

September 29, 2014

RE: Letter of introduction of the Central Coast Amputee Peer Group

To: Whom it May Concern

My name is Jacinto "Hoss" Diego, and I am an amputee, a veteran, and the co-founder of the Central Coast Amputee Peer Group, based in Santa Maria, CA.

I became an amputee after 2 years, and 6 foot, and leg surgeries from 2012 until October of 2013 when I contracted osteomyelitis. My doctors recommended another amputation. We discussed options, and we decided that a below the knee amputation would provide me with the best options for prosthetics, and the return of mobility.

During my rehab at the West LA VA hospital I discovered a weekly meeting of amputees, and their caregivers which helped me immensely in dealing with the days, & weeks to come. It was a group that met for an hour each week where it's new members discussed issues & fears, and where the more experienced amputees shared information on the solutions they had discovered thru the VA, and on resources outside the VA as well. There was also the sharing of successful new directions fellow amputees had discovered for their new lives, and the hope they gave each of us.

However upon my pending release back home I discovered that there was nothing of its type available here in Santa Maria, or the surrounding area. I also contacted the Coalition of Amputees, and found that they had no one available for myself, and other amputees like me.

It was through these events that the Central Coast Amputee Peer Group was formed.

We are a support group that invites fellow amputees, and their caregivers to meet once a month, where we discuss our particular issues, solutions, and resources available that we, and those like us can share for our mutual benefit.

We are a support group for amputees and their caregivers to prevent the sense of isolation that many can feel without a network of support through meetings, emails, and phone contact.

Since we are a new organization I am sending this letter to you in the hopes that you will make information about our group available to your patients, or any other amputee that you may know, and have them contact us for more information.

Meetings are currently once per month, on the 3rd Saturday of every month.

Our next meeting is on Saturday, 7/19/14, from 11:00 – 12:30 p.m.

Location: Rabobank Community Room
1110 E. Clark Ave.
Santa Maria, CA

Business cards like the ones I've enclosed with this letter can be mailed or delivered to you if you are interested in assisting us in getting our information out to fellow amputees and their caregivers.

We would also like to extend a personal invitation to you, and members of your staff to attend any future meetings should you be interested in finding out more about us. You can contact me with questions you may have at our landline 805-937-4432, or on my cell at 805-266-5036. We also be contacted by email at **ccpeergroup@yahoo.com**

Thank you for your time. I look forward to hearing from you in the near future. Together I believe we can make a difference.

Sincerely,

Jacinto "Hoss" Diego, & Lisa Cassaro, Co-Founders
Central Coast Amputee Peer Group
Hoss – 805-266-5036
Lisa – 805-937-4432
Email: ccpeergroup@yahoo.com

Future meeting Schedule for 2014:

Saturday 7/19/2014, 11:00 – 12:30 p.m.

Saturday 8/16/2014, 11:00 – 12:30 p.m.

Saturday 9/20/2014, 11:00 – 12:30 p.m.

Saturday 10/18/2014, 11:00 – 12:30 p.m.

Saturday 11/15/2014, 11:00 – 12:30 p.m.

Saturday 12/20/2014, 11:00 – 12:30 p.m.