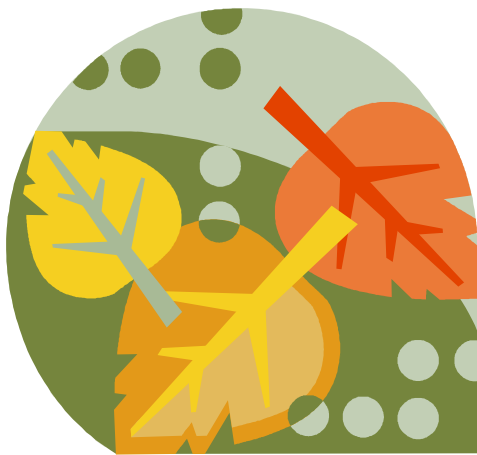


CORNBELT BUC-ETIN



President: Dan Bedell
Vice President: Dennis Strauss
Secretary/Treasurer: Larry Turilli
Sergeant At Arms: Jerry Wyrick

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



SEPTEMBER 2008

THE PREZ SEZ...

(President Dan Bedell)

A very happy Labor Day to you all. It's a wonderful thing that our labor can help so many in our community. Keep it up!

The Fall Convention for the Central region will be held on October 25th and 26th in Champaign. If you are interested in attending the event, please let me know (dan.bedell@cornbeltambucs.org).

Access Allies has asked us to be a part of the second annual Parenting and Disabilities Expo which will be held on October 26th from 6 to 8 pm at the Community Activity Center in Normal. Please let me know if you would be interested in representing Cornbelt AMBUCS™ at this event. If so, I will be

contacting you in the next couple of weeks to work out the details. This is a fantastic event and a great way for us to network with our community. If you are interested in learning more about the event, please visit www.accessallies.org.

Now that our committees have been established, we need to start meeting to determine our goals for the year. In the next couple of weeks, I will be contacting committee members to set up meetings.

Just by conducting a regular Internet search you can now raise money for AMBUCS™. Instead of relying on google.com and other common search engines, visit the **goodsearch.com** website and choose "**National AMBUCS Inc.**" in the drop down box located in the center of the page. You'll then be able to earn about one cent for our organization each time you conduct a new search. There are also a number of popular retailers featured on the site and that you can patronize to help raise money for AMBUCS™.

For all of you Big Hatters, there is a raffle underway. The raffle is for a trip to the Atlantis Resort and Hotel: details can be found at <http://www.ambucs.com/assets/Uploads/Admin-Documents/The-AMBUCS-National-Big-Hat-Club-Raffle-Rules-2008-09.pdf>. If you have questions about the contest, please contact Kip Miles (ph: (580)747-0910, email - milesmusic@sbcglobal.net).

I have heard from several of you about the committees you would like to serve on – Thank you! Many of the slots have been filled, but we are still in need of your assistance. The only way for our club to get better is with your help. Please contact me (dan.bedell@cornbeltambucs.org) as soon as possible, and let me know which committee(s) you are interested in helping out on. The only committees which are full are the Ramp Committee and the Information and Public Relations Committee.

Membership Committee

- Dan Bedell
- Jerry Wyrick

Information and Public Relations Committee – Full (thank you!)

- Greg Beneze
- Pete Hettinger
- Lorna Wyrick

Social Committee – we need to have two Big Hatters on this committee. Any volunteers?

- Larry Turilli
- Jerry Wyrick

Ramp Committee – Full (thank you!)

- Bill McHie
- Lloyd Bates
- Brian Burcham
- Greg Beneze
- Bill Wills

AmTryke™ Committee

- Heather DeLoria
- Al Bedell

Scholarship Committee

- Pete Hettinger
- Bill Wills
- Heather DeLoria

Financial Committee – Fund-raising

- Al Bedell

Spring Conference - plan and organize the 2009 Spring Conference to be held in Bloomington/Normal

- Dan Bedell

National Convention Report

The National Convention in Rogers, Arkansas was a blast! There was a lot of great information shared at the Convention about fund-raising, membership growth, and the new web site (great job Semaj!). On Thursday, we built four ramps in towns near Rogers, Arkansas - and we were in charge of one of them. We were able to help out a very nice man who can now enjoy the sunset on the platform of his new deck. We also gave away **Thirty** AmTrykes™ on Saturday, July 19th...and two of them were given by our chapter. It is always great to see a group of kids get to ride their own bike.

