

# CORNBELT BUC-ETIN



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**NOVEMBER 2014**

**THE PREZ SEZ...**



**2014 AMBUCS™ National Conference - - Saint Louis**

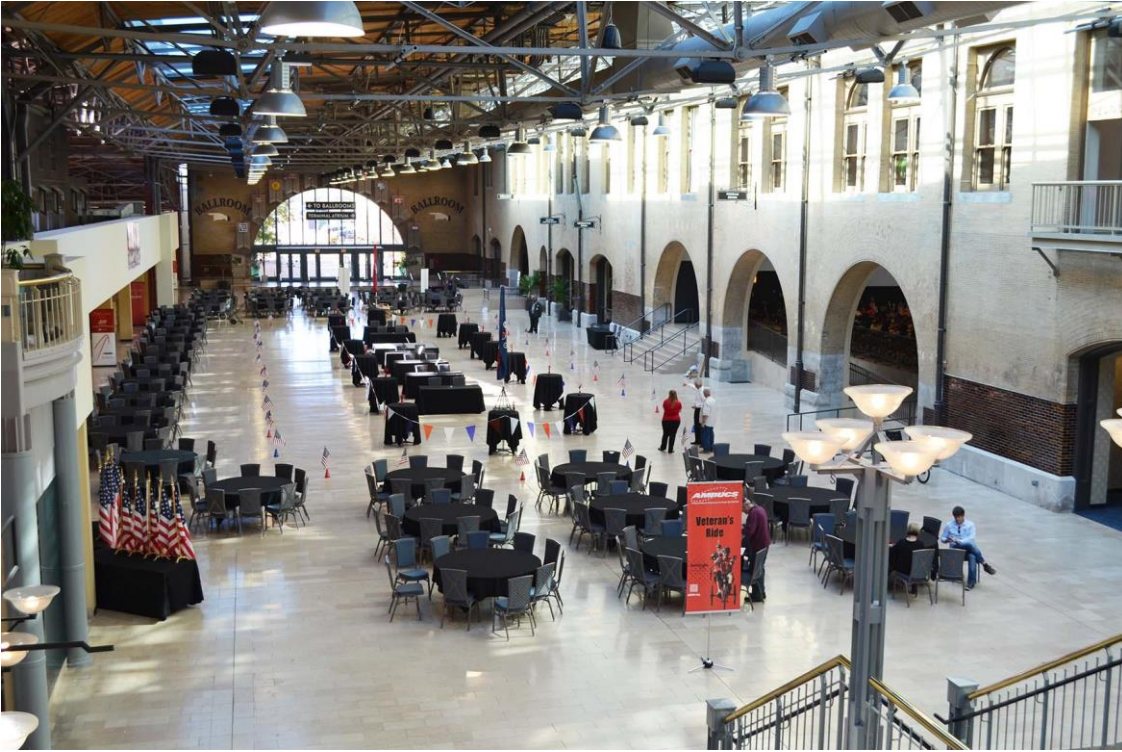
The 2014 AMBUCS™ National Conference is over but I would not say that the dust has settled. With the new friendships made, the ideas exchanged, and the enthusiasm for the work yet to be

done still alive with this year's attendees, I'd say a dust storm is brewing. I am sure the eight Cornbelt attendees would agree that the days ahead will be great days to be AMBUCS™.



## Union Station Hotel and Conference Center

This year's Conference was held at the Union Station Hotel and Conference Center in Saint Louis. What a fantastic venue for the vets and kids to try out their new AmTrykes®! An oval racetrack bordered by cones with U.S. and checkered flags in the hotel's Midway gave the riders a smooth place to get used to their trykes. The infield of the oval gave mechanics and riders a place to fit and fine-tune their "race-cycles" right in the middle of the action. And let me tell you, several of the kids took to their laps like INDY 500 drivers. Needless to say, the kids loved their AmTrykes®.



## Trek-4-Trykes

About 40 AMBUCS™ took part in this year's Trek-4-Trykes walk-a-thon. Money raised will go to providing more AmTrykes® to kids and veterans. Four Cornbelt AMBUCS™ took part in this year's event. Thanks to all of you who pledged money for your walker. Fortunately, Union Station has a large indoor mall adjacent to the hotel to use for the walk - - it was cold outside!



## AmTrykes® – AmTrykes® – AmTrykes®

Several of our Cornbelt AMBUCS™ joined other chapters in Springfield on October 4 to assemble over 80 AmTrykes® given away at this year's Conference. Those trykes made for quite an impressive display.



### Sponsored AmTrykes®

This year the Cornbelt Chapter had the privilege of presenting two AmTrykes®; one to a veteran (Jack) and another to a young girl (Gracy). Jack and his service dog Bliss were enjoyable company for several of our Cornbelt team at the Wednesday Vet-ride and dinner.



