

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 in Urbana

Cash Bash A Blast

Our annual Cash Bash well attended and a great event! Besides the big drawing, we had several card games and a couple of 50/50 games. We also played a Heads-or-Tails game for lottery tickets stuck to big boards.



There was lots of laughter and great food catered by Niemergs out of Effingham. (Champaign is at the limit of their catering region.) As always, it's served buffet style and featured chicken, ham, mashed potatoes, noodles, green beans, corn, rolls, and your choice of desserts. Leftovers were boxed and donated. Niemergs does a great job, each and every year!

The Heads-and-Tails games were the biggest hit. There's something about touching ones butt in public which makes people laugh. Heads came up in a lot of the flips, but we ended up with one winner in each of the two games. They got a board filled with scratch off lottery tickets whose cost was about \$300. Only the winners will know how much they were worth once the scratch them off.



We got down to the final 5 in the big drawing and brought all the ticket holders, left, or their

Calendar

2025

May 3—BarStool Golf

May 7—Awards and Installation Banquet

May 18—Amtryke Road Rally

July 23-26—AMBUCS National Conference

September 15—Charity Golf Outing

representatives, up to the stage. The procedure is to ask each one if they want to pool all the prizes and split the money or do they want to continue to draw. If one person chooses to draw, we must pick another ticket. One person did want to draw which sent one person out and then the rest agreed to split. Congrats to all five!

There's so many people to thank for making this major fundraiser such a great success. C-U Elks club for hosting; Niemergs for catering; people for attending and buying tickets; people for playing the games; **Don Dunlap** for leading the event; **MaryLou Younger** for the beautiful decorations; and all those members who helped before and during the event! We have great members and friends who step in when we most need them! Thanks to all and hope to see everyone next year!

Amtrykes

We gave away an Amtryke in March to one special little girl. This is Mikeala's second Amtryke and she is loving it!

Mikeala had a rough start in life and her outlook was not good. A new drug turned her



chances around and look at her now! She outgrew her first Amtryke which helped her so much with walking and strength building. Her mom gets her out every day, weather permitting, and the fun and exercise really helps. Now that Spring has come, she will be out more and more and gain abilities every day. You go, Mikeala!

National Conference

Registration will open April 1st for the **National AMBUCS Conference on July 23-26 in Des Moines, IA!**

Remember not to pronounce either of the "s" letters around an Ionian! They won't kick you out of the city, but you'll get a second look. It's a



great city and the conference will be uplifting and a great time to learn and connect with other Chapters in our nation. Hope to see you there!

Central Region Conference

The Cornbelt Chapter hosted a great conference at the **Eastland Hotel and Conference Center in Bloomington!** Rather than the usual high-rise hotel, this one is a group of 3-story buildings in a bungalow style. It has small parking lots with roads in between. A bunch of attendees were in building #9 which was a short walk from the conference center, another short walk to the Lobby, and just a hop and a skip from the hospitality suite. The suite was hosted by the Springfield Chapter and even had live music!

During the Saturday sessions, we heard about the National news from **Jessica Wall**, our CEO and got a chance to see the prototype of the new Amtryke design. We heard some suggestions on how to help any group where you have a passion. For fun over the lunch hour, we heard songs by the Penguin Project, a group of young people with (dis)abilities who sing and dance for people to showcase their (A)ilities. We also heard how Bloomington played a part in

the start of circuses in the US from the curator of the circus exhibit at the local history museum.

In between sessions, we talked with other chapters about what they do and how they do it. We finished the weekend with a nice dinner, the 50/50 drawing, and the Big Hat Auction. The hospitality room was open after dinner and we were able to say our good byes to all.



Thanks to Cornbelt for hosting and all the members who helped! Hope to see even more people next year!

BarStool Golf

Registration for BarStool Golf will open on April 7th at 10am. In order to give everyone a chance to get through the nine bars, we limit the number of teams to 14 at each starting bar. The participating bars are: **The Axe Bar, The Brass Rail, Goldy's, Green Street Café, Guido's, Hubers, Pia's, Pipa's, and Pour Bros.** As usual buses will run between each bar from 11am to 5pm.

Registration is online only and will close the week of the event to allow us to get all the scorecards printed and cross our "t"s and dot our "i"s. We'll need many volunteers so members mark **May 3rd** on your calendar and pick a place to help.

Tidbits

Member Andy D'Urso flew out to Oregon to visit his daughter.

Scott Price and wife Anne made it do Morocco and then on to Spain so Scott survived the plane and boat trip.

Overheard at a meeting... Larry Windingland knows the location of the Silver Bullett well. Hmm!

Slate of Officers 25-26

The past presidents Nominating Committee arrived at the following Slate of Officers for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. Voting will be at the **April 22** meeting. The **Awards and Installation Banquet** will be **May 7th, 5:30pm**, at the **Italian Patio**.

Chairman of the Board	Don Dunlap
President	Will Wade
President Elect	Sally Denhart
Secretary	Dana Daugherty
Treasurer	Elaine Windingland
Sgt at Arms	Pat Webb
Board Member 1yr left	Jodie Harmon
Board Member 1yr left	Renae' Strawbridge
Board Member 2yr term	Deb Griest
Board Member 2yr term	Kyle Moe
Big Hat President	Ray Griest

Any member can still put their name in the running anytime before the election or can be a write-in candidate on that day for any office. Contact Larry Windingland to add your name.

Winning Chances

03/04/25—50/50: \$7 won by Will Wade; Attendance: \$14 could have been won by Theresa Adams but she was not present.

03/11/25—50/50: \$6 won by Jodie Harmon; Attendance: \$26 could have been won by Kara Hogan but she was not present.

03/18/25—50/50: \$9 won by Mikeala's grandmother; Attendance: \$37 could have been won by Dick Adams but he was not present.

03/25/25—50/50: \$6 won by Will Wade; Attendance: \$50 was won by Deb Griest. Woo, woo!