

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

Amtrykes, Amtrykes!

We continue to empty our storage

shed by giving away Amtrykes at our



lunch meetings and delivering them where possible! This little guy

at the left, came to lunch and gave up his nap time to get his Amtryke. He was born early and had many of the problems preemies have especially lack of mobility. Physical therapy is essential to his quality of life and his laughter when he's happy is infectious. His mom said, "The cost of a trike like this meant having one was only something we could dream about." But their therapist knows about AM-

BUCS and here we are! Happy riding, little one!

The young lady at right, is 11 years old and loves riding so much that she climbed on and fastened her own waist strap! She had tried to ride a regular bike with training wheels but the wheels kept getting stuck in the mud and rocks. She was very excited to ride this Amtryke so therapist, Earl Martin, took her outside for a spin and she took off across the parking lot like a shot! Her mom says it gives her such a sense of freedom when she rides and she stays out every chance she gets until dark. (Photo by Larry Windingland.)



Our second give away on March 14th was to the young man at left. He has many mobility challenges and this Amtryke will make a huge difference in his ability to walk and enjoy life. His favorite thing to do is give a "thumbs up". The family has recently

moved to Decatur, IL, and now have a park by their house with a path for riding. Thumbs up for your new life, young man! (Photo by Larry Windingland.)

On March 21st, we had a very, very shy young lady, (right), come to our lunch meeting to get her Amtryke. She was happy and smiling but just didn't want to ride in front of our big group. Amtryke Ambassador, Scott Price, took her out in the hallway, moved some chairs, and did her fitting there. With only her mom and Scott there, she jumped on her new Amtryke and allowed Scott to adjust everything. This is her third Amtryke with the first one presented to her at our Cash Bash fundraiser a couple of years back. This new Amtryke will help her mom keep her safe as she likes to ride a little fast on curves and the rear brake will help her mom keep her from tipping over.





Sometimes, despite our strong wish to share our giveaway-good-feelings with the entire Chapter, a recipient can't attend our lunch meeting. That's when Scott Price fires up his truck and takes the Amtryke to the recipient's home. While there he picks up the Amtrykes they have outgrown so that they can be refurbished. Also, with these bigger trikes, it's easier to adjust and test ride them in a bigger area, as our lunch room is very small. The young man at the left was so excited by his new trike that he hopped on and shot out of the garage like a rocket! Scott and his parent had to chase him down



the street and bring him back in order to make the adjustments! Doing the fitting and test at home allows for videos of their first ride and Scott shared two videos with the Chapter of the young man at right whizzing down the sidewalk near his home. We are so happy for all of these riders! (Photos by Scott Price)

Fitting Day and Assembly



The Saturday before our first March meeting Carle Therapy Services, Champaign, allowed us to bring in our Amtryke trailer and potential Amtryke recipients for a fitting day. While the therapists can measure a child or adult anywhere, it's so much better to have the potential recipient actually hop on a possible trike and take it for a ride. The Carle building has exercise machines in a big room with a track around the outer edge perfect for test rides! Therapist, Darcee Divan, arranged for several small people to come try out an Amtryke on March 4th. That's her with one of the wee ones at left. Once the child tries the Amtryke, the request form is filled out and passed to GCC for ordering. We fit 5 children for Amtrykes that day!

On March 21st, 10 AMBUCS drove over to the C-U Elks Lodge in Savoy to assemble more Amtrykes for our community! We love that the Amtrykes we've had on order are arriving every couple of weeks so that we can get them assembled and delivered to the recipients before the really good weather for riding arrives. Thanks to all who made this possible and all who came out to assemble! Stay tuned for pictures of these same trikes with their new owners. (Photo by Larry Windingland)



AMBUCS National Conference, August 2-5, 2023

Registration is now open for the AMBUCS National Conference in Louisville, KY! Early Registration is \$219 until June 30th. Book your hotel separately with the Galt House Hotel. Conference rate for a regular room is \$154; \$174 for an executive suite. Get out your credit cards! See member **MaryLou Younger** to get tickets for the usual Big Hat drawing. \$20/ticket for a chance to win one of 5 adventure vacations!



Splinters from the Board

The Board met at Denny's on March 29th and addressed the following items:

==> voted to add Cornerstone Giving to our payments to National for one year

And speaking of the Board...

The 2023-2024 Officer and Board of Directors election will be held on April 11th at the regular lunch meeting. The Slate of Officers is below but anyone can toss their hat in the ring for any position from now until the actual vote. Just see any officer.

==> Keith Jamieson becomes President; Larry Windingland becomes Chairman of the Board

==> Renae' Strawbridge and Scott Price finish their second year on the Board

==> President Elect: Don Dunlap

==> Secretary: Sally Denhart

==> Treasurer: Elaine Windingland

==> Sargent-At-Arms: Jodi Harmon

==> Big Hat President: Elaine Windingland

==> Board Member: Will Wade

==> Board Member: Ray Griest

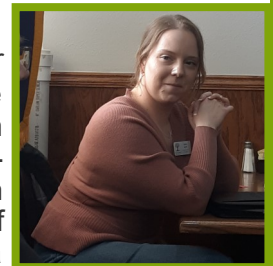
==> Kyle Moe will serve as Board member for one year to make up for the two positions Elaine Windingland is holding

Central Region Conference

Hope to see everyone at the Central Region Conference in Springfield, IL on April 21-22! GCC will reimburse members for their registration fee since the conference will include training for new officers and new members. The Springfield Chapter always puts on a great conference!

Crisis Nursery Speaker

Dana Kelly, Safe Children Program Coordinator, stopped by our lunch meeting to tell us a little about Crisis Nursery and thank our Chapter for the donation of an Amtryke for their children in residence. This organization "...creates an 'Island of Safety' dedicated to the prevention of child abuse and neglect by providing 24-hour emergency care for children and support for families in crisis." They believe that "...asking for help is a sign of strength!" Because of them, children have a safe, warm place to stay while their parents figure out a permanent solution to their latest challenges. Thanks for stopping by, Dana!



Tidbits

Will Wade will be setting off on a cruise with his sister soon! His first ever!

Member Judy Dramstad's husband Steve is struggling a little with his health. Please send good thoughts!

Frustration was high for MaryLou Younger's husband lately. Their house was damaged in a storm and they were without power for over 4 days and Wayne, with his arm in a sling, could not help with any of the fixes! Grr!

Member Elaine Windingland recently returned from a trip to Seattle to visit relatives. She left Larry on his own and he and the house survived! Score!

Winning Chances

03/07/23—50/50: \$8 to Cris Vowels; Attendance: \$50 could have been won by Colin Lamkin but he was not present.

03/14/23—50/50: \$7 to Kate our Amtryke recipient; Attendance: \$59 could have been won by Alan Edwards but he was not present.

03/21/23—50/50: \$9 to Will Wade; Attendance: \$72 could have been won by Dick Adams but he was not present.

03/28/23—50/50: \$6 to Aiden, grandson of the Windinglands; Attendance: \$82 won by Elaine Windingland. Woo, woo!