Gracy's parents expressed non-stop "thank you's" for the generosity of the Cornbelt AMBUCS™ for giving Gracy her AmTryke®. Those of us in attendance want to also thank the whole Cornbelt Chapter for donating these AmTrykes® and permitting us to see first-hand the smiles and giggles from the recipients. Thank you. It was a great day to be an AMBUC™!



Dennis and Vicky Strauss also shared the joy of sponsoring an AmTryke® themselves and presented it to Elica. Thanks for your generosity. Those smiles kept on coming.



## Awards Received

Cornbelt received several awards at the Conference. We were recognized as a Superior Chapter with Distinction for the AmTryke® and ramp work we do as well as our generous and charitable activities throughout the year. The “with Distinction” notation recognizes our sponsorship of a new chapter; I-80. Special thanks go to Al Bedell for all of his hard work in getting this new chapter up and running. Even though they put my name on the plaque as our

chapter's president, it was our chapter member's hard work that earned this recognition. Thank you for giving me the honor of accepting this award for our chapter.

Our chapter's involvement with AmTrykes®, ramps, and volunteerism in our community earned the Cornbelt Chapter recognition as the number one chapter in the whole country for Community Service. That's quite an achievement! Well done Cornbelt. Our chapter also received award patches for our achievement banner. These patches were for Program Giving – Ambility, Program Giving – Scholars, New Club Building, and 10-24 AmTrykes® donated. Another year of generosity by our Chapter. Keep up the good work!



Our very own Dennis Strauss also received an award for his outstanding work on his governor's newsletter. What a talented area governor we have!

Way to go Dennis!

This year we also had the special treat of seeing Al Bedell be sworn in as the next National President-elect. Hope you can join us at next year's National Conference in Biloxi, Mississippi September 30 – October 3 to support him in becoming our next National President.





## Halloween Celebration

Friday night was not only the awards celebration, it was also Halloween. Some of the Cornbelt members came in costume to this event. Can you identify our costumed members?



Dick Lang

### Next Saturday Event

When: Saturday, December 20, 2014

Time: 7:00 a.m.

Place: Shannon's Restaurant

### Next Noon Meeting

When: Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Time: Noon

Place: Monical's Pizza (by Best Buy)



## Bill Buchie's Babbles...



Hey, all you ramp-builders -

We got a few ramps built in October and enjoyed some of the beautiful fall weather while making some homes accessible in our community. Thanks to all who helped on an evening or a Saturday.

The first ramp we built was for Mr. Dietsch in Bloomington. We started building the ramp one evening and decided to stay to the end and finished 'under the lights'! Mr. Dietsch was very happy with the results and the family is able to get him to and from his doctor's appointments with ease! Nice job, AMBUCS™!



The second ramp was for Ms. Carolyn Bartosik in Bloomington. Carolyn had a ramp at her home but we built the ramp more than 15 years ago and the ramp needed "a little work". Well, we took out her old ramp and built her a new ramp a little longer and much nicer and had a great group of volunteers helping that Saturday. Extra points go to Don Barnard, who helped mentor our volunteers, neighbors, friends, and everyone that helped us complete the ramp for Carolyn. She was all smiles as she came down her ramp that afternoon. Another fine looking ramp!





The third ramp was done for Mr. George Flynn in Bloomington. We built a small ramp for Mr. Flynn last year inside his garage in Normal and he has since moved to Bloomington so we moved his ramp to his new address. Thanks to Tory Wentworth and Duane Wells for their extra efforts in getting Mr. Flynn's ramp set up at his new home in one evening.

We've got several ramps "on the books" yet this fall and I know Mother Nature will be a factor over the next couple of months but I think we can still get a few more ramps completed for folks who need them. I'll be sending out e-mails and I'll keep you posted on dates and times. Thanks to all who have helped us this year and to our new volunteers and friends who have been helping us lately. We really do appreciate your willingness to help!

I'll see ya' at the next ramp!

Bill McHie

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Be sure to check us out on Facebook. Go to [www.facebook.com/cornbeltambucs](http://www.facebook.com/cornbeltambucs)

### 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).



The therapeutic tricycle for children with disabilities

### Notes From Al...



### AmTrykes®

Cornbelt Ambucs™ did not give away any AmTrykes® in McLean County last month. Cornbelt did participate in the Veteran's ride at National Conference and we provided a bike to a disabled veteran. We also participated in the AmTryke® Rodeo and Cornbelt provided a bike to a child from the St. Louis area.

I am also waiting on a part to repair an Am-16 for one of the children who received a bike at our Pancake and Sausage Breakfast.

The new AmTryke® catalog is now available in print and on the web. Please take a look at some of the new features and bikes.

As usual please continue to send me the name and contact information for anyone who could benefit from one of our bikes.

Thanks

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Check out what our neighboring AMBUCS™ club is doing. Here is the link to the Pekin club's newsletter: <http://www.pekinambucs.org/newsletter.html>