

# CORNBELT BUC-ETIN

## February 2026

---

### Upcoming Events

**March 4, 2026** – Next monthly *Cornbelt AMBUCS Lunch Meeting* at Noon at Monical's Pizza next to Best Buy on Veterans Parkway. Bring a friend!

**March 27-28, 2026** – Regional Conference in Springfield IL – REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

**March 30, 2026** – Midwest Foodbank volunteer opportunity



## From Your President

Hi Cornbelt AMBUCS,

I hope this newsletter finds you doing well and staying warm. January can feel like a long month, but we're one month closer to spring. This is a good time to reconnect and get ready for warmer weather.

Thank you to everyone who has stayed involved through the winter whether that is coming to lunch meetings, helping behind the scenes, or keeping an eye out for people who might need an Amtryke or a ramp. What you do matters more than you know!

As we look toward spring, I would invite you to think about how you could become more involved in AMBUCS this year. Our AMBUCS regional conference is at the end of March. I'd love to see you there! Every person and every effort helps keep our chapter strong.

Best regards and shoulders together,  
Bill

**Bill Hamann**

President, Cornbelt AMBUCS

 [william.hamann@gmail.com](mailto:william.hamann@gmail.com)

 <https://www.cornbeltambucs.org>

## Salvation Army Bell Ringing Award Night



On December 1, 2025, our Cornbelt AMBUCS group of 9 enthusiastic bell ringers raised \$5,396.34 in our 2 - hour time slots. This effort was recently recognized in our 1st place finish for non-profits at the Salvation Army award night.

The 2026 Salvation Army campaign goal was \$1,000,000, and with everything together, kettles as well as via the mail, they raised \$822,610 which is 82% of their goal. They are continuing to accept donations throughout the year. Good job AMBUCS for helping our community!

## Cornbelt AMBUCS Annual Membership Dues – **Deadline February 16**

The Membership dues deadline is approaching. If you have not yet paid your dues please send them soon. Electronic payments are available this year as well.

We use dues to fund operating expenses for our chapter. Those expenses include ramp trailer maintenance, tool purchases and repairs, insurance, regional & national dues, state required non-profit registrations, PO box rental, website hosting, stamps and envelopes.

Our chapter membership in National AMBUCS provides us with legitimacy and protection that comes from working within a national service organization. We spend our funds wisely and appreciate your support!

Let us know if you have any questions.

## **SAVE THE DATE** – Central Region Conference – March 27 - March 28, 2026 – Springfield IL

Our Central Region Conference will be held in Springfield, IL this year on March 27- 28, 2026.

It will be a fun time of learning, networking, seeing old friends and fun. It would be great to have a good showing of Cornbelt members at this Conference.

Registration is now open for the Conference. *Reminder:* If you attend the conference, you can be reimbursed for the Conference registration fee.

We hope to see you there.

**MARCH MADNESS ON ROUTE 66**








**SAVE THE DATES**

**CENTRAL REGION SPRING CONFERENCE**

**MARCH 27 AND MARCH 28 2026**  
**SPRINGFIELD, IL**

**ACTIVITIES INCLUDE**  
 AMTRYKE BUILD & GIVEAWAY  
 SOCIAL INTERACTIONS  
 EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS  
 BIG HAT AUCTION  
 FOOD/FUN/FRIENDSHIP  
 MARCH MADNESS  
 ROUTE 66

**MORE DETAILS ON FUN TO FOLLOW!!**

## 2026 AMBUCS Scholarship Season is Open – February 1 to April 1, 2026

It is scholarship time for AMBUCS! Scholarship applications are being accepted February 1 - April 1, 2026 at the National and local levels for students in a graduate-level program that is accredited in physical, occupational, speech pathology or hearing audiology. Please pass this information along to those therapy students you may know who could use a little extra help.

Be sure to tell the student to contact our Scholarship Administrator at [Cornbelt AMBUCS Scholarship information](#) prior to submitting the National scholarship application so we can consider a local scholarship as well as sponsorship at the National level.

The website address to apply for a National AMBUCS scholarship is <https://ambucs.org/therapists/scholarship-program>.

## Midwest Foodbank – Volunteer Opportunity – March 30, 2026

Cornbelt AMBUCS has signed up to volunteer on Monday, March 30, 2026 to help at the Midwest Food Bank. We have reserved the kitchen at the Food Bank for a meal prior to the volunteer work. We will send an email with more details soon.



Please let Marcia Hammerstrand know if you will be able to help. It is always a great time being together while we help our community.

## Ramp News from Bill



Hey, All you ramp-builders!

We were able to build one ramp in January. Inside a garage.. no digging! but still cold.

The family had just moved into a newer home which was better adapted to their needs. We were able to build a small ramp inside their garage so they could have access to their home. We had quite a few volunteers, thank you very much, and the family was very happy with the results. I've still got several ramp requests "on the books" so as the warmer weather arrives, I'll be in touch with some more ramp-building opportunities.

Thanks for your willingness to help with this program and I'll see ya' at the next one!

Bill McHie



## Amtryke® News from AI



Last month Cornbelt presented a 1410 Amtryke to a wonderful almost 3-year-old boy at Easter Seals.

The therapist, Grethen Meyer, has been working with our therapeutic bikes for many years. She had tried him on one of the Amtrykes at Easter Seals and he was able to ride it the first time. The Amtryke will allow him to participate with his peers. The mom told us that Weston is an active child and likes to keep up with his siblings.



Marcia presented the bike for Cornbelt Ambucs as I was out of town. She did a great job. As you can see from the following picture, Weston loved his new 1410 Amtryke. I am not sure who was happier, Mom or Weston.



The Ambucs National Office has recently informed me they have almost all the Amtrykes in stock and the wait time should be short unless we are looking for the new Paeline bikes with multiple speed. Therefore, I will be contacting our local therapist to encourage them to find more children who could benefit from a therapeutic bike.

Plus, if they are ordered soon, they can have the bikes when the weather turns nice again. Yes, we all are waiting on warmer weather.

Currently we do not have any Amtrykes on order, so please let me know if you know of anyone who might benefit from one of our wonderful therapeutic bikes.

Thanks.

Al Bedell

---

### **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

**Website:** [www.cornbeltAMBUCS.org](http://www.cornbeltAMBUCS.org)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/cornbeltAMBUCS](http://www.facebook.com/cornbeltAMBUCS)



### **Cornbelt Buc-etin Delivery**

We now post all our monthly newsletters on our website at [www.cornbeltAMBUCS.org](http://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](mailto:JWyrick300@ctechinternet.com).