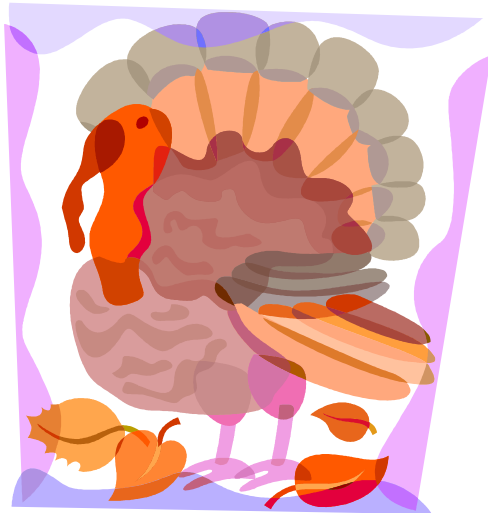


# CORNBELT BUC-ETIN



President: Dennis Strauss  
Vice President:  
Secretary/Treasurer: Larry Turilli  
Sergeant At Arms: Jerry Wyrick  
Website: [www.cornbeltambucs.org](http://www.cornbeltambucs.org)

Bill McHie, At-Large Board Member  
Greg Beneze, At-Large Board Member  
Pete Hettinger, At-Large Board Member  
Al Bedell, At-Large Board Member  
Dan Bedell, At-Large Board Member



**OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2009**

## **THE PREZ SEZ...**

**(President Denny Strauss)**

September was the month for Central District's Fall Conference, which was held in Decatur this year. We had four members attending, with our own Alan Bedell as Emcee since he is the current Central District Director. As you can see from Al's outfit (pictured at right), we had a sports theme going. Our club won three district awards this year: Community Service, Local Charities, and Visibility. It was a fun time and everyone should consider attending one of the conferences.



We continue to build ramps at a rate of two a month (see Bill's ramp column). The AmTrykes® Committee has been very active also. On September 28, the National AmTrykes® Trailer was here for therapist training, and for the therapists to work with the kids who may need an AmTryke®. It was very successful (see Al's AmTryke® column).

On September 24, we participated in the Volunteer Fair held at State Farm Corporate South. This was an opportunity to let State Farm employees know what we do and how they can help. Our table was manned by Alan Bedell, Jerry Wyrick, Dan Bedell and Denny Strauss. There is also a new website for people to look for volunteer opportunities. The site is: <http://www.uwaymc.org/> - check it out. We should be out there in the near future also.

On October 20, we will again be participating in the Parenting and Disabilities Expo. We are a participating sponsor again this year. Our table will be manned by Jerry Wyrick, Don Stogsdill and Dan Bedell.

We had a guest speaker at our Wednesday lunch meeting in October. John Whalen, a past President of the local Lion's Club, joined us for lunch. He shared their club's mission – helping kids with eye problems. Both clubs have had similar problems adding and retaining members. We hope to work with their club in the future.

October and November are Fall Branding months, a time to focus on adding new members to our club. We have already added two new members in October. Our goal from National is to add five new members, so get out there and recruit.

## ***Parenting and Disabilities Expo***

***(by Jerry Wyrick)***

Cornbelt AMBUCS™ was a participating Sponsor at the Parenting and Disabilities Expo at Bloomington High School on October 20. A good size crowd attended this event. Dan Bedell and Jerry Wyrick represented Cornbelt AMBUCS™, and manned the table at this event. We had quite a few people come by our table to inquire about AMBUCS™. Many did not know what our organization did. They were quite surprised to learn all about us. One lady was really happy to talk to us as she has a parent in need of a wheelchair ramp, and was going to contact us when it got closer to the time it was needed.

Four people stopped by our table just to say "thank you" for providing their child with an AmTryke®. They said their child was still enjoying the AmTryke®. When another one told us their child had outgrown their AmTryke®, I told them to get in touch with us and we would upgrade them to a bigger model. I explained we would take back the old one and provide them with a newer one that would fit her better.

