

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

Calendar

February or March—Barstool Golf
 April 8-9—Regional Conference



Upcoming Events

Circumstances and Covid continue to effect our ability to plan events and fundraisers. We lost some bars for our Barstool Golf Fundraiser due to renovations and Covid but we should have those replaced soon. We are also working on our Cash Bash usually held in early March. Hang in there, fans! We'll have something ASAP!

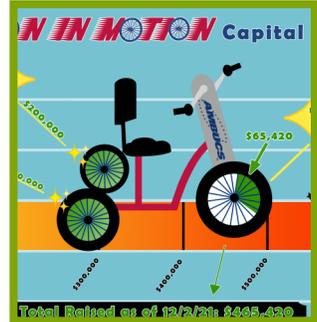


National Conference and Campaign

And speaking of events... At the time of this writing, National is still hoping to have an in-person conference, the fourth week of August, 2022. It will be our 100th Anniversary so it would really be wonderful to have a great turnout in Birmingham, Alabama!



Our National Capital Campaign, **Mission in Motion**, is still looking for donations! The goal is \$600,000 and right now the amount raised is just over \$466,000. No amount is too small so if you can help out please consider making a donation today!



National Big Hat Raffle

The National Big Hat Club is having a Raffle as their major fundraiser this year! Tickets are \$20 each and they hope that every member of a chapter will buy at least one. The winner will win a 3-night, 4-day stay in Gullwing Beach Resort, Ft. Myers, FL, airfare, and \$500 cash! See your Chapter Big Hat President for tickets!



Regional Conference



The Central Region Conference will be held **April 8-9, 2022** at the Holiday Inn on South Neil Street, Champaign! We'll have some fun things to do in C-U and there is a restaurant near the hotel for meals in walking distance. Attendees will also be in walking distance of one of C-U's great places for desert: Jarling's Custard Cup! Their cold-fudge shakes and sundaes are completely wonderful and people rave about their lemon custard! Gambling is available two doors down from Jarling's and a Walgreens is just north of the hotel for those last minute necessities. We'll have more details as we get closer to the date. Hope to see lots of our fellow AMBUCS there!

Amtrykes

Some Amtrykes are slowly becoming available again! We have recently received a couple of Amtrykes that have been on backorder and plan to assemble them soon! Amtryke Ambassador, Scott Price, has been helping families with repairs to their trikes and refurbishing lightly used trikes to help keep this vital program moving forward. We will be calling all past recipients to make sure that the Amtryke they have is still needed and in use. If not, we will arrange to fix the trike or pick up the unused ones for reuse where possible. AMBUCS always find a way to keep our mission in motion! (Picture from a 2021 trike build)



Chapter Christmas Party

Our Chapter was able to get together again in December with a Christmas Party at Jupiter's! Over twenty members and their families attended to enjoy pizza, pop, each other's company, and exchange some fun gifts in a gift-swapping game! The best parties are filled with laughter and smiles and as can be seen in the first picture in the second row, Laura Gibbs was smiling a lot! There were some unique gifts exchanged and you can see some in the pictures: a blanket, a candle, a flashlight, an acrylic Christmas tree, a jeweled box, an ice scraper,

and a Party Pack of Smirnoff Vodka! This was a fun evening for all in attendance and a great way to stay connected in these rough times. Thanks to all who helped with making this party happen! (Photos by Larry Windingland)

Speaker: Jenna Fessmeier, DRES

On December 7th, Jenna Fessmeier, from the U of I's Disability Resources and Educational Services, (DRES), stopped by to talk with us and pick up a check for our donation to their holiday party for disabled students and their families. We are a yearly contributor to this event and often members will volunteer to wrap the holiday presents for the children and even attend the party to help out with the "fun" stations for the kids. This year, due to Covid, they are having an in-person party for a couple of hours and then having a drive-by present-pickup after that for people uneasy with attending events in-person. Jenna is a Paralympian and gave us some inside information on the games in Tokyo, Japan. She was very impressed with the Olympic Village and how easy it was to find everything any of the athletes needed. She said the intensity of races where she participated was very tiring but she would do it all over again anytime! Here's hoping she can! (Jenna, right, with President, Kyle Moe)



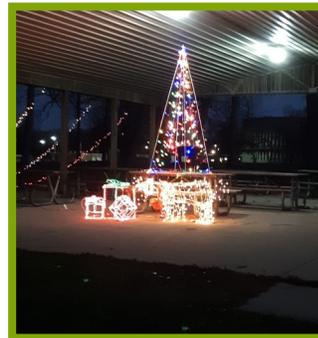
Splinters From the Board

The Board met at Urbana Gardens twice this month and addressed the following items:

- ==> approved contract with Holiday Inn, South Neil Street, for the Regional Conference
- ==> approved purchase of brighter lights for the AMBUCS Park Shed
- ==> encouraged all to consider being an officer for 2022-2023 fiscal year

Christmas Lights in AMBUCS Park

Member MaryLou Younger came up with some decoration ideas for AMBUCS Park and gathered some members together to decorate the Driscoll Pavilion and the wooden bridge at the back of the Park. The theme for the bridge was "AMBUCS Members are Stars!" and lighted stars along the bridge bore the names of GCC members. The Driscoll Pavilion was draped with lights on both sides and inside was a big Christmas tree and presents, with Walter Payton, the bear, sticking his nose in for a sniff. We thank MaryLou and her husband, Wayne, for organizing this and we thank the members who came out on a couple of days to help: Scott Price, Pat Webb, Judy Dramstad, Elaine Wind- ingland, and Sally Denhart! Each year we get compliments on the decorations and the community looks forward to seeing the lights!



Chapter National Awards



National announced awards for Chapters and individuals back in October and the patches and watch arrived last month. On December 21st, President Kyle Moe presented the patches and watch to Past President, Scott Price. Scott will wear the watch, and the patches were given to member MaryLou Younger to be added to our Chapter banner. Congratulations to Scott and thanks to all the members who work every week to keep our mission to help people with disabilities, continue in these trying times!

Tidbits

Prayers and good wishes for members need!

MaryLou Younger's sister is not doing well. She and Wayne headed off to Texas to be with her family.

Member Ray Griest will be recovering from gall bladder surgery and learning a new way to eat.

Larry Windingland will be having shoulder surgery soon.

Please send them, and any other members struggling with health issues, prayers and good wishes!

On a lighter note...

President Kyle Moe loves wearing his *Game of Thrones* socks!

MaryLou Younger, a nurse, once had baked potatoes for supper made in an autoclave!

Winning Chances

12/07/21—50/50: \$7 to Keith Jamieson; Attendance: \$13 could have been won by Cris Vowels but she was not present.

12/14/21—50/50: \$6 to Sally Denhart; Attendance: \$25 could have been won (twice!) by Cris Vowels but she was not present.

12/21/21—50/50: \$5 to Judy Dramstad; Attendance: \$35 to Ray Griest but he had to pay \$2 back for his phone ringing during the meeting. And he took the call!

12/28/21—50/50: \$7 to Renae' Strawbridge's grandson; Attendance: \$12 could have been won by Bill Gingrich but he was not present.
