

CORNBELT BUC-ETIN

June 2022

Upcoming Events

June 11, 2022 – Adopt a Highway Clean Up

June 22, 2022 – **AMBUCS Banquet** at Knights of Columbus – *Please contact Vicky Strauss if you need additional information.*

July 6, 2022 – Next monthly Cornbelt AMBUCS Lunch Meeting at Noon at Monicals Pizza next to Best Buy on Veterans Parkway.

August 23-27, 2022 – National Conference – Birmingham Alabama for our 100-year anniversary celebration.

From Your President



Hello Cornbelt Ambucs –

This is the month that I begin my second term as President. The first year has flown by and I am excited for this next year and the ways that we will help and connect with our community. I look forward to seeing each of you at one or more of our projects and events.

Lunch Meeting Speaker for our June Meeting

The speaker for our June Lunch meeting was Dee Wilson from the *Penguin Project*. Dee shared the Penguin Project story of their mission and how they came to be in Bloomington IL.

These are some of the things that Dee shared with us:

Once a year, a magical and touching celebration of the human spirit unfolds at U-High's Stroud Auditorium in Normal, Illinois. A group of young people in a program called The Penguin Project® McLean County take to the stage to perform a modified version of a well-known Broadway musical.

This production is unique, however, because all of the roles are filled by children and young adults with developmental disabilities including Down Syndrome, cerebral palsy, autism, intellectual disabilities, learning disabilities, visual impairment, hearing impairment, and other disorders. They are joined on stage by their “peer mentors,” a group of young people the same age without disabilities, who have volunteered to work with them side-by-side and guide them through 4 months of rehearsals and to the final production.

By creating unrestricted access to the performing arts, The Penguin Project® McLean County



Inspiring Mobility and Independence

demonstrates that the special challenges of a disability need not handicap a child's ability to participate in life's many experiences.



Their website is www.penguinprojectmclean.org. If you get the chance consider attending their yearly production to support their mission.

Finally -

Back in December of 2020 Cornbelt AMBUCS donated funds to MarcFirst Pediatric Therapy to purchase a specialized stroller that could be loaned out to clients who needed to borrow this type of stroller on a short-term basis to transport their child to needed appointments. The stroller that they had was not in good shape and they desperately needed a new one but did not have the funds to purchase one.

Well - the stroller finally arrived this month and Al Bedell happened to be there for a meeting and was able to get a picture with the stroller. We are so glad to be able to help such a wonderful organization. They do so much to help children with special challenges in our community. Together – we can help.





Adopt-a-Highway

This is a reminder that our next *Adopt-a-Highway* clean-up is this Saturday, **June 11, 2022**. We will meet at Joe's Station House in the Shoppes at College Hills, at 9am. Please contact Bill Hamann to let him know if you will be helping so we can wait for you.



Year End /New Member Orientation/40 Year Anniversary Celebration

We will be having a celebration on **June 22, 2022** at 6:00 pm at the Knights of Columbus in Bloomington. This will be a celebration of all we have accomplished this year, an awarding of scholarships, welcoming of new members, swearing in of officers and a celebration of our 40-year anniversary. There is much to celebrate. Please contact Vicky Strauss if you wish to attend – it is not too late.

National Conference – August 23-27, 2022

Please consider joining us at the National Conference in Birmingham Alabama – August 23-27, 2022. This year will be extra special as AMBUCS is celebrating our 100th Anniversary.



National Big Hat Raffle

Don't forget about the National Big Hat club raffle. This is their major fundraiser for this year. Tickets are \$20.00 each. The winner will win a 3-night, 4-day stay in Gullwing Beach Resort, Ft Myers FL, airfare and \$500.00 cash. Tickets on sale until end of July. Please contact me (Vicky Strauss) if you would like to purchase a ticket(s). Drawing will be held at the National Conference in August.

I look forward to serving with you in the near future.

Shoulders Together!

Vicky Strauss

President Cornbelt AMBUCS

vmstrauss5@gmail.com



Ramp News from Bill

Hey, All you ramp-builders -

We were able to complete one ramp this past month in Bloomington. The family needed a new ramp inside their garage to be able to get in and out of their home safely. We removed an old ramp and built a new ramp in one morning and the family was very happy with the results.





Thanks to all of our volunteers and I'll be in touch for future ramp-building opportunities. Enjoy the spring weather and I'll see ya' at the next one!

Bill McHie



Amtryke[®] News from Al

June was a busy month for Amtrykes.

We fitted three people for an Amtryke. One girl was at Parkside Elementary School. The 1416 worked well for her and one has been ordered. Unfortunately, we do not have an expected delivery date.



The second one was for a young girl at Easter Seals. They wanted to try her on an AM 16 as she has outgrown her current early intervention Amtryke. We did not have an AM 16 for her to try. However, just prior to our May chapter meeting a family from Lincoln returned an AM 16 to us. We tried the bike for the young girl, and it was a perfect fit. We had to make a few changes due to her shorter than normal arms plus the bike needed a little touch up paint. The bike is ready and waiting for her next appointment at Easter Seals so we can deliver the Amtryke.

The third young lady saw Jeanie's daughter riding her Amtryke in the neighborhood and asked Jeanie how they could obtain an Amtryke for their daughter. Jeanie helped them complete the Amtryke evaluation form and we did a test fitting on the 1420 Pro Series we had in stock. It worked well but it was a three speed and without rear steering. Therefore, we assembled the 1420 we had as an extra and it worked great. The bike was presented to Hannah on June 1 and Jeanie was there to make sure the bike was adjusted properly for Hannah.

As you can tell from the picture below Hannah loved her new bike. Her parents were so happy and looking forward to the family walks in the neighborhood. The family also gave a very nice donation to our chapter.



As usual, please continue to send me the contact information for anyone who might benefit from one of our wonderful therapeutic bikes.

Thanks.

Al Bedell



Our Cornbelt AMBUCS Board

President: Vicky Strauss

Vice President: William Hamann

Secretary: Marcia Hammerstrand

Treasurer: Dennis Strauss

At-Large Board Member: Bill McHie

At-Large Board Member: Pete Hettinger

At-Large Board Member: Dennis Wentworth

At-Large Board Member: Al Bedell

At-Large Board Member: Rick Milner

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Cornbelt Buc-etin Delivery

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