

# THE BUCSHOT

Greater Champaign County AMBUCS Newsletter

May 2018

## Awards and Installation



*Manzellas* Italian Patio was the location for our Awards and Installation Banquet. They served family style dishes starting with a salad, followed by spaghetti, fettuccini, and lasagna.

Outgoing President, Roger Adams gave out the Chapter awards for the year, starting with Project Manager of the Year going to Larry Windingland for his innovative event, the Amtryke Road Rally. This event was a day of fun for the children who have previously received Amtrykes through our Chapter and some supported by the C-U Elks. While Larry had lots of good help, the idea and leadership was his. Congratulations, Larry!

The next award was for AMBUC of the Year and that went to Scott Price. Scott does an amazing job with our Amtryke program. He does a lot of behind-the-scenes work getting the Amtrykes assembled, and then adjusting and maintaining them once they are delivered. Thanks for your good work, Scott!



Roger's President's Award went to Bob Lacey for his work on the AMBUCS Park Committee, grant writing and reporting, and his work with the students at the U of I. Bob is great to work with and stepped up to move back into being Sargent-at-Arms with the passing of one of our members. Great job, Bob!

The next big item on the agenda was the oath of office, administered by District Governor, Jenna Wirth, to the new chapter officers. The Board of Directors for the 2018-2019 year are:

**President:** Ray Griest  
**Secretary:** Sally Denhart

**Sargent-At-Arms:** Jeannie Gothard

**Chairman of the Board:** Roger Adams

**Directors:** Bob Lacey and Kyle Moe, 2nd year of a 2-year term, and new directors Larry Windingland and Keith Jamieson.

**President-Elect:** Renae' Strawbridge  
**Treasurer:** Elaine Windingland  
**Big Hat President:** Deb Griest

Thanks to all who are stepping up to serve this year! Please give them all the support you can!

## Calendar

June 18—Charity Golf Outing

June 23—Bike Fitting Day at Carle

September 22—Scarecrow Festival

October 3-6—AMBUCS National Conference, Reno, NV



# Amtrykes

*This* month we gave away three Amtrykes at our lunch meetings.

May 1st brought Shelby, at right, to lunch to receive her Amtryke. She was wearing a pink t-shirt that said "Girl Club" but I think her brother is an honorary member as he jumped right in to help her get settled on the trike and their mom says he helps Shelby a lot at home. Have fun Shelby!



Next, on May 8th, Eden came to visit and could hardly wait to get on her Amtryke! She is a happy little girl with strength issues in her legs. The Amtryke will help her work on her legs and have lots of fun at the same time. Enjoy, Eden!

And on the 29th, Diaonna came by with her grandparents to get her Amtryke. Diaonna is a 19 year old young lady who has many challenges but the

Amtryke will get her out and help her interact with people. Glad we could help, Diaonna!



## Ramps

*Ramp* building season started with a build on North Cunningham in east Urbana. This was a 44 linear foot ramp that started with a short drop to a flat then a turn and a long run. Since we had several people helping, the owners allowed us to park in their yard. Three of their family members, including a future marine, helped with the build. Then they provided us with lunch. Thanks to all who came out and helped!

Next, we took on a bigger ramp which also turned out to be a bigger challenge than we thought. This was a ramp with a short flat then a long run that had to jog just a little to the right

in order to link up with the parking area. The jog was a challenge to plan and get measured correctly. The bottom end of the ramp needed the supports placed in the ground and if digging through gravel wasn't hard enough, there was asphalt chunks under the gravel as fill. This made digging a nightmare. The guys had to take turns digging the trenches because not only was it hard but it was a VERY hot day! The temperature was in the 90s and there was very little breeze. This one almost defeated us but AMBUCS don't give up and although it took longer than normal, we didn't finish until about 2:30pm, AMBUCS won! The owners provided coolers with water and Gatorade and cooked us one of the best lunches we have ever had. Lunch is



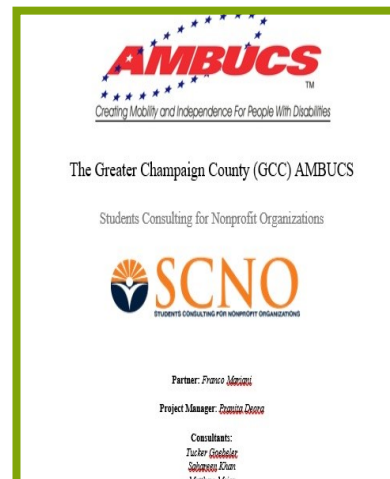
not required but is very appreciated. Thanks to leader, Ray Griest and all those who hung in to complete this ramp. It turned out to be one of the prettiest ramps we've ever built!

(Editor's note: I managed to do a face-plant right into a cross-board used as temporary support, nearly knocking myself down. I'm okay, but ironically the bruising and scratch on my face was caused by my safety glasses!)



## Student Consultants Helping Non-Profits

**On** November 2017, Katie Shumway from the University of Illinois Community Learning Lab (CLL) was a guest speaker at one of the Chapter's lunch meetings. The CCL is a part of the School of Social Work, working with other U of I Colleges, Schools and Departments to offer students an opportunity to work with community businesses and organizations to gain experience. GCC AMBUCS took advantage of this opportunity and by the end of December, the Chapter had applied and was connected to the Students Consultants for Non-Profit Organizations (SCNO). During January, the Chapter coordinated a scope seeking analysis. This analysis made recommendations on Chapter membership recruitment and sustainment, fundraising, and improving visibility for us within the community we serve. Five SCNO students, majoring in Accounting, Economics, Finance, Information and Marketing, became a team to help the Chapter.



