FALL 2026

inMotion

LIVING WELL WITH LIMB LOSS AND LIMB DIFFERENCE



LAS VEGAS HERE WE COME!

MARCH 15-17, 2027 | WESTGATE LAS VEGAS RESORT & CASINO

amputee coalition™

Amputee-Coalition.org

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NATIONAL LIMB LOSS RESOURCE CENTER®

Where can you go when you have questions about limb loss or limb difference? Here at the National Limb Loss Resource Center®, we provide comprehensive information and resources free of charge. Information is developed and reviewed by the Resource Development team and the Scientific and Medical Advisory Committee (SciMAC) who are experts in the field of limb loss and limb difference. This ensures accuracy of the information being provided.

Connect with a resource center specialist to request materials or discuss your needs with a Healthcare Navigator. Our knowledgeable team is the place to turn to when you have questions about your journey in limb loss and limb difference. You can reach them by calling toll-free 888/267-5669 or by completing our secure online intake form at **Amputee-coalition.org/service/find-support-services**

Call Toll-Free 888/267-5669, Ext. 1 to speak with an information specialist 8 AM - 5 PM Eastern, Monday-Friday.

GET OUT THERE

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40 YEARS IN. WE'RE JUST GETTING STARTED.

A MESSAGE FROM DR. CARMEN ELLIOTT



Forty years. Think about how many lives, conversations, friendships, and possibilities fit into those two words.

We've come a long way together. And if there's one thing I've learned, it's that the Amputee Coalition has never been defined by what we've accomplished. It's defined by the people who keep moving us forward.

The parent who finds answers. The young person who discovers a new friendship at camp. The volunteer who picks up the phone. The advocate who refuses to accept that access to care should depend on where someone lives.

That's what 40 years looks like to me.

And as proud as I am of where we've been, I'm even more excited about where we're going. We're expanding connections, strengthening resources, bringing education into communities, supporting the next generation, and continuing to advocate for the care and opportunities people deserve.

BUT HERE'S THE THING: WE CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU. AND WE WOULDN'T WANT TO.

Whether you've been with us for 40 years or discovered us 40 days ago, there's a place for you in this next chapter.

Make a gift. Bring your company on board. Start a fundraiser. Become a monthly supporter. Share your story. Help someone discover a resource they didn't know existed.

Big gestures. Small gestures. They all have a place here.

Because when we give our time, our voices, our resources, or our support, we're doing more than helping an organization.

WE'RE MAKING SURE SOMEONE ELSE GETS THEIR MOMENT.

Here's to the next 40 years, and to everything we'll make possible together.

YOUR MOVE.

LET'S MAKE 2027 COUNT.

Give a Little. Give Monthly. Give Together. Give Differently.

WAYS TO GIVE

THE DIFFERENCE YOU CAN MAKE

The $40 Challenge

Celebrate 40 years with a $40 gift. Invite four friends to do the same.

Make It Monthly

Help keep resources, education, and connections available all year.

Give in Someone's Honor

Celebrate a person, milestone, or memory that matters.

Bring Your People

Start a workplace challenge, community fundraiser, or matching-gift campaign.

Partner With Purpose

Support programs, youth opportunities, events, education, or advocacy initiatives.

Give Your Voice

Volunteer, mentor, share your story, or introduce someone to AC.

Imagine What We Can Do Together.

More young people discovering friendships at Youth Camp.

More individuals connecting with someone who understands through Peer Support.

More families finding answers through the National Limb Loss Resource Center®.

More opportunities to learn and connect through Mobility and Education Days, AC Connect, and National Conference.

More voices advancing access to care through advocacy and So Every BODY Can Move.

It's not about doing one big thing. It's about what we can do together, one person, one connection, and one opportunity at a time.

Be Part of What's Next.

DONATE. PARTNER. VOLUNTEER. SHARE

SUPPORT THE AMPUTEE COALITION

Paypal.com/donate?campaign_id=LZH2ZHGKCG93J

40 YEARS BEHIND US. SO MUCH MORE AHEAD.

HOLIDAY HEALTH & WELLNESS

FINDING BALANCE, CONNECTION, AND PEACE OF MIND

The holidays bring opportunities to celebrate, reconnect, and enjoy familiar traditions. They can also bring added stress, complicated emotions, and expectations that are difficult to manage. For people who have limb loss or limb difference, busy schedules, social gatherings, and changes in routine may present additional challenges. Whether you love the holidays or find this time of year difficult, taking care of your mental health deserves a place on your holiday to-do list.

Acknowledge how you feel

Not everyone experiences the holidays the same way. Grief, loneliness, anxiety, or frustration may surface alongside moments of happiness. Changes in mobility, relationships, or family traditions can make the season feel different from how it once did. Rather than putting pressure on yourself to feel festive, recognize what you are experiencing. It is okay to enjoy some moments and struggle with others.

Find support from people who understand

There is something valuable about talking with someone who has shared similar experiences. Support groups offer opportunities to share experiences, ask questions, learn from others, and form friendships without having to explain every part of your journey. The Amputee Coalition helps connect people who have limb loss or limb difference with local and virtual support groups and peer support opportunities. Whether you are newly adjusting to limb loss or have years of experience, these connections can offer practical advice and a welcome sense of understanding.

Take the pressure off holiday plans

Between shopping, traveling, family gatherings, and seasonal activities, it is easy to become overwhelmed. Consider which traditions are most meaningful and where you can simplify. You might host a smaller gathering, ask someone to share responsibilities, or choose an accessible location that makes participation more comfortable. Saying no to an invitation or changing plans does not mean you are missing the holidays. It means you are making choices that work for you.

Keep your wellness routine in place

Holiday disruptions can affect sleep, energy, and overall well-being. Make time for movement that feels comfortable, regular meals, and enough rest. If you wear a prosthesis, long days on your feet, travel, or changes in activity may require extra attention to fit and skin care. Even brief breaks can help you recharge. Maintaining a few familiar routines can provide stability when everything else feels busy.

Recognize when you need extra help

Occasional holiday stress is common, but persistent sadness, anxiety, withdrawal, or changes in sleep and appetite deserve attention. If these feelings begin affecting your daily life, consider reaching out to a mental health professional. Support groups and peer connections can provide encouragement and understanding, but they are not substitutes for professional care when it is needed. Taking your emotional health seriously is just as important as caring for your physical health.

