

AMBUC Receives Award

The Junior League of Champaign-Urbana began a new award in 2018, the **Community Impact Award**. They requested nominations from the community then a committee of members met and evaluated all of the nominations. They decided to recognize 20 people and 5 organizations. GCC AMBUC member, **Cris Vowels**, was selected due to her work at the Urbana Early Childhood School and her other community involvement. Her nominators were able to describe how Cris really helps make our community a better place. Cris works all of our events and is our liaison to the Challenger League. She attends almost all of the games and arranges for the awards our Chapter provides to the players every year.



Our Chapter is very proud of Cris, seen here on the left with her award, and of all our members who work and volunteer in our community to make things better for all who live here. Congratulations, Cris!

Calendar

2019

Jan. 26—Bar Stool Golf

Mar. 2—Cash Bash

Apr. 12-13—Spring Conference, Ottawa, IL

Apr. 27—Amtryke Road Rally



Bar Stool Golf

Our next big event is the Bar Stool Golf Charity Fundraiser on January 26th. We'll be running over 500 people through nine bars in Champaign starting at 11am and finishing about 5pm. We had to change one bar this year due to its closing for a time. Our bars will be: Pia's, Fat City, Green St. Café, Derailed, Huber's, Goldy's, Office II, Pippa's Pub, and the new one Pour Bro.'s. Teams can sign up starting the first week in January at any of the participating bars. We are limiting the number of teams to 120 and would like to sign up 13-14 teams at each bar. If we get more teams signing up at a given bar we may ask them to sign up at another starting bar with less teams. We want to eliminate a backlog of starting teams. Help from all members, family, and friends will be needed to help keep the teams flowing through the bars. Elaine Windingland will be calling members to get volunteers. Hope to see everyone there!



Amtryke Giveaways

December is the best month for member **Bud Mesker**. This is the month where he picks a child off the Amtryke Wish List and presents them with an Amtryke. The Wish List is for children and adults who live in an area not served by an AMBUCS Chapter. Bud gives this Amtryke in honor of all his grandchildren who are happy and healthy. This little girl has some weakness in her legs and the Amtryke will help her strengthen her legs while having fun riding around her neighborhood. This year, Bud's son, Louis, helped him deliver the present and he said his dad, "...hit a home run!" Thanks Bud, for all you do and have done for our Amtryke program!



On December 18th our Chapter gave an Amtryke to Kyndal and she came by our lunch meeting to meet us and take her Amtryke home. Kyndal is 14yo and goes to Mahomet-Seymore. She will be using this Amtryke during her PE sessions at school. Kyndal's therapist is Katheryn Rose and she was at lunch, too. She said that we have been working with the school system for over 25 years! She also wrote us a thank you letter after **Scott Price** delivered the Amtryke to Kyndal's home:



"Dear Scott and awesome AMBUC members,

First of all thank you for providing lunch for Hannah, Kyndal and I yesterday. Also thank you again for providing another Amtryke to a young lady who is thrilled to have some added mobility! As Scott saw she was beyond excited when we delivered it to her home last night! It was a wonderful Christmas gift for her. Happy Holidays!

*Kathryn Rose PT
Physical Therapist"*

Speaker: Karen Pickard

On December 4th, Karen Pickard, of the Daily Bread Soup Kitchen came by to tell us about how her organization helps our community. The Kitchen is open 7 days a week and serves 200 people per day! Most of the people they serve are the "working poor", people who can't provide healthy, nutritious food for their children. They come to the Kitchen so their families will get at least one good meal per day. The Kitchen gets their food from a variety of sources, some restaurants donate leftovers but most they buy from the Eastern Illinois Food Bank where \$10 worth of food can feed 20 people at the Kitchen. They also have a backpack program where they fill new backpacks with necessities like underwear, hand warmers, chap sticks, blankets, etc. Last year they filled and gave away over 800 backpacks! Thanks for all you and the other volunteers do for people in our area! (l-r: member Andy VanEngelenburg, Karen Pickard)



"Holiday Humor"

Q: What's the difference between the Christmas alphabet and the ordinary alphabet?

A: The Christmas alphabet has Noel



AMBUCS Park Decorating

Mary Lou and Wayne Younger revived the AMBUCS Park decorating project this year. The project included the Driscoll pavilion area and the bridge at the back of the park. Members Mike Foley and Bob Lacey came out to help and the job was done in about 4 hours. The park looks great from University Ave! Thanks to all who made this happen!

Community Foundation Grant



Joan Dixon, of the Community Foundation of East Central Illinois, joined us for lunch on Dec. 18th to present us with a grant check for \$4,500. GCC AMBUCS member, Bob Lacey, writes grants for our Chapter and was successful with this one for Amtrykes. Joan and the Community Foundation are long-time supporters of AMBUCS. Their association with us started with donations to help us build ramps, with the ramp build trailer, with improvements at AMBUCS Park, and with this type of grant for Amtrykes. Joan ran a total of all donations over the years and found that they have given us \$86,700! There are no words for how much our Chapter appreciates this support! Thanks for coming by, Joan! (l-r: President Ray Griest, Joan Dixon)

Winning Chances

12/4/18—50/50: \$10 to Arlie Saldeen;
Attendance: \$20 to Steve Gibbs.

12/11/18—50/50: \$8 to Mike Foley. Attendance: \$16 was also won by Mike! Woo, woo!

12/18/18—50/50: \$8 to Jeanie Gothard; Attendance: \$17 was won by Arlie Saldeen.

Splinters from the Board

The Board of Directors met on December 19th at Giordano's in Champaign.

The Board discussed:

- ⇒ final plans for Bar Stool Golf
- ⇒ Larry Windingland received pictures for use in the brochure
- ⇒ Bob Lacey reported he was moving forward with a proposal to have our Web site redesigned by the SCNO students.