

# CORNBELT BUC-ETIN

## February 2025

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### Upcoming Events

**March 5, 2025** – Next monthly *Cornbelt AMBUCS Lunch Meeting* at Noon at Monical's Pizza next to Best Buy on Veterans Parkway. Bring a friend!

**March 28-29, 2025** –SAVE THE DATES – Central Region Conference – Bloomington IL

**July 23-26, 2025** – SAVE THE DATES –National Conference Des Moines IA



### From Your President

Hello Cornbelt AMBUCS, family, and friends,

I hope this newsletter finds you well and staying warm as we move through the heart of winter. While it may be cold outside, things are heating up for our chapter as we gear up for one of the biggest events of the year—the **AMBUCS Central Region Conference**, happening in late March.

The conference isn't just about meetings and workshops—it's a fantastic opportunity to **connect with AMBUCS members from other chapters** and build relationships that last well beyond the event. Whether you're sharing ideas, learning from others' experiences, or just enjoying some time together, the friendships formed at the conference can be **both inspiring and long-lasting**. You'll also have the chance to **network with members of the National AMBUCS organization**, including leadership, who will bring valuable insights and a deep passion for our mission. These connections make the conference not only a learning experience but also a truly enjoyable and rewarding event.

I want to **strongly encourage all our members to register as soon as possible and to attend**. The Central Region Conference is always a valuable experience—connecting with fellow AMBUCS, sharing ideas, and learning from others in our region. To make it easier for you to participate, our chapter will **reimburse the registration fee for any member who signs up and attends the conference**. This is an incredible opportunity to attend at no cost to you, so I hope you'll take advantage of it!

Please reach out to Al, Marcia, or Vicky to see how you can help as we want to be good hosts. I look forward to seeing you all there and working together to make this regional conference one to remember.

Thank you all for everything you do—let's keep the momentum going as we move into another great year for Cornbelt AMBUCS!

Best wishes,

**Bill Hamann**

President, Cornbelt AMBUCS

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## Salvation Army Bell Ringing Award Night



On December 2, 2024, our Cornbelt AMBUCS group of 13 valiant, frozen bell ringers raised \$2,048.63 in our 2- hour time slot. This effort was recently recognized in our second-place finish at the Salvation Army award night.

The 2024 Salvation Army campaign goal was \$670,000, and with everything together, kettles as well as via the mail, they raised \$692,249. Good job AMBUCS for helping to exceed the goal!

## 2025 AMBUCS Scholarship season is Open – February 1 to May 1, 2025

It is scholarship time for AMBUCS! Scholarship applications are being accepted February 1 - May 1, 2025, at the National and local levels for students in a graduate-level program that is accredited in physical, occupational, speech pathology or hearing audiology. Please pass this information along to those therapy students you may know who could use a little extra help.

Be sure to tell the student to contact our local chapter at [www.cornbeltambucs.org/scholarship-information](http://www.cornbeltambucs.org/scholarship-information) once they have submitted the National scholarship application to also be considered for a local scholarship as well as sponsorship at the National level.

The website address to apply for a National AMBUCS scholarship is <https://ambucs.org/therapists/scholarship-program>.

## 2025 National Big Hat Raffle

The National AMBUCS Big Hat Club is having an amazing raffle this year. The winner wins a trip for two to one of three fabulous locations:

- 1) **Alaska Scenic Rail + Denali with a Cruise Tour**  
\$6,000 towards room/excursion options & \$1,000 towards flights
- 2) **AMTRAK Fall Foliage Boston & Cape Cod**  
\$6,000 towards rail travel & \$1,000 travel funds (excursions, meals, hotel, etc.)
- 3) **Choose Your Own Adventure**  
\$7,000 towards travel or activities booked with Cruise Addictions LLC

Tickets are 1 for \$20 or 6 for \$100. You can contact Dennis Strauss for tickets, or you can buy the tickets online at <https://bit.ly/bighataffle2025> or you can use this QR Code.



The winner will be drawn at the National AMBUCS Conference July 23 – 26, 2025 in Des Moines, Iowa. You do not need to present to win.

