

CORNBELT BUC-ETIN



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DECEMBER 2013

THE PREZ SEZ...



I hope you all had a blessed Thanksgiving. As AMBUCS™, we have a lot to be thankful for. We have the privilege of helping those who need help to gain the mobility and independence that we

enjoy every day. Besides that, we have each other, working shoulder to shoulder to make this happen. You are a great bunch of people and I am honored to serve with you.

Save the Date

Mark your calendars. We will be having a **re-gifting party** on Saturday, January 11. Al Bedell has graciously offered to host the party at his house. Keep your eyes open for an email to all AMBUCS™ in mid-December with the time and address.

He Just Wants to Help Others - New Member Profile

I'd like to introduce you to Seth Bauersfeld. I had the pleasure of interviewing Seth on his favorite turf, the Heartland Community College recreation center. When not in his classes studying nutrition and world religions (he graduates in May), he can be found lifting weights, shooting hoops, or assisting with the Heartland baseball team. During football season, he also travels with the Wesleyan University football team as one of their managers. As we walked through Heartland's Recreation Center, he introduced me to his many friends who greeted him with countless hugs and high 5's. I could see why this was one of his favorite places.

In his spare time, Seth works at Party Palace setting up tents and/or preparing for parties and receptions. I also found that Seth loves dogs, especially his golden retriever Ike.

I asked Seth what he wanted to do when he graduates. He simply said, "I want to help people". He already has a good start at that, participating in several work/camp trips through his church and, most recently, helping tornado victims in Washington, II. Seth displays the kind of helpful attitude that makes him a good AMBUC™ - he loves to help others. Seth, I am glad you are part of the AMBUC™ family.



LIFE Center for Independent Living (LIFE CIL) is a community-based, not-for-profit, non-residential organization founded in 1985. LIFE CIL promotes disability rights, equal access, and

full community participation for persons with disabilities. They assist individuals with disabilities to empower themselves to take charge of their lives and to be as self-sufficient as possible. LIFE CIL also leads efforts to break down barriers and prejudices within our communities, promoting positive attitudes, and allowing persons with disabilities to have equal access to society.

Each year, LIFE CIL presents awards to individuals, businesses or organizations that assist people with disabilities to live more independent lives. At the 2013 LIFE CIL Annual Meeting, Andrea Kindseth, the LIFE CIL Community Reintegration Advocate presented the 2013 Building Independence Award to Cornbelt Ambucs™. Don Stogsdill, past-president of Cornbelt Ambucs™, accepted the award on behalf of the club. The following comments from the 2013 LIFE CIL Annual Report describes the award for Cornbelt Ambucs™.

Cornbelt Ambucs™ is always helping individuals maintain their independence within their own home. They have collaborated with LIFE CIL's Community Reintegration Program on several occasions, assisting consumers with increasing their independence and obtaining access into their own homes. They are able to work one on one with consumers and their families, in order to meet the individualized needs of the consumer. They always do an outstanding job, completing the ramps in less than one day's time. This organization is a blessing to our community, and the residents who are able to benefit from its services. Besides building wheelchair ramps, this organization also assists with providing AMTRYKE® therapeutic tricycles to children with disabilities and scholarships to students studying physical or occupational therapy, pathology or hearing audiology. Through all of the hard work and dedication of this organization and its volunteers, they are able to make a huge difference in people's lives. They are always working towards, "Creating mobility and independence for people with disabilities".



It Pays to Respond

A few months ago, I announced a challenge to AMBUCS™ members that, if they gave me a brief bio of themselves, I would award them with a milk shake from Steak-'n-Shake. I kept my promise by rewarding Bill Hamann with a milk shake. Looks good doesn't it! I would still like to know more about you too so take a moment and send me a few tidbits of information about you. (dicklang1202@yahoo.com)



Dick Lang

Next Saturday Event

When: Saturday, December 21, 2013
 Time: 7:00 a.m.
 Place: Shannon's Restaurant

Next Noon Meeting

When: Wednesday, January 8, 2014
 Time: Noon
 Place: Monical's Pizza (by Best Buy)



Bill Buchie's Babbles...



Hey, all you ramp-builders -

We kept up the pace.. and built a couple of ramps in November. The weather has been in our favor.. and we will continue with our ramp building projects as long as the weather cooperates.

Our first ramp in November was built in LeRoy, Illinois. Mr. Richardson says he is "well past 90".. and recently had to give up driving.. but still needed a safe way to get in and out of his home. He wasn't sure he really needed a ramp.. so we told him we would be glad to build it and let him "try it out" for awhile. We were planning to build the ramp on two evenings.. but we had so much help and so much fun, we got it done in one night! He did join us for the group picture at the end of our building project.. and I've not heard any complaints. (I think he likes it!) Thanks to everyone who came out and helped us that evening.. it was truly a "group effort" in getting this ramp project done.





The second ramp was built in Normal inside the garage for Ms. Weldon. She is a professor at Illinois State University and also needed a safe way to get in and out of her home. We put out the word and had plenty of volunteers show up and got her ramp finished in one evening, as well. For the volunteers who stayed until the very end, we were treated with a great bowl of chili, as well. She was very appreciative and provided a donation to our club above and beyond the cost of the materials thanks to Ms. Weldon as we always put our donations towards ramp materials for those who cannot afford a ramp.



We've been building ramps at a pretty good pace and continue to get referrals even throughout the winter months. As the winter months approach, we will try to continue building ramps but we are aware that Mother Nature has a greater influence on our efforts! Watch your e-mails and I will continue to let you know of ramp projects that we are planning.

And as the holiday season approaches, we focus more on family, traditions, and helping others which is why we have been in the ramp-building business for over 25 years. If you have all the neckties you can ever want, all the latest gadgets, and all the holiday sweaters you could possibly wear, you might consider telling your friends and family that a gift to the Cornbelt AMBUCS™ would be one of the best gifts you could receive. Our tools are getting old (along with a few volunteers, too..) and we can always use money towards materials. I am in the process of asking the DeWalt Corporation for a donation to replace our drills but if you see Santa or your friends and family want to give you something for Christmas, please consider our Cornbelt AMBUCS™.

Thank you to all our volunteers who have helped us in any way throughout the year. If you have come to one ramp, or all of them, we appreciate your help and our ramp recipients certainly do, too!

Enjoy your holidays, watch your e-mails, 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®

November was another busy month for Amtrykes®. We picked up an older model AM-16 from the Tri-Valley middle school that was in need of much repair. After assessing the bike it was determined it was best to replace the bike. I would guess this bike has been at the school for almost 10 years and has seen significant use. We made a few minor repairs and added new pedals to a bike that was returned to us a few months ago. Tri-Valley was very pleased and appreciated the new model AM-16. This bike works much smoother than the older model and does allow the front to tilt for accommodate riders with different arm and leg lengths.

We also provided an AM-9 extra small bike to a lovely little girl. She has never had a bike she could ride and as you can see from the pictures below she loved her new bike. Also, she was a little tired as she just returned from a doctor's visit outside Bloomington Normal. The parents are hearing impaired so it was a little more difficult explaining the features of the AM-9 extra small. With just a few adjustments this bike will last her for several years.





We have one bike give away scheduled for December. It is a recumbent bike that was donated to our chapter this fall.

Please continue to let me know if you become aware of any child or adult who could benefit from an AmTryke®.

Thanks.

Al Bedell
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