

Note: when you finish reading this newsletter, please pass it on to someone who doesn't know about AMBUCS.

Note: Meetings will continue to be at Bunny's Tavern until the new *Maple & Yolk* (formerly *Urbana Gardens*) opens

Amtrykes

Our Chapter can always keep busy giving away Amtrykes! It's our way of spreading love in the Month of Love. Valentines Day has nothing on us!

Our first Amtryke of the month was given to Josh, a young boy in kindergarten who wants to be a mechanic. He also wants to own a tow truck when he gets older. Member Don Dunlap, who owns Don's 24hr Towing, will help groom him for that roll. Happy riding, Josh! And be careful! Don't be your own first customer.



Mallory, our second recipient, is 22 months old and just started walking the Saturday before our giveaway. She started by walking on the outside of her feet so strapping them correctly on the pedals will help train the muscles to use the feet in the proper manner. She's a little on the short side so Scott Price had to add 2 pedal blocks on our smallest Amtryke. Mom and dad can take them off as she grows. Have fun and grow fast, Mallory!



Calendar

2025

March 8—Cash Bash

March 28-29—Central Region Conference

May 3—BarStool Golf

May 17—Amtryke Road Rally

July 23-26—AMBUCS National Conference

September 15—Charity Golf Outing

Member Lost

Its hard to write an obituary about a man like **Mike Foley**. How do you sum up a man's life in a few paragraphs, especially when he defined the phrase, "a life well lived".

Mike was married, had children, grand children, and great-grand children. He had many businesses in his retirement including being a landlord, owning a curio shop, and was never idle for a minute. He had a nice house where the children spent most of their summers swimming, hiking, learning to shoot, setting off fireworks at night, and of course, learning to fish, Mike's favorite pastime. From the memorial service it seems that Mike was a mentor to all the children and always had a ready ear to listen and talk about anything, anytime. They probably spent many hours around the kitchen table talking about everything, well into the night.

He was a long-time member of the Bass Club and split a lot of his spare time between them and helping us. Among many other things, Mike helped build nearly 50 wheelchair ramps for AMBUCS.

Mike was a lineman for the Eastern Illinois Electric Co-op for a lot of years. In 1980, he won \$3.2 million in the lottery and actually got to call his boss and say, "Take this job and shove it!" But that was just for show. Mike continued working for a couple more years until he got stranded in a huge snowstorm and his friends

said that was enough; go do something fun! He started to travel more and saw a lot of the world. He went to Australia, Ireland, Egypt, and more, but his trip to Beijing, China, was his best. It was on that trip he met Priscilla Burnett, who was to be his companion for the next 27 years and, along with his children, took care of him in his last days.



Mike was a country music fan and two country songs were played during the service, the final one being, "Leave a Light on in the Kitchen" by Ashley McBryde. It's a song about the promise that when you need someone to talk to, there will always be a place for you, and a light on in the kitchen waiting for you. It sums up the wisdom and willingness to help anyone at anytime that was Mike. It was what he did, not just for his family but for all of us. So tonight, **Mike Foley**, we'll leave a light on in the kitchen.

National Conference

Get your registration planned for the **National AMBUCS Conference** on **July 23-26** in **Des Moines, IA!** It's a fun city with great food and great things to do. National promises to build some "off" time into the schedule. CEO Jessica Walls says, "Attendees leave conference invigorated to lead positive change in their communities, confident with new resources and support to make it happen." See you all there!



Central Region AMBUCS Conference

Hosted by the Cornbelt Chapter at the **Eastland Hotel and Conference Center in Bloomington**, this conference promises to be lots of fun!. It starts **March 28th** and runs

through the 29th. The cost is **\$125** after March 10th. Guests can attend for just \$75.

As always, you must register for a hotel room separately by calling the hotel at 309-662-0000 or registering online (grp code: **AMBUCS** or **5988**). The group registration closed at the end of February, but you might be able to get a room or share with a friend.

The Springfield Chapter will host the Hospitality Suite so that's a guaranteed good time!

Come Join the Circus

2025 Central Region Spring Conference
Hosted by Cornbelt AMBUCS
March 28-29, 2025

Eastland Hotel and Conference Center
1801 Eastland Drive, Bloomington, IL 61704

Friday March 28	Saturday March 29
3:45 pm Registration 5:30 pm Cooicals at Al Bidels 6 pm Diner & Fun at Al's Hospitality Suite	Continental Breakfast Big Hat Meeting Welcome / Opening National & Regional News Penguin Project Lunch & Speaker Towards Bike Riding Club Educational Classes x 4 Cocktails Dinner Big Hat Auction - All are invited Hospitality Suite

Friday night will be at Al Bidel's house and Saturday morning we'll have a Continental Breakfast at the hotel and start the "work" part of the event. You'll leave inspired to do more for your Chapter. Hope to see everyone there!

BarStool Golf

Be sure and mark off May 3rd on your calendar for our BarStool Golf Fundraiser! We'll open registration for the event early in April. We expect to run over 400 people through the 9 bars so we need lots of help. Bring your friends!

Splinters from the Board

The Board of Directors met on February 27 at Denny's and addressed the following items:

==>voted to increase the memorial contribution to National for members who pass away, from \$50 to \$100

==>created nominating committee for 2025 consisting of **Deb Griest, Renae' Strawbridge, Don Dunlap, Keith Jamieson, and Larry Windingland.**

Tidbits

Among other member birthdays in February, Sally Denhart turned 70 on the 15th! Members **Renae' Strawbridge** and **Deb** and **Ray Griest**, missed the actual day but took her to El Toro Loco for a dinner later. It was Loco alright! The custom at this restaurant is to bring the birthday person a big sombrero, a free desert, and sing to them. What Sally didn't know is that they shove the desert in the birthday person's face. Oh what fun!



Retirement is coming closer for **Scott Price**. He and wife Ann will then be off to Morocco to visit with daughter Megan and will add in a boat trip to France while in the neighborhood. Scott is not comfortable on airplanes or boats so are drinks in order?

Winning Chances

02/04/25—50/50: \$8 won by Ray Griest; Attendance: \$30 won by Deb Griest. It was honorary Griest Family Day.

02/11/25—50/50: \$8 won by Keith Jamieson; Attendance: \$9 could have been won by Brooke Chilton but she was not present.

02/18/25—50/50: \$8 won by Jodie Harmon; Attendance: \$21 could have been won by David Jamieson but he was not present.

02/25/25—50/50: \$5 won by Will Wade; Attendance: \$31 was won by Dana Daugherty.