

JUNE 2010



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

**May 19, 2010- AST celebrated its' 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary at HealthSouth in Mechanicsburg, Pa.**

Dick Nickle is home and was able to attend the meeting with his wife Barb.

Don Hossler opened the meeting and with all in attendance stating their name, type of amputation and how long we had been amputees.

Don introduced Dick who spoke to all of us about the start of AST and then thanked everyone for our support with cards, visits and for keeping AST going in his absence.

Don Hossler had compiled a power point presentation from all of Dick's pictures and everyone enjoyed that and had comments on the slide show. Gary Reinhold commented that he has seen many support groups that have been formed and failed. When he and Chad Kettler had the first meeting they did not know how this group would do, but he is proud of the AST and how we have held together. Dick commented on how doing peer visits help bring us closer. **Thanks to Don for the slide presentation and Gary and Chad for all their support to keep AST going.**

Following the slide show, Gary and Chad presented Dick and Barb with individual plaques recognizing their dedication to AST since its' founding. We all appreciate the many hours they have spent, not only on our chapter but as peer trainers for numerous groups in Pennsylvania as well as out of state. **Thank you Barb and Dick from all of us who you have helped along the way.**

Gary held a raffle of assorted items from various amputee suppliers as well as AST items.

Georgia spoke briefly on parity. The House of Representatives introduced HR 2575 on May 21, 2009 and Senators Olympia Snow and Tom Harkin introduced a parity bill in the Senate on May 21, 2010. Senator George Miller of California, Chairman of the Education and Labor committee has indicated that he intends to keep Orthotics and Prosthetics a separate class from Durable Medical Equipment such as walkers, shower stools, and other home aids for the disabled. Currently the Secretary of Health and Human Services and her staff are going through the Health Care bill and may try to keep Orthotics and Prosthetics with Durable Medical equipment.

**Please contact your representatives and senators asking them to keep Orthotics and Prosthetics as a separate class, not under the Durable Medical Equipment provision.**

The meeting then was then adjourned for snacks and a special cake with the AST logo on it.

There will be a Board of Directors meeting on Tuesday, June 1, 2010.

**The next meeting will be on Wednesday July 21 at 6:30 on the Health South patio for a picnic, Bob Smith and Friends on their bikes and The Porch Pickers will entertain us.**

If a friend asks why they have not received a newsletter lately, please have them email [grfoltz@embarqmail.com](mailto:grfoltz@embarqmail.com), so we can add them to our data base which we are updating.

