

CORNBELT BUC-ETIN

August 2025

Upcoming Events

August 16, 2025 – Adopt-a- Highway clean up date

September 3, 2025 – Next monthly Cornbelt AMBUCS Lunch Meeting at Noon at Monical's Pizza next to Best Buy on Veterans Parkway. Bring a friend!



From Your President

Hello Cornbelt AMBUCS!

I trust and hope your summer has been going well and that you've had some time to relax, recharge, and enjoy the warmth and sunshine. The students are back on campus, so summer is coming to end, unfortunately. Time really does go by quickly.

Our National AMBUCS Conference went well, and it was good for us to attend the educational sessions and glean knowledge from AMBUCS from across this great nation. I'm excited to see what the National President, Gordon Shaw, has planned for the year of service and mentorship!

Closer to home, we're planning an evening meetup later this month—a chance to gather informally, catch up with each other, and welcome new faces who might be curious about who we are and what we do. Keep an eye out for details. I hope you'll join us and bring a friend!

As always, thank you for the time and energy you give to our mission. Whether you're building a ramp, building an Amtryke, picking up trash, granting scholarships, paying bills, spreading the word, or just showing up to stay connected, your involvement matters. I appreciate it greatly! Let's keep working Shoulders Together.

Bill Hamann

President, Cornbelt AMBUCS

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Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup – August 16, 2025

Our next clean up date is on, Saturday August 16, 2025. We will meet outside **Joe's Station House** at the Shoppes at College Hills at 9 am or 8 am depending on the temperatures, 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 and we also find interesting things along the way.

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

It was a great National Conference with lots of learning, speakers who inspired us, training times, celebrations for the past year's accomplishments, seeing old friends and lots of fun.



This year's conference had a hot air balloon theme and we took a "ride".



One of our keynote speakers was Michael Glen, the world's first paraplegic hot-air balloon pilot, who's remarkable story of perseverance and courage left the audience in awe. He encouraged all of us to not see limitations.





We also heard from keynote speaker Mary K. Hoodhood via zoom. Mary K is the founder of Kids' Food Basket and a friend of AMBUCS. Mary K is quadriplegic and she shared her inspiring journey of turning personal adversity after a spinal cord injury into a lifelong mission to fight childhood hunger.

She saw a need and know that she needed to do something to help. She currently helps feed 1,000s of kids in her area. She showed us that we all have a calling and we can help others with the talents that we have been given.

Our final keynote speaker was photographer, Angelea Yoder, founder of the "Let Them Stare" project. She is working to change how the world sees people with disabilities. She was born with her own special challenges and her message was bold, heartfelt, and unforgettable.



She challenged us to see people with special challenges differently. She was very sweet and friendly and we got to know her a bit more during hospitality room times.

She also became an AMBUC during this conference. Her [website](#) contains her story and details of her upcoming book projects. You will want to check it out.

Bill Hamann, our Cornbelt President, received chapter award patches during our regional caucus session from Regional Director, J Balmer





J Balmer and Marcia Hammerstrand were recognized for their giving to the Ambility program during the foundation program session

Seven of us participated in the Trek for Trykes early on Saturday morning to fund bikes for the Amtryke Wishlist.



The Trek raised \$17,000. We had a good time walking the Skywalk in Des Moines. It covers miles of the city and is quite unique.



A number of our Cornbelt members participated in the assembling of bikes for the bike giveaway on Saturday. The event gave away 25 bikes. We are very proud of the spirit of helpfulness of our members.



Our new 2025-2026 National President, Gordon Shaw, was sworn in by out going National President Donna Carlton-Vish during our Saturday night banquet. Gordon is from the Great Plains AMBUCS chapter.



Matt Trainer of Augusta Georgia, was sworn in as National President Elect for the 2025-2026 year by out-going National President Donna Carlton-Vish the banquet. Matt is from the Augusta AMBUCS chapter.

Next year's National Conference will be held in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina on August 26-29, 2026. It will be a beautiful venue and there is a beach. 😊

Ramp News from Bill



Hey, All you ramp-builders –

We finished a ramp in Heyworth during the month of July. It was a small ramp inside a garage and we had plenty of help. thank you very much! This family was very

happy to have their mother's home accessible so she can continue to live in her own home.

That's why we continue to build ramps for people in our community. The weather is still hot and we've still got several ramps to build so I'll keep you posted on upcoming ramp-building opportunities.

Thanks to our dedicated volunteers who continue to help us. It's a pleasure to work with all of you.

Thanks, again, and I'll see ya' at the next one!

Bill



Amtryke® News from Al



Cornbelt has not received any requests recently for an Amtryke. I anticipate a few requests when school begins soon.

We did provide a 1412 Pro Series to a child waiting for the new Paceline 1416. Unfortunately, we do not have a date when the backorder will be filled. Please let me know if you know anyone who could benefit from one of our therapeutic bikes.

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

At-Large Board Member: Rick Milner

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