

# CORNBELT BUC-ETIN



President: J Balmer  
Vice President: Marcia Hammerstrand  
Secretary: Vicky Strauss  
Treasurer: Dennis Strauss  
Sergeant At Arms: William Hamann  
Website: [www.cornbeltAMBUCS.org](http://www.cornbeltAMBUCS.org)

Bill McHie, At-Large Board Member  
Pete Hettinger, At-Large Board Member  
Jerry Wyrick, At-Large Board Member  
William Hamann, Past President  
Al Bedell, At-Large Board Member



**FEBRUARY 2018**

**THE PREZ SEZ...**



Recently, a Board member mentioned to me that we're one of McLean County's best kept secrets. I'd like to change that. I will be spending more time meeting with like minded organizations and presenting who we are and why to as many people as I can, but I need your help.

The group we have has done an awesome job of doing what Ambucs™ are meant to do; provide mobility solutions to people who ordinarily wouldn't have those opportunities. We continue to build great ramps, provide AmTrykes to those that will benefit from them and provide scholarships to upcoming therapists that will help us deliver those trykes. But we can do more. Thanks to Bill McHie and a strong core of experienced volunteers we exceed almost every month our mandate to build a ramp, sometimes building several, sometimes during months we ordinarily wouldn't be able to and frequently on days other than the third Saturday. I don't think we can improve on that unless we grow as an organization. Al Bedell, besides his work as a Board member both here and on the National level, goes far and wide pulling a trailer full of AmTrykes doing presentations and building new chapters with help from others like Larry Turilli. Can we do more? Not unless we grow. Pete Hettinger does a phenomenal job screening potential scholarship recipients and the Board has increased the amount of scholarship monies we provide. Can we do more? I believe we will.

February is a time for awareness of who we are, what we do and why. We can't grow as an organization unless people know those three key things and how they can participate. If you know someone who would make a great Ambuc, invite them to a meeting or if they can't make a regular meeting invite them to a build or talk to a Board member. If you know of an event where we can present those key things to people that can help us grow, let us know. Every one of us is an ambassador, but if you're not comfortable talking about AMBUCs to an individual or group, help us make that connection so that we can. It's a great day to be an Ambuc, help us make great days for more.

J

J Balmer  
Betadigm, Inc.  
[jbalm@betadigm.com](mailto:jbalm@betadigm.com)  
309-287-9421

## **Upcoming Events**

### **Next Saturday Event**

When: Saturday, February 17, 2018  
Time: 7:00 a.m.  
Place: Shannon's Restaurant

### **Next Noon Meeting**

When: Wednesday, March 7, 2018  
Time: Noon  
Place: Monical's Pizza (by Best Buy)



## Bill Buchie's Babbles...



Hey, all you ramp-builders -

We've endured some cold weather this winter, but we always look for opportunities to build a ramp. We were able to build one ramp during the month of January in Normal, and Mother Nature was kind to us that day! We built a 30 ft. ramp, including balusters, and I'm sure we made life a little easier for Mr. Merritt. We had plenty of help, plenty of lumber, and more than enough laughs to go around and at the end of the day, we ended up with a pretty nice looking ramp. Thanks, again to all you ramp-builders!





As we make our way through the end of the winter months, I'll be sure to let you know when we are able to start building our wheelchair ramps on a regular basis. If you receive our e-mails for ramp-building, great.. and if you want to start receiving our e-mails for ramp-building, please send me an e-mail and I'll add you to our list for future ramp-building notices. Enjoy the rest of this winter.. and I'll see ya' at the ramps!

Bill McHie

Ph: (309) 824-9844 (cell)

(309) 829-9844 (home)

**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).

## Notes From Al...

---



### Amtrykes®

January was another typical slow month for Cornbelt Ambucs and Amtryke activity.

Currently we do not have anyone on our waiting list and have not provided an Amtryke in several months. I recently contacted several of the therapist we have worked with in the past and asked them to let us know if any of their kiddos could benefit from one of our bikes. I also, offered to repair any bikes that needed a little tender loving care. Let's hope we hear from them soon so we can have bikes for the kiddos to ride when the weather warms up.

If you know or are visiting with a therapist please let them know about our program and ask them to contact me with any questions or potential riders.

I am also planning on a few bike day trips this spring to chapters Cornbelt chartered. District 4A is so generous with their very well equipped trailer.

On February 21<sup>st</sup> we will be doing a bike day in Morris, IL for the Grundy County Ambucs. They have 10 possible Amtryke riders to be evaluated and fitted on one of our bikes. Then the next night, February 22<sup>nd</sup> I 80 will be holding their annual spring bike day in LaSalle, IL. They often have between 10 and 15 kids to be evaluated.

On March 3<sup>rd</sup> I with the trailer will be in St. Louis to help out the pediatric chapter in St. Louis evaluate 20 kids for bikes.

Not for sure but it looks like we will be in LaCrosse, Wisconsin on Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup> and then in Naperville, on Sunday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> for bike days. Still waiting to hear back from the Mississippi Bend and I Hope chapters in Iowa. Looks like a busy spring, please let me know if you would like to assist.

Thanks.

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

Don't forget about our spring conference this April. Here is the flyer with all the details:



to Indianapolis for the **AMBUCS** Central Region Spring Conference  
 Holiday Inn - 251 Pennsylvania Parkway, Indianapolis, IN **317-564-4600**

Rooms are \$119.00 per night if booked prior to April 1

**Registration is only \$80**

Schedule of Events

Friday - April 27

Afternoon Golf Outing

6:30 p.m.- 9:30 p.m. - Dinner & Activities at Carter's Play Place

Come be a kid again!

<https://www.cartersplayplace.com/>

Saturday - April 28

National & Regional News

Lunch & AmTryke Presentation

Interactive Education & Sharing

Big Hat Dinner with auction and fun activities

Sunday - April 29

Enjoy all Indianapolis has to offer



## COMMUNITY SERVICE

Cornbelt AMBUCS was invited to the Salvation Army's "Make a Difference" volunteer celebration last week, where volunteer and bell-ringer awards were presented. I am pleased to announce that Cornbelt AMBUCS received a certificate of appreciation for outstanding service and contribution to The Salvation Army's 2017 Red Kettle Campaign, raising \$723.12! We were second (in the non-profit category) only to the Lions, by \$31. So congrats on a job well done! Also, I think I forgot to include pictures from that event in the December newsletter, so here are a few shots from that night. In case you can't tell who showed up incognito, it was our own Larry Turilli, and he was a big hit with all ages.







I would also like to take this time to remind you about Cornbelt AMBUCS' first quarter service activity. We will meet at the Midwest Food Bank on **Thursday, March 15, 2018, from 6:30 – 8:30**. They are expecting 10- 15 workers. If you plan to join us, or if you need more information, please email Marcia at [mshammer@a5.com](mailto:mshammer@a5.com).

Submitted by Marcia Hammerstrand

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>