Cornbelt was recognized with three awards at the Convention. We were a Merit Chapter, a 100% giver to Living Endowment, and we gave away between 5 and 9 AmTrykes™ last year.

The National Convention fundraisers were great successes. The Big Hat auction raised over \$35,000, another \$7,000 at the Trek for Trykes Walk-a-thon, and over \$1,500 was raised with the 50-50 drawing.



On the last evening of the convention, Anna Blubaugh became our new President

and our own Connie Oltman moved from President to Past-President. There was an excellent dinner, and I believe Connie enjoyed her gift from the Cornbelt and North West Arkansas chapters (see pictures below). Our Regional Director – Greg Ferris – announced he will be running for National President Elect. His election will occur at the National Convention from July 15-18, 2009 in Reno, Nevada. Mark your calendar now and join us for the Convention!!

I hope everyone has a chance to attend a National Convention in the future. It is a fantastic way to see the great work that people are doing around the country.



We are off to a great start for the new year. We have already completed a couple of ramps and have several more on the books. If you haven't been able to come out yet to help build a ramp, please join us. It's a lot of fun and it's great to be able to help someone out on a Saturday morning. Watch your email and the newsletter for dates of future ramps. If you don't have email, and are not getting the information on the upcoming ramps, contact Bill McHie or myself and we will get you the information you need.

Hope to see everyone at Lakeside Country Club for our next lunch meeting at noon on October 1st. Bring a friend!



Labor Day - Sept 1st



Important
Announcements

Next Saturday Meeting

When: Saturday, September 20, 2008

Time: 7:15 a.m.

Place: EAA Hanger, Old Airport

Next Noon Meeting

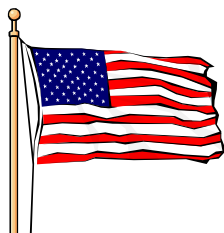
When: Wednesday, October 1, 2008

Time: Noon

Place: Lakeside Country Club

Cornbelt Buc-etin Delivery

Did you know you can now receive your monthly copy of the Cornbelt Buc-etin via email? Save a *tree*, save *Cornbelt AMBUCS™* the first-class postage...and get your monthly copy online! Just send Lorna an email at LWyrick270@ctechinternet.com.



**Patriot Day
September 11th**



Bill Buchie's Babbles...



Hey, All You Ramp-Builders -

What? No ramps for July? Well, we actually did a ramp in July...but we did it in Arkansas! Yep, we attended the AMBUCS™ National Convention in Rogers, Arkansas in July and, because of Connie's focus on ramp-building during her tenure as our national president; members from all over the country actually built four ramps in one afternoon. It was a great day! Mr. Hanson was thrilled to get a ramp and was watching us through the window during the afternoon. We got him out on the platform for the last part of the building and he was thrilled watching so many volunteers putting his ramp together. (You have to ask me the story as to why he was living at this particular house sometime... it's a classic!).

What a ramp! And what a crew we had in August for our regular Saturday ramp-building party! Mr. Weaver was really thrilled with his ramp...as you could tell that day. He stepped out on the top deck and watched us work and finish the ramp that Saturday...and thanked me several times before we left his place. After lunch, I stopped back to pick up the materials and his wife had already set out a flower pot to "brighten up the place", she said. Mr. Weaver was really looking forward to being out of his home and

enjoying the weather that afternoon. Thanks to all the AMBUCS™ and the many extra volunteers (...soon-to-be AMBUCS™?) for all your help that day. We really do make a difference in the lives of people with disabilities in our community.

