

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

97th Annual National Conference

Pittsburgh was a great city for hosting our 97th Annual Conference! The hotel location was perfect for walking to lots of restaurants, shopping, and even our dinner cruise. Thanks to the organizing committee for picking this wonderful place!

The conference started for some on Tuesday with a meeting of the Board of Directors. The rest of the Early Birds could attend a Polish Sausage, Perogies and Polka Party that night. Some even dressed the part for dancing the polka.

Wednesday started with the working part of the conference, the bike build and the ramp build. As always things change at the last minute and the ramp build turned into helping Habitat for Humanity build a house. The bike build went on as scheduled and 29 Amtrykes were assembled for residents in Pennsylvania. Plenty of volunteers met in a third of the ballroom and dug out their tools. The day continued with the official opening of registration, the Amtryke Advisory Board Meeting, the Big Hat Executive Meeting, the First Timers Meeting, and ended with the wonderful Gateway Clipper Dinner Cruise. The Cruise took AMBUCS up and down the two rivers joining to make the Ohio, the Allegheny and the Monongahela. Cruisers saw the city during the day and later the wonderful skyline at night. Great start for the conference!

The Big Hatters had to wake up early on Thursday morning so that they could attend the Big Hat Business Meeting at 7:30. The General Session started at 9am with some news and a great speaker. Almost half of the attendees were First Time attendees and the other AMBUCS were asked to make them feel welcome and provide information about the conference and about AMBUCS in general. The General Session has a roll call of Chapters and GCC AMBUCS attendees Deb Griest and Renae' Strawbridge wore tutus that flashed for our response to the roll call. National President, Randy Cloud, did one of his last duties by running all the meetings.

We had a great keynote speaker in Marcy Hardinger. Her daughter, Hannah, didn't get enough oxygen in the womb and ended up with lots of health issues. She was born with no hip sockets, part of her chromosomes

Calendar

2020

Jan. 25—Barstool Golf

Feb. 29—Cash Bash

Apr. 24-25—Central Region Conference, Bloomington

May 2—Road Rally



missing and 29 other problems. The doctors said she would never walk, she would never do this, she would never do that but Marcy refused to accept that. It seems to be a continuing theme with all of our success stories, a parent or relative that won't give up. And with Marcy behind her, at 15 Hannah walked! She started strengthening her legs by riding an Amtryke down the halls of the hospital. Hannah loves beads so Marcy and the nurses would hang beads at different points along the hallway to get Hannah to ride her Amtryke to get them. It worked and Hannah loved riding the Amtryke and the Amtryke helped to give Hannah the best life possible. Hannah ended her Mom's speech by signing Thank You to all of us! (Hannah, first picture below.)

We heard a little about scholarships during the General Session. Larry Turilli will take over as chair of the scholarship committee. Since the program started in 1955, we have given over \$9 million in scholarships. We were reminded as Chapters to be sure to sponsor a student because only 41 of the 167 Chapters did so in 2019.

Friday morning started with the Region Caucuses. While Central Region has an 87% retention rate for members, GCC AMBUCS has lost a few and needs to work hard to regain those members. We were encouraged to have something special for Fall Branding Time which is now. Past GCC President, Ray Griest, accepted our Chapter Awards from Regional Director Donna Carleton-Vish and later received his Superior Chapter President Award and watch from National President, Randy Cloud. (Second picture: Ray Griest with Donna Carleton-Vish)

During the Foundation Session, we named a National Therapist of the Year, Cassidy Sanchez, President of Western Wisconsin Wheels an all-therapist Chapter. She shared a couple of her success stories; a young boy spoke for the first time while riding his Amtryke; she put a young boy on a Snappy Amtryke hoping he would ride a few yards, he rode 2 miles! Congratulations to Cassidy and thanks for all you do! (Third picture: Cassidy with President Randy Cloud.)

