

CORNBELT BUC-ETIN

June 2026

Upcoming Events

June 27, 2026 – Adopt-A-Highway cleanup date

July 1, 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 OPEN



From Your President

Greetings to all of you. For those of you who have been around for a long while, maybe this seems like Deja-vu as I was President a while back before Bill Hamann. 😊

I would like to say a special thanks to Bill, who served as President for the last three years. Thanks, Bill, for keeping the wheels on for Cornbelt. Thanks for your encouragement and for showing up to work along side us. Thanks for being a techie and trying to make things better. We appreciate all of the work that you did. I look forward to working with you in the future.

It is a new AMBUCS year starting on June 1, 2026 and I am excited to see how we can help our community even more this year.

If you have any ideas on serving opportunities for our members, please let me know.

Also, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact me or anyone on our Board.

Our 2026-2027 Board Members

President - Vicky Strauss
Secretary – Marcia Hammerstrand
Treasurer – Dennis Strauss
Amtryke Chair – Al Bedell
Scholarship Chair – Pete Hettinger
Member at Large – Rick Milner
Past President – Bill Hamann

Vicky Strauss

President, Cornbelt AMBUCS

✉ vmstrauss5@gmail.com

🌐 <https://www.cornbeltambucs.org>

Upcoming Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup - June 27, 2026

Our next Adopt-a-Highway cleanup date is set for June 27, 2026 at 9:00 am. Be watching for an email invite from Marcia asking for volunteers.

It is always a good time working together. Many hands make light work.

End of Year Celebration – May 19, 2026

Our End of Year Celebration was held on May 19, 2026 at the home of Al and Dee. There were 27 of us there and it was a great time celebrating all of our accomplishments for this last year.

This year our chapter awarded 6 scholarships. Four scholarships were awarded to therapy students in graduate programs and 2 scholarships were awarded to physical therapy assistant students from Heartland.

Unfortunately, only one of our recipients was able to attend our celebration. Annabelle, a Speech Pathology major at Illinois State University received her award from Pete Hettinger, our scholarship chairman.



A few days later Pete was able to deliver another of the scholarship awards to Chloe, a Physical Therapy graduate student studying at Bradley University. We are so glad that Cornbelt AMBUCS is able to help therapy students by providing scholarships. Chances are that all of us will, at some point in our lives, need the help of a physical, occupational or speech therapist.

Our Regional Director, Geno Koehler was able to attend our celebration and performed the swearing in duties for Marcia Hammerstrand as Secretary and Vicky Strauss as President.



The food was great and plentiful and it appeared that everyone enjoyed it. We had a few farewell gifts for Our Ramp Guy – Bill McHie along with laughter and a song at the end.

Retirement – Bill McHie – Our Ramp Guy

Well, it is time to say good bye and best wishes to Bill McHie – our Ramp Guy. He has been building ramps for over 40 years and has been part of more than 800 ramps. We are going to miss his expertise, his faithfulness in getting everything ready and prepared so we could build ramps and his sense of humor. We wish you the best as you venture off to the wilds of Wisconsin. We're so glad we had this time together.

Here are some pictures of our good bye to Bill from the End of Year Celebration, We will miss you Bill!





Save the Dates- 2026 National AMBUCS Conference – August 26-29, 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

Hello Ramp Builders –

We are ready to build our first ramp since Bill McHie has retired. Be watching for an email invite in the next couple of days. We appreciate your continued support during our transition.

Shoulders Together – We can do more.

Amtryke® News from AI



In May, Cornbelt Ambucs was able to provide two riders with new Amtrykes and we repaired two other bikes. J Balmer assisted in the assembly of the first bike. The new Paceline 1416 was assembled in just a couple of hours. A few days later the bike was delivered and presented to Draven at Gibson Health of Bloomington. Draven is eight years old and the Amtryke will help him recover from surgery which is scheduled soon. He was very interested

in the mechanics of the bike and wanted to take a few parts off and on while we were performing the final fitting.

I was happy to see a couple chapters members at the presentation. I hope you can see how happy Draven was to get his new bike from the picture.



The second new Paceline 1416 was for Chloe. Chloe was no longer able to use the hand crank on her AM-16. She returned the bike to us in perfect condition so another child can use the bike soon. Chloe is the daughter of Josh and Jeanie, both Cornbelt Ambucs members. Josh came and helped assemble the bike for Chloe and took the bike home that evening. I was sure Jeanie would be able to make sure the bike was

fitted correctly for Chloe. As you can see Chloe and her family are already enjoying the new red Amtryke.

We also made adjustments on a 1410 and returned the bike to the family. We also picked up an Amtryke for Parkside Elementary School and delivered it to the family home. They did not have the means to transport the bike, and we wanted to make sure Nina had a bike to ride this summer.

As usual, please send me the contact information for anyone who could benefit from an Amtryke.

I only received one text message regarding the offer for a free lunch that was indicated last month. Jeanie realized the area code and wrong and let me know. Congratulations Jeanie.

AI Bedell





Our Cornbelt AMBUCS Board

President: Vicky Strauss

Secretary: Marcia Hammerstrand

Treasurer: Dennis Strauss

At-Large Board Member: Al Bedell

At-Large Board Member: Pete Hettinger

At-Large Board Member: Rick Milner

Past President : Bill Hamann

Website: www.cornbeltAMBUCS.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/cornbeltAMBUCS

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.