From February through May the students analyzed the AMBUCS mission, conducted interviews with many Chapter members, reviewed the Chapters social media presence, and evaluated the internal elements of the Chapter. This ranged from membership structure, committees, to recruitment practices, mentorship and potential for attracting new members. They also evaluated certain external elements of other nonprofits in terms of organization, media presence and partnerships, etc. This included a midpoint presentation by the students in March. At that presentation the students collected additional thoughts and comments from Chapter members.



The SCNO students conducted additional research and made a final presentation on May 2nd as well as provided documentation on recommendations. This documentation included a "Guide" for reorganizing the Chapter's committee structure to make it more effective and suggestions for improving member recruitment and mentoring new members so that they can get involved. The students also suggested using partnerships with like-minded organizations as a member recruitment tool and included a guide and sample documents to put partnerships in place. In addition, they provided recommendations toward improving the Chapter's social media presence, many toward targeting younger members.

As a reward to the students' efforts a pizza party was held after the presentation. The GCC AMBUCS Board and membership will be reviewing the recommendations and implementing portions of them.

## Charity Golf Outing

**The** date for our next big fundraiser, the Charity Golf Outing at Stone Creek course in east Urbana, is **June 18th**. We are about full on teams but we can still use hole sponsors, lunch and dinner sponsors. Sponsors can sign up online from our website: <http://www.thegccambucs.org/golf-outing> using either PayPal or a credit or debit card.



## Speakers This Month

**Jenn Schmidt**, President of the Junior League of Champaign-Urbana stopped by on May 1 to tell us about what her group does for the community. The Junior League partners with other groups to help children in our area. Jenn also let us know that there is no longer an age limit on joining their group. Thanks for the info, Jenn!



The U of I Wheelchair Basketball coach, Matt Buchi, joined us for lunch on May 15th. He gave us some insights on how the special wheelchairs work for the players. They cost about \$6,000 each! Go watch a game sometime. Thanks for coming by, Matt! (That's him on the right in the picture with President Roger Adams.)

## Bike Night in Weaver Park, Urbana

A new park, Weaver Park, in East Urbana, was the location for the Urbana Bike Club's Bike Night. It was the first event connected with the newly finished Kickapoo Trail. This trail goes from Urbana to St Joe along the old railroad way. Bikers and vendors came out to enjoy the evening in the park with music by the band *Sapphire*. We had a rare visit from member Rick Ohmit and his wife Mary who love to ride bikes and were heading out on the organized ride with the club. We showed off a couple of our Amtrykes and talked with bikers about what we do. Thanks to Renae' Strawbridge for coming out and to Bob Lacey for organizing this participation!



## Bike Fitting Day at Carle, June 23rd



**What** is a Bike Fitting Day you might ask. It is an event where Ace Therapist, Earl Martin, invites several of his patients to come by to be fitted for Amtrykes. GCC AMBUCS members Scott Price and Deb Griest, arrange for the Amtryke Trailer to be at the event. The trailer contains all of the Amtryke models available and most of the accessories used to customize them. Accessories include different seat types, like bucket seats or tractor seats, different handlebar types, different pedal types, and more. Each patient tries different Amtrykes and accessories and Earl helps them decide which trike is the perfect one to help their medical challenges. All the paperwork gets filled out and the trikes are ordered in a few days.

This pre-fitting gets the right Amtryke to the right person.

GCC AMBUCS members are welcome to come by the event to see how fittings are done. Some C-U Elks will be invited since they have covered the cost of Amtrykes in the past. Come on by!

## Tidbits

***Anniversary:*** One of our newest members, Judy Dramsted and her husband Steve celebrated their third wedding anniversary this month. Congrats, Judy and Steve!

***Amtryle Road Rally:*** The Elks have agreed to allow us to host the 2019 Road Rally at their Lodge in Savoy. The date will be set soon.

***New Wardrobe?*** Ramp build leader, Ray Griest, has given in to the heat and humidity. After years of wearing jeans he bought three pairs of shorts!

***Facebook Posts:*** Second reminder to please be sure to Like and Comment on Facebook posts and share them on your own timeline, if possible. If you're on Twitter, please follow GCC AMBUCS and re-tweet our posts. This is the most effective way to use Social Media to help with our visibility.

***Members with Health Issues:*** Ron Meyer is struggling so please send him good wishes. Larry Windingland has been in the hospital but is back among us. Here's to continued healing!

## Splinters from the Board

The Board of Directors met on May 30th at Giordano's in Champaign.

The Board discussed:

- ⇒ replacing the bag for the tri-fold display board
- ⇒ getting a table cloth for use during events.
- ⇒ getting some car magnets for members to use when working on Amtrykes and Ramps.
- ⇒ SCNO final report
- ⇒ Park District grant spending

## Winning Chances

5/1/18—50/50: \$11 to Kyle Moe; Attendance: \$41 could have been won by Rick Ohmit but he was not present

5/8/18—50/50: \$10 to Andrea Betzler. Attendance: \$62 also went to Andrea! Woo, woo!

5/15/18—50/50: \$10 to Sally Denhart; Attendance: \$18 could have been won by Dick Adams but he was not present.

5/22/18—50/50: \$11 to Bob Lacey; Attendance: \$41 could have been won by Nikki Kopmann but she was not present.

5/29/18—50/50: \$10 to Jeannie Gothard Attendance: \$41 could have been won by Justin Griest but he was not present.