

CORNBELT BUC-ETIN



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Website: www.cornbeltAMBUCS.org

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OCTOBER 2015

THE PREZ SEZ...



So many good things happened for Cornbelt AMBUCS™ and its members last month; I hardly know where to start. Be sure to read this entire Newsletter because there's so much good stuff in here about what Cornbelt AMBUCS™ did last month, with Shoulders Together as a club and as individuals fulfilling our Mobility Mission.

National Conference

The highlight of the month, at least for me, was National Conference in Biloxi, MS. Ten Cornbelt AMBUCS™ made the trip to Biloxi where our very own Al Bedell was installed as National President at the closing banquet. That followed on the heels of his victory in the golf outing. It was a really big week for Al.

The Conference started with an Early Bird dinner at the Biloxi Yacht Club and a bonfire on the beach where we got to reacquaint ourselves with AMBUCS™ from across the country. The Conference opened officially the following evening with the Opening Night Celebration: Life a beach.

Check out Vicky and Denny Strauss rockin' the poker chip glasses.



Dick and Kay Lang were stylin' too.



There's some business conducted at National Conference, and there are education opportunities there too, but it's also full of social opportunities: formal ones like the bonfire and informal ones like the Springfield AMBUCS™ Hospitality Suite.

At the AmTryke® Rodeos, more than 30 veterans and more than 60 children got shiny new bikes. Cornbelt sponsored two AmTrykes®, one for a veteran, Leon, and one for the cutest little girl, Elizabeth. Denny and Vicki Strauss also sponsored a bike for Deseania. It never gets old watching adults or kids get on a bike for the first time. And it's always hard to tell who's smiling more, the new riders or their families. In a week full of great things, this is always the best part of the Conference for me.



Here's Leon coming out of his fitting.



Here's Leon with most of the Cornbelt gang. Doesn't he look good in that Illinois State windbreaker?



This is Elizabeth getting fitted on her new bike. Check out that smile!!!



Smiles all around from Elizabeth's family!!



Deseania on her new bike and sporting her superhero cape too!!!



More smiles!

So many other good things happened at Conference. Vicki Straus led a training session on conducting a Trek4Trykes. She also was the top fundraiser at the conference Trek4Trykes. Cornbelt AMBUCS™ was also recognized as a Superior Chapter with Distinction and for reaching the \$75,000 level of total scholarship giving.



Patty Vannoy, National President, recognizing Dick and Cornbelt as a Superior Chapter with Distinction.



Kay and Vicki, our Cornbelt Trekkers!!!



Captain America had to have his picture taken with our own Superhero Fundraiser, Vicki Strauss.

And just think, next year we get do this all over again next year from September 28 to October 1 when National AMBUCS™ meets again in Tuscon, AZ. I'm already excited. Start making your travel plans now and join the rest of us. What a great week to be an AMBUCS™!!

Looking Ahead - Branding Contest

How do you follow a month like we had in September? You issue a Branding Contest challenge to the Pekin AMBUCS™, of course. That's right; we've challenged our Pekin friends to see which club can add the most new members in October and November. We also announced a joint Cornbelt/Pekin social at a hockey game this winter. The club that wins the Branding Contest gets to host the social at their local hockey arena. The losing club has to travel. There's no doubt that we want to win the Branding Contest, but more importantly, we want to find a few more good folks and add them to our member roll. Invite a friend or coworker to a ramp build or lunch meeting this month, and let them see what we do.

LT

Next Saturday Event

When: Saturday, October 17, 2015
 Time: 7:00 a.m.
 Place: Shannon's Restaurant

Next Noon Meeting

When: Wednesday, November 4, 2015
 Time: Noon
 Place: Monical's Pizza (by Best Buy)

What was so special about Sunday, September 27?

On that day Bloomington mayor, Tari Renner, read an official proclamation at the Annual McLean County Diversity Project Pizza Party announcing Sunday, September 27, as "Bill McHie Day". Bill was recognized for his 25+ years of faithful volunteer work in our community.



The "Bill McHie Leadership by Example" award was created to recognize people who reflect Bill's selfless devotion to serving others through the Diversity Project. Each year, the award winner will have their name engraved on the commemorative plaque.

In 2002, Cornbelt AMBUC™ Jeff Schwartz, founded the McLean County Diversity Project as a way to educate youth on the value of diversity within a community. Each year, a group of 7th-12th grade scholars participate in activities and projects designed to broaden their awareness on key issues facing society.

Over 10 years ago, Jeff Schwartz and Bill McHie put their shoulders together to welcome Diversity Project scholars to join Cornbelt AMBUCS™ in building wheelchair ramps as part of their community service requirement.

Bill's dedication and inspirational leadership with the Diversity Project has made AMBUCS™ ramp building the most popular choice of the scholars in pursuit of their community service requirement.

Congratulations, Bill, on this well-earned honor.



Bill Buchie's Babbles...



Hey, all you ramp-builders -

In September, 3 families have access to their homes. 3 unique ramps were built and 3 times as many volunteers showed up to the ramp in Bloomington one evening! Nice work, AMBUCS™!

Our first ramp was built in one evening, and although rather small, this ramp will be a crucial part of a recovery process for a family in Bloomington, as the husband was released from the hospital just days after we got the ramp completed! Great job, AMBUCS™!



Our second ramp was built in Normal for a young girl, so she and her family will have access to their home for years to come. 38 ft. of ramp, a few hours on a Saturday morning, and look what we can do when we put our "shoulders together". Again, great job, AMBUCS™!



Our third ramp was built in one evening in Bloomington. I have to admit, I was not planning to finish this ramp in one evening, but we had volunteers from everywhere (including Germany!) show up to build this 40 ft. "beauty". This family will now be able to get out of their home and enjoy some of this beautiful fall weather. Again, great job, AMBUCS™!



We've got several ramp requests still "on the books", so keep in touch, watch your e-mail, and I'll see ya' at the next one!

Bill McHie

Ph: (309) 829-9844 (home)

(309) 662-1347 (work)

E-mail: b.bmchie@frontier.com

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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.



The therapeutic tricycle for children with disabilities

Notes From Al...



AmTrykes®

Even though we did not give away any AmTrykes® in September in McLean County it was another busy month.

Cornbelt presented a disable veteran a bike and a beautiful little girl an Amtryke® at National Conference in Biloxi, MS. Denny and Vicky Strauss also sponsored another child with a bike at the Amtryke® rodeo on Saturday morning. Sorry I was busy making announcements and trying to get over a cold and was not able to capture pictures. However, they were all very happy to receive their own bikes.

Also, the AM-10 (formerly the AM-9) and the 1410 (formerly the Oceana) bikes arrived and were assembled. These two bikes are on the same style frame as the AM-12 and AM-16, just a lot smaller. We will not be ordering bikes from Kettler in future as they discontinue to produce the Oceana. We are scheduling presentation dates and times. Hopefully one of the families can make our November 4th noon meeting.

Cornbelt also agreed to purchase a 1420 for a disable veteran living in Bloomington. The therapist is located at the Danville VA. The 1420 is a hand and foot powered bike that recently became available. Pictures will follow but probably not until December.

We have received the back ordered parts for the two bikes the region purchased and Larry will be dropping off the parts soon. We are also working with a couple therapists there that have expressed an interest in forming an Ambucs™ chapter in the Quad Cities.

Larry and I will be doing a bike show in October in Morris, IL. Larry has been in contact with a therapist group there and hopefully Cornbelt can encourage another new Ambucs™ chapter.

As usual, keep sending me the contact information for anyone that may benefit from an Amtryke®.

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

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>