Create moments that matter

Sometimes the most memorable parts of the season are the simplest. A phone call, shared meal, favorite holiday movie, or new tradition can be more meaningful than a packed calendar. Consider checking in on someone who may be spending the holidays alone or inviting a friend to join an activity. Small gestures can strengthen relationships and make the season brighter for everyone involved.

Carry connection into the new year

As the holidays wind down, consider what helped you feel your best and what you would like to continue. Maybe it is attending a monthly support group, reconnecting with an old friend, or making more time for yourself. The new year does not require a dramatic resolution. Sometimes the most positive changes begin with one small commitment to your well-being.

You don't have to navigate it alone

The Amputee Coalition offers peer support and connections to support groups throughout the year. Explore opportunities to connect, share experiences, and find support at amputee-coalition.org.

RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT:

HELP ADVANCE RESEARCH FROM HOME

EXPLORING NEW APPROACHES TO PHANTOM LIMB PAIN

Could participating in a research study help shape future treatments for phantom limb pain?
Harvard Medical School and Spaulding Rehabilitation are recruiting participants for a home-based study exploring a potential new approach to managing phantom limb pain.

The study combines **non-invasive brain stimulation (tDCS) with sensory training** to examine whether these techniques may help reduce phantom limb pain in people who have experienced an amputation.

SCAN



HERE

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

You may qualify if you are 18 or older, have experienced a limb amputation, and currently experience phantom limb pain.

WHAT TO EXPECT

Participation takes place from home and includes up to 23 online sessions over approximately 13 weeks. Eligible participants may receive up to **$345 in compensation** for completing study activities.

INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING?

Learn more about the study and eligibility at **rally.massgeneralbrigham.org/study/phantomlimbpain_**, call **617-952-6158**, or email **epichardo@mgb.org**.

MORE WAYS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

From prosthetic technology and rehabilitation to adaptive sports, access to care, and quality of life, researchers are exploring questions that matter to people who have limb loss or limb difference.

Whether you have a few minutes to complete a survey or are interested in a clinical study, your experiences can help researchers better understand the community's needs.

EXPLORE MORE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

Find additional studies, surveys, and opportunities to participate at **Amputee-Coalition.org/volunteer-research-opportunities**. New opportunities are added as they become available.

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MEET JOE HUANG-RACALTO

FROM CAPITOL HILL TO THE AMPUTEE COALITION: GETTING TO KNOW OUR NEW DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC POLICY



With more than three decades of experience in Congress and nonprofit advocacy, Joe Huang-Racalto knows a thing or two about public policy, perseverance, and the importance of building relationships.

After spending more than 20 years on Capitol Hill, including serving as Chief of Staff, Senior Policy Adviser, and Legislative Director, Joe has dedicated much of his career to health care, disability policy, and public service.

Now, he's bringing that experience to the Amputee Coalition as our new Director of Public Policy. We sat down with Joe to learn more about his journey, the lessons he's learned throughout his career, and what excites him about this next chapter.

Q: YOU'VE HAD QUITE A CAREER, INCLUDING MORE THAN TWO DECADES ON CAPITOL HILL! HOW DID YOU FIRST FIND YOUR WAY INTO PUBLIC POLICY?

Joe: I've always believed that public service is about making a difference in people's everyday lives. Over the years, I've had the opportunity to work on a wide range of issues, from health care and disability policy to federal funding and legislation. What kept me engaged was knowing that the decisions being made in Washington have real consequences for individuals and families across the country. It's challenging work, but it's also incredibly rewarding when you see those efforts lead to meaningful change.

Q: LOOKING BACK ON YOUR CAREER, IS THERE A PARTICULAR EXPERIENCE OR ACCOMPLISHMENT THAT STANDS OUT?

Joe: It's difficult to narrow it down to just one. I've been fortunate to work alongside some remarkable people throughout my career. The experiences that have meant the most to me are those where we were able to take a complicated issue, bring the right people together, and work toward a solution. Whether it involved protecting access to health care, supporting people with disabilities, or securing resources for important programs, knowing that the work could improve someone's quality of life made the long hours worthwhile.

Q: AFTER MORE THAN 20 YEARS IN CONGRESS, WHAT'S SOMETHING ABOUT WASHINGTON THAT MIGHT SURPRISE PEOPLE?

Joe: I think people might be surprised by how much of the work happens outside the spotlight. There's a tremendous amount of research, relationship-building, negotiation, and persistence involved in moving an issue forward. Success rarely happens overnight, and it almost never happens because of one person. Some of the most important progress comes from people who are willing to listen, find common ground, and keep working even when the path forward isn't easy.

Q: DISABILITY ADVOCACY HAS BEEN A CONSISTENT PART OF YOUR CAREER. WHAT HAS KEPT YOU CONNECTED TO THIS WORK?

Joe: For me, it's always come back to independence, opportunity, and dignity. Throughout my career, I've worked on issues affecting people with disabilities, older adults, and individuals living with chronic health conditions. Access to quality health care, employment opportunities, and the resources people need to live independently shouldn't be overlooked. I believe good public policy starts with understanding the challenges people face and recognizing that thoughtful decisions can have a lasting impact.

Q: WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO THE AMPUTEE COALITION, AND WHAT ARE YOU MOST EXCITED ABOUT IN THIS NEW ROLE?

Joe: What attracted me was the opportunity to bring my experience to an organization doing important work for people who have limb loss or limb difference. There are significant policy issues surrounding access to prosthetic care, rehabilitation, health care coverage, and opportunities to live active, independent lives. I'm looking forward to learning from the team, understanding the organization's priorities, building relationships, and helping strengthen our public policy efforts. There's a real opportunity to build on the work already underway.

Q: YOU'VE WORKED WITH PEOPLE FROM MANY DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS AND PERSPECTIVES. WHAT'S ONE IMPORTANT LESSON YOU'VE LEARNED?

Joe: Never underestimate the value of listening. You can have years of experience and know the legislative process inside and out, but there's always something to learn from someone else's perspective. Strong relationships are built on trust, respect, and follow-through. I've also learned that patience and persistence matter. Sometimes progress happens in small steps, but those steps can lead to something much bigger.

