

CORNBELT BUC-ETIN

May 2023

Upcoming Events

May 20, 2023 – Rescheduled Adopt-a-Highway clean-up

May 24, 2023 – Year End Celebration at the Knights of Columbus

June 7, 2023 - Next monthly *Cornbelt AMBUCS Lunch Meeting* at Noon at Monicals Pizza next to Best Buy on Veterans Parkway.

June 12, 2023 – Midwest Foodbank Volunteering from 6 pm – 8 pm

August 2-5 – AMBUCS National Conference in Louisville KY

From Your President



Cornbelt AMBUCS – Well gang, this is my last newsletter as President. It has been a good two years and I have learned a lot and have enjoyed the journey. We are a healthy and vibrant chapter and I look forward to working alongside all of you in the future and the good things that we will do and continue to do in our community.

Cornbelt AMBUCS Visit from National AMBUCS New CEO

On April 20th – our new National AMBUCS CEO, Jessica Wall, visited us here in Bloomington Normal. On Thursday evening, there was an impromptu gathering at the home of Larry Turilli. On Friday morning – Jessica came to see and “help” out with a ramp being built by our Cornbelt AMBUCS before heading to the Central Region AMBUCS Conference in Springfield.



Senior Expo- Recap

Cornbelt AMBUCS hosted an information table at the **Be Content Senior Expo** at the Parke Regency Hotel and Conference Center in Bloomington, IL on May 2, 2023. Several hundred people attended the event. We were able to have conversations about our organization with many of them. We even had a cardinal gift basket to give away. This was donated by Deanna Frautschi and generated a lot of interest to our table. 😊

Marcia & Vicky



Bill & John



Vicky & Kay

(We may have forgotten to take our picture at the table inside.)



Dorie -our basket winner



Adopt A Highway cleanup 5/20/2023 (Rescheduled)

Please join us for the **RESCHEDULED** clean-up for our adopted part of the highway. We will meet on Saturday morning, **May 20, 2023**, at **9 am**, outside Joe's Station House in College Hills. Vicky Strauss is coordinating the event, so be sure to let her know if you plan to participate.

Most of you have already signed a waiver, but if you haven't and plan to help, you need to have a waiver turned in before you can participate. Let Marcia Hammerstrand know if you need to complete a waiver. If you have your vest, please bring it, as well as gloves. Otherwise, we will have a vest for you. It helps if you wear boots in case the ground is damp. It goes quickly when we do it together. There will even be a prize for the weirdest garbage find.

Year End Celebration – 5/24/2023

You should have recently received an invite to our **Year End Celebration** to be held at the Knights of Columbus Hall on Wednesday, **May 24, 2023 at 6 pm**. There is no cost for this event but an RSVP is needed so we have enough food and seating. Members & Guests are invited. Please RSVP as soon as possible. This will be a night of friends, food, celebration, installation of our upcoming years officers and some fun.

If you have any questions, please contact Vicky Strauss at vmstrauss5@gmail.com.

Midwest Food Bank – June 12, 2023

Reminder - our next volunteer activity at the Midwest Foodbank is on **June 12, 2023 from 6 pm - 8 pm**. Please sign up online at this link. This link is specifically for our group: <https://x.gldn.io/e/OvdoVqQQ3xb>

AMBUCS National Conference in Louisville – August 2-5, 2023

Registration is now open for the AMBUCS National Conference in Louisville, KY!

Please consider attending this year's conference on August 2-5, 2023. Louisville is so close and the experience of gathering with AMBUCS from all over the country is priceless. We learn so much, we see old friends and make new ones. It is a gathering of folks who want to help others by working Shoulders Together.

You can find more details at this address:

<https://ambucs.org/members/ambucs-national-conference/>

(Note: If link does not work – paste this address into your browser)



Big Hat Raffle

This year's AMBUCS Big Hat fundraiser is a chance to win a fabulous trip. The winner of this year's raffle is getting the trip of a lifetime! Choose from 5 exceptional adventures for a curated travel experience worth up to \$12,000 – Nashville, Wyoming, Florida, St Martin or Argentina.

The price of a ticket is **\$20.00 or 6 for \$100.00**. All of the money raised goes to support AMBUCS programs – Scholarships, Amtrykes and Cornerstone. You can even buy tickets online if you choose. The prize winner will

Here is the link to National AMBUCS website with more detailed information: <https://ambucs.org/members/big-hat-club/> (**Note:** If link does not work – paste this address into your browser)

You can contact **Dennis Strauss** if you wish to purchase tickets or you can buy tickets online at: <https://form.123formbuilder.com/6244226/form>

(**Note:** If link does not work – paste this address into your browser)

Please join us for our upcoming events. We can do more together.

Shoulders Together!

Vicky Strauss

President Cornbelt AMBUCS

vmstrauss5@gmail.com



Ramp News from Bill

Hey, all you ramp-builders -

We got to build one ramp in April for a great family that needed a ramp inside their garage. We had some AMBUCS Volunteers, a new National AMBUCS CEO, and some friendly farmers show up to help us build a ramp for Carolyn and Dick Smith. Thanks to all of our helpers that day! We had a great time and really enjoyed helping the Smith family make their home accessible.



We've still got a few ramp requests "on the books" so I'll keep you posted on future ramp-building opportunities. See ya' at the next one!

Bill McHie



Amtryke® News from Al

Cornbelt Ambucs had the wonderful opportunity to present Neako with his first bike. Neako became paralyzed at age 4 and has almost no use of his lower extremities.

He received a 1020 Small Hand Cycle at Easter Seals on Tuesday, April 11th. His therapist, Gretchen, feels the hand cycle will be a great way to release Neako's build up energy. The Amtryke will also allow Neako to be able to participate in activities with other children his age. Unfortunately, we were not able to take any pictures of Neako but trust me the smile on his face was so wonderful.

Cornbelt board agreed to purchase a 1416 Pro Series bike for a child at Benjamin Elementary School. The bike should be received soon so please watch and attend the Amtryke presentation. This will be the first Amtryke we have presented to a child at Benjamin Elementary School and working with a new occupational therapist at the school.

Please continue to send me the contact information on anyone who can benefit from one of our fabulous therapeutic bikes. Many of the bikes are available at the Ambucs Resource Center so we can expect shipments in a very reasonable time frame.

Thanks for all you do to help us with our Amtryke program.

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

Website: www.cornbeltAMBUCS.org

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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.