

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

## CORVID and Us

**From the Editor:** *The pandemic has kept us from having our regular meetings and from having our planned events. Even our regional conference was canceled. (see revised calendar on the last page.) We will get through this; with Shoulders Together, we'll carry on. Here's what you all have been doing and what you've been wearing.*

**Note:** *Judy Dranstad will soon have 50+ masks she has made. Contact her if you would like to have one: [jvdramstad@outlook.com](mailto:jvdramstad@outlook.com)*

### **Renae' Strawbridge:**

Being an extrovert, isolation is about the worst punishment someone could inflict on me! In order to help out my son whose job is considered "essential", I've spent a lot of time with these two yahoos. We've walked at Lake of the Woods, played various games outside, and worked on some schoolwork. All the while, I've been trying to stay away from sick folks so I can finally hold, squeeze, and generally lavish all the grandma love humanly possible on this sweet bundle of joy that



I've not been able to see since his birth on February 15th. To say I am anxious would be a gross understatement! Logan is in for a treat when I get to meet him in person. I hope you're all well and look forward to seeing your smiling faces [soon] at Urbana Gardens.

### **Cris Vowels:**

I'm finding that running a school from my computer is much more difficult than in person and I can't say that I like it this way. I'm missing the kids, families, and staff, the best parts of working in a school. Because his parents are in the funeral business and taking care of persons who pass from COVID, [my grandson], Miles is staying with Bill and me. He's a curious boy who keeps us very busy. He's currently interested in birds and has turned our dining room into a bird habitat. The odds of me breaking a leg on a Baltimore Oriole hidden in a potted plant or a Snowy Owl under a goat is pretty high right now! Take care!



When you want others to obey the 6 ft of space rule without having to ask.....



### **Ray Griest:**

Ray has been working on his wardrobe during this crazy time. These are both warm weather outfits. The first is a Tri-kini, 3 pieces. The second one is for more formal occasions with the high heels. We can't wait to see him at the next lunch meeting!

***Rick and Mary Ohmit:*** You ask how AMBUC members are surviving the quarantine. This is how it is done in Quartzsite, AZ. Photo 1 is one of our flowering cacti. It will soon have many pretty yellow blooms on it. The Pack Rat tried to consume it in December. We thought we weren't going to get it to start growing again. Warm weather and plenty of rain brought it back to life. Can't say the same for the Pack Rat. Photo 2 is our get away vehicle used to enjoy the beauty of the desert. Flowers are in full bloom. Photos 3 and 4 are a wonderful way to end the day. Good fire and marshmallows. This is pretty much how we are spending our days. Don't want to come back to IL yet, far to many sick from the virus. Where we live in LaPas County there have only been 3 cases of the virus reported. We live near the Colorado River Indian Reservation and they are not reporting as many cases of the virus as the Northern Tribes are. We feel very lucky to live where we are.



***Judy Dramstad:*** Pretty boring here. My home time is trying to get used to having a husband working from home and trying not to bother him with my honey do list --or letting him find out how really lazy I am! My little Shih Tzu went blind last week, so I am also trying to teach him to navigate without bumping his nose. My only tripping is from my easy chair to the fridge and back. Getting rather tired of doing cross stitch! Being retired, I haven't had to adjust too much. Steve is doing all the shopping....I am in that nasty old age group!

***Don Dunlap:*** Don is still working, of course. It is essential that our cars, busses, and ambulances continue to run so Don's 24-HR Towing will keep on rolling. (Would you know this guy if the picture wasn't labeled?)



***Bob Lacey:*** My big project is putting together a workshop in a corner of the basement. This is to be used for a lot of things (including one of my retirement goals of stained glass work—a little late). I cleaned the area out and pitched several things (because I am a pack rat) and now have it somewhat organized. I painted the floor yesterday and will now start on a 5 foot work bench. There is already a table I made but the workbench is needed. I store all of my tools down there in the winter on existing shelving.

I am usually in my pajama pants and a T-shirt until about 11:30 with a leisurely breakfast, newspaper, etc. Then I exercise a bit, get cleaned up and get to work on some sort of project with blue jeans and a T-shirt. Then just after supper I put on my pajama pants and a T-shirt then it is TV, reading, or e-mail. Pretty lazy.

***Kyle Moe:*** I am still working remotely from my office at home. My cat, Chief, thinks that he is my new assistant. Hope you are well and have a great day.



***Elaine and Larry Windingland*** are working on their yard and still walking around the park, safely. They also decorated and wear these masks with Mickey and Mini.



***Andrea Betzler and her family*** are keeping busy. She is schooling her son at home while her daughter finishes her nursing degree at Parkland College. Brianna will graduate in May. Her husband, Jason, is considered essential so he has been working about the same as usual. The rest of the time he is enjoying his isolation and says he's been training for this all his life! Andrea herself has been continuing to work on her CE courses in order to renew her insurance license in June. She has also been cleaning house and helping others by sewing buttons on masks, delivering Easter baskets to veterans, hiding eggs for her neighbor's children to find, and missing her Prairie Dragon Paddlers group.

***And I*** am spending a lot of time thinking about life, missing my family, friends, and the casinos. I'm very



glad that we can shop, legally, for garden stuff because I am anxious to get my garden started. I've sanded, caulked, and painted all my window sills in preparation for replacing my last two windows which are on order but will be slow arriving from the manufacturer. I've been watching a lot of the Discovery Channel and decided when I had to take down my bottle tree I would replace it with Bottle Henge, a circle of cut wood with bottles attached. I'll be adding the earthen circle around that and a



moat to better match the definition of a "henge". Oh, and did I mention drinking wine?

## Additional Information

**Golf Outing**—The golf outing committee is considering postponing the outing in June. We'll keep everyone posted.

**Board Action**—The Board has continued to work some via email. We'll have some decisions to announce soon, a small expenditure and the upcoming election. Stay tuned!

## Calendar

**Apr. 24-25**—Central Region Conference, Bloomington—**CANCELED**

**May 2**—Road Rally—**CANCELED**

**May 12**—Bike Fitting Day—**CANCELED**

**June 22**—Golf Outing

**Sept. 19**—Scarecrow Festival

**Sept. 30-Oct. 3**—National Conference

**Oct. 10**—disAbility Expo