Q: OUTSIDE OF YOUR PROFESSIONAL LIFE, YOU'VE ALSO VOLUNTEERED AS AN ENDURANCE TRAINER WITH SPECIAL OLYMPICS. WHAT DID THAT EXPERIENCE MEAN TO YOU?

Joe: Working with Special Olympics gave me another opportunity to be involved in something I've cared about throughout my career: helping people have opportunities to participate, challenge themselves, and pursue their goals. Experiences like that are a reminder that supporting people isn't just about legislation and programs. It's also about showing up, encouraging others, and recognizing what people can accomplish when they have opportunities and support.

Q: FINALLY, WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU SHARE WITH SOMEONE INTERESTED IN MAKING A DIFFERENCE?

Joe: Find something you believe in, be willing to learn, and don't give up when things get difficult. You don't have to have all the answers or know exactly where your career will take you. Some of the most valuable opportunities come from being curious, building relationships, and being willing to take on a new challenge. And remember, you don't have to be the loudest person in the room to make an impact. Sometimes the most important thing you can do is listen.

WELCOME TO THE TEAM, JOE!

From the halls of Congress to his newest chapter at the Amputee Coalition, Joe brings a wealth of experience, a thoughtful approach to public service, and an understanding that meaningful progress takes people working together.

We're excited to see what comes next. Welcome aboard, Joe!

THE MAGIC OF YOUTH CAMP: FROM CAMPER TO COUNSELOR



There's something about Youth Camp that stays with you long after the week ends. It's in the friendships, the laughter, the campfires, and the moments when campers try something new and realize just how much they're capable of.

Youth Camp 2026 brought campers and counselors together for a week of adventure, connection, and fun. But some of the best reflections come from the people who experienced it first as campers and returned to help create that same sense of belonging for the next generation.

Counselors Aimee Dragas and Shane Egan share what brought them back and what makes Youth Camp so meaningful.



AIMEE DRAGAS: WATCHING THE NEXT GENERATION GROW

"Coming back to camp this year felt exciting in a way that is hard to explain unless you've experienced it. I was sixteen years old the first time I came to camp. I spent one year as a camper, one year as a junior counselor, and then became a counselor at eighteen. Since 2014, I've only missed two years.

"One of my favorite parts of being a long-term counselor is getting to watch people grow. I've had the privilege of watching some of these campers grow into junior counselors and now into counselors alongside me. Seeing them come full circle reminded me how special this community is. "There is something sacred about being in a space where you feel understood and heard by your peers. We may not live near one another throughout the year, but when we come back to camp, we know we can rely on each other. "When I left camp this year, I felt like my cup had been refilled. Camp gives me a feeling of love and community that I carry with me throughout the year. I'm grateful that I've gotten to experience this place as a camper, a junior counselor, and now a counselor—and even more grateful that I get to watch the next generation grow into the people who will carry this community forward."

SHANE EGAN: FINDING THE "CAMP MAGIC" AGAIN

"Coming back to camp this year was truly cathartic for me. Seven years since my last experience as a camper, and I did not realize until I stepped onto the campgrounds that my heart felt almost indescribably full for the first time in seven years. The opportunity I had to give the campers that same haven I experienced, that same sense of belonging, the same genuine peace of mind, was a great privilege to be a part of.

"Trying to pick out only one example of the 'camp magic' we experienced at camp seems daunting. It is a surprising wholeness of self and true knowing that while you are far from where you live, you're home in a way that cannot be felt anywhere else. Every camper (and counselor) can be 100% authentically themselves the entire time.

"I felt it as a counselor more deeply in the small moments. After the chaos of the day and we all returned to our cabins for bed, my campers told stories about their experiences with limb loss/ limb difference. And this is where I felt that 'camp magic' the most, because I witnessed how every camper in my cabin quietly listened, encouraged, and empowered one another.

"Being a mentor to the campers this year meant the world to me. Having the ability to make the same impact on campers' lives that my counselors had on mine is a gift I can never repay to the Amputee Coalition."

THE MAGIC THAT LASTS

For Aimee and Shane, Youth Camp has come full circle. The belonging and support they experienced as campers are now something they get to help create for the next generation. Youth Camp may last only a week, but the confidence, friendships, and community built there continue long after everyone heads home.



ACNC27: LAS VEGAS, HERE WE COME!



FIRESIDE CONNECTIONS: WHERE EVERY STORY FINDS ITS LIGHT

MARCH 15–17, 2027 | WESTGATE LAS VEGAS RESORT & CASINO

The countdown to ACNC27 is officially on, and this year's conference is taking shape with an exciting lineup of speakers, experiences, and opportunities to connect!

The Amputee Coalition National Conference returns to Las Vegas for three days of learning, conversations, hands-on experiences, and time together with people from across the limb loss and limb difference community.

This year's Main Stage will feature National Geographic Explorer Albert Lin, whose work spans lost civilizations, cutting-edge technology, and phantom limb pain research, along with Dr. Chantrise Sims Holliman, an author, educator, and disability advocate who brings a bold perspective on living life without apology.

Musician Tony Memmel will also join us for a special performance during Monday's Exhibit Hall Opening Event, bringing his remarkable guitar playing and original music to the conference.

And there's much more happening beyond the Main Stage!

Attendees can take part in educational sessions, interactive clinics, roundtable discussions, and opportunities to explore new resources and technologies in the Exhibit Hall. We're introducing a Book Fair and Micro-Enterprise Spotlight, creating additional ways to discover stories, products, and businesses connected to the community.

Of course, the conference wouldn't be complete without a celebration! Tuesday night, we're bringing a little country to Las Vegas with our **Campfire & Country Dance Party,** featuring the Orange Carpet, music, dancing, and s'mores.



Whether you're returning to reconnect with familiar faces or attending for the first time, ACNC27 offers three days to explore what's new, exchange experiences, and make connections that continue long after the conference ends.

Registration is open. It's time to start planning your Las Vegas experience!

ON THE ACNC27 MAIN STAGE

MEET THIS YEAR'S FEATURED GUESTS

From exploring ancient civilizations to advancing research, challenging perspectives, and creating music, our featured guests bring remarkable experiences to ACNC27. Get to know the people behind some of this year's most anticipated conference moments.

