

# CORNBELT BUC-ETIN

## August 2023

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### Upcoming Events

**August 26, 2023** – Adopt-a-Highway clean-up. Let Marcia Hammerstrand know if you will be able to help.

**September 6, 2023** - Next monthly Cornbelt AMBUCS Lunch Meeting at Noon at Monicals Pizza next to Best Buy on Veterans Parkway.

**September 9, 2023** – Cornbelt AMBUCS information table at CIDSO (Central Illinois Down Syndrome Organization) Buddy Walk

## From Your President



Happy August all,

I can't believe how incredibly fast this summer has been flying by! I hope your summer has been treating you well. As you'll see below, our Chapter had some fun last month, and a few of us had a pretty good time at the AMBUCS national conference. It's been years since I attended a national conference. It's nice to hear from members from other AMBUCS chapters from far and wide.

It was also neat to meet the AMBUCS resource staff, especially Jake, the Amtryke guy, who humbly assembled half an Amtryke in the literal blink of an eye. We got to see the new Amtryke prototypes which will make future Amtryke easier to configure and will make building Amtrykes much easier.

Thanks to those that have been coming out to the ramp builds, our service events, and our lunch meetings! I don't get the chance to attend as many events as I'd like as I'm not lucky enough to be retired yet. I do enjoy seeing the event pictures as it allows me to see those that do. have so much fun while doing good deeds.

I have another way for you to get involved. I'm calling on volunteers to serve on a committee to explore, plan, and hopefully hold our first Barstool Golf fundraiser event. Larry Windingland, from Greater Champaign County AMBUCS, spoke at our July lunch meeting. Their chapter has been holding this event with great success for years, and we'll be leaning on them as we get this event off the ground. Please email me at [william.haman@gmail.com](mailto:william.haman@gmail.com) or call me at (309) 826-4718 to let me know you're interested in serving.

Shoulders Together,  
Bill

## Boys and Girls Club on – July 25, 2023

On July 25 – Cornbelt AMBUCS volunteered at the Boys and Girls Club of Bloomington/Normal. We helped them by cleaning out the buses that they use to transport the “kids” they work with. We worked hard and got them all cleaned up. We did sweat a lot and drank lots of water. No one fainted but we melted a little. 😊



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

Cornbelt AMBUCS had 6 attendees plus a few guests at our National Conference just a week ago.

### Opening Night Boat Ride

After our dinner, our first Conference event was a ride on the Belle of Louisville. It was a beautiful night for a leisurely ride with hundreds of fellow AMBUCS from all across the country.

We wore our best decorated Cornbelt AMBUC “Derby” hats.

We didn’t win a prize but we received many comments. They especially liked when we turned on the blinking lights surrounding the hat.



### **Special Speaker**



At one of our sessions, we heard from speaker – **David DeSanctis**. He was a very inspiring speaker who also happens to have Down Syndrome. He had us up singing and dancing numerous times. He was a fun and energetic speaker, who encouraged us to keep on helping people. Also, he has recently starred in a Hallmark movie and has been in other movies and made several TV appearances.

### **Bike Build Time**

Several of our AMBUCS jumped in to help build a few of the 36 bikes that were given away. Some of us needed a refresher course. 😊





### **Central Region Caucus**



Cornbelt AMBUCS received a number of awards during our regional caucus. Marcia Hammerstrand as our Regional Director presented the awards.

- 10-24 Amtrykes given
- Merit Chapter – for all of our activities
- 100% Giving Amtryke
- 100% Giving Scholars

At our main session, we received at \$175,000 Lifetime giving patch.

### **Trek 4 Trykes**



Some of us walked to raise money to provide bikes for all of the children and adults on the Amtryke Wish List who are waiting to get a bike. It was a 5K walk but we walked 4.5 miles so we could walk across the bridge that goes from Kentucky on one side and to Indiana on the other. That way we were able to say that we walked to Indiana.