The trip will be good for one year from the date of the drawing, is transferable, and must be booked in advance through Cruise Addictions LLC. You do not have to be a member to buy tickets, so sell them to your friends, or strangers.

## 2025 – Annual Membership Dues - Reminder

The membership dues deadline is **February 15, 2025**.

Our dues are used for operating expenses for our chapter i.e.: P.O. Box rental, website hosting, stamps, envelopes, regional & national dues and state required not for profit registrations. We work hard to spend our funds wisely and appreciate your support.

## SAVE THE DATES – March 28-29, 2025 – Central Region Conference

**COME JOIN THE CIRCUS** --Cornbelt AMBUCS is hosting the 2025 Central Region Conference here in Bloomington on the weekend of March 28-29, 2025. It would be great to have a good representation from our Chapter as well as help to make this the best conference ever.

*For those Cornbelt members registering for and attending this year's Central Region Conference, your registration fee will be reimbursed to you after the conference.*

Registration is now open. Check your inbox for the registration flyer. If you have not received this information, please contact Vicky Strauss.

## SAVE THE DATES – July 23-26, 2025 – National Conference

Please consider attending the 2025 AMBUCS National Conference in July of 2025. It will be within driving distance in Des Moines, Iowa.



Mark your calendars for the 2025 AMBUCS National Conference! Our annual celebration will take place from July 23-26 in Des Moines, Iowa. Join us for an unforgettable week of excitement, growth, and motivation with fellow AMBUCS members. There's so much to look forward to and celebrate!

[Save the date](#)

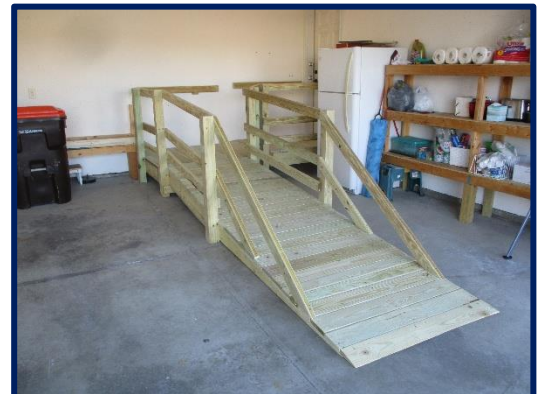
It is a time that you will enjoy meeting other AMBUCS, be inspired by what is going on around the other AMBUCS chapters and by how our organization is helping people all around the country.

## Ramp News from Bill



Hey, All you ramp-builders –

We were able to build a ramp in Heyworth in January, inside a garage where it was SUPPOSED to be a little warmer... oh, well. The family was just happy that we could help to make this home accessible. We received a very nice thank you note and we had a good time building this one. A special thank you to Duane Wells as the "crew" for this one, too. We were able to get most of the ramp done on a Saturday and came back on Monday to finish the railings. The winter



weather may still be lingering but we'll try to get going on our ramp-building in the coming months. Thank you to all of you for your willingness to help and I'll see ya' at the next one!

Bill McHie

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## Amtryke® News from AI



Cornbelt AMBUCS presented an AM - 12 Amtryke to Nora at Tr-Valley Elementary School.

I wish you could have seen Nora's beautiful smile when her new bike was wheeled into the room. Nora was supported with her mom, brother and two sisters. They were all very excited to see Nora ride her new Amtryke. You can see her brother wanting to help her, she only needed a little help.

Along with Heather, DPT, the school Occupation Therapist and three of the school aids were all there to see how Nora got along with the Amtryke.

We do not have any pending requests, so please let me know of anyone who could benefit from an Amtryke.



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### 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](http://www.cornbeltAMBUCS.org)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/cornbeltAMBUCS](http://www.facebook.com/cornbeltAMBUCS)





### **Cornbelt Buc-etin Delivery**

We now post all our monthly newsletters on our website at [www.cornbeltAMBUCS.org](http://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](mailto:JWyrick300@ctechinternet.com).