

## **AST NEWSLETTER FOR MAY**

The AST meeting of March 17 was coordinated by Gary Reinhold and featured excellent and informative information from the following prosthetic manufacturers: Todd of College Park, Vince of Freedom Innovations, Barbara and Curt of Ossur and Clara of Otto Bock. They all discussed their prosthetic components and innovations in prostheses in recent years. Refreshments were provided by Hanger and HealthSouth.

The AST meeting of May 19 at 6:30 PM will be held in the meeting room of HealthSouth. Don Hossler will do a PowerPoint presentation with more than 200 photographs and titled "A History of AST of Central Pa. Prior to Dick Nickle's illness he provided 4 CD's of pictures from 2004 to 2010. The AST celebrates 10 years of service for limb loss people this year. Dick and Barb Nickle have played an extensive role in maintaining the organization which began as an idea of Prosthetist Gary Reinhold of Hanger and Physical Therapist Chad Kettler of HealthSouth. Refreshments will be provided.

Update on Dick Nickle: He is now off dialysis and the respirator, but still has a long recovery ahead. His address is: HealthSouth Specialty Hospital, Room 303, 4950 Wilson Lane, Mechanicsburg, Pa. 17055. Thus far, at his family's request he is not getting visitors. Don Hossler is in touch with Barb and gets the update from her.

Mark Leonard, following hospitalization is living at 1 Kinder Place, Annville, Pa. 17003. He is known as the chocolate man as he is the one that gets us goodies from Hershey Chocolate for some of our meetings. I am sure he would welcome cards from all of us as he has been part of the AST since its early days.

Prosthetic Parity: HR bill #5615 was introduced October 13, 2009 by Representative Andrews of New Jersey. Senator Todd Platts was a co-sponsor. The bill was referred to the Subcommittee on Health and since the Health Care Reform Act has been in limbo. Representative Patrick Kennedy is working to reintroduce the bill. As the Health Care reform Act is establishing minimum standards for coverage from insurance companies that participate in the Insurance Exchange for people who do not have coverage, there might be a chance that parity is in the minimum standards, but nothing concrete regarding parity has been published thus far.

The AST Board is trying to reduce the list of people who are receiving both email and snail mail newsletters. We will be working on this once we get the information from Barb Nickle.