DR. CHANTRISE SIMS HOLLIMAN, EDD

MONDAY, MARCH 15 | OPENING KEYNOTE
10:15–11:45 AM | MAIN STAGE PROGRAM



Living Life Without Apology

Dr. Chantrise Sims Holliman is a speaker, author, educator, and disability advocate who has spent her career helping people think differently about disability, personal experiences, and the possibilities of building a fulfilling life.

A bilateral lower limb amputee and full-time wheelchair user, Dr. Holliman brings both personal experience and more than 15 years in education to her work. She holds a Doctor of Education in School Improvement, a Master of Divinity, and a Master of Education.

As founder and CEO of Disturb the Universe, LLC, she works with audiences on resilience, adaptive leadership, disability awareness, and what it means to keep building a life through changing circumstances. Her books, **Shoes Without Feet** and **Noah Had an Ark.** You Need A RAFT, share lessons and perspectives drawn from her experiences.

For Dr. Holliman, disability is not something to overcome or apologize for. Her story is one of building a meaningful, accomplished life alongside disability, while encouraging others to define their experiences and expectations for themselves.

Her opening keynote will bring that perspective to the ACNC27 Main Stage as we begin three days of conversations, learning, and connection.



ALBERT LIN, PHD



TUESDAY, MARCH 16 | FEATURED KEYNOTE

Exploring the World, the Human Brain, and Our Shared History

National Geographic Explorer, engineer, and storyteller Albert Lin has built his career around one fascinating question: What does it mean to be human?

His search for answers has taken him into remote jungles, deserts, and ancient archaeological sites around the world. Using technology including satellite imagery, lidar, and virtual reality, Albert has helped uncover lost cities and reveal parts of human history once hidden from view.

Audiences may recognize him from National Geographic programs including **Lost Cities with Albert Lin, Lost Treasures of the Maya, and Welcome to Earth.**

In 2016, Albert lost his right leg below the knee. The phantom limb pain that followed led him toward an entirely different area of exploration: the human brain.

Today, he serves as Director of Exploration at the Center for Psychedelic Research at UC San Diego, where he is involved in a clinical trial investigating psilocybin as a potential treatment for phantom limb pain.
His work also connects his personal experiences with ancient history. Albert is preparing an expedition to Borneo to document Tebo1, a 31,000-year-old skeleton showing evidence of a successful below-the-knee amputation—an extraordinary discovery that raises questions about early medical care and human compassion.

Albert's story brings together exploration, science, technology, limb loss, and the connections that have shaped the human experience for thousands of years.



TONY MEMMEL



MONDAY, MARCH 15 | SPECIAL MUSICAL GUEST
4:30–7:30 PM | EXHIBIT HALL OPENING EVENT

A Guitar. A Little Duct Tape. A Whole Lot of Music.

Born with one hand, Tony Memmel wanted to play guitar. So he found his own way to do it.

Using a one-of-a-kind adaptive cast he developed from duct tape, Tony taught himself to play guitar professionally and went on to build an international career as a singer-songwriter, musician, and speaker.

His music and performances have taken him to 47 states and 28 countries, with virtual appearances reaching audiences in another 16 countries. Along the way, he has performed for audiences ranging from schools and children's hospitals to major corporations and international organizations.

Originally from Waukesha, Wisconsin, Tony now lives in Nashville, Tennessee, with his wife and two sons.

At ACNC27, Tony will take the stage during Monday's Exhibit Hall Opening Event, bringing live music to an evening of food, exhibits, and conversation.

JOIN US FOR THE CAMP COOKOUT AND TONY MEMMEL'S SPECIAL PERFORMANCE!



13 inMotion

YOUR ACNC27 EXPERIENCE

THREE DAYS TO LEARN, EXPLORE, AND CONNECT

From early-morning clinics and lively roundtables to Main Stage presentations and evening celebrations, ACNC27 offers a full schedule of opportunities to make the conference your own.

Here's a look at what's ahead.

SUNDAY, MARCH 14 | GET SETTLED

Arriving early? Take advantage of pre-conference activities and get ready for the days ahead.

- **9 AM–5 PM** | Certified Peer Visitor Training (invitation only)
- **5–9 PM** | Conference Registration
- **6–7:30 PM** | Volunteer Appreciation Reception (invitation only)
- **8–9 PM** | First-Timer Welcome & Orientation

FIRST TIME AT ACNC? Don't miss Sunday's welcome and orientation. Meet other first-time attendees, get familiar with the conference, and start making connections before Monday's opening program.

MONDAY, MARCH 15 | LET'S GET STARTED!

- **8:30–10 AM** | Roundtable Discussions
- **10:15–11:45 AM** | Main Stage Opening Program featuring Dr. Chantrise Holliman
- **NOON–1:15 PM** | Exhibit Hall Ribbon Cutting & Buffet Lunch
- **1:15–3:45 PM** | Educational Sessions & Interactive Clinics, with a break between sessions
- **4:30–7:30 PM** | Exhibit Hall Opening Event & Camp Cookout, featuring special musical guest Tony Memmel

MONDAY HIGHLIGHT: Explore the Exhibit Hall, discover resources and technologies, meet exhibitors, and enjoy live music during the evening Camp Cookout.

TUESDAY, MARCH 16 | KEEP EXPLORING!

- **6–8 AM** | Morning Clinics
- **7 AM–4 PM** | Exhibit Hall Open
- **8:30–10 AM** | Roundtable Discussions
- **11 AM–12:30 PM** | Main Stage Program & Plated Lunch
- **2–4:30 PM** | Educational Sessions & Interactive Clinics, with a break between sessions
- **5–6 PM** | Guided Reflections
- **7–7:30 PM** | Orange Carpet
- **7:30–10 PM** | Campfire & Country Dance Party

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHT: Hear featured keynote speaker Albert Lin, explore new ideas throughout the day, and enjoy the Campfire & Country celebration that evening.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17 | ONE MORE DAY TO DISCOVER

- **6–8 AM** | Morning Clinics
- **8:30–10 AM** | Roundtable Discussions
- **10:30–11:30 AM** | Educational Sessions
- **NOON–2 PM** | Final Main Stage Program, Closing Keynote & Plated Lunch

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHT: Wrap up your conference experience with more learning, final conversations, and an opportunity to carry new resources and connections home.

