

Community Foundation Grant

On December 19th Joan Dixon, President and CEO, of the Community Foundation of East Central Illinois, joined us for lunch to present a check for 10 AmTrykes! Grant writer, Bob Lacey, put in a grant for AmTrykes for 2018 and it was well received.



Joan and the Community Foundation have long been supporters of GCC AMBUCS and especially our AmTryke program. Our relationship began in the early 1990s with a request for funds to build wheelchair ramps for low income families in Champaign County. Bud Mesker was the first to contact them and as the Foundation learned more about what we do and who

we help, they have expanded their support.

We thank Joan Dixon and the Community Foundation for their help and for all they do for the community! (Joan with President Roger Adams.)



**Jan. 9—Speaker
 Eric Benson, UofI**

**Jan. 18—Potbelly
 Stove Fundraiser**

Feb. 6—District 4A meeting

**Feb. 10—Bar Stool Golf Fundrais-
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**Mar. 10—Cash Bash, Elks Lodge,
 Savoy**

**Apr. 7—Disability Expo, 9am-
 2pm, Vineyard Church**

**Apr. 27-28—Spring Conference,
 Cornell, IN**

Sept. 22—Scarecrow Festival

AmTrykes

AmTryke requests have slowed down a little but not stopped. There are two AmTrykes sitting in boxes and Coordinator Scott Price and member Keith Jamieson will assemble them and get them delivered soon. We expect several more to come in and a bike build will be scheduled, so stay tuned.

Scott also reported on helping Daryl, a 55yo man who has Parkinson's. Scott has been learning about the many symptoms of the disease and how much AmTrykes help keep them mobile. Daryl can be walking fine one minute and then his brain just stops telling his legs to move and he comes to a dead stop and sometimes even falls. On an AmTryke, Daryl can keep his legs moving and remind his brain what that feels like without falling over or hurting himself. We will continue to look for opportunities to help people with this disease.

And from the file of Fun with AmTrykes comes this tidbit: AmTrykes are delivered to member Keith Jamieson's office in Urbana and sometimes assembled there. Coordinator, Scott Price, and Keith assembled one in December then Scott took it to his home in Weldon, IL, to await delivery. Turns out this particular AmTryke needed to be delivered to a house two doors down from Keith's office in Urbana! This AmTryke got lots of miles on it before it was even ridden!

District 4A Meeting

Some of the members of District 4A got together at Rich's Deluxe in Danville to discuss district issues. The biggest topic was beginning a discussion about dissolving the District. Originally, districts were established to provide communication between Regions, National, and the members. Due to the explosion of email and social media, communication can be done almost instantly from National directly to the members. A lot of the jobs done by District officers are just not needed anymore and National no longer requires a new Chapter to be a member of a District. Several of the districts have disbanded and just work within a Region.



Two issues must be addressed before a decision is made about disbanding: what will happen to the District AmTryke trailer and what will happen with the money in the District's account?

GCC AMBUCS member, Ray Griest and Danville Chapter member, Donna Carleton-Vish, will work on a plan for the AmTryke trailer. Our trailer is the premier trailer and may be used as a prototype for other trailers across the country, most of which will be "owned" by the Regions. National will give monetary support to the Regions for the trailers but the trailers will be maintained by members of a designated Chapter. The work is just beginning on the plan but Ray and Donna hope to have some details settled soon.

During the meeting, the District voted to give gift cards to **Johnson Trailer Sales**, Ogden, IL, for their help with the AmTryke trailer maintenance. Various parts on the trailer need routine maintenance and owner, Lynn Johnson, donated all the work and parts. Ray Griest asked the District to say thank you for the help with the gift cards. Community support for our organization is amazing!

Our next District meeting will be on February 6th, 6pm, at El Toro in St. Joseph. Everyone is welcome!

Potbelly Stove Sandwich Shop Fundraiser

Our next fundraiser at Potbelly Stove will be on January 18th, from 5-8pm. The shop donates a percentage of each sale to AMBUCS. We apply those funds to AmTrykes and have purchased several. Come join us and have some great food! Tell your friends and family!

Speaker: Katie Shumway

Katie Shumway stopped by our lunch meeting to tell us about the Univ. of Illinois Learning Lab. This lab arranges for students in various disciplines to work with groups and companies in the area. For example, students from the College of Business would work with companies and groups to write business plans. Students in the social sciences would work on Social Media projects like Web sites and Facebook pages. The students use these projects for credit in their classes. Groups get help on the projects they need done and the students get credit and real-world experience; win-win. GCC AMBUCS members are asked to keep this in mind when leading various Chapter projects.



Spring Conference

Our Spring Regional Conference will be held in April 27-28 at the Holiday Inn, Cornell, IN. The room rate will be \$119 per night. Registration is not yet open but we'll let you know when it is.

Put these days on your calendar!

Splinters from the Board

The Board of Directors met on December 20th at Za's on North Neil Street in Campaign. Action items were:

The Board continued working on changes to the ByLaws and Guidelines for the Chapter.

The Board voted to continue our support and participation in the Disability Expo. This includes a \$600 donation to get our name in their Expo booklet and a booth during the day. We also give away an AmTryke during the event.

Member News

This month, member **Deb Griest** received a pin from National for brining in yet another member during Fall Roundup. Congratulations, Deb.

Only two new members joined us during this membership drive and the Board of Directors encourage all members to talk with friends and relatives about what we do. Please invite them to a lunch meeting to see first hand who we are.

Winning Chances

12/5/17—50/50: \$11 to Laura Gibbs; Attendance: \$128 could have been won by Frank Thomas but he was not present.

12/12/17—50/50: \$9 to Jean Gothard. Attendance: \$147 could have been won by Steve Gibbs but he was not present.

12/19/17—50/50: \$14 to Keith Jamieson; Attendance: \$170 could have been won by Alan Edwards but he was not present.

