Reaching out to and empowering people affected by limb loss to achieve their full potential through education, support and advocacy, and to promote limb loss prevention
Letter From the Board Chair

Greetings–

The year 2015 was a great year for the Amputee Coalition. We followed our plan to grow our outreach and education programs and we also reacted strongly to an unexpected attack on access to medically appropriate care for people with limb loss and limb difference. I am proud of both aspects of our work — the ability to focus on our mission and the nimble response to a dramatic threat against the population we serve.

We saw increased numbers of people using our digital resources through our Web site, through social media, and via our Webinar education. At the same time, record-breaking attendance at our National Conference and our Paddy Rossbach Youth Camp showed an increasing demand for person-to-person contact.

Our National Conference in Tucson was a tremendous success. Community members from all across the country came together for three days of friendship, education and empowerment. Conference attendees included people of all ages and backgrounds, each with a unique story but a shared desire to connect with and to support other fellow amputees. Activities included comprehensive education, gait training, special interest meetings and — last, but not least — several social events, culminating in the Saturday night dinner and dance. It is not often that people with limb loss and limb difference are the majority, but at our events they are. We offer programs that are relevant, people that understand, and a mission that is focused on helping them live well with limb loss.

As a donor-funded nonprofit, none of this year’s efforts would have been possible without the financial support of our community, our sponsors, our partners and our incredible volunteers. Every gift was important, from the few dollars that helped ensure that someone facing limb loss got a copy of *First Step*, to our national sponsors’ substantial commitment to sustaining programs like our Peer Visitor training and mentoring.

In pursuit of our effort to ensure that no one has to struggle alone, the Amputee Coalition continues to build support and services for the 507 people who face limb loss every day, as well as the nearly 2 million living with limb loss and limb difference in the United States.

Please accept my thanks for your support, and my challenge to help meet the community’s needs in the coming year.

Dan Berschinski,
2015 Board Chair, Amputee Coalition
2015 Focus:
Expanding the Impact of Our Mission by Extending Our Reach

1. Strengthen the National Conference by increasing educational opportunities as well as providing more in-person options for interaction and support.

2. Bolster advocacy through partnerships, regular education and communication, and planned activities.

3. Continue to build resources through staff training and materials development to ensure that increasing service demands can be met without compromising quality.

National Limb Loss Resource Center

The National Limb Loss Resource Center (NLLRC) is the only national resource center dedicated to providing information and resources to people affected by limb loss. The certified staff provides information, resources and support opportunities through our toll-free call center and our online form. Our staff regularly provide answers to everything from practical questions like “How can I adapt my home so I can live safely?” to very personal questions like “How do I cope with body issues and sexuality?”

In 2015, the Amputee Coalition saw a dramatic 162 percent increase in the number of people served. In addition to expanded volume, the resource center staff completed certification for Information and Referral Specialists in Aging and Disabilities.

The individuals served gave the Coalition high marks for the materials and service they received. In fact, 92 percent stated that the materials had a positive or very positive impact on them, a direct reflection of the quality of the resources and information we provide and the strong focus on the organization’s mission and goals.

National Conference

With 872 registered attendees, the July 23-25 event in Tucson, Arizona offered highly regarded education sessions and clinics as well as the chance to network and provide support to the community. The record 70 sessions included Carol Miller and Karen Sullivan’s Gait Analysis Clinic, Kevin Carroll’s Bilateral Above-Knee Mobility Clinic, and Bob Gailey’s Walking and Mobility Enhancement Clinic and...
Running and High-Level Performance Clinic. The professionally vetted presentations included tracks tailored to living with your level of limb loss, roundtable discussions for a variety of groups, recreational opportunities, advancements in technology, and psychosocial, physical and emotional well-being.

In addition to the sessions, attendees highly value the chance to network and interact with others who share similar experiences, creating lifelong connections.

**Release of Your New Journey Materials**

A critical time for every person affected by limb loss is just before and after an amputation. The *Your New Journey* materials are evidence-based and designed to address questions and provide information and support at this tumultuous time. This folder is customizable, with additional materials and information to address each individual’s needs based on their specific level of limb loss, including pain management, recovery and adjustment, emotional and psychosocial needs, and much more.

**Limb Loss Education Days**

To create connections locally, the Amputee Coalition held three Limb Loss Education Days (LLEDs) in 2015, in Washington, D.C., Columbus, Ohio, and Portland, Oregon. These events were attended by 304 people who were able to experience educational presentations, adaptive sports, and activities. The LLED program also creates a valuable chance for social interaction for people affected by limb loss and limb difference. In addition, exhibitors are available at these events to share products and services relevant to the attendees.

In their opinion, nearly 90 percent of the attendees rated the information provided and learned as being “somewhat” or “very” useful.

**Advocacy**

2015 was filled with several insurance coverage challenges, including the Lower Limb Prosthetics Local Coverage Determination (LCD, DL 33787). From early assessment of the threat to rolling out a full advocacy and communication plan, the Coalition led the work to ensure the consumer voice was heard. With dramatic response, including more than 100,000 signatures gathered on a White House “We the People” petition, and more than 13,000 letters sent to members of Congress, the President and regulators, the proposed limits were halted. Thousands of people took time to speak out and support this issue. Additional federal and state advocacy work continued, including eliminating the “one limb per limb per lifetime” cap on the New York State benchmark plan for the 2016 plan year and continued support for research advancements in orthotics and prosthetics and for programs and resources that benefit the limb loss community.
Financials

Statement of Activities

Support and Other Revenue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Donations and Sponsorships</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants Receipts</td>
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<td>Publication Advertising</td>
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<td>Memberships</td>
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<td>National Conference</td>
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<td>Sales of Educational Material &amp; Other</td>
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<td><strong>Total Support and Other Revenue</strong></td>
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Expenses

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<td>Management &amp; General</td>
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<td>Fundraising</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
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Statement of Financial Position

Assets

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<th>Asset Category</th>
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<td>Cash &amp; Equivalents</td>
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<td>Investments</td>
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<td>Other Assets</td>
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<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
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Liabilities

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<td>Accounts Payable &amp; Accrued Liabilities</td>
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<td>Deferred Revenue</td>
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<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
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Net Assets

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<td>Temporarily Restricted Net Assets</td>
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<td><strong>1,579,132</strong></td>
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**Total Liabilities and Net Assets** | **1,961,719**
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- Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD)
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- HealthSouth
- Johns Hopkins University
- National Association for the Advancement of Orthotics & Prosthetics (NAAOP)
- National Health Council
- Orthotic and Prosthetic Activities Foundation (OPAF)
- Össur
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Minority Health
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~ Dan Berschinski