

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

Rolling out the Smiles

GCC AMBUCS keeps bringing out the smiles by giving away Amtrykes! Enoch, at left, came to our lunch meeting on April 4th to get his own Amtryke. He's been riding one for 20 minutes every day and it is helping him greatly! He has trouble with balance riding a regular bike and the Amtryke is helping. His mom says, "He is a great blessing from the Lord!" and she is so happy for him to have his own Amtryke!



Emily, at right, (photo by Larry Windingland), is the victim of a car crash that resulted in a traumatic brain injury resulting in her needing to relearn almost everything. The Amtryke will help her strengthen her core so that she can keep her head up and see where's she's going. The goal is to get her walking on her own again. GCC AMBUCS also helped right after her accident by building her a ramp to get in and out of her home.



Ca'Nylon, at left, has one of the biggest smiles in the world and she was so happy to be riding her Amtryke, even though it was just a couple of feet in our lunch room! The Amtryke will help with her balance, walking, and give her something to do while she is home for six months.

On April 4th, eight AMBUCS drove over to the Griest Man Shed to assemble more Amtrykes. About 10 minutes in a surprise happened. Several students and the mother of an Amtryke recipient showed up to help and learn about Amtryke assembly! (We "oldsters" made the younger crowd sit on the floor for the picture at right, by Larry Windingland.) It was fun to have so many willing hands help with our build. Thanks for coming, all!



We still have a bunch of Amtrykes in our storage shed and a couple more in boxes waiting to be assembled. In order to get more Amtrykes in the hands and feet of the riders, Larry Windingland arranged for us to use the banquet room at the C-U Elks Lodge of Savoy to give away three Amtrykes at once! Ten members came out to see the children ride around and smile, smile, smile! First to arrive was Abby, (pic 1). Abby is one of a twin and her twin will help their mom with getting Abby on

Calendar

- May 6—GCC BarStool Golf Fundraiser
- May 20—Road Rally, Elks Lodge, Savoy
- June 1—Installation and Awards Banquet
- August 2-5—National Conf., Louisville, KY
- September 18—GCC Charity Golf Fundraiser
- October 21—Scarecrow Festival



and off the Amtryke. She will also help with steering and stopping until Abby gets to the point where she can ride all by herself. It's just mom and her two daughters so they can't wait to be out riding together.

Next to arrive was Graydon, (pic 2). This not-quite 2 year old, just did not want to get off his new Amtryke! His brothers and friends took turns giving him a little help around the banquet room with gentle pushes and steering. Graydon and the other kids were having such fun going around the room that GCC member Renae' Strawbridge jumped on the next waiting Amtryke to have a race with Graydon, (pic 3). One of the boys, dropped the start flag and Renae' zoomed into the lead but Graydon battled hard on the back stretch and crossed the finish line ahead of Renae'! Congrats, Graydon! He is also learning sign language at his pre-school and he told us Thank-you several times in sign language.

Our final giveaway of the day was to Nina, (pic 4). Nina and her family are still learning English so member MaryLou Younger acted as an interpreter between us and the family for instructions on adjusting the Amtryke to make sure it keeps Nina riding and smiling. Nina's mom and sister will be able to help her on and off the Amtryke by flipping up the handle bars as well as hooking and unhooking the straps.

We were very pleased to have a small article in the local paper about the giveaway and on the day, a local Channel 3 reporter, came to film and he reported on the event during the 6pm and 10pm news segments. He even talked with Graydon's mom and that aired on the 10pm show. We were especially lucky to get this press since the Illinois Marathon was going on this same weekend.

Thanks to all who came to the giveaway and to Scott Price, and Larry and Elaine Windingland for what they did to make this happen! And a big thank you to the recipients for giving us those great smiles!

Central Region Conference



Our Central Region Conference was held April 21-22 in Springfield, IL and was hosted by the Springfield Chapter. The Northfield Inn and Suites is a great place for meetings with two conference centers all connected by a hallway so we didn't have to go outside to get from our rooms to the meeting areas. The food was great and the staff friendly and helpful! We had a short Central Region meeting Friday evening and discussed general Region health. After that, the Springfield Chapter planned a fun sports-themed cookout in the patio area in the center of the hotel.

The educational part started Saturday morning with the opening session where we heard about National changes from President Carmela Davis, (pic

previous page). We heard from candidate for National President Elect, Donna Carlton-Vish and then Larry Turilli told us about using the HUB for recording our Chapter activities and the changes he hopes to make happen soon. Next up was a delicious lunch and then we enjoyed a giveaway of 8 Amtrykes, 6 to young riders and 2 to veterans. The Gang of Eight, their families, and the Springfield Chapter members are at the right. After the giveaway, we broke up into teams for a Trivia Contest that included general knowledge trivia as well as AMBUCS questions. Our team was a combination of GCC, Springfield, and Bloomington members and ended up in Second Place! Eric Oswald, Springfield, and Renae' Strawbridge, GCC, know their music!



