

DECEMBER 2013 Newsletter



AMPUTEE SUPPORT TEAM  
"So others may benefit from us."

AST is a 501(c) (3) support group.

[WWW. astamputees.com](http://WWW.astamputees.com)

*The mission of the Central Pennsylvania Amputee Support team (AST) is to serve and encourage its members to enhance their physical and emotional health through educational and recreational programs, peer counseling and public relations*

### Congratulations

To everyone in AST who participated in our fund raisers in November. Our November 13 meeting a Hoss's raised \$109. 00. Everyone had a great time and we filled the meeting room-I think there was only 1 empty chair. Thanks to DeEtt Fackler for making the arrangements.

Dick Nickle and DeEtt Fackler manned a table to sell Bonus Books at Bon Ton Days November 15 and 16. They raised more than \$250.00. (We were paid for the amount of books sold and then will receive a portion of the total raised by all participating groups).

### Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be held at Health South in Mechanicsburg on January 8, 2014. Don Hossler will do a short presentation on the basics of the Affordable Care Act, followed by an open forum on issues related to limb loss. **Please keep the last page of this letter as it is a schedule for our 2014 meetings.**

**Weather cancellations- if a meeting is going to be cancelled due to inclement weather, ABC 27 and Lancaster Channel 8 news will have our meeting listed on their website. If you cannot find it, please feel free to contact Georgia Foltz at 717-834-5705 or Don Hossler at 717-944-2250.**

### Upcoming Events

There will be an Alaska Cruise June 27-July 4, 2014. It is sponsored by the Amputee Coalition and reservations can be made through Easy Access Travel. Call Debra Keeper at 800-920-8989, cell phone 951-202-2208 or [debra@easyaccesstravel.com](mailto:debra@easyaccesstravel.com). Fully accessible rooms are available but limited

so if you want to get an accessible room Contact Easy Access as soon as you can-there is a fully refundable (up until March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014) of \$500 when you make your reservation. More information is also available at the Amputee Coalition website.

Other trips include:

A tour of Ireland will be held on **May 13-22, 2014.**

A land tour of the Ecuador Highlands and Amazon River will be **October 6-17, 2014**

**The next Amputee Coalition Convention will be held July 23-25, 2015 at the JW Marriot Starr Pass Resort in Tucson, Arizona.** There is no longer a yearly convention.

The Amputee Coalition will be holding a series of one day conferences throughout the country from now until the next national Convention in 2015-as these are announced, you will be notified in our newsletters or you can check [www.amputee-coalition.org](http://www.amputee-coalition.org) under the events calendar.

#### Affordable Care Act Update

Representative Lou Barletta has informed me (Georgia) that there is now a bill for the Insurance Fairness for Amputees Act (H. R. 3020). ON August 2, 2013 Representative Charles Dent (PA) introduced the bill. Presently H.R.3020 awaits action in the Subcommittee on Health in the House Energy and Commerce Committee( Representative Joe Pitts, Lancaster,Pa-mailing address is 420 Cannon House Office Building,Washington,DC, 20515), the Subcommittee on Health, Employment (Representative Phil Roe, Tennessee, mailing address 407 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515), Labor and Pensions in the House Education and Workforce Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee.(Representative Dave Camp, Michigan, mailing address is 341 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC. 20515)

Representative Barletta is a member of the House Education and Workforce Committee and will give full support to H. R. 3020. Please take time to send a letter to Committee heads listed above to keep this bill moving. If you want to send an email or make a phone call to these Representatives, the contact information can be found on their websites.

**This is very important because the Affordable Care Act as it is written at this time allows each state exchange will determine what rehabilitative and habilitative items what is paid for in their plan. This includes everything from walkers to prosthetics. Some states still do not pay for prosthetics. In Pennsylvania, the current law allows anywhere from one prosthesis per lifetime to a new prosthesis as deemed medically necessary depending on the plan you have.**

## **2014 AST Meeting Schedule**

Pease mark the following dates on your calendar for 2014 meeting dates:

January 8, 2014 – brief explanation of basics of Affordable Care Act followed by open meeting with question and answer session

March 12, 2014- at this time do not have confirmation from the speaker-will update topic in the next newsletter.

May 14, 2014-PTAF (an agency that helps disabled people get funding for home improvement and durable equipment

July 9,2014-annual picnic- Health South

September 10, 2014-Fundraiser-meeting and dinner at Hoss's in Mechanicsburg

November 12, 2014-topic to be decided

If you have any topics you would like to have discussed or a specific speaker, please email Georgia Foltz at [gfoltz@embarqmail.com](mailto:gfoltz@embarqmail.com) or Don Hossler at [dehoss67@comcast.net](mailto:dehoss67@comcast.net)

Our meetings are held at 6:30 PM in the meeting room at HealthSouth in Mechanicsburg. We must end promptly at **8PM** per request of HealthSouth.