NEW EXPERIENCES FOR ACNC27!

THE BOOK FAIR

Find Your Next Great Read

Explore books, discover new perspectives, and connect with the authors and stories that make our community unique.

MICRO-ENTERPRISE SPOTLIGHT

Small Businesses. Big Ideas.

Discover the products, creativity, and entrepreneurial work of members of our community.

CAMPFIRE & COUNTRY!

TUESDAY, MARCH 16 | 7–10 PM

Get ready for a country-inspired celebration with music, dancing, s'mores, and time with friends. Dress country, dress casual, or bring your own twist!

ORANGE CARPET: 7 PM
DANCE PARTY: 7:30–10 PM

CERTIFIED PEER VISITOR PROGRAM

YOU'VE LIVED IT. YOU GET IT. NOW SHARE IT.

CPV TRAINING RETURNS TO ACNC27!

There's something powerful about connecting with someone who understands because they've lived it, too.

The Amputee Coalition's Certified Peer Visitor (CPV) Program prepares volunteers who have limb loss or limb difference to share their experience, listen, and provide meaningful one-on-one peer support.

SUNDAY, MARCH 14, 2027 | 9 AM - 5 PM

Westgate Las Vegas Resort & Casino

Training is by invitation only, and advance confirmation is required. Breakfast and lunch are provided.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CPV?

Learn about eligibility, training opportunities, and how to get involved.



Acsupport.amputee-coalition.org/acton/media/46977/cpv-training

15 inMotion

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!

YOUR GUIDE TO ACNC27 REGISTRATION, TRAVEL & IMPORTANT DATES

Las Vegas is calling! Before you pack your bags, here's what you need to know about registration, scholarships, accommodations, and planning your conference experience.

SAVE THESE IMPORTANT DATES!

OCTOBER 2026

Conference registration and scholarship applications open.

DECEMBER 6, 2026

Scholarship application deadline.

DECEMBER 18, 2026

Scholarship award notifications.

JANUARY 4, 2027

Last day for Early Bird registration pricing.

JANUARY 5, 2027

Deadline to accept a scholarship award.

MARCH 14, 2027

Pre-conference activities, registration check-in, and First-Timer Orientation.

MARCH 15–17, 2027

ACNC27 at the Westgate Las Vegas Resort & Casino.

REGISTER EARLY & SAVE!

PEOPLE LIVING WITH LIMB LOSS OR LIMB DIFFERENCE

Early Bird: $299
Regular Registration: $399

FAMILY MEMBERS & CARE PARTNERS

Early Bird: $199
Regular Registration: $299

Early Bird pricing ends January 4, 2027.

Conference registration includes access to educational sessions, clinics, roundtables, Main Stage programs, official conference meals, and special events.

SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE!

We know travel and registration expenses can make attending conference challenging. The Amputee Coalition offers two scholarship opportunities to help eligible community members attend ACNC27.

REGISTRATION SCHOLARSHIP

Covers the full cost of registration, including educational sessions, interactive clinics, roundtables, official conference meals, and special events. Recipients are responsible for their own travel, hotel accommodations, and meals not included in the conference program.

FULL SUPPORT SCHOLARSHIP

Includes full conference registration, three nights of lodging at the Westgate Las Vegas Resort & Casino, airfare, and ground transportation. Scholarship funding is limited. Applicants must reside in the United States or a U.S. territory.

Application deadline: December 6, 2026

PLAN YOUR TRAVEL

ACNC27 returns to the Westgate Las Vegas Resort & Casino, the official conference hotel. Staying at the conference hotel keeps you close to sessions, activities, and opportunities to connect.

Visit the conference website for official room-block details and reservation information.

ACCESSIBLE ACCOMMODATIONS

If you require an accessible guest room, review the hotel reservation instructions carefully and identify your accessibility needs when booking. The Amputee Coalition is working with the Westgate to improve the accessible room reservation process and conference experience.

MOBILITY EQUIPMENT & TRANSPORTATION

If you will need mobility equipment or transportation assistance, review the latest conference information before finalizing your travel arrangements. Details about available options will be shared through official conference communications.

ARRIVING EARLY?

Sunday, March 14, includes pre-conference activities and evening registration. First-time attendees are encouraged to attend the 8 PM orientation.

WHAT ABOUT MEALS?

Several meals are included with registration, including scheduled breakfasts, lunches, and Monday evening's Exhibit Hall Camp Cookout. Tuesday and Wednesday dinners are not included, so plan accordingly.

TRAVELING INTERNATIONALLY?

International attendees are welcome. Travelers are responsible for obtaining any required passports, visas, and travel documents. The Amputee Coalition cannot provide visa invitation letters or assistance with travel documentation.

READY TO JOIN US IN LAS VEGAS?

From the Main Stage and Exhibit Hall to hands-on clinics, new experiences, and the Campfire & Country dance floor, there's plenty to look forward to at ACNC27.

REGISTER FOR ACNC27, BOOK YOUR HOTEL & EXPLORE SCHOLARSHIPS

Web.cvent.com/event/43e093d5-4c8b-4f03-9f56-77bee9d6fe1c/websitePage:cf593ef0-d788-4686-9cf4-bde9435cf572



MARCH 15–17, 2027 | LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

ACNC27: Fireside Connections — Where Every Story Finds Its Light

Questions?

Contact events@amputee-coalition.org.

REFLECTING ON SUPPORT AT AN ACNC ROUNDTABLE

Written by: Sydney Marshburn



The room was quiet in the way conference rooms always are before a roundtable session begins; suspenseful silence with a hint of nervous laughter. I was surrounded by people with completely different stories and different experiences; yet there was an immediate understanding that didn't need much explanation.

I remember looking around the circle for a moment before we officially began; how unifying it was that so many of us had arrived here through pain and survival. That's where the similarities ended. Some people were newly navigating limb loss. Others had decades of lived experience behind them. Some spoke confidently while others seemed unsure if they even belonged in the conversation yet.

But they did. We all did. As the discussion unfolded, people shared things that are rarely said out loud outside of spaces like this. The exhaustion of rebuilding your life after medical trauma. The frustration of inaccessible systems. The loneliness that can creep in even when you are surrounded by people who care about you.