And look at all those smiling faces... our projects impact our own outlook on others in our community, as well.

We have plenty of ramps to build and plenty of beautiful weather, too... so we will keep on building ramps this fall. We're planning to build again on Saturday, September 20th and I'll be sending out more details on an e-mail as the date gets closer. I also have a few smaller ramps that we can build on week nights so I'll keep you informed of our "extra" building dates through the e-mail system.

As always, if you have any questions about ramps, how we build them, how you can help, or if you just want to join our club and be an official member of the ramp-building team, please give me a call. Enjoy the weather this fall and I'll see ya' at the next one!





See ya' at the ramps!

Bill McHie

Ph: (309) 662-1347 (work)
 (309) 829-9844 (home)
 (309) 824-9844 (cell)
b.bmchie@verizon.net

Notes from Alan Bedell

Regional Director Report

In case you have not heard, I would appreciate your support at Fall Conference to help me become your next Central Regional Director. I look forward to the opportunity to work with all the chapters and provide leadership and relay your thoughts and concerns to the AMBUCS™ National Board of Directors.

During my 15 plus years as an AMBUC, I have held several chapter offices, served as District Governor and am currently the Central Regional Secretary/Treasurer. I am committed to AMBUCS™, am a Lifetime Member. Dee and I are also William L. White members and I wear my AMBUC pin and Big Hat proudly!

I hope you will join me at Fall Conference, October 24th to 26th in Champaign, network with members from other Central Region chapters and help me get elected. The Greater Champaign chapter is working hard to make this a fun weekend and it is only a short drive to Champaign.

There is a rumor of a hospitality suite Friday night with special treats for Cornbelt members.

Greg Ferris, the Central Regional Director, announced at National Conference his intention to run for National President Elect. Good luck Greg!



The therapeutic tricycle for children with disabilities

Our AmTryke activity has been a little slow lately. We have three small Trykes in stock which are suitable for children age 2 to 4.

Good news is we have a young child trying an AM-12 with positive reports from Easter Seals. This is the bike we restored from Lincoln, Nebraska. We hope it works well for the young man. We also repaired and added a knee separator to an AM-16 to allow the young girl to more easily ride her bike. Cornbelt donated a toddler Tryke at the National Conference AmTryke Rodeo where over 30 AmTrykes were fitted and given away one afternoon. Recently, we received a \$500 donation from the Golden Kiwanis for an AmTryke. We really need to find a child who could benefit from a therapeutic tricycle and let the Golden Kiwanis know there money is being used appropriately.

We will be contacting the schools again this fall and several other agencies hoping to find children who can benefit from having their own bike. If you get a chance please check out the new AmTrykes and equipment on the new National AMBUCS™ website.

Thanks again for your help and please continue to send me your referrals.



In June, I was very fortunate to spend 3 days at our AMBUCS™ National Headquarters in High Point, North Carolina as part of the national scholarship committee. While there, I worked with three other chapter representatives and Janice from the home office selecting and awarding scholarships to Occupational Therapist, Physical Therapist, and Speech Therapist.

National received over 1,500 scholarship applications. Yes, we did review most of the applications. Janice did an outstanding job of organizing the materials and eliminating the ineligible ones. After the tiring process was over, we had awarded 224 scholarships totaling over \$164,000. It was lots of fun rewarding these students for their outstanding efforts at school and in their communities.

I am happy to report, both the Cornbelt sponsored scholarship applicants received National Scholarships of \$1,000 and \$750. Part of the scholarship committee's duties was to select the National Therapist of the Year. This year there were only 10 finalists, but you would have been thrilled to read their applications and accomplishments. I am not sure how some of them had time to sleep. After hearing and meeting the Therapist of the Year at National Conference recently I was assured we made the correct decision.

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to participate and to represent Cornbelt AMBUCS™ on an AMBUCS™ national committee. This is a four year commitment and I am looking forward to the experience again next year.

Alan Bedell
828-5584
decardinal@aol.com