Next up came the breakout sessions, Officer Training with “The Donnas”, Hingtgen and Carlton-Vish, and Fundraising and Brainstorming by Eric Oswald. After the breakout sessions, some of us had a break while only the Big Hatters had their meeting.

Cocktails started about 5:30 with a wonderful dinner at 6pm. After everyone was done eating, they started the Big Hat raffle. For the raffle, each attending chapter brings an item, a basket, or a box of things for the live auction. GCC budgets some operating funds to bid on a basket and we were able to bring one home. It contained a silver “Big Hat” which was really a chip-and-dip server. The basket GCC contributed brought in some big bucks and one of our members, Sally Denhart, bid on and won a dog themed basket. The funds raised will be sent to National for either Cornerstone, Scholarships, or Ambility, often split between all three. Thanks to all who donated! (Photo by Larry Windingland)



A big thank you to the Springfield Chapter for hosting a great conference! Next year, GCC AMBUCS will host the Central Region Conference in the Spring of 2024. We have creative people as members so the conference promises to be memorable! We'll publish details soon!

Champaign Chief of Police

Chief Tim Tyler came to speak with us on April 18th. Chief Tyler has made a life of service both in policing and in the military where he's a Bird Colonel in the Army. He is in charge of Training and Mobilization for the Army, and has fifty soldiers he supervises. Next month, Chief Tyler will celebrate 30 years as a police officer and 34 years in the Army reserves, so he is well qualified to lead the city police. His operating moto is, “Find a bad guy; lock him up!” One of his biggest challenges is to fill in the staff the force lost during the recent “Defund the Police” times. Tim is very family oriented and believes in using technology and interaction with the public to make our town safer. Let's pledge to help him all we can! Thanks for coming by, Chief!



AMBUCS National Conference, August 2-5, 2023

At our Central Region Conference we were invited to “Come Feel the Magic!” at the 2023 National Conference in Louisville, KY! Early Registration is \$219 until June 30th. The conference rate for a regular room is \$154; \$174 for an executive suite at the beautiful Gault House Hotel GCC

member **MaryLou Younger** has the tickets for the Big Hat drawing for a chance to win 5 adventure vacations. Only \$20 each! Hope to see you there!



Splinters from the Board

The Board met at Denny's on April 26th and addressed the following items:

==> voted to add give \$1,100 to the U of I Wheelchair Basketball Camp

In a special board meeting on April 4th, voted to give \$200 to the Cornbelt Chapter in honor of Al Bidel's birthday.

Social at Jupiters



April 15th was the Social and New Member Orientation at Jupiter's at the Crossing. Fourteen members and friends came out for soft drinks, breadsticks, and pizza. We held this on a Saturday to have the chance to give Chapter orientation to some new members who live a little distance away from Champaign. President Larry Windingland got to sit at a table with four pretty women to do the orientation. Welcome to the Chapter, all! If you have any questions about what we do, please just ask any member and they will get the answer for you.

Election Held

On April 11th our general election was held to vote in new officers and members of the Board of Directors. Your new Chapter Officers will be installed at the June 1st banquet and are as follows:

Keith Jamieson—President
Larry Windingland—Chairman of the Board
Don Dunlap—President Elect
Sally Denhart—Secretary
Elaine Windingland—Treasurer
Jodie Harmon—Sargent at Arms
Elaine Windingland—Big Hat President
Will Wade—Board Member
Ray Griest—Board Member
Renaee' Strawbridge and Scott Price will finish their second year on the Board.
Kyle Moe will serve one year on the Board to fill in for Elaine Windingland's second seat.

The first Board meeting for these members will be June 28th at Denny's in Champaign, although they are welcome to attend the final FY 2022-2023 meeting on May 31st. Thank you to all the members who are willing to step up and lead our great organization!

Tidbits

Member Keith Jamieson had a tooth removed but has recovered well.

Bill Gingrich has returned from his winter in Texas.

Please send members with health issues all the good thoughts you can spare! We want all our members to stay with us for a long time!

Winning Chances

04/04/23—50/50: \$9 to Libby, guest; Attendance: \$14 won by MaryLou Younger.

04/11/23—50/50: \$6 to Pat Webb; Attendance: \$12 could have been won by Andrea Betzler but she was not present.

04/18/23—50/50: \$10 to Deb Griest; Attendance: \$27 could have been won by Kera Hogan but she was not present.

04/25/23—50/50: \$10 to Ray Griest; Attendance: \$39 could have been won by Andy VanEngelburg but he was not present.