The strange grief of missing a body part while simultaneously learning how to love the body you still have. With members of the roundtable starting to speak with more confidence, the relatability aspect of our experiences started piling up. The mood of the room shifted from shyness to gratitude for being together. We realized that even though none of us have the same story, there is common ground to be gained.



And underneath all of it was one overarching theme: support. Not the performative kind. Not the shallow “you’re so inspiring” comments people in our community often are told by non-members. Genuine support. Support can look clinical, emotional, financial, community-based, peer-to-peer, or often a mixture of them. Sometimes it is



highly structured, like support groups, conference roundtables, or organizations dedicated to people who have limb loss and limb difference. Other times it is personal and quiet, existing in the people who simply refuse to let us disappear into isolation.

For me, support has often been the bridge between surviving and actually living life to the fullest. There were moments after my amputation where my world became incredibly small. Pain narrowed everything. The future felt impossible to picture because I could barely get through the next hour. But piece by piece, support slowly widened my world again. An ICU nurse (now friend) encouraging me during one of my hardest hospital days. Another community member showing me what was possible without pretending it would be easy. Family and friends who sat beside me during the anger and grief instead of trying to rush me through it.

None of those moments “fixed” me. But together, they reminded me I was never carrying any burden alone. That is what I kept reflecting on as I sat at that roundtable. There was something grounding about realizing that every person in that room had likely once wondered if they would ever feel okay again. And yet there we all were. Talking. Laughing. Advising one another. Existing beyond survival mode.

By the end of the session, the room felt softer. Less like a conference room and more like a temporary home built out of shared understanding. We started the session as strangers and concluded it as friends. As people began gathering their belongings and exchanging goodbye hugs, I took a moment to look around the circle again. The steady reassurance that I will be okay no matter what challenges come next washed over me. Overcome with emotion, I realized this was because support exists. Because this community exists. And sometimes, sitting around a roundtable session with people who simply understand is enough to remind you of that.

THROUGH THE EYES OF A LOVED ONE

Written by:
Sydney Marshburn

There is something truly unique about experiencing the Amputee Coalition National Conference (ACNC26) through the eyes of someone you love. For many people who attend ACNC, the conference represents connection and community. But for caregivers and loved ones, it can also represent validation.

As someone living with limb loss, I have always understood what conference meant to me, personally. It is a place where people do not have to explain themselves before being understood. A place where mobility aids, prosthetic devices, scars, and complicated emotions are normalized rather than questioned. A place where conversations about identity, grief, and tenacity exist openly instead of in whispers. What I had not fully appreciated until recently was what ACNC can mean for the people standing beside us.

My partner is not a member of the limb loss community in the traditional sense. He did not arrive at ACNC because of his own medical journey. He came because he loves someone who has one. I believe that perspective matters more than we often acknowledge.

Caregivers and loved ones frequently become experts in a world they never expected to enter. They learn medical terminology overnight. They help manage appointments, insurance frustrations, transportation logistics, wound care, prosthetic technology issues, and recovery setbacks. They become witnesses to pain most people on the outside never see. But alongside the practical responsibilities, there is also an emotional role they quietly carry. They absorb fear while trying to remain steady. They grieve alongside us while attempting to stay hopeful. They adjust their own lives while supporting someone else through enormous change. Often, they do all of this without spaces that truly acknowledge their experiences.



Watching my partner experience conference reminded me how important it is for loved ones to witness community firsthand. At home, limb loss can become woven into routine. It exists in the background of daily life through charging prosthetic devices, navigating the outside world, or changing the course of plans instantaneously around pain and fatigue. Over time, those realities become normal within a relationship.

But ACNC offers context beyond the walls of home. At conference, my partner observed hundreds of people

navigating similar realities to myself in completely different ways. He saw spouses helping each other through exhibit halls, and caregivers sitting quietly in educational sessions, taking notes because they wanted to better understand how to support the person they love. He participated in conversations with other caregivers who had likely never spoken to someone who truly understood their role before. Discussions throughout the week included the topics of burnout, fear, advocacy efforts, and guilt, all rooted in love for their community members. ACNC was a place for honest conversations about how difficult it can be to support someone through trauma while also navigating their own emotional response to it.

There is a particular kind of isolation that can happen to loved ones after limb loss or major medical trauma. Much of the attention understandably centers on the individual directly experiencing the medical event. But caregivers experience a life change too. Their world shifts alongside ours. ACNC creates space for that reality to exist openly in a way that acknowledges support systems as an essential part of rehabilitation and long-term well-being.

Recovery rarely happens in isolation. Behind many people navigating limb loss is someone helping hold life together in ways both visible and invisible. One of the most meaningful things I witnessed through my partner's experience at ACNC was when he realized that he belonged in the space, too. He does not share my lived experience directly, but through conference, he learned that support belongs here. Loved ones belong here. Their stories matter, too. Perhaps one of the most powerful things ACNC offers is the reminder that nobody has to navigate this life alone. Not the person with limb loss/limb difference, not the loved one, and certainly not the caregiver quietly trying to stay strong in the background. The limb loss and limb difference community has room for everyone.



SO EVERY BODY CAN MOVE



THE ROAD TO 28X28

SO EVERY BODY CAN MOVE: REAL STORIES. REAL PROGRESS. A MOVEMENT GAINING GROUND.

Across the country, advocates are working to change how insurance covers prosthetic and orthotic care for physical activity. From legislative efforts to community events and a powerful new documentary, So Every BODY Can Move is turning lived experiences into action.

