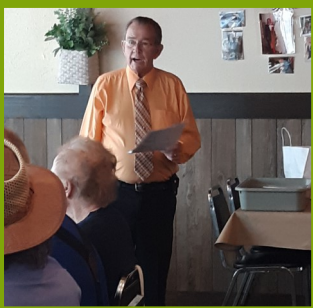


Note: when you finish reading this newsletter, please pass it on to someone who doesn't know about AMBUCS.

Awards and Installation

June 1st started our fiscal year and we celebrated with an Awards and Officer Installation banquet at **The Italian Patio**. The restaurant has a great back room and they serve dinner family style. President Larry Windingland began the awards portion of the program with his verbal awards to members.



First, **Renaë' Strawbridge** got a nice thank you for all she did helping with the **Amtryke Road Rally** and Larry announced that she has agreed to lead the Road Rally project next year.

He next thanked **MaryLou Younger** for her leadership as Big Hat President over the last two years when she made the meetings such fun. MaryLou is also our lead decorator at all events and never ceases to come up with great decorating ideas!

For his next thank you to **Pat Webb**, (at right in blue), Larry recited a quote from the Harry Potter movies, "Remember, at Hogwarts, we always help those that ask!" and then said to Pat, "...you have been invaluable to the Chapter making calls from call lists, recording conversations and providing valuable feedback on those calls. A person that truly always helps those that ask!"



Larry thanked our new members who dived in with both feet on our projects: **Andy VanEngelenburg** (who goes away then comes back), **Andy D'Urso**, **Jodie Harmon**, **Steve Dramstad** who helps us out whenever he's in town. Larry also thanked the out-of-towners **Bailey Dunlap**, **Brooke Chilton**, and **Maddie Browning-Perry** for coming to Champaign to help with BarStool Golf. He also thanked new members **Will Wade** and **Dana Dougherty** for taking very active roles in Amtryke building, meeting attendance, and our fundraisers.



For a more formal way of thanking members, Larry started with several Certificates of Achievements. He thanked **Sally Denhart** for her work as secretary, newsletter editor and website maintainer through difficult times.

Scott Price (at left), was the recipient of Larry's Certificate of Achievement for "...his continued work to provide Amtrykes to persons with disabilities. He spends numerous hours repairing and preparing Amtrykes for presentation at meetings or deliveries. He teaches others during bike builds and initiates fittings at presentations. Thank You Scott for making this an extraordinary year in Amtryke presentations!"

Calendar

August 2-5—National Conf., Louisville, KY
 September 18—GCC Charity Golf Fundraiser
 October 21—Scarecrow Festival

2024

March 16—Cash Bash

April 5-6—Regional Conference, Champaign



Larry next gave a Certificate of Achievement to **Kyle Moe** (at left), for his success as project manager of BarStool Golf. It was a tough job just to find a date that worked for all involved and to maintain communications with the distributor and the bars while planning the event. Thanks, Kyle!

Next, he thanked his wife, **Elaine Windingland**, (at right), for her, "...dedicated work as Treasurer of the Chapter." As treasurer, Elaine is involved with all projects and events and has, "...maintained an accurate listing of all Amtryke orders...Thanks for a continued fantastic job!"



The President's Award was given to **Keith Jamieson** because he, "...has gone above and beyond in his contributions to GCC AMBUCS...[He is] always a willing participant, offering his wisdom in meetings and board meetings. Keith is an all-around great GCC AMBUC!" Keith also took over the leadership of the 2023 Cash Bash fundraiser when leader Don Dunlap became ill at the last minute.



The **Project Manager of the Year** award went to **Cris Vowels**, (at left), "In recognition of your work as a board member and active engagement in the Challenger League and as GCC Grant Writer. Also for leading the U of I Student project to enhance AMBUCS recruiting, fundraising, and further developing new U of I partners, with a goal of [creating] a student Chapter of AMBUCS."