We also heard from one of our favorite Amtryke riders, Little Levi. He and his mother were our guests for the weekend and he had a great time. Levi, 13yo now, and his mom spoke with us during the Foundation Session and Levi was the first rider down the path at the Amtryke Rodeo. We brought Levi back during the update by the Bicycle Company of America's, (BCA), talk to give him a gift, a 2-inch high Amtryke. This was just a symbol for BCA's promise to give Levi the first production Amtryke off the line! (BCA is our new Amtryke distributor in America and will begin delivery sometime next year.) (First picture second row: Little Levi)

After the Big Hat Dinner and Auction Friday night, the 14th Annual Trek 4 Trykes Walk-a-Thon and the General Business Session Saturday morning, the Great Amtryke Giveaway began at 1:30 Saturday afternoon. GCC AMBUCS gave an Amtryke to Madi to help her with various health issues. (Second row center picture: Madi and family with GCC AMBUCS.)

As always, the Conference ended with the President-Elect's Reception (Vic Menendez who was installed later as President), and the President's Dinner Saturday evening. Great ending to a great conference! Hope to see more GCC members attend next year in Louisville, KY! (Last picture, l-r: Renae' Strawbridge, Ray Griest, Deb Griest, Sally Denhart.)



Amtrykes

Scott Price continues to fill orders for Amtrykes. He is repurposing returned Amtrykes whenever possible. He recently recycled our 7th Amtryke. We should be receiving six new Amtrykes soon and we plan on giving an Amtryke to an 82-year old woman who is a therapy patient of Cheryl Grey. Amtrykes can benefit almost anyone!

Getting to Know Your Officers

On the hotseat this month — Grant Writer, Bob Lacey.

Q: What would be the worst name you could give your child?

A: Rex! Although my best friend from 8 years to the mid 30s was a Rex. My 6 year old grandson and I are working on a novel, (I'm the scribe). It is about the Powerful T-Rex and Gluasaures' battling the Bad Triceratops. Maybe Rex is not so bad—we're on Chapter 3.

Q: What would be the worst 'buy one get one free' sale of all time?

A: The stuff you actually buy and take before a colonoscopy.

Q: Is cereal a soup?

A: Cereal is certainly a soup. It is soupy from baby up and maybe through toddler. Then treated as a meal from teenager through early twenties. It is generally also good for fiber—see above.



Speakers: Dan Kopolow and Melissa Bowen

Two speakers joined us October 8th, Dan Kopolow, Orthotist from Innovative Bracing by Heel to Toe and Melissa Bowen Pet Behaviorist and Service Dog Trainer.

Dan spoke about how he provides braces for the foot and knee for disabled children and adults to help them walk with less pain. This is much like our mission of helping people with disabilities maintain their mobility.

Melissa Bowen described how she works with disabled people to train their dogs be more helpful in their daily life. Melissa is with Breezy Whispers and is also a pet sitter. You can find her on Facebook a BreezyWhisperPets.

Thanks to both of these great speakers!



Don Dunlap Award

Past Big Hat President Deb Griest presented Don Dunlap with his National Big Hat Plaque for serving as the Central Region Big Hat Director, 2018-2019. This plaque was presented at National conference but Don was unable to attend this year. Thanks for your service, Don! (Photo by Andrea Betzler)



Splinters From the Board



Our Board met at Urbana Gardens at the regular lunch meeting on October 29th. The action items were:

- ⇒ our lunch at Urbana Gardens will now cost us \$11 but we will continue to charge \$10 for guests and Associate Members
- ⇒ we will not purchase a laptop for the Chapter Treasurer to use at this time. She has the Quickbooks version she needs
- ⇒ the old storage unit was sold and the closing was Oct. 10
- ⇒ volunteers will search for a location for the Board Meeting if we go back to meeting the last Wednesday of the month at noon.

Winning Chances



10/01/19—50/50: \$5 to Bob Lacey; Attendance: could have been won by Dave Miller but he was not present.

10/08/19—50/50: \$7 to Jeanne Gothard; Attendance: \$22 could have been won by Mike Foley but he was not present.

10/15/19—50/50: \$4 to Keith Jamieson; Attendance: \$30 could have been won by Dick Adams but he was not present.

10/22/19—50/50: \$6 to Steve Gibbs; Attendance: \$42 could have been won by Keith Ewerks but he was not present.
