

# CORNBELT BUC-ETIN



President: Dennis Strauss  
Vice President: Larry Turilli  
Secretary: Dan Bedell  
Treasurer: David DeHaan  
Sergeant At Arms: Jerry Wyrick  
Website: [www.cornbeltambucs.org](http://www.cornbeltambucs.org)

Bill McHie, At-Large Board Member  
Greg Beneze, At-Large Board Member  
Jerry Wyrick, At-Large Board Member  
Pete Hettinger, At-Large Board Member  
Al Bedell, At-Large Board Member



**JUNE 2010**

## **THE PREZ SEZ...**

**(President Denny Strauss)**

### **Year in Review**

The 2009-2010 year is complete. We had quite a few accomplishments this past year. Here are the highlights:

- National Conference was held in Reno, Nevada on July 15-18, 2009. We had four members in attendance and gave away an AmTryke® during the AmTryke® Rodeo on Saturday.
- State Farm Volunteer Fair was held on September 17, 2009 at State Farm Corporate South. We had a table manned by four members for the 2 hours we were there. It was an opportunity for people to get know we exist and what we do for McLean County.
- AmTryke® In-Service Event was held on September 28, 2009. This was our first time hosting this event. It provided training for six therapists on fitting AmTrykes® for children. The National AmTryke® Trailer was there and resulted in 10 AmTrykes® given away.
- Parenting and Disabilities Expo was held on October 20, 2009 at Bloomington High School. This was our third year as a participating sponsor of this event. It was organized by Access Allies of Bloomington/Normal. It brought together 34 different area groups/people that work with people with disabilities.

- Veteran's Day was Wednesday, November 11, 2009. We built two ramps for veterans, and had a nice article in the Pantagraph.
- Fall Branding Social was held on November 12, 2009 at Monical's Pizza. There was pizza and pop as we tried to recruit new members.
- Christmas Social was held Thursday, December 17, 2009 at Eastland Suites. It was a chance for members to get together for a buffet dinner and white elephant gift exchange. A good time was had by all.
- New Flag/Pole was purchased as our old one was getting very tattered and dirty.
- New Awards Banner was created as the existing ones were filled. We now display the five awards we got from National and District during the 2008-2009 year.
- National Visibility Month was in February 2010. We received proclamations from the City of Bloomington, Town of Normal, State of Illinois, and Illinois General Assembly, proclaiming February AMBUCS™ Appreciation Month. We also had our chapter displayed on the electronic billboard on Empire.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Pancake and Sausage Breakfast was held April 17, 2010 at 2<sup>nd</sup> Presbyterian Church in downtown Bloomington. This was our only fundraiser and we netted almost \$1,200.
- Pepsi Refresh Project – This was a National AMBUCS™ effort to receive a \$50,000 grant from Pepsi to give away 100 AmTrykes® from the Wish List. Members nationwide voted every day in April to keep us in the top ten vote getters. We finished fourth.
- Wheelchair Ramps - We built 28 ramps costing almost \$35,000 in material and labor. We did this even though we had two months without ramps being built because of snow.
- AmTrykes® - We gave away 18 AmTrykes® during the year. Most of these were new trykes, and several were older models that had been outgrown by the previous owners. The new AmTrykes® were worth almost \$8,000, all paid for by the club through generous donations from members and others.

There is still some paperwork to do for last year, but now on to the New Year 2010-2011. We continue to receive request for ramps, through our website, email, and phone calls. We continue to look for people to give AmTrykes® to.

We need to continue to look for new ways to raise funds for ramps and AmTrykes®. With local and state budgets being cut, we may have to find ways to fund the ramps without their help. We will be looking into applying for grant money that we know is available. We just have to ask in the right way.

### **2010 Installation/Awards Banquet**

Our 2009-2010 Installation/Awards Banquet was held on Thursday, May 27, 2010 at Eastland Suites in Bloomington. We had 34 people in attendance including members, spouses, guests, and scholarship winners. Our guests included:

- National President Elect – Greg Ferris and wife Jan



- District 4C Governor - Dr Jeff Dill
- Family Members of Don Huber (6)



#### Therapist of the Year

Karen Klein was our Therapist of the Year. The award was presented by Al Bedell



#### Project Manager of the Year

Bill McHie was our Project Manager of the Year. The award was presented by Denny Strauss.



### AMBUC™ of the Year

Brian Burcham as our AMBUC™ of the Year. The award was presented by Denny Strauss.



### Don Huber Memorial Spirit Award

Al Bedell was our Don Huber Memorial Spirit Award winner. The award was presented by Pete Hettinger. In addition to the traveling award, certificates were also given to the past and current recipients.



### Scholarship Recipients

Jennifer Schultz (\$2,000) and Lori Cunningham (\$1,000) were our two scholarship recipients. The awards were presented by Heather DeLories.



New officers for the coming year were installed by Dr Jeff Dill, our District 4C Governor.

President – Denny Strauss (2<sup>nd</sup> term)  
 Vice President – Larry Turilli  
 Secretary – Dan Bedell  
 Treasurer – David DeHaan



Board Members – Alan Bedell  
 – Greg Beneze  
 – Pete Hettinger  
 – Bill McHie  
 – Jerry Wyrick

Last year was a good year for Cornbelt AMBUCS™. We set club records for AmTrykes® (18) given and ramps built (28). With everyone's help we can have a good year again this coming year. As our motto says "Shoulders Together". Thanks for all you do.

Denny



### **Mark your calendars!!!**

#### **Next Saturday Meeting**

When: Saturday, June 19, 2010  
 Time: 7:15 a.m.  
 Place: EAA Hanger, Old Airport

#### **Next Noon Meeting - \*\*NEW LOCATION\*\***

When: Wednesday, July 7, 2010  
 Time: Noon  
 Place: Monical's Pizza (by Best Buy)



## *Bill Buchie's Babbles...*

Hey, all you ramp builders -

We had a very productive month of ramp building... and completed 3 ramps during the month of May.

Ida Hinch and her family were very pleased at the ramp we built on a drizzly Saturday morning. There are very few ramps where we get fed while we work... but Ida's ramp was a wonderful surprise! Thanks to Ida for the great sandwiches and treats.. and we're really glad we got to stop by!



Milt Evans had been patiently waiting for a ramp for a couple of months... and he got a very nice looking ramp built on a Saturday morning, as well. He will certainly be able to get in and out... and enjoy some more of this great summer weather, now!



Mary Nickum has angels watching over her! We had scheduled to build a ramp for Mary over a month ago... but she had been back in the hospital. Then we set up another time to build her ramp... but got rained out. During the delays... we found more funding for her ramp!... so Mary has a new ramp, thanks to the City of Bloomington's Community Development Program. Mary was very happy... and she can finally get in and out of her home safely.



We've got more ramps to build... and I'll send e-mails with details in the future. If you have not received an e-mail about schedules, send me a note at [b.bmchie@verizon.net](mailto:b.bmchie@verizon.net) and I will add you to the e-mail list. We're off to a great summer of ramp building... so stop out and see what we've been doing. See ya' at the ramps!

Bill McHie  
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**Cornbelt Buc-etin Delivery**

Did you know you can now receive your monthly copy of the Cornbelt Buc-etin via email? *Save a tree*, and save *Cornbelt AMBUCS™* the first-class postage...and get your monthly copy online! Just send Jerry an email at [JWyrick300@ctechinternet.com](mailto:JWyrick300@ctechinternet.com).