

# CORNBELT BUC-ETIN



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**OCTOBER 2012**

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



Wow. What a fast month. Time flies when you are busy.

## **Fall Branding – Get Free Lunch**

October is Fall Branding time. Sign up a new member for Cornbelt Ambucs™ and you will get a free lunch at our monthly lunch meeting. So bring someone in and get them to join our crew.

## Fall Conference

Were you at Fall Conference, September 28 and 29? Cornbelt Ambucs™ hosted the Regional Fall Conference this year at the Holiday Inn and Suites. The Holiday Inn and Suites was an excellent facility and the food catered by Baxter's was outstanding. 50% of our club members attended. We hosted over 75 attendees. GREAT TURNOUT!! Our Regional Director Larry Windingland along with Al Bedell and many other Cornbelt Ambucs™ worked to organize and coordinate this event and it was tremendous.

There were several National Officers at this conference as well. Ambucs™ National President Kent Clingpeel, Ambucs™ National President-elect Jack Bellware, and Ambucs™ National Big Hat Vice President Donna Carlton-Vish were all in attendance. Also attending this event were several past-National Ambucs™ Presidents and past- Big Hat National President.

The Conference started with a golf outing at The Den at Fox Creek on Friday afternoon. About 16 Ambucs™ for several chapter took part in the golf outing. The course was in good shape but it was a little windy as usual at the Den. That evening about 70 Ambucs™ traveled to Al Bedell and Dee Frautschi's beautiful country home for a barbeque dinner, socializing, and refreshments. Everyone had a good time and the Big Hat meeting was conducted around 7:30.

On Saturday morning we started early with breakfast and a wonderful welcome to Bloomington/Normal by Bloomington City Councilman Rob Fazzini. Larry Windingland, the Central Region Director, conducted the regional meeting followed by National news presented by the three national officers present, Kent Clingenpeel – National President, Jack Bellware – National President Elect and Donna Carlton-Vish – National Big Hat Vice President. Eric Oswald of Springfield was elected Regional Director-elect.

With lunch, we were served a moving presentation by Karen Klein, a therapist with the local school system. She described some of her experiences with the children she works with. This was followed by presentation of two Amtrykes® to local children as well as district meetings.

After lunch, many went to a ramp-build in Bloomington. It was great fun working with Ambucs™ from other clubs. Some of the members had never been involved in building a ramp and while others had much experience. The all were quite impressed when she rolled down the ramp before everyone left. We actually finished the ramp before dinner. Other activities were available for those choosing not to build the ramp. One of those was a presentation by Cornbelt Ambuc™ Deanna Frautschi, an expert on birds.

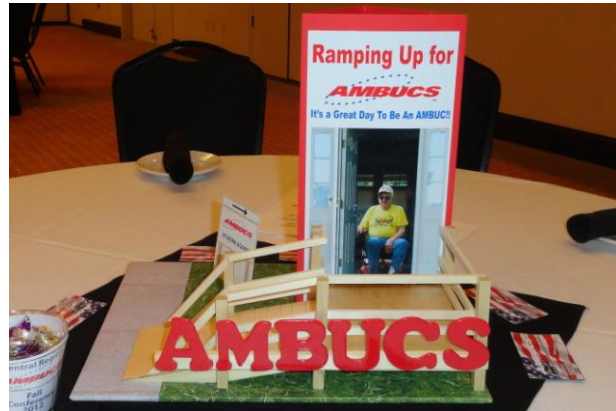
With dinner, we had the Big Hat Auction. We raised \$2,105 with the auction, \$320 in the 50/50 drawing and fines totally almost \$200. We even sold the table centerpieces that were built by Dennis Strauss of Cornbelt. All the money raised go directly to the National Big Hat and will be split evenly between Ambility, Cornerstone and Scholarship funds. Larry presented the District Awards. Cornbelt won the 2012 Class 2 District awards for:

- Community Service;
- Newsletter;
- Website;
- Visibility;
- and Public Relations.



## **Congratulations Cornbelt!!**

Following pictures shows a few of our Cornbelt AMBUCS™ at the dinner plus the center pieces that Dennis built.



Greater Champaign County AMBUCS™ will be the host for the 2013 Central Region Fall Conference. Hope to see you there.

## Upcoming Expos

October 16 will be a very busy day. Cornbelt will have booths at two different sites in Bloomington for the State Farm Community Day expo. We will have members working both booths during the workday. That evening Cornbelt will have a booth at Parenting and Disabilities Expo at Bloomington High School. There is plenty of opportunity for any members willing to work a booth. Just let me know if you are interested.

