

CORNBELT BUC-ETIN

July 2022

Upcoming Events

August 10, 2022 – Next monthly Cornbelt AMBUCS Lunch Meeting at Noon at Monicals Pizza next to Best Buy on Veterans Parkway. **NOTE:** This a change from usual date.

August 13, 2022 – Adopt a Highway Clean up

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

From Your President



Hello Cornbelt Ambucs –

We had a busy month last month and have been busy already this month as well. Read on to see what we have been doing.

Year End Celebration recap

We held our Year End Celebration on **June 22, 2022** at the Knights of Columbus in Bloomington.

We celebrated all we have accomplished this year:

- We built 21 wheelchair ramps
- We gave away 3 Amtrykes
- We helped 4 therapy students with scholarships
- We adopted and cleaned up a portion of the highway on 2 occasions
- We sorted apples at Midwest Foodbank
- We rang bells for the Salvation Army – where we raised the most money as a service organization
- We spoke to 100s of folks at the two Senior Expo events about AMBUCS
- We were able to provide scholarship/funding for one of our local therapists to attend a valuable Continuing Education seminar
- We had monthly lunches where we learned about other organizations in our community that share our mission and with whom we can partner in the future.

We were busy in the 2021-2022 AMBUCS year despite the many challenges.



Pete Hettinger presented the scholarship awards for the 2022 school year:
(Recipients were unable to attend our banquet)

- Emily Ferguson - \$3000 – Illinois State University
- Cassandra Parritt - \$3000 – Bradley University



Alan Bedell presented an AMBUCS orientation for our group along with questions that we all should now know the answers to. 😊



We presented Awards

- **Project Manager of the Year – Bill McHie** for his work/planning on the Camp Limberlost Ramp



- **AMBUC of the Year** – Jeff Thompson for many ways he shows up to help whenever help is needed.



Next Year's Officers were sworn in



We celebrated our 40-year anniversary - 1982-2022



It was a good night for us to celebrate and enjoy each other's company.

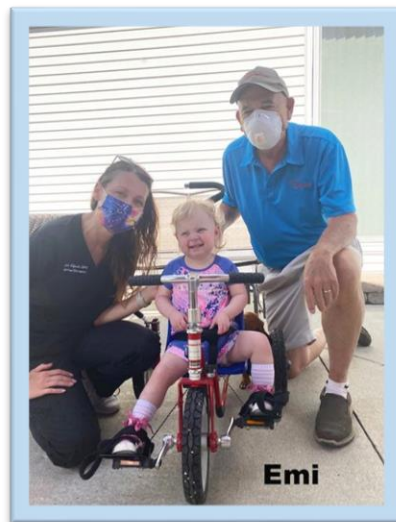


Lunch Meeting Speaker for our July Meeting

The speaker for our July Lunch meeting was Jamie Fifarek - independent pediatric Physical Therapist.

Jamie shared how she is using the techniques learned in her recent continuing education seminar to help young children and their families. Jamie has been able to use the things learned to help her clients with a myriad of issues.

We helped Jamie with funding so she could attend this training. We are very honored to be able to partner with our local physical therapists. Jamie has been one of our go-to people for fitting Amtrykes for young children in our area for a number of years.



Special Note – August Lunch Meeting Change

Our August Lunch Meeting will be held the 2nd Wednesday in August - August 10, 2022 at Noon at Monicals. We will have 2 special guests on that day – Our AMBUCS National President – Scott Buckelew and Donna Hingtgen, who is running for National President Elect. Please join us to hear what they have to share.

Adopt-a-Highway

This is a reminder that our next *Adopt-a-Highway* clean-up event is Saturday, **August 13, 2022**. We will meet at Joe's Station House in the Shoppes at College Hills, at 9am. Please contact Marcia Hammerstrand with any questions.

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.

Registration is now open.



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 volunteering with each of you!

Shoulders Together!

Vicky Strauss
President Cornbelt AMBUCS
vmstrauss5@gmail.com



Ramp News from Bill

Hey, All you ramp-builders -

We didn't get a chance to build any ramps in the month of June but we've got several ramp projects "on the books" for the month of July. We've been able to store several ramp sections that were donated back to us and we will be using some of these ramp sections for a ramp in July. I'll keep you posted on future ramp-building opportunities so watch your e-mails.

Thanks for your willingness to help with our ramp projects and I'll see you at a future ramp, I'm sure!

Bill McHie

Ph: (309) 824-9844



Amtryke® News from Al

June was Cornbelt's busiest Amtryke month in a long time.

We began the month with a bike presentation on June 1, 2022. Hannah saw Jeanie's daughter riding her Amtryke in the neighborhood and asked Jeanie what she had to do to get Hannah a bike to ride outdoors. Hannah had ridden a therapeutic bike at school but did not have one to use in the neighborhood. Jeanie explained the process to the family, and we had the bike she needed in our inventory.

As you can tell from the picture below Hannah and her parents really loved the 1420 Pro Series Amtryke.



I want to thank Jeanie for her assistance in making sure Hannah had a bike to ride. Jeanie completed the Amtryke Evaluation form and was there to ensure the bike fit Hannah perfectly when we delivered the Amtryke. Thanks again Jeanie.



The second Amtryke in June went to a 5 ½ year lovely girl. She previously was riding an AM 10 at home, but the bike was too small. Janae received her AM-16 at Easter Seals, and she took off down the hallway. She was ready to go without any coaching. Below is a picture of Hannah on her recycled AM-16.



When we received the request for the AM-16 we did not have one in our inventory. However, a family in Lincoln returned an AM-16 to Larry Turilli and he mentioned this at Cornbelt's noon meeting. The bike needed a little work, but it worked great for Janae when it was refurbished. The family also donated the AM-10 that Janae was no longer able to ride. It was in excellent condition.

It was just two days later we presented the recently donated AM-10 to Emi. She is 2 years old and one of the many children Jamie sees in her early intervention treatments. She is just too cute, and the parents were very much involved while Jamie was getting Emi fitted on the bike. You can see the wonderful condition of the bike in the picture below of Emi, Jamie, and her mother.



We also received another request for an AM-10 which we will have to wait until September or October for a shipment from national. However, maybe someone will return an Amtryke that is not being used and we can refurbish the Amtryke and allow another child to have a bike to ride.

As usual please send me the contact details for anyone who might benefit from one of our tremendous therapeutic bikes. Thanks

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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