

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

## Visit from Carmella

**Past National President Carmella Davis** visited with us while she was in the Midwest.

She filled us in on the happenings at the National level.



Jake Schumacher, our designer at Bicycle Corporation of America (BCA), traveled to China to see the new prototype for our Amtrykes being manufactured. He was pleased with how things were being done. They hope to have the prototypes available for testing soon.

Carmella told us that the National Conference will be held in Tulsa, OK in our Great Plains Region. We hope to have over 400 members in attendance. Expect it to be hot in Tulsa, July 31-August 3!

## Calendar

**NO REGULAR MEETING ON DEC. 26TH!!!**

2024

March 16—Cash Bash

April 5-6—Regional Conference, Champaign

April 20—BarStool Golf

May 18—Amtryke Road Rally

We gave away an Amtryke to Akeem, and Carmella's husband, Mark, took this shot of the members in attendance, therapist Earl Martin, front row, blue shirt, and Akeem's mom in the yellow pants. This shot was used for the GCC AMBUCS entry in a special section on volunteer opportunities in the local paper, *The News-Gazette*. Carmella is in the second row, right, behind Akeem's mom. Thanks so much, Mark, for setting up this great shot!



## Membership Contest

**In order to encourage members** to work on attracting new members, President **Keith Jamieson** started a contest, with a \$50 gift card to Texas Roadhouse for the member with the most points. Each member received points for bringing in new members, (5pts), speakers (3pts), guests (2pts), and attending meetings (1pt). **Keith Jamieson** and **MaryLou Younger** both brought in new members earning 13 and 14 points respectively, but the winner was **Scott Price**, (16pts), who brought three guests from his office and attended all meetings (9). These guys have helped Scott with AMBUCS Park work and we hope they will make it official and join us soon! Congratulations, Scott!

## Big Hat Members Project

**Big Hat President, Elaine Windingland** created a Fall project for Big Hat members and anyone in the Chapter who would like to contribute. Developmental Services Center, DSC, helps people with disabilities learn and have fun by doing craft projects. For that, they need art supplies. Elaine asked members to donate some supplies and she gathered the donations and delivered them to DSC. Don't worry if you didn't get a chance to contribute! Elaine plans on arranging another drive in the Spring, perhaps for toiletries.

## Amtrykes

***GCC loves to give away Amtrykes!*** We gave away three this month to Akeem, Sully, and Everet. Sully is a very private person so his mother declined to tell us anything about him except that he was happy to get his very own Amtryke.

It was Akeem's nap time, as it often is with our guest children, but he found his second wind moving up and down the left aisle of our lunch room. Akeem has some issues that makes him weak on his left side so he has trouble walking. As children almost always do, Akeem found a way to move; he crawls on his knees, (right). He especially likes slick floors like in our lunch room, so he had a good time scooting up and down and then spinning around to go back the other way! Scott Price was able to fit him for his Amtryke but he started getting tired again so mom couldn't get him to smile. That's ok; her smile and gratitude said it all (left)!



Everet, our third recipient, is one and a half years old and has some issues with his motor skills and speech. He was extra sleepy but loves the Amtryke he rides at his physical therapy appointment with Earl Martin. As long as he had his pacifier he was happy to take a ride on his very own Amtryke. No smiles from this guy but his mom assured us he would have a great time when he got home.

Happy riding all!

## Holiday Party

***Christmas is special to our members*** so we usually have a small party to celebrate the season. Members and their spouses are welcome to join us and even dress festive for the occasion.

Larry Windingland, left, and Don Dunlap wore festive red for the evening at one of our BarStool Golf participants, Hubers West End in Champaign. We had over 20 members and family attend and everyone brought a gift to exchange. The last couple of years, we have played a gift trading game where each person draws a number then goes in order picking a gift from the pool of presents. Each gift is opened and then the next person can either pick a wrapped gift or "steal" a gift already opened. There were some nice gifts and a lot of them contained alcohol. Several of those were stolen a couple of times. Some were nice bottles and one was chocolate balls, and chocolate bottles containing spirits. There was even a dancing toy that played Christmas music. Everyone went away happy with the things they ended up with and there was thanks all around. Great fun!



## Splinters from the Board

**The Board of Directors** met on December 19th at Urbana Gardens and addressed the following items:

==> discussed storage for our aluminum ramps

## AMBUCS Park Decorations

**Member MaryLou Younger** came up with her usual great ideas for decorating the main pavilion in AMBUCS Park. Several members stopped by to help with the decorations on the two days she arranged. The first day was cold and we finally had to give up before we were done. The second day was wonderful and we were able to put up lights, put up Christmas trees at the entrance to the park, and hang stars representing our members on the wooden bridge at the back of the park. The theme for the pavilion was Santa and Mrs. Claus hosting a Christmas party for animals and characters so they gathered around the big tree in the center. Thanks to all who helped and to MaryLou and her husband Wayne for arranging things!



## Tidbits

**Member Cris Vowels** took a last-minute trip to Italy! She and her husband visited 7 cities in 2 weeks. What fun!

**Will Wade** joined his sister on a cruise, his first one ever and had a great time! Nobody ever wants to come home.

**Members are still struggling** with health issues so please send them good thoughts.

## Winning Chances

**12/05/23**—50/50: \$8 to Judy Dramstad; Attendance: \$38 could have been won by Maddie Brown-ing-Perry but she was not present.

**12/12/23**—50/50: \$7 to Scott Price; Attendance: \$50 could have been won by Andrea Betzler but she was not present.

**12/19/23**—50/50: \$7 to Richey Vanderspoo; Attendance: \$64 could have been won by Laura Gibbs but she was not present.