## Other Upcoming Events

The November lunch meeting is November 7 at Monical's near Best Buy. Will you be there? I hope so. And bring a friend for the good food. Get them to join Ambucs™ and get a free lunch.

And of course, keep October 20 open for a Big Hat meeting and ramp building somewhere in McLean County.

It's a great day to be an Ambuc™!!

Don



**Mark your calendars!!!**

### **Next Saturday Meeting**

When: Saturday, October 20, 2012  
 Time: 7:15 a.m.  
 Place: Shannon's Restaurant

### **Next Noon Meeting**

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



## Bill Buchie's Babbles...



Hey, All you ramp-builders -

We had a busy month! We built 4 ramps during the month of September!

We started out with ramp number one... in Normal for Jean Yoder's daughter. Ms. Yoder recently bought a new home and did not have a way for her daughter to get safely in and out of her new home... so the State Farm volunteers came to the rescue. Thanks to Brian Burcham and his team, the ramp was built in the garage in one afternoon.. and I heard that great food and refreshments were part of the project! Thanks to all our State Farm volunteers for their help in our ramp-building efforts. You can build ramps with us any time!



The second ramp was built in Bloomington for Ms. Kim Goban. Ms. Goban has been having trouble with her stairs and uses a walker on a regular basis to go to the doctor's appointments in town. We had a smaller crew on our regular "third Saturday" building day... but we built a very nice ramp for Ms. Goban. She was very pleased with her new ramp... and can easily get in and out of her home. Thanks to our regular Saturday volunteers!



The third ramp was built a little bit at a time... in rural Bloomington for Mr. Ed Kommick. Mr. Kommick is 90 years old and was actively farming up to a couple of years ago. He needed a ramp at his farm house and will be getting a new wheelchair soon. Thanks to the Langs for their extra help... as the Kommick family is now able to get out and enjoy some of the beautiful fall colors on the farm!



The fourth ramp was built during the fall conference in Bloomington. Ms. Solis had contacted our club as she is caring for her adult daughter who has a disability and needs help with getting in and out of their home. We had to remove a large deck and build an entire new deck and ramp to fit in the space that was available at their home in Bloomington. We got the first platform set up and ready to go... and the conference attendees came in on Saturday afternoon and completed a 32 foot ramp for the family. Nice job AMBUCS™!... Hopefully, we gave some other clubs a taste of how to build ramps in their own community. Mrs. Solis is very pleased with her new ramp and her daughter will certainly enjoy her new ramp, as well.



We had a very productive month and are getting "caught up" on our ramp referrals... but we will continue to build ramps on a regular basis this fall. We will be welcoming the Diversity Project scholars again this fall.. and anyone else that wants to join us in our ramp-building efforts. I'll keep you posted on the details of our projects... locations, times, etc... so watch for our e-mails.

Thanks again to all our volunteers... we can do great things when we work together!

Bill McHie

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

We now post all our monthly newsletters on our website at [www.cornbeltAMBUCS.org](http://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](mailto:JWyrick300@ctechinternet.com).

## Notes From Al...



### AmTrykes®

Cornbelt Ambucs™ made two young children quite happy in September. We provided two AmTrykes® and have a third one ready when we can make fine a time that works for the family, therapist and us. It should happen very soon.

During the Living Endowment luncheon at the Central Region Fall Conference held in Bloomington Cornbelt provided two lovely children with their own bikes.

Keagan is almost three years old and could hardly eat his lunch as he was so excited about his new bike. Of course of National President, Kent Clingenpeel, jumped right in to help Keagan get ready to go. His mother and brother wanted to help too and were ready to watch him go.

Keagan surprised everyone when he asked for his helmet before he would ride the bike. Good job Keagan! Take a look at that smile in the two pictures of Keagan and you will wish you had been there to see him ride around the room. I am sure he will get lots of fun and exercise with this bike.



The second bike went to Katie. Katie is almost 16 and has not been able to ride a bike for many years. If we could sell her smile we would be a very profitable chapter. When we fitted Katie on her bike a few



days prior at Easter Seals she rode the bike for 35 minutes around the parking lot. I am not sure who is the happiest, Katie or her mom in the picture below.



Katie, therapist Jamie is shown in the following picture helping get Katie's feet strapped in. Also, this was a family event and her mother and grandmother are in the picture. Not in the picture but also present were Katie's dad and brother. They all were very appreciative and could not stop saying thank you.



Yes, it was a great day to be an AMBUC™.

Thanks to you Cornbelt AMBUCS™ was able to make these two kids day. As usual please continue to send me the names of any potential AmTryke® recipients.

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