

CORNBELT BUC-ETIN

September 2026

Upcoming Events

September 12, 2026 – Adopt-A-Highway cleanup date

September 17, 2026 – 9:00 am Ramp build in Bloomington

September 26, 2026 – 8:30 am Million Meal Pack at ISU CEFCU Arena

October 7, 2026 – 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

It's the best month ever! – It's my birthday month. If summer ever goes away, we can begin to enjoy the fall.

We are busy trying to build as many ramps as we can for the many people in our community who need them so expect to see more requests for help.

A number of us attended our National Conference in Myrtle Beach, a little over a week ago. It was a wonderful conference and such a great time.

We are a healthy AMBUCS chapter but we could use some more members to help us serve our community. Please invite those you know to help us build a ramp or to help us with our community projects or to our monthly noon lunch so they can come and see what we are about.

If you have any questions, concerns or ideas, please contact me or anyone on our Board.

Vicky Strauss

President, Cornbelt AMBUCS

 vmstrauss5@gmail.com

 <https://www.cornbeltambucs.org>

2026 National AMBUCS Conference – August 29-29, 2026

The National AMBUCS Conference in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, on August 26-29, 2026 was great.

Nine of our members attended the conference this year at a beautiful and fun location. We heard from inspirational speakers who left us with a lasting memory. We met new people from across the country and renewed relationships with others. We enjoyed the beach and the food.



Some of us taught classes, some of us walked to raise money for bikes, some of us put together the Amtrykes that we gave away on Saturday and we all had a fun, memorable time at this year's conference. If you have never attended a conference – please consider it. Next year's conference will be in St Louis in the last week of July.



Our speakers Aspen, Ben and Levi – were amazing and inspirational. For more information about Aspen & Ben's stories, you can scan the QR codes on the cards above. You can also do an internet search for Aspen Baxter or Benergy1 or Little Levi to learn more about how special these individuals are.



Our Past National President- Donna Carlton-Vish, outgoing President Gordon Shaw and our new President Matt Trainor



Our bike guys – Al and J helped put together bikes for the Saturday bike giveaway



Here are the walkers for our Annual Trek for Trykes walk. Four of our Cornbelt AMBUCS did the walk and raised money to buy trykes this year. This year raised \$23,000.



We celebrated the bike recipients in style on Saturday. We also ate lots of good food.

Upcoming Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup – September 12, 2026



Our next Adopt-a-Highway cleanup is scheduled for this coming Saturday, **September 12, 2026.**

We will meet outside Joe's Station House at the Shoppes at College Hills at 8 am to carpool to the site. Please contact Bill Hamann 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. We also find many interesting things along the way.

Million Meal Pack – September 26, 2026

We are once again volunteering at the Million Meal Pack to help combat food insecurity in McLean County and across Illinois.

A number of you have already volunteered but there is room for more. The event is happening on September 26, 2026. We are volunteering for the 8:30 am – 10:00 am shift. They are still in need of help with this community event. Please consider joining us.

Click [here to register](#) or scan the QR code to get started.



Ramp News

We built two ramps in August.

The first ramp was built on August 16, 2026 after a one day delay due to rain for Dawn. She had just received a motorized wheelchair and needed a way to easily get in and out of her home.



Our second ramp – 8/22/2026

Our second ramp was built for Lenora – who is currently confined to a wheelchair. It was a hot day but luckily most of the ramp was built in the shade of a very large tree. Lenora and family were so grateful for this ramp that allows her to safely get in and out of her home. She was going to see her sister who she had not been able to see for two months.



Next Ramp

Our Next ramp build is scheduled for Thursday, September 17 at 9:00 am in Bloomington. If you have time and have not yet volunteered – please let us know if you can help.

More Ramps to be built

We have another 10 ramps on our list of requests in various stages. We hope to build a number of them before the weather changes.

The need in our community for ramps is great at this time. There are so many that can use our help. We thank you for any time you can come and help us help these folks. What you do matters and help so many. Thank you for being faithful and helpful.

We are doing our best to schedule ramps for the 3rd Saturday of the month, but there may be times when another day of the week may be necessary.

Shoulders Together – We are doing more.

Amtryke® News



Cornbelt Ambucs had a little Amtryke activity last month.

We connected again with Lifelong Access and were introduced to their new Occupational Therapist. While at the Pediatric Clinic, at the lower level of the Carle Physician's building, we made adjustments to two Amtrykes they have for their client's use. We then traveled to the Lifelong Access's home location, 2000 Jacobssen Drive, Normal, to give an Amtryke away to one of their adult patients.



As you can see from the picture, he was quite pleased with the Amtryke, and was able to ride the bike with ease. The bike will be stored at the home where he lives with other Lifelong Access clients so several of their clients will be able to use the bike. We have had this bike in storage for a few years and we are very happy to see someone using the bike.

We also picked up a used 1420 XL Pro Series bike from a family in East Peoria. Their child was no longer using this bike. We already have a request for a large bike. We may need to add the rear steering kit and rear brake. We are working with the therapist to make sure this bike will work.

As usual, please let me know of anyone who could benefit from one of our wonderful therapeutic bikes.

Thanks

Al Bedell



Caring Corner

Please continue to keep Connie Oltman in your thoughts and prayers as she is recovering from a stroke. She misses AMBUCS.

Member Anniversaries/Birthdays –

Happy September birthday to **Roger Ryan** and **Vicky Strauss**. May you both have a wonderful year.

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
At-Large Board Member: Kevin McCrone
Past President: Bill Hamann

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.