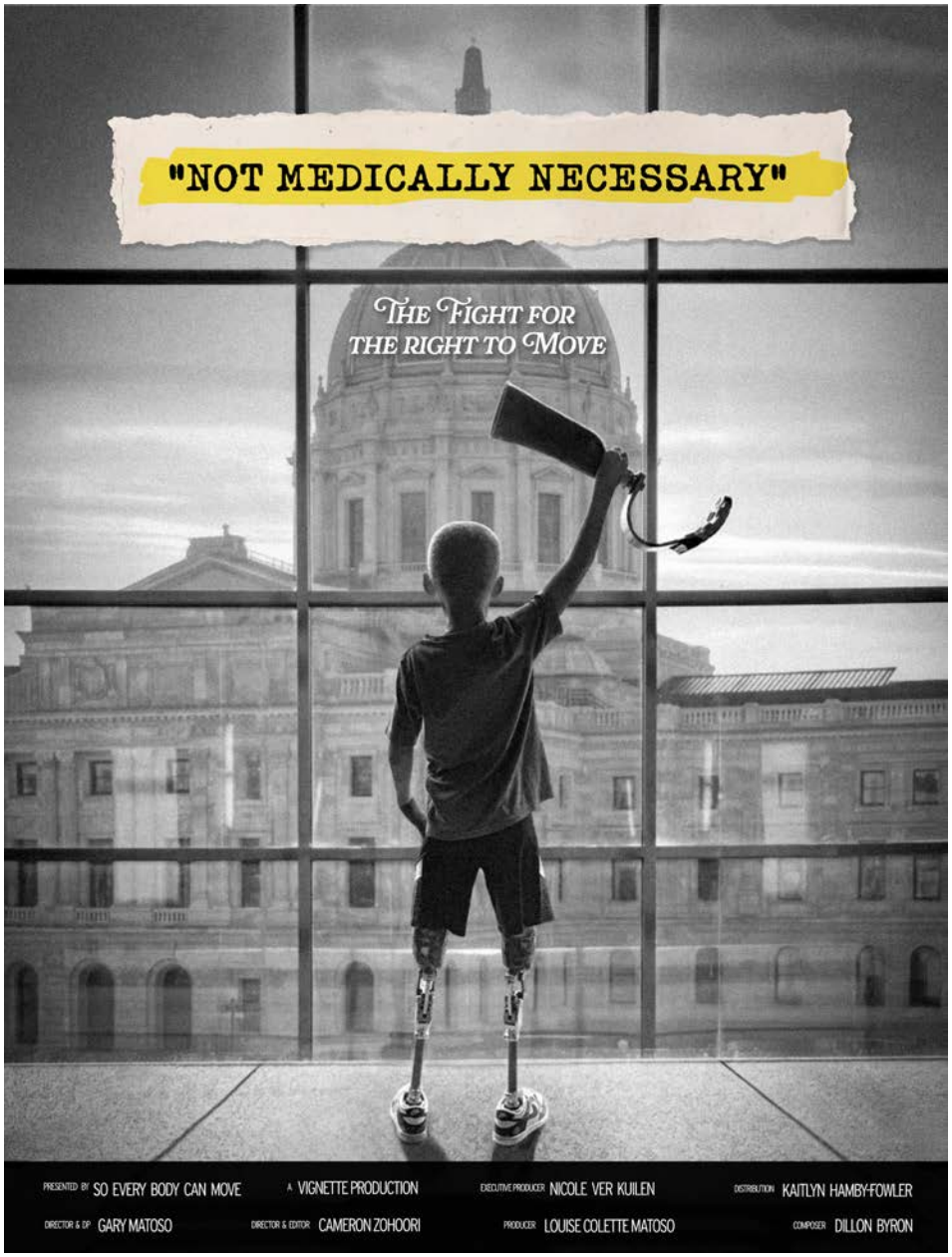
For people who have limb loss or limb difference, access to physical activity should not depend on whether an insurance company considers a prosthesis for recreation, exercise, or sports medically necessary.

That is the issue at the heart of **So Every BODY Can Move (SEBCM)**, a nationwide movement working to expand insurance coverage for activity-specific prosthetic and orthotic care.

Through grassroots advocacy, education, and legislative action, SEBCM is challenging outdated coverage policies and helping more people access the devices they need to pursue the activities they love.

As the movement continues along the **Road to 28X28**, advocates are building relationships with lawmakers, preparing for upcoming legislative sessions, and bringing the conversation into communities across the country.





A STORY THAT DESERVES TO BE SEEN

NOT MEDICALLY NECESSARY | A NEW SEBCM DOCUMENTARY

Written by: Sydney Marshburn

On October 26, SEBCM hosted the VIP virtual premiere of Not Medically Necessary, a short documentary that puts the people behind the movement front and center.

The film follows advocates, athletes, and community leaders challenging the idea that physical activity is a luxury rather than an essential part of health and well-being.

Their experiences reveal what happens when insurance coverage falls short—and what becomes possible when people organize to change the system.

The premiere also introduced a new opportunity for communities to bring these conversations closer to home.

Community screenings are now available, making the film accessible to advocates, organizations, and partners nationwide. Screenings can bring people together in classrooms, community centers, clinics, and legislative spaces to share experiences, educate decision-makers, and encourage action.

BRING THE FILM TO YOUR COMMUNITY.

HOST A SCREENING OF NOT MEDICALLY NECESSARY AND HELP MORE PEOPLE UNDERSTAND WHY ACCESS TO MOVEMENT MATTERS.

Acsupport.amputee-coalition.org/acton/media/46977/SEBCM-Not-Medically-Necessary



This fall, SEBCM's Clinical Education Days and Mobility Days are bringing policy and practical experiences together.

In New Mexico, October 16–17 events focused on helping clinicians understand activity-specific coverage requirements and connecting community members with opportunities to explore movement, resources, and advocacy.

The momentum continues in **Portland, November 6–7,** and the **Mid-Atlantic region, November 13–14.**

Clinical Education Days help providers understand how new coverage requirements translate into patient care, while Mobility Days offer free opportunities for people to try activities, connect with others, and discover available resources.

These events demonstrate what coverage reform is really about: helping people pursue active lives on their own terms.

STATE BY STATE, ADVOCATES ARE MAKING IT HAPPEN

In South Carolina, a growing team is preparing to bring SEBCM legislation to the state.

What began when orthotics and prosthetics resident Erin Daniel learned about the movement during graduate school has grown into a coalition of eight core members. The team meets regularly, builds relationships, and prepares for the



upcoming legislative session.

Among its advocates is Ben, a veteran and mountaineer whose efforts to improve prosthetic coverage were recently featured by WIS-TV.

Stories like these demonstrate how progress begins—with people willing to speak up, connect with others, and turn personal experience into legislative action.

Across the country, SEBCM advocates are preparing for future legislative sessions, developing strategies, and building the support needed to move coverage reform forward.

THE ROAD TO 28X28 CONTINUES

Every conversation with a lawmaker, every new advocate, and every community event contributes to a larger effort to improve access to physical activity.