### **Amtryke Give Away**



Cornbelt AMBUCS provided an Amtryke for this young man named Eden to help strengthen his legs as he walks with a walker to get around. He seemed to really enjoy the ride.



## Fun

What would a conference be without a little bit of fun and food and . . .

If you have never heard of a Margherita tower – This is what it looks like. 😊



If you ever get a chance to attend a National Conference - you should do it. It is the best way to understand all that AMBUCS does, both here and across the country. You will make connections and friendships that last a lifetime. It is a unique opportunity and it is fun.

## **Adopt A Highway cleanup 8/26/2023**

Please join us to help clean-up for our adopted part of the highway. We will meet on Saturday morning, **August 26, 2023**, at **9 am**, outside Joe's Station House in College Hills. **NOTE:** If the temperature will be extremely hot – we will meet at 8 am. You will receive additional information closer to the event. Please let Marcia Hammerstrand 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 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.

## **Other Opportunities**

**On September 9, 2023** – Cornbelt AMBUCS has been invited by CIDSO (Central Illinois Down Syndrome Organization) to host an information table at their Buddy Walk event.

This is their website address - [www.cidso Buddywalk.org](http://www.cidso Buddywalk.org)

Please let us know of any other serving opportunities that you are aware of in our community.





## Ramp News from Bill

Hey, All you ramp-builders!



We built two ramps in July! The first ramp was in Lexington, Illinois for the Burge family. We had to adapt the ramp to their existing front porch and dig around the tree but we got it done, thanks to all our volunteers. Nice work, everyone and they were very happy to have a new ramp so they can get in and out of their home, now.



The second ramp was built in Normal for the Zorn family. This ramp was funded by the Town of Normal and they even provided several volunteers from the Town of Normal Cares Team to come and help us. They were a great help, thank you very much! Ms. Zorn was very happy to get a new ramp so she can safely get in and out of her home. Thanks to all of our volunteers who braved the hot weather to help this family make their home accessible!

We've got a few more ramps on the books so I'll keep you posted on the next ramp-building projects. Thanks and I'll see ya' at the next one!

Bill McHie

## Amtryke® News from Al



With special thanks to Jeanie, we now have two 1416 Pro Series Amtrykes on back order.

The first order was placed last month and the second one just recently. We have been waiting for the completed evaluation form for over a month. With school out it looks like we were going to have to wait until school started again for the school therapist to complete the Amtryke Evaluation form. However, Jeanie came to the rescue. She quickly arranged a meeting with the family and completed the required paperwork. Thanks again Jeanie.

Unfortunately, both bikes are out of stock and will not be available until this fall. But at least the orders have been placed.



Cornbelt Ambucs sponsored one of the Amtrykes given away at National Conference last week. Eden received a 1416 Pro Series Amtryke. As you can see from the pictures below, he did not have any problem motivating the new Amtryke around the path in the conference room. All the Cornbelt members at the conference quickly got in the photo shoot with Eden.



While also at the National Conference I got an opportunity to see the design of the new Amtrykes. The larger bike will replace the 1416, the 1420 and the 1420 XL. The smaller one will replace our 1410 and 1412. Both bikes only require a couple wrenches for assembly and will have additional options. They are hoping to have the bikes in production mode in early 2024.



During the Central Region meeting at National Conference, I asked if anyone had a 1416 new or recycled that we could purchase since our two on back order will not be here for a couple months. A couple chapters are going to check. We also offered to let a chapter purchase the 1420, 1420XL and AM12 stored in my garage. There are children waiting for these bikes, so they need to be used until the back ordered bikes become available. Vicky and I will be working on a Central Region site for chapters to list their Amtryke needs and extra bikes and parts they have available. Everyone will benefit from this information.

As usual, please continue to send me contact information for anyone who might benefit from one of our tremendous Amtrykes.

Thanks.

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### **Our Cornbelt AMBUCS Board**

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