Don Dunlap, (at right), was named **AMBUC of the Year** for bringing in 5 new members, for leading two of our largest fundraisers, the Cash Bash and the Charity Golf Outing, for maintaining the aging barrel train used at our Scarecrow Festival, for organizing Big Hat events and for developing new fundraisers. Way to go, Don!



A big congratulations to all of the award winners! You are what keeps GCC AMBUCS moving forward with our mission of providing independence and mobility to people with disabilities! Rock on!

Officer Installation



The next part of the evening was the installation of 2023-2024 officers by Outgoing Regional Director **Marsha Hamerstrand**, who along with incoming Regional Director, **Jay Balmer** drove over from Bloomington for the evening. Marsha started by swearing in new President **Keith Jamieson**, (at left). Keith is our longest standing member, brought in because of a membership drive "cold call" to his father's business, Ecowater, Urbana. His father answered the phone and after a minute, told the caller, "Have I got a guy for you!" and handed the phone to Keith. He has served as President in the past and held other offices along with leading the Scarecrow Festival, a community project, for many years. Thanks for serving again, Keith!

Next came swearing in of three more of the core officers of the Chapter: President Elect, **Don Dunlap**, Treasurer, **Elaine Windingland**, and Secretary, **Sally Denhart**, (core officers at right; photo by Larry Windingland).



We thank the core officers and the other members who agreed to serve as officers and Board members: Sargent-at-Arms, **Jodie Harmon**, Big Hat President, **Elaine Windingland**, and Board members: **Will Wade**, **Ray Griest**, **Scott Price**, **Renae' Strawbridge**, and **Kyle Moe**. Members can speak with these volunteers about questions or issues, or attend a Board meeting the last Thursday of the month at Denny's, Champaign.

Challenger League Awards

June is definitely the month for awards! The **Tom Jones Challenger League** finished their regular season on June 10th and handed out their participation awards. This baseball league for children with disabilities, plays all of its games at AMBUCS Park and GCC AMBUCS sponsors a team. We've also made many improvements at the ballfield over the last few years. We've put concrete pads in the dugouts, put shades over the dugouts, and most recently added shades over the bleachers. These kids have a great time playing ball Tuesday nights and Saturday mornings! On this Awards day, the kids pulled out all the stops by making great catches in the outfield, stealing bases, and two of the boys did great slides into home! There were five games that day so that all members were able to play and at the end of each game, GCC AMBUCS gave each player their award, also provided by us. Member **Cris Vowels**, our liaison to the league, couldn't attend these games so members **Sally Denhart**, **Pat Webb**, and **MaryLou Younger**, had the privilege of standing in for her. We congratulate all the players and we thank the **Kewanis Club** for all the great work they do making these kids happy!



19th Annual AMBUCS Golf Outing

Our next big fundraiser is the Golf Outing on September 18th, at Lake of the Woods Golf Course, Mahomet!

It's not too early to sign up teams, \$100 per golfer, Hole Sponsors, \$100, Breakfast Sponsor, \$500, Banquet Sponsor, \$1000, Golf Ball Sponsor, \$1200, Golf Cart Sponsor, \$1800, and Event Title Sponsor, \$2500. Each sponsor will have a sign on the course that day and the Event Title Sponsor will be promoted on our Website and on Social Media. To sign up a team or to become a sponsor contact: Don Dunlap, 217-202-3061, Keith Jamieson, 217-377-7112, or Larry Windingland, 217-621-6991. We'll also need volunteers to work on the day so if you can help out let Don know. Come join us for a fun day on a great course!

GREATER CHAMPAIGN COUNTY
AMBUCS
19TH ANNUAL AMBUCS GOLF OUTING

Sept. 18, 2023 Lake of the Woods Golf Course 405 N. Lake of the Woods Road, Mahomet
Four person teams Scramble format Shotgun Start at 9:00am
Sign In opens at 8:00am Free Range balls

Please submit your team entry and payment before Sept 12, 2023
Teams must pay in advance to secure entry
Should the course cancel play for inclement weather, a Rain Check will be issued.

