

CORNBELT BUC-ETIN

June 2025

Upcoming Events

June 28, 2025 – Our next Adopt-a-Highway cleanup date – please come join us.

July 2, 2025 – Next monthly *Cornbelt AMBUCS Lunch Meeting* at Noon at Monical's Pizza next to Best Buy on Veterans Parkway. Bring a friend!

July 23-26, 2025 – National Conference Des Moines IA



From Your President

Hello Cornbelt AMBUCS!

I hope this newsletter finds you well and enjoying the start of summer. With the July 4th holiday just around the corner, many of us are looking forward to some well-deserved rest, family time, and maybe a few fireworks. Please have a great time, but stay safe.

As we roll into this summer season, I want to thank those who have been out helping with our ramp projects and our past highway cleanup. It's always great to see our chapter out in the community, doing the work that makes a difference. If you weren't able to join us last time—no worries. I hope to see you at an upcoming cleanup or a future ramp build real soon!

Wishing you all a safe and enjoyable holiday weekend!

Shoulders together,

Bill Hamann

President, Cornbelt AMBUCS

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 <https://www.cornbeltambucs.org>

Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup – June 28, 2025

Our next Adopt-a-Highway clean up date is Saturday, June 28, 2025.

We will meet outside Joe's Station House at the Shoppes at College Hills at *9 am to carpool to the site. Please contact Marcia Hammerstrand (mshammer@a5.com) if you will be able to join us. It only takes about 1.5 hours and it is a good time for exercise and talking to other AMBUCS. We also find many interesting things along the way.

***Note:** Time may change to 8 am depending on the temperature for the day.

Lunch Meeting– June 4, 2025 - New Member

During our June lunch meeting we inducted our newest member, Kevin McCrone, to our Cornbelt AMBUCS chapter.

Kevin has already been out to help with a few ramps. He is getting ready to join many of us in the retirement world in the near future. Please be sure to welcome Kevin to our chapter the next time that you see him.

Welcome Kevin, we are really glad to have you.



2025 Cornbelt AMBUCS Scholarships

We were able to present five – Cornbelt AMBUCS scholarships this year to some very deserving students.

- \$2500 – *Ava Prate* – ISU – Speech/Language Pathology

- \$1200 – *Liz Beam* – University of Kansas - Physical Therapy
- \$1200 – *Maddison Stark* – St Ambrose – Physical Therapy
- \$1200 – *Chloe Yordy* – Bradley – Physical Therapy
- \$500 - *Jacyln Middendorf* – Heartland – Physical Therapy Assistant Program

Our Scholarship chair, Pete was able to hand deliver one of the checks to our recipient, Chloe.

The Physical Therapy and Speech Pathology students have also been sponsored at the National level for a possible scholarship and they are awaiting notification at this time.



2025 National Big Hat Raffle

There are still tickets available.

The National AMBUCS Big Hat Club is having an amazing raffle this year. The winner wins a trip for two to one of three fabulous locations:

- 1) **Alaska Scenic Rail + Denali with a Cruise Tour**
\$6,000 towards room/excursion options & \$1,000 towards flights
- 2) **AMTRAK Fall Foliage Boston & Cape Cod**
\$6,000 towards rail travel & \$1,000 travel funds (excursions, meals, hotel, etc.)
- 3) **Choose Your Own Adventure**
\$7,000 towards travel or activities booked with Cruise Addictions LLC

Tickets are 1 for \$20 or 6 for \$100. You can contact Dennis Strauss for tickets, or you can buy the tickets online at <https://bit.ly/bighataffle2025> or you can use this QR Code.



The winner will be drawn at the National AMBUCS Conference July 23 – 26, 2025 in Des Moines, Iowa. You do not need to present to win.

The trip will be good for one year from the date of the drawing, is transferable, and must be booked in advance through Cruise Addictions LLC. You do not have to be a member to buy tickets, so sell them to your friends, or strangers.

National Conference – Des Moines Iowa - July 23-26, 2025

Registration is STILL OPEN for the 2025 AMBUCS National Conference! The Early Registration fee applies until **June 30, 2025**, so register early and save some money.

Why should you go? Because the AMBUCS National Conference is more than a meeting - it's a launchpad. It will be within driving distance in Des Moines, Iowa.

This is your opportunity to:

- Develop your leadership skills and strengthen your chapter
- Gain practical tools and training you can put into action right away
- Rekindle your passion and reignite your purpose
- Celebrate big with our 25 Trykes in 2025 Amtryke giveaway!
- Connect and collaborate with members from every corner of the country



Mark your calendars for the 2025 AMBUCS National Conference! Our annual celebration will take place from July 23-26 in Des Moines, Iowa. Join us for an unforgettable week of excitement, growth, and motivation with fellow AMBUCS members. There's so much to look forward to and celebrate!

[Save the date](#)

We're heading to Iowa's vibrant capital for four days of learning, laughter, and impact.

Ramp News from Bill



Hey, All you ramp-builders

We built a 50ft ramp for a family in Normal this month. We needed a few days and lots of volunteers as we had to remove an old ramp and build a new one in its place. Mother Nature played a small role in the process, as well, but we were able to finish it just in time for the homeowner to be able to return home.

The picture you see is the ramp in its "final stage" as we came back to add the balusters to the ramp the next day. Thanks to all who were able to join us on this project! We needed everyone's help to get this one completed and I sure do appreciate your willingness to help us complete this ramp.



I've got several more ramps "on the books" so I'll keep you posted on future ramp-building opportunities so stay tuned!. . . and I'll see ya' at the next one.

Bill McHie

Amtryke® News from AI



Cornbelt Ambucs changed the lives of two special children last month.

Sarah received her Amtryke at Northpoint Elementary School. She is 7 years old and the Amtryke evaluation and fitting were performed by Shelly Weakly, the school therapist.

Sarah is a spunky, fun-loving girl, but riding a conventional bike has been too difficult. Her left leg is significantly weaker than her right but she quickly learned where to position the right leg pedal so she would get the Amtryke moving. Her mother sent us a recent note and video of Sarah riding her bike on the road. They said Sarah's legs have gotten noticeable stronger since getting the bike. It used to be that when we went up hill her dad would need to give her a push periodically. Now she can make it up the hills on her own.



Here is a picture of Sarah and Shelly when she received her bike. This was a recycled bike which was returned to us in excellent condition.



We also gave an Amtryke to Reuben with the assistance of Jamie Fifarch, PT. Jamie said Reuben is a curious, happy 2-year-old. He has multiple diagnoses including Down Syndrome, CHD and hearing loss. However, as you can tell from the picture, he loved his recycled Amtryke.

We have two more bikes on orders from National, but it will be August or September before we can expect to receive the bikes. One is the Paceline 1416 and the second one is the Paceline 1420.

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

Thanks

Our Cornbelt AMBUCS Board

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: Vicky Strauss

At-Large Board Member: Al Bedell

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Cornbelt Buc-etin Delivery

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