

CORNBELT BUC-ETIN

May 2026

Upcoming Events

May 19, 2026 – End of Year Celebration at the Home of Al and Dee

June 3, 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 Cornbelt AMBUCS,

It is a little hard to believe that May is already here and that this is my last time writing these words as your chapter president. Serving in this role has truly meant a lot to me, and I want to sincerely thank all of you for your support, encouragement, and the many ways you have contributed to Cornbelt AMBUCS during my time as president. Our chapter does what it does because of members who are willing to step up, help out, and care about the work we do.

I also want to give a very special thank you to Bill McHie for more than 40 years of building ramps and helping make life easier for so many families in our community. That kind of service is remarkable, and it says a lot about Bill's heart and dedication. We have all benefited from his knowledge, his willingness to serve, and his can-do spirit.

It is a bit bittersweet to know that Vicky Strauss will be sworn in as president this month. I know she will do a great job, and I am excited for the future of our chapter under her leadership. At the same time, it is hard for me to realize that this is the last time I'll invite you to read on and see what our chapter has been up to. As you know, you could very well find something that enriches your soul and nourishes you.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve as your president. It has been an honor!

Shoulders together,

Bill Hamann

President, Cornbelt AMBUCS

 william.hamann@gmail.com

 <https://www.cornbeltambucs.org>

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

We did our first Adopt-a-Highway cleanup for this year. We had a hardy crew of 9 and it turned out to be a very beautiful day for our “outing”. The grass was really tall in many places but we trudged through and found enough garbage to fill a few bags

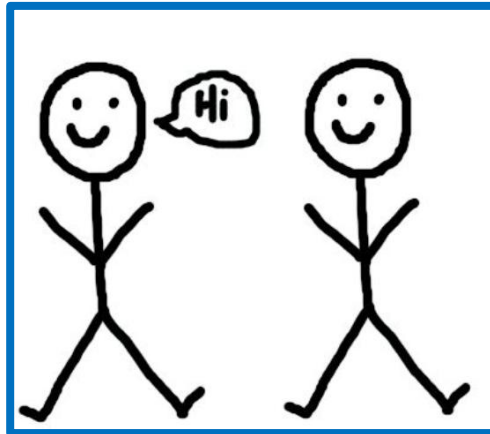
We make up interesting stories about the things being thrown away along the highway, so it is never boring and we get some exercise at the same time. Our next clean up date will be in June. Be watching for an invite.



Be Content Senior Expo 2026 – May 5, 2026

Cornbelt AMBUCS had an information table at the 2026 *Be Content Senior Expo* held at the Parke Regency Hotel & Conference Center. We provided information, answered questions and received thanks for all that we do in our community. There was a lot of foot traffic to our table.

Thank you to John, Larry, Don and Bill H. for manning our table and to Marcia for getting it all organized and bringing all the information “stuff” for our table.



NOTE: This is what happens when you forget to take a picture at one of our events. 😊 Don't let someone talk out of taking a picture!



Deana was the lucky winner of our beautiful raffle basket donated by our own, Deanna Frautschi. Thanks Dee

REMINDER – End of Year Celebration – May 19, 2026

Just a reminder that our End of Year Celebration will be held on May 19, 2026 at the home of Al and Dee.

It will be a great time of celebrating together all of our accomplishments for the year and for some good food and good company. If you have any questions about the event, please contact Vicky Strauss at vmstrauss5@gmail.com or 309-287-5844.

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



Well, we finished another ramp for a family in LeRoy today. We built frames on Friday and built the ramp on Saturday, with a great crew, as always! 40 feet of ramp, a couple hundred balusters, 72 degrees, and a ton of appreciation for all of you who have helped build ramps with me over the past 40 years!

Thank you very much for your willingness to help make homes accessible for all these years. So, look at those smiles! I think she's gonna appreciate her new ramp! And yes, we did tell her about the guarantee! but we didn't get a chance to sing. So stop what you're doing, grab your left ear - (Queue the reruns of the endings of the Carol Burnett shows).. and sing with me! 🎵 "I'm so glad we had this time together - just to have a laugh or sing a song. Seems we just get started and before you know it - comes the time we have to say *so long*."



Thank you, everyone! I've had a wonderful time. So many memories and stories behind all those ramps we've built together. (Some of them - we might not wanna share.. just sayin') Keep up the good work and thanks, again!

Bill McHie

Amtryke® News from AI



Spring is almost here and our Amtryke activity is increasing.

We were so lucky to present two Amtrykes in April. The first one was to Christian at Gibson City Therapy. From the picture below you can see Christian and our own wonderful therapist,

Jeanie. Christian is quite small in size but has plenty of spirit. I think we will be giving him another bike in a few years,



The second Amtryke was a bike we have been working with the therapist since last

November. The Paceline 1420 (which is our largest size) was presented to Lamont at High Road Therapy. As you can tell from the picture, Lamont was very excited and wanted to go fast on his new therapeutic bike.

This was the first Amtryke for Christina, the therapist. She was impressed with the bike and what Ambucs does in many communities. She is interested in maybe becoming a member, but she currently commuted from Springfield, and the Springfield chapter is basically an all-male chapter.

Also, last month the board approved two more 1416 Paceline Amtrykes. We just received notification that both bikes are being shipped to us. That is less than 10 days for order to shipment. This is the turnaround we need to keep the kids happy. We also just received an inquiry through the website regarding a potential Amtryke

I am curious who reads the newsletter. So, the first member (board members not eligible) who text me with their name and number to 308 826-0405 will win lunch at the July meeting. Please watch for the winner to be announced in the next newsletter.

As usual, please continue to forward the contact information for anyone who could benefit from one of our outstanding 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.