

# TRANSPLANT NEWS

## Akron - Canton Transplant Recipients

### 2014 Schedule of Events

Monthly meeting from 6:30 to 8:30 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month at Education Building "A" at the North Canton Medical Center.

OrganDonorSabbath on April 25, 2014 at 7:30 at Akron Temple Israel. This will be the 5<sup>th</sup> annual service sponsored by Micki Wise and the Wise Family in memory of Bernard Wise.

Hartville Flea Market, June 14 & 16, 2014. See Sue & Ray Golden for donation details and visit them at the flea market.

Lifebanc August, 2014 Gift of Life Walk & Run August 9, 2014 at Blossom Music Center. Join Amanda's or Rosie & Pat's team or Alison Werstler's Hearts for Ray Stiles and support Lifebanc.

Celebration of Life Picnic, August 10, 2014 from noon to 4:00 at the John Torok Community Center, Green, Ohio.

November 2014 Akron Children's Hospital Holiday Tree Festival at John S Knight Center. Please contact Rosie or Sue if you have a tree or items for this year's squirrel theme tree.

Holiday Celebration of Life Dinner on December 16<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 to 9:00 at NCMC. Donor recognition will be

followed by dedication of ornaments by organ recipients or their loved ones.

### CMS decision – Great News!

CMS has decided to not implement the changes to Medicare Part D formularies that would have limited access to immunosuppressant/organ rejection drugs.

The only notice of the change that I found in our local newspapers was in the Repository on March 14th:

"Administration drops proposed Medicare changes"

WASHINGTON The Obama administration says it's pulling the plug on proposed changes to the Medicare prescription program that ran into strong opposition on Capitol Hill.

Among other changes, the regulation proposed to remove three classes of drugs from a special protected list that guarantees seniors access to a wide selection of critical medications.

The three classes of drugs facing removal were anti-depressants, anti-psychotics and drugs that suppress the immune system to prevent rejection of a transplanted organ.

The administration hoped to save a total of \$729 million by 2019 with the

change, but patient groups including the National Kidney Foundation and the

National alliance on Mental Illness pushed back hard.

Medicare administrator Marilyn Tavenner said Monday in a letter to Congress that the administration will not move forward with the changes.

(Note that “at this time” was omitted from the letter quote)

TRIO National had a great press release on the change at:

[http://www.trioweb.org/images/news/Mar\\_10\\_eneews.jpg](http://www.trioweb.org/images/news/Mar_10_eneews.jpg)

## [Akron Canton TRIO CMS activities](#)

Akron Canton member’s thoughts on the change were part of the 4000 comments received by CMS on the proposed changes.

The March Akron Canton update describing the impact of the proposed change to the Medicare Part D formulary was published in the National TRIO CMS information.

The Akron Beacon Journal printed two editorial stories suggesting care in making the proposed changes which were shared with the Akron Canton TRIO Members.

1/ “No harm in saving”  
Bending the Medicare cost curve gets complicated (Published: February 26, 2014)

<http://www.ohio.com/editorial/editorials/no-harm-in-saving-1.469496>

I wrote a letter to the editor requesting that ABJ readers comment to CMS on the change, but it was not published.

2/ “Unhealthy for seniors with mental illness” By Terry Russell

(Published: February 27, 2014)

<http://www.ohio.com/editorial/terry-russell-unhealthy-for-seniors-with-mental-illness-1.469725>

Several members contacted our U S Senators and Representatives. One of our Senators promised to get to us, but no response was received. In their defense, both Ohio Senators signed the letter to CMS from the Senate Finance Committee requesting that the Part D Formulary changes be dropped.

The Area Agency on Aging was contacted and their representative said that the agency planned to comment on the adverse impact of the change on the senior population.

Jewell Cardwell of the Akron Beacon Journal was contacted. She has supported the transplant community by informing her readers of fund raisers to help with transplant costs. Several Fox News correspondents were contacted including two whose family members have received an organ transplant and the two doctors from the “Doctors House Call” segments.

## Member update

Rosie Price is recovering from shingles but is well enough to return home. Please keep her in your thoughts

## Upcoming event updates

### OrganDonorSabbath April 25, 2014

Please join us at 7:30 at Akron Temple Israel. This will be the 5<sup>th</sup> annual service sponsored by Micki Wise and the Wise Family in memory of Bernard Wise.

### Liver Life Walk Cleveland June 1, 2014

Pat Summers is reviving her Liverdance team for the Liver Life Walk. Join her at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo. Registration opens at 7:30AM, and the walk kicks off from the Palava Hut at 9:00AM E. You can sponser or join Pat's team at:

<http://mail.aol.com/38442-111/aol-6/en-us/Lite/MsgRead.aspx?folder=NewMail&uid=28303481&seq=14&searchIn=none&searchQuery=&start=0&sort=received&sortDir=descending>

### Hartville Flea Market June 14&16, 2014

Join Sue and Ray and Heather Golden on Saturday June 14<sup>th</sup> and Monday June 16<sup>th</sup> at the Hartville Flea Market. Akron Canton TRIO appreciates their efforts in supporting our primary fund raising effort.

Rosie Price thought we would appreciate the following poem:

#### **TO REMEMBER ME by Robert Test**

"At a certain moment a doctor will determine that my brain has ceased to function and that, for all intents and purposes, my life has stopped.

"When that happens, do not attempt to instill artificial life into my body by the use of a machine. And don't call this my 'deathbed.' Call it my 'bed of life,' and let my body be taken from it to help others lead fuller lives.

"Give my sight to a man who has never seen a sunrise, a baby's face or love in the eyes of a woman.

"Give my heart to a person whose own heart has caused nothing but endless days of pain.

"Give my blood to the teenager who has been pulled from the wreckage of his car, so that he might live to see his grandchildren play.

"Give my kidneys to one who depends on a machine to exist from week to week.

"Take my bones, every muscle, every fiber and nerve in my body and find a way to make a crippled child walk.

"Explore every corner of my brain. Take my cells, if necessary, and let them grow so that someday a speechless boy will shout at the crack of a bat and a deaf girl will hear the sound of rain against her windows.

"Burn what is left of me and scatter the ashes to the winds to help the flowers grow.

"If you must bury something, let it be my faults, my weaknesses and all my prejudice against my fellow man.

"Give my soul to God. If by chance you wish to remember me, do it with a kind deed or word to someone who needs you. If you do all I have asked, I will live forever."

## **About TRIO (Transplant Recipients International Organization)**

**Website: [www.trioweb.org](http://www.trioweb.org)**

### **TRIO's MISSION**

**TRIO is a non-profit organization improving the quality of lives touched by the miracle of transplantation through support, advocacy, education and awareness.**

#### **Support**

**We provide support to transplant candidates, recipients and their families, donors and donor families to help alleviate the stresses and problems associated with the process.**

#### **Advocacy**

**We make the concerns and needs that affect the welfare of transplant candidates, recipients, and donor families known to federal government bodies. We also effectively communicate the views of transplant candidates, recipients and their families, donors and donor families to the general public.**

#### **Education**

**We provide current information (with respect to developments in organ and tissue donation, transplantation, medications, social issues, and finances) to transplant candidates, recipients and their families, donors and donor families about initiatives and protocols in the field of transplantation.**

#### **Awareness**

**We promote organ and tissue donation as an important social responsibility. We develop and support mechanisms to improve the availability of organs and tissues on an equitable basis to meet the need of transplant candidates.**

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