

THE BUCSHOT

Greater Champaign County AMBUCS Newsletter

July 2025

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

Amtrykes

The temperatures are going down but our number of Amtryke giveaways are staying steady. We gave away two at lunch on July 15 to Austyn and Sophia.



Austyn, left, is 6 years old and has some trouble walking. This is her second Amtryke and her parents say that the left-and-right motion of pedaling will help her muscles learn how to use that motion when walking. Keep riding, Austyn.

Next, walking without a walker.

Sophia couldn't wait to get on her Amtryke and put her favorite possessions in the rear basket. As you can see by her face, she couldn't have been happier to have this trike. Sophia is 10 years old and has several challenges in her life, one of which is that her feet turn in too far making walking diffi-



cult. The straps on the Amtryke pedals will help keep her feet in the proper position to make walking easier. We want those smiles to keep coming so go riding a lot, Sophia!

Our next happy rider was "The Ginger". We



were asked not to use her real name or show her face but trust us, she was smiling! This is her second trike and she also loved the last one. Her favorite thing is Skittles and she loves to go to grandpa's because he always has Skittles. Happy riding!

Calendar

2025

August 14—Chapter Social September 15—Charity Golf Outing October 11—Scarecrow Festival

2026

Regional Conference—March 27-28 Road Rally—April 26, 1-3pm

Charity Golf Outing

Our next fundraiser is the Golf Outing on September 15th. Please continue to get hole sponsors, sponsors for the breakfast, and lunch, and just as important, get teams to sign up to play. Don Dunlap has flyers and signup sheets or you can download and print them from our Website.





July Board Meeting

Due to schedule conflicts, the Board met August 5th for the July meeting. No items were up for vote but the Board heard about the Amtryke we gave away to the Marion School at the National Conference. We also learned that more brochures are on order.

National Conference

The National AMBUCS Conference was held in Des Moines, IA, at the downtown Marriott. The hotel was very clean and the staff were nice and so accommodating to organizers and attendees alike. The sessions were informative and the guest speakers very interesting.

The Amtryke giveaway was a little different this year. In order to have the most impact in lowa, some Amtrykes were given to individuals, but some Amtrykes went to schools and other organizations so that many children could benefit

from the gift of just one trike. Our Chapter donated a Paceline 16 to the Marion School and that trike along with a couple others donated by other chapters, will benefit all the children at the school. Here's one of the children from the school on our Paceline and below the administrator of the school with two

of the other trikes. The administrator said, "As soon as I saw the trikes, I started thinking, that one will be good for this child and this child and that one will be good for this other child. I can't thank AMBUCS enough for this gift."



GCC AMBUCS won several awards this year.

We were a Superior Chapter and we were 100% in meeting our National giving to Scholarships, Cornerstone, and Ambility. We also reached our \$10,000 giving level and now have a National Scholarship in the Chapter's name. Here's current chapter President, Will Wade, ac-



cepting one of the awards from outgoing National President, Donna Carleton-Vish.

One of the purely fun things at the conference,

was the hiding and finding of the 768 Amducks

that Jenny Clemens Shaw hid all around the conference hotel. Members could take the ducks, leave the ducks, or relocate the ducks. You can't see it in the picture, but each duck had "AMBUCS" written on the front. Jenny said that was the hardest part.



The hotel staff are probably still finding ducks in odd places. Thanks for the fun, Jenny!

Wonderful conference as always and great talking with our fellow AMBUCS. Next year, Myrtle Beach, SC!

Donation for Amtrykes

The Champaign Illini Networking

Team chooses a charitable group to receive a quarterly donation from their membership. GCC AMBUCS was honored to be their recipient in July. They even had a giant check waiting for us! We hope one of their representatives will attend our lunch meeting when we give away the Amtryke they funded. We can't thank the group enough for the donation and for inviting **Will Wade** and **Sally Denhart** to tell them a little about what we do! Hope to see them soon!



Challenger League

The Challenger League All-Star Game was held on July 15th at the U of I Eichelberger Field. This game gives the kids a chance to play on a famous field and play with buddies from the U of I teams. All the Challenger League teams show up and get to play in one of two games on the field. Several GCC AMBUCS members were in the bleachers cheering on the

athletes, watching their U of I team buddies and listening to local celebrity, Brian Barnhart, give the play-by-play. How fun is that for the players to hear their name announced by a voice they have probably heard on the radio! Each player got to bat and run around the bases all the way to home so each of them can say they scored a run at Eichelberger Field!



Thanks to the U of I athletes for helping, the U of I for allowing the League to use the field for the night, and to the Challenger League volunteers for all they do throughout the year. See you all in 2026!

07/15/25—50/50: \$12 won by Sally Denhart; Attendance: \$75 could have been won by Jodie Harmon but she was not present.

07/**22**/**25**—50/50: \$5 won by Pat Webb; Attendance: \$85 could have been won by ??? but he/she was not present.

07/29/25—50/50: \$7 won by Elaine Windingland; Attendance: \$96 could have been won by Nelda Shaw but she was not present.

Visibility? Billboards!

• Adams Billboards was giving a deal to charitable organizations and we were able to get

accepted! Member, Jodie Harmon, took the lead and working with Larry Windingland, assembled a billboard picture and text and at right is the result! There ended up being two displays, one in northwest Champaign and one in southeast Champaign close to the town of Savoy. The billboards will



remain up for at least one month. Thanks, Jodie and Larry for making this happen!

Winning Chances

07/01/25—50/50: \$5 won by Larry Windingland; Attendance: \$49 could have been won by Sandy Jacino but she was not present.

07/**08**/**25**—50/50: \$7 won by Will Wade; Attendance: \$62 could have been won by Steve Gibbs but he was not present.