Greater Champaign County Chapter AMBUCS TM Creating independence for People With Disabilities

AMBUCS - AMERICAN BUSINESS CLUBS

The BucShot

Monthly newsletter of the Greater Champaign County AMBUCS

Please pass this on to someone who doesn't know about AMBUCS

August Trikes Away!

Four new Amtrykes took off for their forever homes this month, or at least until they are outgrown. The first 2 Amtrykes to leave were on August 11 to Olliviah and Reed.

Olliviah is nine years old and had outgrown her original Amtyrke. She loves riding, music, and being outdoors. She has a big personality and makes everyone around her laugh and when they do she laughs with them. Those laughs and riding are her happy times.

Reed, our second recipient, had also outgrown his first Amtryke. He, too, loves music and riding his Amtryke in the park. He's twelve years old and also enjoys swimming, another activity that will help with his challenges.

Katelyn took her trike home on August 25th. She got her first one in 2021. Katelyn loves playing in the Challenger League, swimming and being outside. She is 9 years old and in 4th grade at Unity West in Tolono.

Our last recipient of August was Omari. He is nine years old and in the 4th grade at Robeson Elementary in the 3-5 Star classroom. His interest in riding has grown so much he could hardly wait to get on his new Amtryke. His mom says, "He is a joy to all who meet him!"

Calendar

Golf Outing—September 21

Scarecrow Festival and Car Show—October 17

2027

Cash Bash - March 6, 2027

Amtryke Road Rally - April 25, 2027

Jaydn Update...



Due to the hard work of our main Amtryke member, Scott Price, Jaydn is back riding his Amtryke! Last month we reported that his Amtryke was stolen and torn apart for scrap metal. The police found the theives and were able to get back some of the parts of the trike, such as the frame and wheels but some parts were missing or in bad shape. Scott found new parts and worked on the chain returned from the police to make it fit, so Jaydn is smiling again.

We had your back, Jaydn!











National Conference

August 26-29, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

Five GCC members attended all or part of our National Conference. We were treated to 3 great speakers to renew our commitment to helping people with challenges by seeing the success stories. "**Little Levi**" who first spoke to us in Biloxi, MS when we gave him an Amtryke, is driving now and enjoying his life; **Aspen Sage** who lost the use of her legs but not her spirit to live life to the fullest; and **Ben Hartranft**, whose "BenEnergy" company is keeping him busy speaking to groups like us about how he lives with his Autism. Takeaway from Ben, "If you've seen one person with Autism you've seen ONE person with Autism."

Sadly, during the drive from IL to Myrtle Beach, we learned that Dolly Parton had died. She did a lot for the people in the southern states so we decided to honor her when we introduced our Chapter in the opening session with a song parody:

(Sung to the tune of "*Nine to Five*")

Working Nine to Five
What a way to build an Amryke
Barely gettin' by
It all starts with people givin'
We just raise the funds
Then we put the trikes together
And it makes our hearts feel light as a feather!
Nine to Five!
Greater Champaign County AMBUCS honors Dolly Parton and we are in the house!"

Our Chapter won some awards again this year. We received a patch for giving away 25-49 Amtrykes; we received patches for giving to Scholarships, Cornerstone, Ambility, and a patch for giving to all three. And the best of all, Superior Chapter which came with a patch and a watch for past President Will Wade. We also added to our *William L. White* amount moving closer to a named scholarship at the National level.

AMBUCS has a club within the Chapter called The Big Hat Club. This is a group of members who succeed in bringing in three new members in a rolling year. At National, the Big Hatters have a special meeting and a live auction of items contributed by each Chapter. This year, our Chapter worked with ***Design A Stone*** to create AMBUCS-themed yard stones. We brought two of them to the auction, and they fetched a nice price. We also worked with the company to place the customizable stones in their inventory and have them listed for sale on their website. Part of the proceeds will be donated back to our Chapter. You can purchase a stone at:
https://designastone.com/collections/ambucs



Our Chapter also donated an Amtryke to the Great Amtryke Giveaway. This conference event takes place on Saturday afternoon, the last day of the conference. Chapters commit to paying for an Amtryke and the National workers find people in the conference area who need one and set them up for the giveaway. The trikes are assembled during the conference by attendees and fitted to each recipient by therapists during the event. Our little girl was sensitive to loud noises and big crowds so she was fitted in the "quiet room" and then brought into the main room to take her first ride around a track. Attendees were asked for silence as she rode. Then each chapter and recipient gathered at a special area for a picture. Below is our shot with our rider and her parents who had the best dimples when she smiled. Happy riding, Arabella!



CHARITY NIGHT AT BUNNY'S TAVERN



Once a month, *Bunny's Tavern,* where we meet for lunch, has a charity night to benefit local non-profits and in August they picked us. Bunny's had a special pork tenderloin sandwich they wanted to promote so they created a meal with the sandwich, potato salad, bacon wrapped shrimp, and a brownie. Bunny's donated $5 to us for every full meal sold. We also sold chances to win a board of instant lottery tickets valued at $250. Our winner was Sheila, (center in the picture), and she was very happy. Hopefully, she won some money from the tickets.

Bunny's also encouraged us to walk around talking with the customers about what we do. We, and Bunny's, promoted the night on social media and the turnout was great! Some customers didn't choose to order a meal but donated $5 directly to us.

We thank Bunny's, their management, and workers for all they do for AMBUCS!

SPLINTERS FROM THE BOARD

Our Board of Directors met on August 24th at Denny's and addressed the following items:

- **voted to increase our donation to DSC to $1,000, $500 twice per year**
- **voted to increase our donation to Camp New Hope to $500, $250 twice per year**
- **voted to maintain our $1,000 donation to DSO for their Holiday Party**
- **noted that the Central Region conference is tentatively scheduled for April 2-3, 2027**

Fall Events

Charity Golf Outing - Sept. 21

The teams are full for the golf outing and our sponsors are all filled except for our hole sponsors. We have no limit on the number of organizations/businesses we can showcase on each hole. Only $125 for a sign which will be seen by 26 4-member teams.

AMBUCS, please volunteer to work on that day. Leader Don Dunlap will have a meeting on September 18th, 6pm at Monicals on Mattis for all volunteers. He will explain all the games and how they work. Please attend if at all possible!

Scarecrow Festival and Car Show - Oct. 17th

Plans for the festival and car show are moving forward and the committee will begin meeting soon to hash out the details. Vendors are needed for the sales area so if you know of anyone who likes to show off their wares, tell them about the festival.

Flyers for the car show have been passed out at other Sundowners Car Club shows and we hope for a big turnout.

We also hope to have a lot of yummy baked goods for sale so warm up your oven!

Flyers for the festival and car show are on our website: http://thegccambucs.org





WINNING CHANCES

- 8/4/26 - 50/50: $10 Amtryke recipient Jaydn; Attendance: $37 to Keith Jamieson
- 8/11/26 - 50/50: $9 to Deb Griest; Attendance: $15 won by Barb Tomscha
- 8/18/26 - 50/50 $8 to Keith Jamieson; Attendance: $16 could have been won by Laura Gibbs but she was not present.
- 8/25/26 - 50/50 $7 to Elaine Windingland Attendance $27 won by Will Wade

GCC AMBUCS creating Independance and Mobility for 45 years!