

CORNBELT BUC-ETIN



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Website: www.cornbeltambucs.org

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Al Bedell, At-Large Board Member
Dennis Strauss, Past President



FEBRUARY 2012

THE PREZ SEZ...

(President Larry Turilli)



February is AMBUCS™ Visibility Month. So, is that a big deal? AMBUCS™ might not get as much attention as this month's Super Bowl, but it should still be important to each of us. Like I've said here before, the more the rest of our community knows about us, the more likely that someone in need will be able to locate us when they need our help, and the more likely that someone else in the community will want to help us with a donation of time or dollars.

So, from an AMBUCS™ viewpoint, Visibility Month IS a big deal. Cornbelt is doing things as a club to spread the word. We've secured donated time on one of the electronic billboards in town. We've notified the Pantagraph. And we'll probably do one or two other things as a club before the month ends, but there are things I'd like each of us to do as individual members to increase our visibility. I've talked about several of them in this space before, but perhaps the simplest of them all is to wear your AMBUCS pin, and do it EVERY DAY THIS MONTH.

That's what I'm going to do. Join me. Go dig your pin out of the drawer where you're keeping it safe and proudly wear it on your collar, or on your coat (when the weather is cold enough that you actually need one), or the strap of your purse, or any other place where people will see it and ask you about it. This doesn't take a lot of time or cost a lot of money, but it goes a long way towards increasing our visibility.

The dictionary defines visibility as "the state or fact of being visible". So, when people see you this month, let them see AMBUCS™ too. Everyone you meet will see the pin, and some folks will ask you about. These short conversation, even 2 or 3 sentences, are the best way to increase awareness of our activities. This kind of 'personal publicity' can't be bought or shared through any media outlet. So, WEAR YOUR PIN and let people see that we are individuals committed to "creating mobility and independence for people with disabilities".

Don't forget that the application period for Therapist Scholarships is open. If you know a Therapist-in-Training, make sure they know about AMBUCS™ and our Scholarship Program. Direct them to our website, www.cornbeltambucs.org, where they can get the application info they need.

Larry Turilli



Mark your calendars!!!

Next Saturday Meeting

When: Saturday, February 18, 2012
 Time: 7:15 a.m.
 Place: Shannon's Restaurant

Next Noon Meeting

When: Wednesday, March 7, 2012
 Time: Noon
 Place: Monical's Pizza (by Best Buy)

Nearly Spring Social

When: Friday, February 24, 2012
 Time: 6:00 p.m.
 Place: Ozark House



Bill Buchie's Babbles...



Hey, All you ramp builders -

We messed with Mother Nature in January! It was beautiful weather for days... and when we got ready to build a ramp in January, it snowed the night before the ramp... but Ahh, Mother Nature... we built the ramp INSIDE a garage!.... Gotcha!

Yes, we built a ramp for Mr. Rodriguez in Bloomington in January. We had plenty of help from our Diversity Scholars and AMBUCS™, too... and finished a fine looking ramp in a matter of hours on a Saturday morning. Extra points for all of those who came out to help in the cold snowy weather! Mr. Rodriguez was quite happy and very pleased that we were able to finish the ramp in record time. As you can see, there were plenty of smiles at the end of the project. (I did get a call from Mr. Rodriguez and he has been outside several times and really appreciated our efforts.)





We are planning a ramp for February but weather will certainly be a factor during the winter months... so you get to watch for e-mails... and we will watch the weather and try and find a project to do on February 18th.

Thanks, again, to our volunteers and donors! We will continue our ramp-building projects... and we welcome you to join us on any project! Keep warm, watch the e-mails, and I'll see ya' at the ramps!

Thanks, again, and I'll see ya' at the ramps!

Bill McHie

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Cornbelt Buc-etin Delivery

We now post all our monthly newsletters on our website at www.cornbeltambucs.org. When the newsletter is posted I send a link to everyone's email address so they can click on the link to take them directly to the newsletter. So to get your link sent to you, please email Jerry your email address at JWyrick300@ctechinternet.com.



Notes from Al...



AmTrykes®

We did not provide any therapeutic bikes in McLean County during January. Cornbelt did provide a hand cycle to a young boy in Pontiac. This bike was purchased through our chapter by the masonic lodge in Pontiac. We are also working with two other groups in the Streator area who wish to provide bikes to children in their area. Along with getting more kids on our bikes there is a possibility of a new chapter in the Streator area but nothing definite at this time.

We have a couple potential bikes but still the families are working with their therapist to determine if the bike will be helpful. We sure hope to present a bike to a child during Visibility Month.

If you know of any potential children or adults who could benefit from an AmTryke®, please let me know.

Thanks,

Al Bedell
2802 Hendrix Rd
Bloomington, IL 61704
(309) 826-0405

Are you wearing your AMBUCS pin???

If a Big Hat Club member of Cornbelt AMBUCS™ see you during Visibility Month (February) without your AMBUCS™ pin you can be fined \$1.00. If any member sees a Big Hat Club member without their AMBUCS™ pin during February they can be fined \$2.00. Thus please find your AMBUCS™ pin and wear it each day during National AMBUCS™ Visibility month.

Al Bedell
 Big Hat Chairperson

“Nearly Spring Social”

The Central Region will be hosting a “Nearly Spring Social” at the Ozark House in Bloomington on February 24, 2012. The meeting will start at 6:00 pm and we hope several Cornbelt members will be able to attend and exchange information with the other chapter members attending. The National Executive Director, Mr. Joe Copeland, and our National President Elect, Mr. Kent Klinginpeel, will be there to share national news with us. There will be ample time to socialize and enjoy the evening. Also, our Central Regional Director, Mr. Larry Windingland, indicated there might even be a few surprises.

Please contact Larry Turilli at lgturil@yahoo.com by February 17th if you will be joining us.

Look forward to seeing everyone at the Ozark House. I am sure the meal will be great.

Al Bedell

Cornbelt AMBUCS™ Website

By Denny Strauss

Our new website is now live. There are several reasons the website has been changed:

- 1) the tool used to build the old one is no longer available
- 2) the new tool offers a wider range of capabilities.

The URL is the same - www.cornbeltambucs.org - but everything else has changed. There are fewer menu items, but there are pull down sub-menus, making navigation easier. The basic layout is the same on all pages. On the left sidebar are current items of interest:

- Upcoming Events
- Current Cornbelt Newsletter
- Recent Posts (articles)
- Links
- The Weather
- Search Field

The rest of the page consists of static text and articles (posts) that pertain to that page. Some of the articles will allow comments.

The overall concept is for those not familiar with AMBCUS™ to find out “Who We Are” and “What We Do”. But also to give members more detailed information about our schedule and events.

We welcome comments, and let us know what you would like to see on your website.