

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

Lives Gone Too Soon...

In January, we lost two of our dear friends and AMBUCS members, Rick Ohmit and Bob Lacey. Rick passed away in Arizona and Bob here in Champaign, both surrounded by their families.

Rick Ohmit was a member for over 30 years! He held several offices in the Chapter including Big Hat President back when they actually wore a really big hat, as in the first picture below. Rick helped with starting the raffle fundraiser and was a great MC for a number of years. He was passionate about everything he took on! He and his wife Mary owned Tri-Color Locksmith until they decided to retire to Arizona. They started out by staying winters there and summers here. Rick and Mary liked to ride bicycles and attended the Urbana Park District's Bike Nite during their summers here, as in the third picture below. Rick was quite the story teller and you were always smiling when Rick was around.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Mary as she copes with Rick's early death.

From the Editor: I grew up knowing Rick and Mary when they lived in St. Joe. It was always fun to go into their locksmith shop, watching them cut keys, and playing with the sample locks laying around. I got to know Rick again as an adult at AMBUCS events. I always tried to sit at his table or at least stop by because he was full of stories and jokes and he made everyone laugh. One of the best things you can say about someone is they made you laugh! I know you'll keep the angels laughing, Rick!



Sgt. At Arms, Rick Ohmit is looking to access some files



SERGEANT AT ARMS -- RICK OHMIT



Bob Lacey, our second loss this month, had been an AMBUCS member since 2008. Bob was the member that everyone could count on to be there for every event, fundraiser, and project. He jumped in and started writing our grant requests a few years back and was very successful! A lot of that success was because of Bob's skill in writing and his personality when meeting with potential donors. Bob looked for new grant opportunities to expand our donor base and he established a new relationship with members at Iroquois Federal resulting in several grants for the purchase of Amtrykes. Bob was our project leader for the Urbana Park District's Bike Nites in the summer and arranged for us to give away Amtrykes on the stage at the bike events. Bob attended several of our national conventions and joined in the fun. He dressed as a 60s rocker at the St. Louis convention which was held

over Halloween. (picture 1, by Ray Griest). Bob also dressed as Captain America at the 2019 Amtryke Road Rally at the Elks in Savoy. Our theme was superheroes and all the attendees got masks and capes and some had their pictures taken with Super Bob. (picture 2) Bob was an essential part of our Chapter and we are thankful for our time with him!

Our condolences go out to Bob's wife Pat and their family in this rough time.

From the Editor: I got to know Bob by working on several things with AMBUCS. Bob was always willing to help me whenever I needed it and always kept me in the loop. We both went to a seminar for members of volunteer organizations, Bob to learn more about grant writing and me about Social Media. We compared notes at the end and Bob had great ideas about updating our Web site and agreed to work with me on a redesign. Bob was always the first one to offer help on anything we were doing in the Chapter. He arranged for our display at the Bike Nites and brought some of the Amtrykes we displayed at the event. One night we were meeting a family to deliver their Amtryke for their son. The Amtryke seat needed a final adjustment and both the engineer, (Bob), and the IT person, (me), took forever to figure out how to adjust the seat! Bob finally got it and we were both laughing at ourselves at the end. There was always a lot of laughter around Bob! He attended our last Bike Fitting at the Carle Annex and even though he was struggling with his breathing, he was doing everything he could to help us out! He was truly a superhero to me!



2021 Events

Cris Vowels, (Challenger League): The Tom Jones Challenger League board met and decided to host Fall games in August and September with less teams than normal. They will have the usual Tuesday night and Saturday morning games and an awards day in September. Right now they are not planning on the All Star Games at Eichelberger Field but would be open to that if the U of I is willing.

Sally Denhart, (disAbility Expo): The virtual disAbility Expo was held on January 21st. After a screening of the video each exhibitor filmed earlier in the month, attendees joined their chosen exhibitor in a break-out room for 15 minutes of questions. Next, there was a longer presentation by one of the exhibitors and then the break-out rooms were open again. While there were only a couple of people with questions about AMBUCS, it was a plus to get our name in front of the other exhibitors and attendees. Hopefully, the event will be back to in-person next time!

Amtrykes

On January 13th seven AMBUCS met at the Griest Man Shed, grabbed a bite of pizza, (while social distancing), and then assembled 8 Amtrykes to gift to children in Champaign County. As always, leader Scott Price, floated from table to table helping us all with the hard parts, (Ray Griest doesn't do brakes and Sally Denhart again put a seat on backwards. Sigh!). These trikes were ordered because of the Bike Fitting Day we had back on December 5th. Scott delivered a couple of the trikes and Earl Martin, Carle Therapist, took the rest and will give them out to his patients at the therapy building. The first three pictures are from the bike build, (third picture courtesy of Larry Windingland), and the last two are recipients, Brooke and Josiah, (second row first picture courtesy Scott Price; second picture courtesy Josiah's mom). Thanks to all who came out for the build and to the Griest's for again letting us use the Man Shed for the evening! AMBUCS rock!



Splinters From the Board

The Board met at Papa Del's this month and the action items were:

- ==> Voted to accept sponsorship of a cabin at Camp New Hope
- ==> Voted to send a donation to National in honor of Rick Ohmit
- ==> Voted to donate \$10,000 to fund handicap renovations to Lake of the Words Park
- ==> Voted to fund Friend memberships for local therapists, 11-12
- ==> Voted to postpone the Cash Bash until we can hold it in person

Winning Chances

01/26/21—50/50: \$3 to Cris Vowels; Attendance: \$56 could have been won by Mary Lou Younger but she was not present.