Only \$100.00 per player

Awards Banquet to Follow event
Breakfast provided at sign in
Snacks on the course
Lots of proximity prizes including:
Men's & Women's Longest Drive
Closest to the pin prizes
50/ 50 Drawing
Par 3 Poker Game
Any questions please contact:
Don 217-202-3061
Keith 217-377-7112
Larry 217-621-6991

GCC AMBUCS GOLF OUTING
Lake of the Woods, Mahomet Sept 18th 2023

Complete and mail this to:
GCC AMBUCS
P.O. BOX 592
JEANNA, IL 61803-0592

| Available Sponsorships | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| __Hole Sponsor | \$100.00 |
| __Breakfast Sponsor | \$500.00 |
| __Banquet Sponsor | \$1000.00 |
| __Golf Ball Sponsor | \$1200.00 |
| __Golf Cart Sponsor | \$1800.00 |
| __Event Title Sponsor | \$2500.00 |

GCC AMBUCS
P.O. BOX 592
JEANNA, IL 61803-0592

Team Name _____
 Officer Name _____ Phone _____ City _____ Zip _____ E-Mail _____
 Officer Name _____ Phone _____ City _____ Zip _____ E-Mail _____
 Officer Name _____ Phone _____ City _____ Zip _____ E-Mail _____
 Officer Name _____ Phone _____ City _____ Zip _____ E-Mail _____

\$100.00 per Golfer \$400.00 per Team \$100 Hole Sponsor
 Team Contact Name and E-Mail _____

And Speaking of Events...

...it's not too late to register for the AMBUCS National Conference! The Early Bird rate is past but you can still register for \$249 and get a hotel room at the beautiful **Gault House** in **Louisville, KY**. The conference starts Wednesday, August 2nd with a buffet dinner and a cruise on the **Belle of Louisville** and continues with great sessions, inspiring stories of how AMBUCS has

helped people, and ending with the Presidents dinner on August 5th. There will be lots of free time built into the schedule so you can explore Louisville. Come Feel the Magic!

June Amtrykes

This month we gave away two Amtrykes, one to Trenton and one to Liam. Trenton, left, is 11 years old and was born early. They found out before he was born that he was going to have challenges and it took some time to get his medications right but now he is a happy, active, and slightly stubborn child who loves to play. He was the lucky winner of the 50/50 drawing and it was all member Cris Vowels could do to keep him from the gambling machines in the back of the room! Happy riding, Trenton!



Next, we gave an Amtryke to Liam, right, and he was a little overwhelmed by all of us. We had a guest speaker that day, Jacob Dickey, WCIA, and in this picture Liam is giving Jacob the stink eye! Liam has a few challenges in his life and he is non verbal but his parents tell us he will love to ride his Amtryke with the family! Happy riding, Liam!



Speaker: Jacob Dickey, Meteorologist

The June 27th was meeting was a busy one with an Amtryke giveaway and a visit from WCIA Channel 3 Meteorologist Jacob Dickey! Jacob is from Gibson City and when he was a kid he was on a “Kid Caster” segment on Channel 3. This is a segment where kids come on the air and help give the weather report with the station meteorologist. (For C-U folks, Jacob was on with Robert Reese. He was also a Weather Watcher later with station meteorologist, Judy Frazier.) This started his love for weather. Jacob says that the mid-day slot he has is as close to a 9-5 job as any weatherman can get. When the weather is quiet, he’s just on at 9am and noon, and can do research and other parts of his job the rest of the time. But if the weather starts to get interesting, you’ll see Jacob out at any time of the day in the Storm Chaser Vehicle reporting from the center of the action. Don’t worry, though, Jacob always stays safe during bad weather! He loves Central Illinois and when he was working at other stations he always had a clause built in his contract that if WCIA called he could break the contract immediately so he could come to work back here! WCIA did call and Central Illinois is very glad they did! Thanks for coming by, Jacob!



