

The Buc Shot

January 2016

Calendar

Mar. 5th, 2016 – 30th Annual Benefit Dinner

Apr. 29-30, 2016 – Central Region Conference

June 20, 2016 – Charity Golf Outing at Stone Creek

September 17, 2016 – Scarecrow Festival at AMBUCS Park



Barstool Golf

One of our big fundraisers, Barstool Golf was held at 9 bars in the Champaign-Urbana area on January 30th. All of the final statistics are not in yet but everyone had a good time. There were about 150 teams and we had to turn a few teams away who waited until that morning to register. Fewer teams dressed up this year but there were some and the Green Jacket Guys team returned.



We thank all of the players who came out for the event including a team from the Pekin AMBUCS Chapter, (center in the picture with the orange shirts). The weather was perfect and the players were able to enjoy sitting outside some of the bars. Also, we appreciate all the employees in the bars for working hard to keep the players happy. We thank the bars and Koerner Distributing, (formally Orange and Blue Distributing), for sponsoring the event. We couldn't have done it without all these people! All proceeds will go to support our projects, providing AmTrykes to challenged children, veterans and other adults, building wheelchair ramps for low income families, and other projects. We hope to see everyone next year!

Speaker: Barb Lindon, One-To-One Mentoring



The first meeting in January had a Barb Lindon from One-to-One Mentoring. Several AMBUCS members are mentoring through this program including President Andrea Betzler and her mentee, Megan Edwards came to the meeting as well. (Barb is on the left in the picture; Megan on the right.) Barb is retiring this year so this would be her final visit with us representing One-to-One. Barb started out by saying she appreciated the support of the AMBUCS members. The program requires a minimum of one hour per week. The objective is to build a relationship with a child and then remain with the child for the next few years to help with their needs. There is a strong emphasis on helping the child to remain in school and the program gives the kids an

incentive to go on to college by providing them with a \$500 per semester scholarship. Their main idea is that they believe in the future of the child and that the future is in educating themselves. The program had over 30 high school graduates this year.

Andrea spoke a little about her experience in the program. She says it is very rewarding to the mentor as well as the mentee. She started with Megan when she was in second grade and she has now progressed to the sixth grade. Megan has been a teacher as well to Andrea.

Please contact Barb Lindon for more information on becoming a mentor.

Speaker: Elizabeth Michael, Linus Blankets

The Linus Blanket Project provides weighted blankets to children with autism to help them be calm and sleep better at night. Elizabeth is the primary builder of the blankets and she visited us to explain about the project. She is a retired RN and a member, with GCC AMBUC Mary Lou Younger, in the Home Extension group. She was drawn to the Linus Blanket Project because of her experiences as a nurse. She saw how hard it was for the children to relax and how much the caregivers, mostly the parents, needed a way to calm the children. The weighted blankets put a measured, comforting weight on the child which makes them feel safe and calm. The material used to make the blankets heavy is now sheets. This allows the blankets to be washed and dried and is safe for the child should they somehow tear a hole in the blanket. The makers provide the sheets and the outer part of the blanket to the families and they actually do the stuffing as a family bonding project. It costs about \$30 for the outer fabric of the blanket. The material must be soft and in soothing colors without a busy pattern, to enhance the calming factor of the blanket. If the families had to purchase the blankets from a commercial firm it could cost anywhere from \$300-\$600 which is often out of reach for families dealing with this illness. This group can make the blankets cheaper and can give the blankets away. Elizabeth showed us an example of one of the blankets and later gave that blanket to Andrea Betzler for her son Matt who has autism and often has trouble sleeping. As reported in the board action later in the newsletter, GCC AMBUCS Board voted to donate \$200 to the Linus Blanket Project.



Speaker: Kelly Bradham and Debbie Bliss, Prairie Dragon Paddlers

The Prairie Dragon Paddlers is a support group for breast cancer survivors. Kelly and Debbie along with others, including AMBUC Andrea Betzler, formed the group to provide a way for survivors to interact and to get some exercise. Doctors of the old school believed that women who survived breast cancer could never do anything

that would require upper body strength. Several women set out to prove them wrong and to show that survivors are not limited by what people assume or believe.



Dragon boats have been around for over 2,800 years. The boats are long, 42 feet, contain 10 seats, and weighs about 900 pounds. There are 20 paddlers plus a steerer and a drummer bringing the total weight to about 4,000 pounds. This gives lots of women the opportunity to participate. The front of the boat is a dragon's head and the back a tail. The Prairie Dragon Paddlers recently acquired a boat, pictured with Kelly and Debbie at the left. The trailer for the boat is as long as a semi and turns the heads of all drivers when

they take it out on the interstates. They are the first Dragon Boat in Illinois for breast cancer survivors.



