

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

## Central Region Conference

*April 5th and 6th was the* Central Region conference in Champaign hosted by our Chapter. The hotel was the Holiday Inn near the U of I campus. Forty-seven people attended including National officers

The weekend started with an optional trip to the planetarium at Parkland College



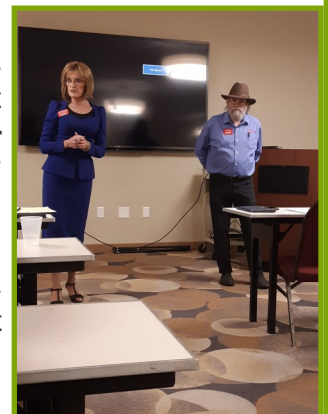
and one 4-man team braved the weather for a round of golf. The theme for the Friday night dinner was "Prison Life" and all attendees had their inmate numbers attached to their prison outfits. Members wore orange jump suits and lots of prison stripes. Warden, Sally Denhart, and Sheriff, Renae' Strawbridge, ran a tight ship and inmates were thrown in "The Hole" for any infraction such as smiling too much. For a mere \$5 inmates could put other inmates in The Hole and they would have to buy their way out for \$3. At right, National President Donna Hingtgen, dressed as a cop, brought President Elect Donna Carlton-Vish to The Hole as well. Just before dinner, one inmate's number was drawn for a raffle prize of towels for the communal showers and alcohol.

On Saturday the training sessions started with an opening talk by National President Donna Hingtgen followed by an update by Jessica Walls, National AMBUCS CEO. Donna suggested we ask ourselves, "Why did I become an AMBUC?" and share the answer with passion to our family and friends to help recruit new members. Jessica told us about the progress with the new Amtryke design and how each one will be designated.

Just before lunch we gave an Amtryke to a 13 month old girl who wasn't too sure about getting on this new gadget in front of all those people. She and her family joined us for lunch where she warmed up to the trike, sat still for the adjustments, and then rode around the lunch room with a smile.

After lunch we had talks on Fundraising, Chapter Growth, and Amtryke Trailer Concepts. After a break, the Big Hatters held their meeting and we all met for cocktails and dinner then heard from GCC AMBUCS member **Jodie Harmon** about her workplace, the Disabilities Services Center. We ended the evening with the Big Hat live auction where we raised over \$2,300 for the Big Hat projects.

The Hospitality Room was open after dinner and the members told each other "Goodbye!" and "Travel safe!" and prepared to head home on Sunday. It was a great weekend to be an AMBUC!



## Calendar

2024

May 4—Election of Officers

May 14—Awards & Installation Banquet

May 18—Amtryke Road Rally

September 16—Golf Outing

October 12—Scarecrow Festival

## 115 Teams Played BarStool Golf

*Nine bars in Champaign hosted* a miniature golf hole and almost 460 people on April 20th for our annual BarStool Golf! Four buses transported the players between the bars except for the downtown bars which are close enough for walking. The bars had specials on drinks and some provided food. The bar Goldy's 2.0 where volunteers meet at 10am to pick up supplies and get final instructions, generously provided some breakfast items for us. (Thanks, Goldy's!) We had three different colors of commemorative t-shirts for sale, a raffle for a traeger grill, a raffle for a golf bag, and a 50/50 raffle. Some of the holes were easy to play and some hard but all of them were fun! As always, we had teams dress up for the day and this year one of the favorites was the "Lucky Bitches" who brought their own leprechaun (left).



The winning team was **Bob Barker's Boxing Club** with a score of 79 and starting at Green Street Bar. Congrats!

Thanks to all AMBUCS and friends who worked the day and made it all possible! Thanks for our organizer, **Kyle Moe**, and to our sponsor, **Skeff Distributing**, who also made it possible! And of course, thank you to the bars who served a lot of drinks and food. See you all next year!

## Slate of Officers for 2024-2025

**Second notification of Slate of Officers. Election May 7th.**

### Up For Election:

President Elect: Will Wade  
Treasurer: Elaine Windingland  
Secretary: Dana Daugherty  
Sargent at Arms: Andy D'Urso  
Big Hat President: Larry Windingland  
Board Member: Renae' Strawbridge  
Board Member: Jodie Harmon

### Additional Officers:

Don Dunlap becomes President.  
Keith Jamieson becomes Chairman of the Board.  
Ray Griest serves 2<sup>nd</sup> year as Board Member.  
Richey Vanderspool will take over Will Wade's 2<sup>nd</sup> year on the Board.

