

2017 National Conference



Your Roving Reporter roved all the way to Lake of the Ozarks, Osage Beach, MO, for the 2017 AMBUCS National Conference. It was held at the beautiful Tan-Tar-A Resort right on the shore. Our Early Bird extra trip was a ride on a boat around the lake (at left) and a dinner in the hotel (at right), (Elaine and Larry Windingland with a photo bomb by outgoing National President, Eric Oswald.)



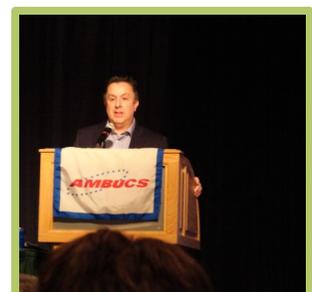
Wednesday was a busy day. Starting at 9am was the Great Ozarks Bike Build where volunteers put together 49 AmTrykes and a crew of 5+ volunteers broke down boxes and picked up trash. At the same time, other volunteers were off building a wheel chair ramp for a needy person in MO. Then starting at 11am was the golf outing at one of the Tan-Tar-A golf courses.



es. Whew! We finished the day with a Celebration Roast for Joe and Dannell Copeland who retired from service this year. What a fun evening that was! (At left: assembly stations in the ball room with a Trash Lady in the bottom right; the Trashy Ladies; the finished bikes.)

Thursday was two big business sessions, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Both had wonderful speakers! The first was David Harrell who was born without a right hand. He told us many stories about dealing with life differently. His father desperately wanted a son who could play baseball so at first he was disappointed but realized his son could just be a lefty. Dave even showed us how he learned to pitch and catch by switching the glove from his left hand to his right arm so that he could throw. He also gave us a new perspective on how the best meaning people, like doctors and nurses, treated children with disabilities in the past, and it wasn't all kindness. Despite dealing with kids scared of his hook, and swimming with a prosthetic, Dave thrived with good support from his parents and has a great career as an actor and motivational speaker.

After lunch on our own Thursday, we heard from Patrick Ibarra, (right), who gave us some good ideas for reaching younger people in today's technology-driven world. Younger members are essential to an organization's survival but it's hard to get and keep their attention with traditional methods. We must change from a "know it all" mindset to a "learn it all" mindset. We need to be open to new ideas and make newer, younger members feel a part of our chapters, feel like they have a say in what's going on. When we do what we've always done, we get what we've always got, no growth, nothing new. Change is not easy but it's essential. It's not an event it's a



process and all processes need a beginning, so instead of saying, "Volunteers needed" how about, "Adventurers wanted! Help us change lives!"?



Friday was the Regional Caucuses where each Chapter received their awards. Current President, Roger Adams, stood in for last year's President, Frank Thomas, to receive the awards. The GCC Chapter received: Superior Chapter; Program Giving 100% Ambility; Program Giving 100% Scholarships; All-In AmTryke for giving an AmTryke at the conference; and giving out 25-49 AmTrykes for the year. Outgoing Regional Director, Deb Griest, presented the awards to Roger. She also received a gift from the incoming Director, Donna Carlton-Vish. (above left: Roger and Deb; right: (l-r) Randy Cloud, Secretary/Treasurer, Donna Carlton-Vish, Deb Griest, and outgoing Secretary/Treasurer Diane Vish)



Before the afternoon breakout sessions, we named the National Therapist of the Year: Shannon Wyle! She is an Occupational Therapist and a member of the St. Louis-based Gateway Tykes on Trykes Chapter. We couldn't do what we do without great therapists like Shannon! We also heard that the national organization gave out \$196,400 in scholarship money to 265 students this year. With this year's gifts, we have given out \$8,791,390 to over 15,000 students since 1955!

Saturday, the final day of the conference, was the AmTryke giveaway, (they save the best for last), the final dinner, and the installation of the new National Officers.

There were 49 AmTrykes built and given away Saturday with three extra "walk-ins". Fourteen went to veterans and the rest to children of various ages. GCC gave an AmTryke to the little girl in the first picture at right, with her family and some GCC AMBUCS, (Photo provided by Larry Windingland). The



The veterans moved so fast around the indoor track that it was hard to get their pictures but this man was captured riding our latest model, the Tadpole. The third picture was of the cutest little girl who came in with a huge pink flower in her hair and she wouldn't take it off even to put her helmet on. She couldn't have been happier!

The dinner began with the President-Elect's Reception followed by the parade of national officers. It's a dressy affair so GCC AMBUCS decked themselves out. Ray and Deb Griest, (left), sat at the National Officers table. GCC AMBUCS President, Roger Adams, posed with Past National President, Al Bedell, (second picture from left, l-r: Roger, Al). Larry and Elaine Windingland, third picture from left, were all smiles as were Sally Denhart and Laura Gibbs, (l-r in final picture). What a great conference!



AmTrykes

Several AmTrykes were given out this month.

Member Bud Mesker continued his tradition of giving an AmTryke to a child on the wish list instead of giving Christmas gifts to his grandchildren. This year his gift was to Diana in Appleton, IL., (right with Bud and her therapist).



We also gave away an AmTryke to Summer, who came to lunch with us and very nicely thanked us for our gift. Summer is used to public speaking. She was crowned "Miss Amazing Illinois" this year.

GCC and Elks member, Larry Windingland, and AmTryke Coordinator, Scott Price, took two

AmTrykes to the Elks for assembly. We are hoping to receive a grant for AmTrykes from them and to work more closely with this group. Below, l-r, assembly in process. Scott Price is on the left with two of the Elks. Next, the AmTryke needs to be tested so one of the Elks took a ride. Last, the assembly group with one of the finished trikes. (Photos courtesy of Larry Windingland)



Member News

Mary Jane Jenkins continues to have health problems. We hope to have her back with us soon!

Former Champaign Chapter of AMBUCS member, **Dick Koebrich**, passed away this month. Dick was a Past National President and a long-time supporter of GCC AMBUCS. He was a veteran and served with the Army's 25th Infantry Division in the Korean War. Dick worked at the Prudential Insurance Company in various jobs over his 36 years with the company. He joined the Champaign Chapter in 1976 and served as Chapter President, District Governor, and Regional Director then as National President. Dick had an outgoing personality, loved storytelling, and had a great sense of humor. He will be missed. Memorials may be made to GCC AMBUCS at P.O. Box 592, Urbana, IL 61802.

SAVE THE DATE

COMING UP

February 10th, 2018—Bar Stool Golf Fundraiser

April 27-28, 2018—Spring Conference in Cornell, IN

Splinters from the Board

The Board of Directors met on October 25th at Za's on North Neil Street in Champaign. Action items were:

The Chapter will continue our community giving. We will donate \$600 to the DSO Christmas Party and a total of \$800 to Camp New Hope, \$400 in December, and \$400 in March, 2018.

Winning Chances

10/3/17—**50/50**: \$9 to Sally Denhart; **Attendance**: \$18 went to Nikki Kopmann.

10/10/17—**50/50**: \$10 to Deb Griest. **Attendance**: \$18 went to Jeannie Gothard.

10/17/17—**50/50**: \$7 to Keith Jamieson; **Attendance**: \$13 went to Arlie Saldeen.

10/24/17—**50/50**: \$12 to Laura Gibbs; **Attendance**: \$19 to Steve Gibbs.