We also had three or four people stop to thank us for building a wheelchair ramps for their families. One of the mothers was really thankful for hers. We built it outside their back door into a fenced-in yard. This allows her son to go out and play in the back without her worrying about him. They are also getting a fully-trained dog to be his companion, so he would be able to let the parents know if something happened where their help was needed.

One person gave us their email address so we could contact her to solicit donations. She had asked what mailing list we used to request donations and I was not sure that we had one. So she gave us the email so we could include her in the solicitations.

Overall I feel that this event was very good for us to be a participant. I hope we will continue this one, and hope other members of the club will be willing to volunteer an hour or two to help out!



### Mark your calendars!!!

#### Next Saturday Meeting

When: Saturday, November 21, 2009  
 Time: 7:15 a.m.  
 Place: EAA Hanger, Old Airport

#### Next Noon Meeting - \*\*NEW LOCATION\*\*

When: Wednesday, November 4, 2009  
 Time: Noon  
 Place: Monical's Pizza (by Best Buy)

### Bill Buchie's Babbles...



Hey, All you ramp-builders -

We had all kinds of help for our ramp projects in September! We built a ramp for Ms. Terri Quiggins, who lives in Southgate Estates in Bloomington, on a beautiful Saturday morning. We had AMBUCS™ volunteers, Diversity Project volunteers, and ISU volunteers, along with plenty of folks in the neighborhood watching our magic as we built a 35 ft. ramp in record time! Ms. Quiggins was very thankful and returned from her relative's soccer game that morning just in time to take that "maiden voyage"... and to tell us "Thank You" for making her life a little easier.



Heck, we were so proud of what we had accomplished...we decided to head to LeRoy and build another ramp! We were able to build a 30 ft. ramp for Rev. Badger that afternoon and put a smile on Mrs. Badger's face, too! I have to tell you... I got a phone call from Rev. Badger's daughter later in the week. She told me Rev. Badger had gone out on the ramp later that afternoon and admired the work that had been done. Rev. Badger was quite pleased, smiled, and said, "I don't think I could have done better myself!"... which was the ultimate compliment to our club and our passion for ramp-building in our community. We do make a difference in people's lives... and it is noticed. Well done, AMBUCS™... well done...

Hopefully, these photos and stories have brought a smile to your face. If you want to experience those smiles and feel that pride in person... come and join us... we've still got ramps to build!



October was a chilly and rainy month...but we brought some sunshine to our ramp project and some warmth to Mrs. Wickham's heart as we built a ramp for her on a Saturday morning. We had Diversity project helpers again... along with our AMBUCS™ crew in full force and knocked out another ramp in record time. I think we've finally got the hang of this... after 20 years of ramp building! Mrs. Wickham wasn't sure she really wanted a ramp in front of her home, yet. She told me she can still do the steps on "good days"...but when she saw the finished product and realized she now has both options...a ramp and some steps...she was very grateful. The Wickhams also made a donation to our club for future ramp

recipients...to keep our mission going...of building ramps for folks in our community. Another satisfied customer...and a bunch of smiles on a chilly October morning.



We're still building ramps this fall... so watch the newsletter and give me a call if you want to get on the e-mail list for notifications of ramp building projects. Thanks for all your help and I'll see ya' at the next one!

