



THE BUCSHOT

Greater Champaign County AMBUCS Newsletter

June 2017

Charity Golf Outing

Monday, June 19th was the date of the 2017 Charity Golf Outing at Stone Creek Golf Course in Urbana. The weather was a little warm and windy but otherwise good. Many AMBUCS and friends came out to help make things work for the players. We had 30 teams reporting that morning and everyone had fun! There were hole prizes, a poker game, and a 50/50 raffle. The winner of the 50/50 got over \$500!

The golfing winners were: Longest Drive—Women, **Lori Warnes**, Longest Drive—Men, **Chance Dunlap**, Closest to the Pin—**Kevin Stillwell**, and Longest Putt—**Eileen Maley**. The team with the lowest score was **Fonte, Grandone, Tucker, and Williams!** Congratulations to all the winners!

Thanks to everyone who came to play and the workers who made it all possible! A big thanks to our Hole Sponsors, too! Thanks to Bunny's who provided the lunch. Thanks to Hickory River for providing the dinner food including two servers. Those guys were great! And thanks to Stone Creek Golf Course for hosting us again this year and for having such helpful employees!

We hope to see everyone again next year!



July 30—Chapter Social
September 23—Scarecrow Festival
October 21-23—National Conference



Ramp Building

The weather and volunteer availability come together to allow us to build two ramps in June. The first one was on June 3 and was in Rantoul. The ramp was a long one with part of it built over an existing porch. There was a huge tree to provide shade for the workers but it was still a warm day. The home owner has fallen down the stairs a couple of times and really needs to use her walker with the ramp. Her son and friends showed up to help out and were very impressed with our work and the fact that we get it all done in just 4 hours. (Photo above courtesy of Scott Price.)



Splinters from the Board

The New Board of Directors met on June 28th at Za's on North Neil Street in Champaign. Action items were:

The budget for 2017-2018 was reviewed again and passed.

Our chapter needs to do a better job of recruiting new members. The Board would like to hear any ideas on getting new members.



Our second build in June was in Rantoul, not far from a previous build. Thirteen AMBUCS and friends came to help with the build. This ramp had challenges with a yard light in the area and several utility lines. We also had power issues as we often do when building at an older mobile home. When we used the big saw and the air compressor for the nail guns at the same time we would blow the circuit breaker in the home. No big deal; we just took turns using our electrical equipment. We finished in a little shorter time than usual, three and a half hours. Thanks to all who came out to help!

Grants

We will be building at least one more ramp in Rantoul due to a grant we received from the Rantoul Community Foundation. Our grant writer, Bob Lacey, did some research and found that the Foundation gives grants to groups that will improve the Rantoul community. Here's Bob receiving our check for \$700!

Bob also worked with Ellen Kirsanoff of the Urbana Park District, to submit a grant to the Marajen Stivic Foundation for enhancements to AMBUCS Park. This would include funds to plant some new trees and to re-roof one of the pavilions. The Stivic Foundation gave us \$5,000 and the Community Foundation kicked in \$5,000 for a total of \$10,000 to spend on Park improvements! Bob and Ellen will work on the exact improvements soon.

Great job, Bob!



Challenger League



The Tom Jones Challenger League had their awards ceremony at AMBUCS Park on June 24th. Each of the players get an award along with the coaches. Our Chapter provided the awards and they are beautiful this year! These were made by our own Larry Windingland. There were 110 players and 28 coaches receiving these great congratulations and thank yous. The players and coaches are awesome! The children love to come out and play a game that all American children need to play and the coaches are rewarded with smiles, high fives, and hugs! Thanks to the AMBUCS members and friends who came out to present the awards! (Photos courtesy of Roger Adams.)

The League is celebrating its 20th Anniversary this year on July 25th, with two All-Star games played at Eichelberger Field on the U of I campus. Everyone is welcome! There will be celebrities, food, and fun! Eichelberger Field is where the Illini play their games and it's a treat for the kids to play in this big stadium. Game one will be at 6pm and game two at 7pm. It's great to watch these happy kids run or wheel around the bases with big smiles. Come on out! It's free!



AmTrykes

June was a busy month for AmTrykes! We built five AmTrykes at the C-U Wood Supply Shop on June 5th. Co-owner and chapter president, Roger Adams arranged for us to have after-hours access to the shop's break room and he had tables set up and ready for us. It's usually a challenge to assemble an AmTryke but our program leader, Scott Price, was there to float among the tables to help each group when needed. Thanks to all who came out to help with the assembly!

We also gave away several AmTrykes during the month. Some small, some large, but always well received. This is why we work so hard at fundraising, to see the smiles of children and adults on their AmTrykes!



Potbelly Fundraiser

Our June fundraiser brought in a few more AMBUCS. With the students gone, it was going to be harder to reach the goal of 200 customers so leader, Andrea Betzler, put out a bigger call to get members to come and bring their friends. The students won't return until fall so please try to attend and use social media to tell your family and friends to come by on our designated nights. It really is great food and the money raised helps us with our various projects.



Speakers

We had two speakers in the month of June and some Danville visitors as well. June 6th brought Kyle Fleming to play some songs and teach us about music therapy and June 20th brought Fred Pancoast from the Danville club to tell us about the Danville Chapter's handicap sign project. Fred brought his wife, Ruth, and Jenna Wirth, our new District Governor. She brought her son Jacob to make it an even foursome.

Kyle Fleming is a certified Music Therapist with a 4-year degree and a minor in Psychology. Music can help in many areas. Kyle works in hospice for help with pain management and works with traumatized children to help them relax and learn to cope with the things that happened in their lives. Music helps build connections and singing helps people cope. One child had 7-8 major bad experiences growing up so he was over the top on the "at risk" scale. He couldn't talk about the things that happened so he would explode with anger and frustration. While listening to one song, he wrote a three-page letter to his mother saying how mad and hurt he was by her actions. This opened the floodgates and he was eventually able to heal. Kyle played his guitar and we sang about some of our problems and possible solutions. Music helps!



The Danville Chapter, in collaboration with Danville businesses, decided to do something about non-handicapped people parking in handicap spaces. They came up with the idea of putting pictures of handicapped people on the signs in the parking lots. They added a catch phrase, "Think of me and keep it free." This has been very successful, with businesses reporting that cars will pull into the spaces but then pull back out. The signs started out as fiber board but those became damaged so they moved to metal signs at a higher cost but will last longer. They had fundraisers and raised \$12,000 of which \$5,000 has been spent on materials. They would like to place another 100 signs in Danville and possibly Urbana and Champaign.

Thanks to Kyle and the Danville crew for two informative luncheons!

Winning Chances

6/6/17—**50/50**: \$16 to Sally Denhart; **Attendance**: \$94 could have been won by Dick Adams but he was not present.

6/13/17—**50/50**: \$10 to Bud Mesker; **Attendance**: \$115 should have been won by Pat Webb but she was not present.

6/20/17—**50/50**: \$10 to Don Dunlap. **Attendance**: \$133 could have been won by Ron Meyer but he was not present.

6/27/17—**50/50**: \$11 to Cris Vowels; **Attendance**: \$155 went to Sally Denhart