And there is room for you to be part of it.

GET INVOLVED WITH SO EVERY BODY CAN MOVE:

- Become an advocate: Connect with your state's coalition and support legislative efforts.
- Host a film screening: Bring Not Medically Necessary to your community beginning November 1.
- Attend a Mobility Day: Explore activities, meet advocates, and learn more about coverage reform.
- Share your experience: Help decision-makers understand why access to activity-specific care matters.
- Support the movement: Partner with SEBCM to help expand education, outreach, and advocacy.

The goal goes beyond passing legislation. It's about making sure that the activities people love aren't placed out of reach by outdated insurance policies.

EXPLORE THE ROAD TO 28X28 AND FIND YOUR PLACE IN THE MOVEMENT.

Learn more about So Every BODY Can Move

(Soeverybodycanmove.org)



GETTING THE CARE YOU DESERVE: MAKING SENSE OF INSURANCE COVERAGE



Few topics can make someone feel more overwhelmed than insurance.

You finally have a treatment plan, your healthcare team agrees on the care that's right for you, and then you're faced with prior authorizations, paperwork, phone calls, and waiting. It's a process many people know all too well.

At ACNC26, Lesleigh Sisson, Mark Hopkins, and Wendy Palmer pulled back the curtain on the insurance process, helping attendees better understand what happens behind the scenes and, more importantly, how they can become stronger advocates for their own care.

One perspective came from **Wendy Palmer**, an **Amputee Coalition Health Care Navigator**, who works with individuals and families every day as they navigate insurance questions, coverage concerns, and the often-complicated healthcare system.

The panel reminded attendees that while insurance may feel intimidating, understanding how the process works can make it much less overwhelming.

UNDERSTANDING THE "WHY"

Insurance decisions aren't always a reflection of whether a prosthetic device is appropriate—they're often based on whether the information submitted answers the insurer's specific questions.

That means documentation, communication, and follow-up all play an important role.

The presenters encouraged attendees to stay involved throughout the process, ask questions, and keep track of important paperwork. Something as simple as understanding where a request is in the approval process can help reduce frustration and avoid unnecessary delays.

YOU'RE NOT EXPECTED TO KNOW EVERYTHING

One of the most reassuring messages from the session was that it's okay not to have all the answers.

Insurance policies can be confusing, and every plan is different. If you're unsure about your benefits, receive a denial, or simply don't know what your next step should be, you don't have to figure it out alone.

The **Amputee Coalition's Health Care Navigation Program** is available to help individuals better understand their options and connect them with

helpful resources. By submitting a **Health Care Navigation Request Form**, members of the community can work with a navigator who can answer questions, explain the process, and help them identify possible next steps.

Sometimes, simply having someone help you understand the road ahead can make all the difference.

IF THE ANSWER IS "NO"

Another encouraging reminder from the panel was that an initial denial isn't always the final answer.

Additional documentation, clarification from your healthcare team, or an appeal may resolve the issue. While every situation is unique, staying engaged and continuing the conversation with your physician, prosthetist, and insurance provider often opens the door to additional options.

FIVE HELPFUL REMINDERS

- Learn what your insurance plan covers before you need it.
- Keep copies of important letters, authorizations, and medical records.
- Don't be afraid to ask questions if something doesn't make sense.
- If you're feeling stuck, submit an Amputee Coalition Health Care Navigation Request Form for guidance.
- Remember that a denial may simply mean more information is needed—not that your journey has come to an end.

Insurance may never be anyone's favorite topic, but sessions like this one remind us that knowledge is empowering. By understanding the process, asking questions, and knowing where to turn for support, navigating insurance becomes a little less intimidating—and getting the care you deserve becomes a little more achievable.







A YEAR OF CONNECTION, COMMITMENT, AND COMMUNITY

A YEAR-END MESSAGE FROM CARMEN

As I reflect on my first year-end with the Amputee Coalition, I wanted to take a moment to close out 2026 with a very important message: **thank you!**

This year has been especially meaningful as we celebrated 40 years of the Amputee Coalition. Four decades of advocacy, education, peer support, and people showing up for one another. It is a remarkable milestone, but what means the most to me is knowing that the heart of this organization remains the people who make up our community.

To our community: Thank you for trusting us with your stories, sharing your experiences, asking difficult questions, and helping us better understand what matters most. Your voices guide our work and remind us why it matters.

To our volunteers and peer supporters: Thank you for the countless hours you give, the conversations you have, and the kindness you extend. Whether you are welcoming someone to a support group, connecting with a person facing limb loss for the first time, or lending your experience to someone who needs it, your impact reaches further than you may ever know.

To our partners, supporters, and donors: Thank you for believing in this mission and investing in what we can accomplish together. Your commitment helps us provide meaningful resources, strengthen programs, advance advocacy, and reach more people across the country.

And to our incredible staff: Thank you for the care, dedication, creativity, and hard work you bring to this organization every day. Much of what you do happens behind the scenes, but it makes a very real difference in people's lives. I am grateful to work alongside you.

Throughout this anniversary year, we have celebrated how far we have come while continuing to look toward what is possible. We have more work to do, more people to reach, and more opportunities to strengthen the support and resources available to people who have limb loss or limb difference and those who care about them.

As we look ahead to 2027, I am excited about what we are building together, from new opportunities to connect at our National Conference to the continued growth of our programs, partnerships, and advocacy efforts.

I hope this holiday season brings you moments of peace, laughter, connection, and time with the people who matter most to you.

Thank you for being part of the Amputee Coalition's story. Our first 40 years were made possible by people like you, and so will everything that comes next.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Carmen

Dr. Carmen Elliott
Amputee Coalition

amputee coalition™

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atricure.com

Phantom Neuro – Patron National Sponsor: Advancing intuitive prosthetic control and technologies that support greater independence.
phantomneuro.com

AOPA – Conference Sponsor: Strengthening conference learning, professional connections, and the exchange of practical knowledge.
aopanet.org

HELP SHAPE WHAT'S AHEAD.

Partnerships make it possible to connect more people with trusted resources, strengthen programs, and bring education and support to communities across the country.

EXPLORE PARTNERSHIP AND SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES.

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Acsupport.amputee-coalition.org/acton/media/46977/Health-Care-Partner-Program



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