

# July 2007 AST Newsletter

AST is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit limb loss support group.  
With AST Chapters in Lancaster and Berks County

[www.amputeesupportteam.com](http://www.amputeesupportteam.com)

*"So others may benefit from us."*



**NEXT MEETING:** 6:30 PM, Thursday, July 26

Pick Nick on the Patio at HealthSouth Wormleysburg

Music! Food from the grill! Drink! Free Stuff! and NO CHARGE, it's all FREE!!!

What more could you ask for, come, see, and sing along with:

**The Green Mountain Porch Pickers Blue Grass Band**

Featuring our own Picking, Singing and Harmonica Playing: **Rod Shields**

## **Future Meetings:**

**6:30 PM, Wednesday, September 19, Guest Speaker:**

**Lee Marand, Psycho-therapist**

Ms. Marand, who is an Anxiety Specialist, provides neural -psychological help to people suffering from trauma, including amputees, and care-givers. The Program this night will be an Open Forum, and the audience may ask questions, and share information. It should be an interesting night.

**6:30 PM, Wednesday, November 14 Holiday Program:**

**6:30 PM, Wednesday, January 16, 2008, Guest Speaker:**

**Barbara Orstein, Executive Director, PA Council Independent Living**

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## **Great News Concerning HB 317: Prosthetic Parity in PA:**

Our efforts on PA Action Day on March 17 of this year, and later our march on Capitol Hill in Harrisburg on April 24 has paid off. HB 317 is now out of the Insurance Committee, and is expected to soon be passed on the floor of the PA House of Representatives. HB 317 is predicted to be just as successful in the PA Senate, and later on the desk of Governor Rendell.

The following is a progress report from **Morgan Sheets ACA National Advocacy Director:**

[June 13] The Pennsylvania House Insurance committee voted this morning (unanimously) to refer the parity bill to the "Health Care Cost Containment Center" for a cost study (since it is a mandate).

We were not alerted to the hearing. They decided to meet without testimony. But this is an exciting step forward! We are hoping for a "favorable" report.

In all of the states where it has been reviewed (CA, MA, CO and NJ), it has only helped us make our case! Once the report is completed, it should move to the House floor for a vote! Hopefully by the time you read this AST Newsletter, HB 317 will be passed in the PA House, and headed for the PA Senate, and then to the PA Governor's desk.

ACA 2007 Conference in Atlanta, Georgia: The AST was well represented at this year's ACA Conference, counting Jim Yohn, Leader of AST's Lancaster Chapter, and two new Lancaster Chapter members, the AST had twelve members in attendance, which did not break our record of sixteen in Nashville, TN, in 2004. Maybe with a little help from the AST, maybe we can break our attendance record in 2008, again in Atlanta.

Pictured here at this year's AST Booth, are two of the best looking men at the Conference, L-R, Jim Yohn, Lancaster Leader and AST Board Member, and Dick Nickle, AST President. Note, the picture on the laptop is of the press conference taken at the Prosthetic Parity Rally at the PA State Capitol April 24. If you can enlarge the picture, you will see many of our AST membership that spoke that day.



Seam Brame, our youngest AST member, received this year's ACA "Role Model of the Year Award." The Award is given to only one person in the world by the ACA, and Sean may be the youngest person to receive it.

Pictured here is Paddy Rosback, CEO and President of the ACA, who just introduced Sean, and said the many reasons Sean deserved the Award. With his brother Patrick's help, Sean delivered his acceptance speech, and typical of Sean, said many inspiring remarks to the Dinner Awards audience.

Pictured here is Sean Brame with his family and Pat Isenberg, ACA's COO. Left from Isenberg is Sean; his brother Patrick; his mother Carol; and Mike Brame, Sean's Dad. "We all agreed the ACA Conference was fun and educational."



The AST is also proud of William's Samuels, co-leader of the **Memphis Limb Loss Support Group**, in Memphis, TN, who received the ACA Volunteer of the Year Award, again the only one awarded this year. We like to think of the **MLLSG** as our sister support group, as we net-work with them, and were a part in training over twenty of their membership to be ACA Certified Peer Visitors.

The MLLSG played a major role in identifying and helping the many limb loss persons caught in the mass evacuation caused by Hurricane Katrina. Like the AST in central PA, William and Sherri Samuels has lead their support group to make a big difference in the lives of amputees in their respective area of southwest Tennessee, and states near by.

Congratulations William, you are deserving of the award, and those of us who attended the Conference enjoyed meeting you and your family: Daughters: Mirel Nechama, age 11, Yehudis Tova, age 5, and your son, David Yehoshug, age 9.



**PALS [Promoting Amputee Life Skills] Training Program is coming soon:** If you are a limb loss person – an amputee, you are invited to participate in a nationally tested Interactive program where you will learn to manage your “disability” and improve the quality of your life, and the lives of the people around you. PALS Classes are each Monday evening for nine weeks, and begin on Monday, September 17 to Monday, November 12 from 6 PM to 8:15 PM. The first five Mondays are at HealthSouth in Mechanicsburg, and the last four at Pinnacle Health’s Helen M. Simpson Rehabilitation Hospital at the Union Deposit Exit in Harrisburg. To register, contact Susan Tipton, ACA, at: 1-888-267-5669, ext. 8132. For information, and directions: Don Hossler at 717-944-2250 / [dehoss@paonline.com](mailto:dehoss@paonline.com) or Dick Nickle at 717-258-6849 / [dicknickle@aol.com](mailto:dicknickle@aol.com) .

**2008 ACA Conference, June 20-22, in Atlanta, Georgia:** Thinking of attending next year? There will also be an all-day Support Group Leaders session on Thursday June 19, and an all-day Peer Training Class on Monday June 23.

There were many vendors exhibiting and giving away many of the products they offer to people of limb loss. The picture to the right was taken for free by a vendor, and given free to each of the couples in the picture: L-R: Jim Yohn, CPV & Leader of AST’s Lancaster Chapter; Dick Nickle, AST President 7 CPV; Joanne Yohn; Barbara Nickle, CPV; Donald Guise, CPV; Linda Guise. NOTE: CPV = Certified Peer Visitor Hope to see you Thursday, July 26, bring a lawn chair, your family and friends.