Bill McHie

Ph: (309) 662-1347 (work)

829-9844 (home)

824-9844 (cell)

e-mail - [b.bmchie@verizon.net](mailto:b.bmchie@verizon.net)

### **Cornbelt Buc-etin Delivery**

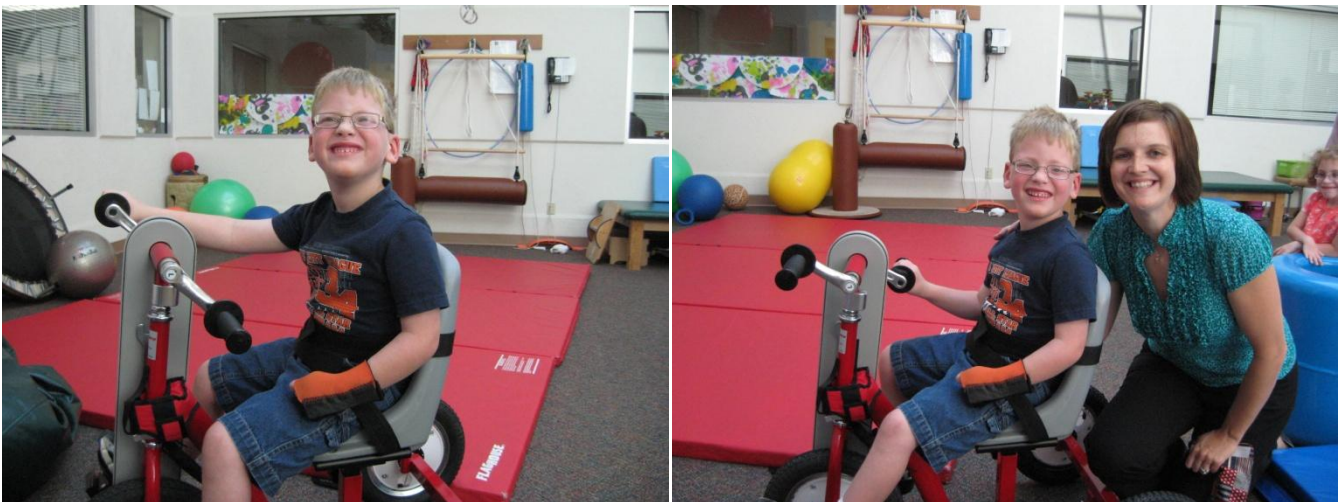
Did you know you can now receive your monthly copy of the Cornbelt Buc-etin via email? *Save a tree*, and save *Cornbelt AMBUCS™* the first-class postage...and get your monthly copy online! Just send Jerry an email at [JWyrick300@ctechinternet.com](mailto:JWyrick300@ctechinternet.com).

## Notes from Al...

The AmTryke® activity continues for Cornbelt AMBUCS™. Through SPICE, we were thrilled to give Trevor Stuckins-Hacker his own AM-12 AmTryke®. Trevor is almost three years old and was so happy to receive his own bike. After just a few minor adjustments, Trevor was riding the bike on the sidewalk, and he also has a very nice concrete drive. His mother was very grateful, and feels the exercise will be very beneficial for Trevor. (Unfortunately, guess who forgot the camera.)

Later in August, we presented Thomas Knudsen with his AM-12 AmTryke® at Easter Seals. Thomas is five years old and has limited use of his left upper extremity. The AmTryke® will help him increase his functional independence and improve his aerobic capacity.

Below are a couple of pictures of Thomas and his therapist at Easter Seals just after receiving his own bike. He was so excited and ran across the room when we brought the bike into the room. Thomas had used a smaller AmTryke® in the past, but was ready for the bigger bike.



On September 28<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM Cornbelt AMBUCS™ will host an In-service training session for therapists at the Holiday Inn at 3202 East Empire, across from the airport. Joe Copeland, AMBUCS™ National Director, will be providing the training and will have the AmTryke® trailer featuring the latest AmTryke® models. Please come out and join us and show your support.

The therapists have been asked to invite their clients to come out and take an AmTryke® test ride and to be evaluated for an AmTryke®. This will take place between 6:00 and 7:30 PM in the prefunction area in front of the ballroom at the Holiday Inn. Michelle Becker, Holiday Inn Manager, has given us a great rate for the use of their facility.

As usual, please continue to send us the contact information for any potential candidates for an AmTryke® or they can contact me directly.

Alan Bedell  
(309) 826-0405