engagement</td>
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<td>29-Mar-17</td>
<td>45910BR</td>
<td>Government Property Administrator</td>
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<td>30-Mar-17</td>
<td>46290BR</td>
<td>Flight Safety Coordinator</td>
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<td>30-Mar-17</td>
<td>46299BR</td>
<td>Sr Analyst, Materials</td>
<td>East Hartford</td>
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<td>30-Mar-17</td>
<td>46408BR</td>
<td>Senior Mechanical Engineer, Jet Engine Test Systems</td>
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<td>27-Mar-17</td>
<td>45332BR</td>
<td>Program Manager Advanced Military Programs</td>
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<td>29-Mar-17</td>
<td>45674BR</td>
<td>Manager, Prod &amp; Proc Quality</td>
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<td>28-Mar-17</td>
<td>46210BR</td>
<td>Measurement Center Instrumentation Cell Leader</td>
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<td>30-Mar-17</td>
<td>46287BR</td>
<td>Specialist, Materials</td>
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<td>29-Mar-17</td>
<td>46309BR</td>
<td>Supervisor, Finan Plang &amp; Analy</td>
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<td>30-Mar-17</td>
<td>46345BR</td>
<td>Project Engineer - Hot Section Engineering</td>
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<td>30-Mar-17</td>
<td>46352BR</td>
<td>Repair Development Engineer</td>
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Thank you to our Sponsors

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<td>Allergan</td>
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<td>Titanium - Customized</td>
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<td>Merck</td>
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<td>Rare Patient Voice</td>
<td>ROCH - Advocate</td>
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<td>PhRMA</td>
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<td>Allsup</td>
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<td>ROCH - Advocate</td>
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<td>BIO</td>
<td>ROCH - Liberty</td>
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<td>Cure Medical</td>
<td>Customized Sponsorship</td>
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Upcoming United Spinal Association Webinars:
- May 18<sup>th</sup> PCA employment – related
- May 23<sup>rd</sup> Safe patient handling/bedding features and options

Coming Soon:

A copy of this newsletter will be posted to the Chapter Leader Zone