

CORNBELT BUC-ETIN

April 2026

Upcoming Events

April 25, 2026 – Adopt-a-Highway – First clean-up of the year

May 5, 2026 – Senior Expo – Parke Hotel

May 6, 2026 – Next monthly Cornbelt AMBUCS Lunch Meeting at Noon at Monical's Pizza next to Best Buy on Veterans Parkway. Bring a friend!

August 26-29, 2026 – National Conference in Myrtle Beach SC – REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN



From Your President

Hi there!

I want to start by thanking everyone who agreed to serve our chapter in the coming year. It means a lot that we have members that continue to serve in Cornbelt AMBUCS leadership. Please join me in congratulating Vicky Strauss on being elected as our next President. I know she will do a most excellent job, and I look forward to supporting her in the year ahead.

I also want to give a special thank you to Bill McHie for all he has done through the years with our ramp program. Bill has given an incredible amount of time, effort, and heart to helping families in our community. The truth is, no one person could fill his shoes, so we are forming a committee to carry that work forward. That says a lot about the kind of job Bill has done, and how much we appreciate him.

We are also working on a date for the installation banquet in May and we hope to have details nailed down soon. I'm looking forward to that time together as we recognize those who have served and those who are stepping into new roles.

Thanks again to all of you for the many ways you support this chapter. Whether you are volunteering at events, building ramps, helping with Amtrykes, or serving in leadership, you make Cornbelt AMBUCS what it is.

Shoulders together!

Bill Hamann

President, Cornbelt AMBUCS

 william.hamann@gmail.com

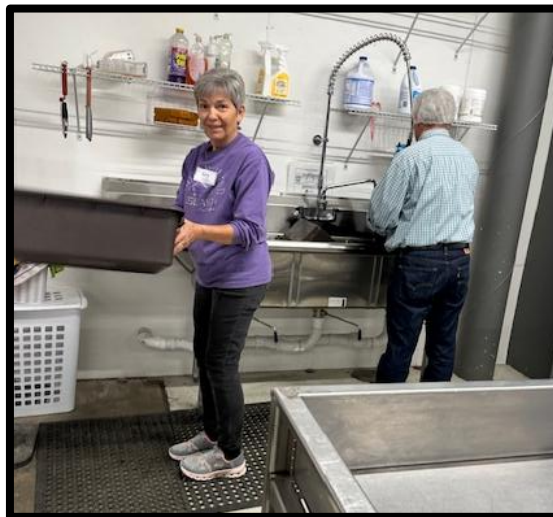
 <https://www.cornbeltambucs.org>

Midwest Foodbank volunteers – March 30, 2026

Cornbelt AMBUCS volunteered on Monday, March 30, 2026 at the Midwest Food Bank. We had 11 AMBUCS and 2 guests helping us package over 2200 packages of small crackers, which will feed over 8000 people.

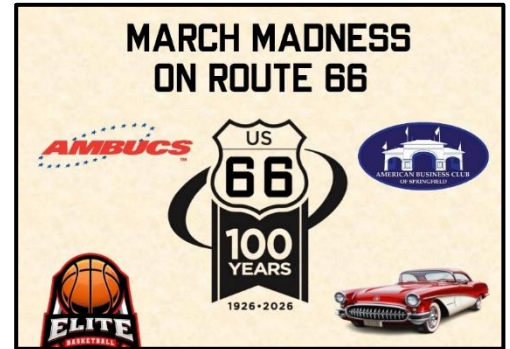


It was a great evening with a box dinner for some of us at the foodbank before our volunteer shift. It is always a great time being together while we help the community.



Central Region Conference Recap– March 27- 28, 2026 – Springfield IL

Our Central Region Conference was held in Springfield, IL at the Northfield Inn and Suites. The theme was March Madness on Route 66. The weekend started with a scavenger hunt around Springfield and a golf outing for those who wanted to brave the cooler temps. We had 6 of our Cornbelt AMBUCS in attendance at the Conference. Some of us (Larry) were all ready for the Friday night tailgate party.



Saturday was a big day with meetings, training, and a great Amtryke give away at the Harley Davidson dealership across from the hotel. A military group presented the colors and then three children were given Amtrykes. As always, it was a very moving event seeing the kiddos ride and smile on their new bikes.

Saturday had presentations from Jessica Wall, our AMBUCS CEO, on what is going on at National AMBUCS and the plans for the coming year. Our own Larry Turilli presented information about the recent HUB changes and how to use them. Saturday night ended with a nice dinner and the Big Hat Auction. We were able to network with other chapters during the event, see old friends and get some new ideas and inspiration.

We thank the Springfield Chapter for hosting this weekend and hope to see more Chapters represented next year.



Be Content Senior Expo 2026 – May 5, 2026 8:30 am – 1:30 pm

We have again been invited to have an information table at the *Be Content Senior Expo* at the Parke Hotel. This event will be held on Tuesday, May 5, 2026 from 9 am to 1 pm with set up at 8:30 am.

We always have a great time telling others about who we are and what we do. Please consider signing up to help on that day. You should have received an email from Marcia Hammerstrand about this event. Please let her know if you can help with this event.