Dragon boating is the fastest growing team water sport in the world. It teaches comradery and cooperation because no one moves forward without everyone working together. The Prairie Dragon Paddlers is a 501(c)3 and will be practicing for their first race in their own boat at Homer Lake. For more information, check out their Web site at <http://www.prairiedragonpaddlers.org/>

Raffle

The letters have gone out to past attendees and supporters and checks and tickets are coming in. The Early Bird deadline is February 1st for the ticket to be included in the Early Bird drawing so be sure to turn in any tickets ASAP. If you would like more tickets to sell please see Ray Griest. Be sure to use the labels provided to put the contact information on the tickets and mark any changes on the labels. If you need to fill out a ticket by hand please print clearly! We can still use door prizes so keep looking for businesses or people to donate.

New this year: a pari mutual board. We will be selling chances on the board along with the 50/50 raffle tickets we usually sell.

Lucky Buck

Deb Griest was the lucky member with the Lucky Buck on January 19th. Deb was born in Champaign-Urbana so she is a townie. She has three boys, Roger, Jason, and Justin. Joe Dart recruited Deb around the time that Jason was born so she has been with the AMBUCS for at least 29 years. Deb drove a delivery truck for Frito Lay and delivered to eastern Champaign County. Later she drove a semi for a while before being hired at the Illinois State Geological Survey. Deb met her husband, Ray, when her friend, Renaé Strawbridge stopped dating him and "gave" him to Deb. She was one of the first woman in GCC AMBUCS and has



held several offices in the club. Deb has been District 4A Governor, District 4A Secretary-Treasurer, and presently holds the office of Regional Director. She is a graduate of the AmTryke Academy and often runs the AmTryke Road Shows in our area. Deb is a licensed hot air balloon pilot that trained in California. While she has flown in the major event in Albuquerque, New Mexico she does not like to fly there. There is not enough open space for such a huge event and the Indians who own land around the site of the event do not let the pilots use their land. At the Geological Survey, Deb was in charge of all things financial for a number of years and ended her career as an Assistant Director with her retirement a couple of years ago. Now that husband Ray is also retired they plan to travel more.



Nelda Shaw had the Lucky Buck next. She started telling us about herself by saying that we should talk with her son about something naked. Our club reporter will have to find out more about that! Nelda is from Kentucky where she worked in a dress making shop for \$1 per hour. Next she worked in the tobacco fields before marrying and moving to

Champaign. She and her husband bought Red's Muffler Shop a couple of years after coming here. She started out by working only in the office but she got bored with that and wanted to do something more. Her husband said that she couldn't work in the other part of the shop because it was too heavy and hard work for a woman. That got Nelda's back up so she sat out to prove him wrong and she did! She is now a master welder and as reported previously, often makes a living on her back. Nelda and her husband had three children. She is now a widow and her son works in the shop. Nelda has pet goats, chickens, and dogs.

Board Action

There were two board meetings in January, the December one and the January one.

- Elaine Windingland reported that she has the certificate for doing food so we should be ready for the Scarecrow Festival this fall. It will cost us \$50 to do the event.
- Parkland College will have three students requesting a scholarship and since we already have a unused balance with them we will be able to provide all three of them with scholarship dollars.
- The board voted to give a \$200 donation to the Linus Blanket Project and the check was delivered at a January meeting.
- Ray Griest will look into getting a good price for flags and flagpoles to continue our Flagpole Project. We may purchase five more sets.
- The board reminds all members that they should go through the project leaders with suggestions, changes, questions, or replies to questions from members or the public, about a certain project.

Winning Chances

January 6th – 50/50 drawing of \$10 went to Don Dunlap. The \$21 in attendance money could have been won by Bob Lacey but he was not present.

January 12th – 50/50 drawing of \$9 went to Andrea Betzler. The \$40 in attendance money could have been won by Priscilla Dorsett but she was not present.

January 19th – 50/50 drawing of \$12 went to Don Dunlap. The \$65 in attendance money could have been won by Alan Edwards but he was not present.

January 26th – 50/50 drawing of \$9 went to Mary Jane Jenkins. The \$84 in attendance money could have been won by Andrea Betzler but she was not present.