**FYI – Renae' Strewbridge** will take over the **FaceBook** page;

**Jodi Harmon** will take over the **Website**;

Still needed: **editor for the BucShot**.

## Amtrykes

*We gave away 4 Amtrykes* this month, to Jude, Cree, Brendan, and Avonleigh.

Jude turned four years old last June and he continues to go to physical therapy, and occupational therapy to help him learn everyday tasks. Jude loves to be outside so the Amtryke will make that

even more fun while it helps him build the muscle tone he badly needs.

Cree's mom says it has been a real journey dealing with her issues but she's going to do everything she can to help Cree have the best life possible. She has been riding the Amtryke at her PT sessions and her mother has noticed a difference in her balance and her ability to walk. Mom ended by saying, "I can't wait to see Cree fly down the street on this thing!" You go, Cree!

Brendan was given an Amtryke in 2015, a model 1416. He has since outgrown that one and while it helped him with his issues, it had become uncomfortable to ride. Our Amtryke leader, Scott Price, set him up with a used 1420 and he's back to having fun riding again.

Four year old Avonleigh has a rare genetic condition that only 800 people in the world have. This brings her many challenges but she loves going outside in her stroller and will love the Amtryke, too. Her mom said, "God has blessed her with many qualities that allow her to bring joy into our lives." We hope the Amtryke will bring joy into Avonleigh's life, too!

We wish these amazing kids all the fun riding they can have! Enjoy! (Below: Jude, Cree, Brendan, Avonleigh)



## Visit from National President

**National President, Donna Hingtgen** joined us for lunch on April 2. We were also joined by **Gordon Shaw** who is running for National President-Elect and his wife, **Jenny**. They were attending our Regional Conference at the end of the week so they decided to combine the trip to Champaign with visits to several Chapters in the area. We heard some National updates from Donna, and Gordon shared his plans for leading our National organization if he is elected. Donna promoted the National Conference and told us how beautiful Tulsa, OK is and how much history there is to explore on our off time from the conference. Gordon told us a little about himself; he was in the army right out of high school and after he retired from there he did several things but when he joined AMBUCS it became his life. He's going to promote working together if he is elected and quoted General Colin Powel, "If you don't care who gets the credit you can work wonders!" (Photo L-R: Big Hat President, Elaine Wind- ingland; National President Donna Hingtgen; Jenny Shaw; Gordon Shaw.)



## Splinters from the Board

**The Board of Directors** met on April 24th at Denny's and addressed the following items:

- ==> voted to give \$400 to Bunny's Bash for MDA
- ==> agreed to donate 3 Amtrykes from the shed; one to Earl Martin, two to Camp New Hope.

## Awards and Installation Banquet

**May 14th, 5:30pm is our Banquet** and installation of new officers for the 2024-2025 year. As usual we'll be at Manzella's on First Street in Champaign. Come enjoy a great dinner of Italian food served family style. Elaine Windingland will be asking for a head count closer to the date. Hope to see everyone there!

## National Conference

**2024 AMBUCS National Conference** will be held July 31st to August 3rd in Tulsa, OK. As always it promises to be a great time in a great city. Bring your light clothes as it's going to be hot! Registration is now open at <https://ambucls.org> Hope to see you there!



## Tidbits

**Heard around the Board Meeting...** Don Dunlap's elevator doesn't go all the way to the top!

**Who's recently been to Italy?** That would be member **Cris Vowels** and her husband, Bill. They spent a few days in Rome, then hopped on a cruise ship around the Mediterranean, and ended with a few days in Athens before coming home. What fun!

## Winning Chances

**4/02/24**—50/50: \$10 to Jude's mom; Attendance: \$47 could have been won by Sandy Jachino but she was not present.

**4/09/24**—50/50: \$7 to Sally Denhart; Attendance: \$60 was won by Don Dunlap.

**4/16/24**—50/50: \$8 to Cris Vowels; Attendance: \$13 was also won by Cris Vowels. Buy a Lottery ticket, Cris!

**4/23/24**—50/50: \$6 Don Dunlap; Attendance: \$13 won by Jodie Harmon.

**4/30/24**—50/50: \$9 went to the Mahomet therapist; Attendance: \$11 could have been won by Cris Vowels but she was not present.