Grants and Donations

Cris Vowels, our grant writer received a grant to purchase Amtrykes from *Iroquois Federal!* We also received a donation from a craft sale held by Home and Community Education (Ed Extension). Member *MaryLou Younger* is also a member of Ed Extension and talked about the good works GCC AMBUCS does in our community and their members voted to donate their proceeds to us. Bobbie McEntire came by on June 27th to present us with a check, (at right with President Keith Jamieson). We thank Cris and MaryLou for bringing in dollars to keep our mission moving forward!



Splinters from the Board

The Board of Directors met on June 28th at Denny's and addressed the following items:

- ==> passed the 2023-2024 budget
- ==> changed the Board meeting day to the last **Thursday** of the month
- ==> approved Ray Griest to get the shed door fixed, up to a cost of \$200

Question from the Editor

What have YOU gained from being a member of AMBUCS? How have you changed? We are lucky enough to hear about how AMBUCS and the work we do changes the lives of the people we help, but how have you, our members, been changed? How have you grown? What have you gained? Here's some responses from our members:

Andy VanEngelenburg: "For me it's the smiles that make me glad I'm an AMBUC!" Seeing the smiles on the faces of the children when riding their Amtrykes, especially at the Road Rally, is what does it for him.

Ray Griest: "It's the long lasting friendships with GCC members and other Chapters AMBUCS that I have gained."

Deb Griest: "I've gained a new understanding of what people with disabilities go through and the challenges facing parents of children with disabilities."

Renaë' Strawbridge: "Several years before I retired I started looking for a civic-minded group to get involved in, knowing I would have some extra time on my hands at some point. Enter my best friend, Deb Griest. She was involved in Ambucs and coerced me into helping with a couple of different events occasionally. I got to know some of the members, saw the faces on the recipients of our Amtrykes and ramps, and knew this is where I could do two things at the same time - spend more time with my best friend AND give back to my community. I joined this chapter and never looked back! I've gained more friends, had more fun, and had my heart filled more than I could have imagined. Thanks Ambucs!"

Scott Price: "Being an AMBUC has forced me to become more comfortable speaking in public. I had the opportunity to speak to a large group of people at the Champaign Country Club and also at a former member's funeral service...I feel that I have learned a lot from current and past members and guest speakers from almost 20 years of membership. The feeling we all get when given the opportunity to help so many people in our community has been an absolute blessing. The best thing AMBUC membership has given me is a network of friends that I would not have if Keith Jamieson had not asked me to check it out all those years ago."

Sally Denhart: "I've learned through AMBUCS what strength people have when faced with challenges I've never had to face. I've seen smiles and happy tears when a parent sees a child ride a trike when they never thought it would be possible. I've learned so much about how things 'work' by building over 30 ramps and I gained the confidence to make more changes in my home, like adding a more convenient exit from my deck. AMBUCS gives us back more than we put in!"

Tidbits

Deb and Ray Griest's son Jason got married in June but the ceremony had a little hitch. The DJ had a heart attack on the drive to the venue so Ray called fellow AMBUC, Dean Carlton, Danville, who happens to be a DJ and he jumped in his car to save the day! AMBUCS are truly Heroes!

Members with health issues need all of our good thoughts and good luck so please keep sending them to all of our members!

Winning Chances

06/06/23—50/50: \$7 to Keith Jamieson; Attendance: \$66 won by Don Dunlap.

06/13/23—50/50: \$6 to Andy D’Orso; Attendance: \$13 could have been won by Colin Lamkin but he was not present.

06/20/23—50/50: \$7 to Amtryke recipient Trenton; Attendance: \$25 won by Keith Jamieson.

06/27/23—50/50: \$11 to Steve Dramstad; Attendance: \$22 could have been won by Keith Ewerks but he was not present.