April Lunch Meeting - April 1, 2026

We held our annual election at our monthly lunch meeting on April 1, 2026. The following AMBUCS have agreed to serve for the 2026-2027 year:

- President – Vicky Strauss
- Secretary – Marcia Hammerstrand
- Treasurer – Dennis Strauss
- Amtryke Chair – Al Bedell
- Scholarship Chair – Pete Hettinger
- Member at Large – Rick Milner
- Ramp Chair – Committee being formed

Bill Hamann will serve for the next year on the board as the Past President

We thank everyone who has stepped up to lead our Chapter!



During our lunch we also had the joy and honor to give a bike to a very excited little girl named, Baylor.

It was so much fun to see her so happy. Al has more information in his portion of the newsletter.

UPCOMING – Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup – April 25, 2026

Our first Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup date for the year is set for April 25, 2026 at 9:00 am. Marcia recently sent out an email asking for volunteers. Please be sure to contact her to sign up.

Many hands make light work.

Save the Dates- 2026 National AMBUCS Conference – August 29-29, 2026

The National AMBUCS Conference will be held in **Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, on August 26-29, 2026**. It is going to be a great conference at a beautiful location. The hotel is located right on the beach and there are many things to see and do in the area. Please consider attending.

Go to: <https://ambucs.org/ambucs-national-conference-2026/> to read about the conference. Registration is open now.



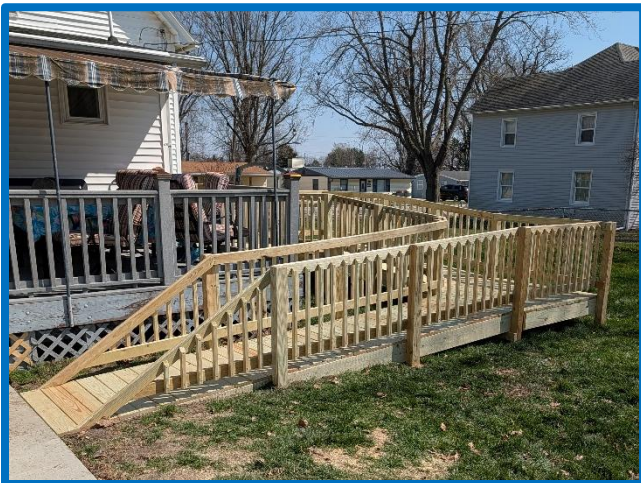
Ramp News from Bill



Hey, All you ramp-builders!

We were able to build two ramps in March with the help of a great group of ramp-building volunteers.

Thank YOU very much! The first ramp was built in Saybrook for a family that waited patiently over the winter months for us to build their ramp. Weather was not helping us at the beginning of the month as we scraped the ice off the materials to get started with our project, but we finished the ramp for a very deserving family out in rural Saybrook. Thanks, AMBUCS!... Nice work!



The second ramp was built at the end of the month in Downs, Illinois. What a difference a couple of weeks make as we were working in short sleeve shirts in 78° weather! Great weather we have here in Illinois, right?! Thanks to our group of dedicated volunteers as we finished the ramp for another deserving family. They were very happy to finally see that they can finally get in and out of their home with ease.

We've still got ramps to build so I'll be in touch with future ramp-building opportunities. Thanks to all of you who were a part of our projects this past month. I certainly appreciate your willingness to help make life a little easier for these families. Enjoy this spring weather, take good care of yourselves, and I'll see ya' at the next one!

Bill McHie

Amtryke® News from AI



As expected, our Amtryke activity increased last month.

We picked up 1416 Amtryke from Parkside Elementary School as it appeared to brake when it turned to the right. The bike has been repaired and I will be visiting with the school therapist regarding who the bike should be returned to. The child who originally received the bike is no longer using the bike and returned it to the school. Technically, the bike should have been returned to Cornbelt Ambucs. Say tuned and we will determine the best location for the bike.

We also are expecting an early 1410 intervention bike to be returned to us. The therapist, Jamie, is checking to see when this will happen.

We have a request for a 1410 and hopefully this bike will be able to be used for the new request. Also, Jeanie, therapist and Cornbelt member, working at Gibson City Pediatric Clinic in Bloomington, is requesting a 1410 to be used at the clinic. The board will review this request at the April board meeting.

We also just received a Paceline 1420 from the Ambucs Resource Center. The bike is now assembled, and we are collaborating with the therapist and family for the presentation. The child receives therapy in Bloomington. I hope the bike can be presented at our May chapter meeting.

This is not an April fools' joke, but we did present an Amtryke to a beautiful girl at our chapter meeting on April 1st. Both parents were there with Baylor, to receive the bike. Jeanie was at the meeting and helped get the AM-10 set up exactly right for Baylor. She rode the bike all around Monical's and did not want to stop to eat her lunch. As you can see from the pictures below, Baylor and her parents loved the new bike. The family also made a nice donation to our chapter.



As usual, please continue to send me the contact information for anyone that may benefit from one of our fabulous 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

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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.