

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

## Amtrykes

*Two Amtrykes were our October gifts* due to our relocation for lunch. The Urbana Gardens is remodeling our usual lunch room so we have been meeting in the main dining room, back in a corner. This leaves us little room for any trikes and the children's first ride. We hope to be back in the regular lunch room by mid November. We will also be **changing meeting locations in January** as Urbana Gardens will be closing to remodel the rest of the dining space. We will be meeting at **Bunny's Tavern** starting January 7th for at least six weeks.

Our first giveaway was to Breelyn, a little 2yo girl who rides her Amtryke at physical therapy and loves it! She just started to walk 2 months ago and tolerates her PT but only to get her Amtryke ride later. Breelyn has a 4yo sister and now the whole family can ride at home. Have fun, Breelyn!



Due to his situation, we can't tell you much about our second recipient except that he really loves his Amtryke. He sat in the back of a booth at Urbana Gardens, happy and quiet until we asked him if he would like to ride on his very own Amtryke. Then he couldn't get out of the booth fast enough! During his first ride, member **Pat Webb** touched his handle bars and boy did she get the stink eye! Don't worry, young man, it's yours and we promise only to take it back when you outgrow it and we'll replace it with another!

## National Conference

**Be sure and save the dates July 23-26,**

## Calendar

2024

November 20—Social, Collective Pour

December 11—Christmas Party, Italian Patio

2025

January 7th—Meetings at Bunny's Tavern

March 8—Cash Bash

May 17—Amtryke Road Rally

September 15—Charity Golf Outing

**2025**, for the National Conference in **Des Moines, IA**. Des Moines, (with the "s" silent in both words), is a growing Midwest city that has great food, great shopping, and a lot of energy! Hope to see everyone there!



## Scarecrow Festival

*October 12th was our 31st Annual Scarecrow Festival* in AMBUCS Park. The Car Show was back on the West side of the park and we thank the **Sundowners Car Club** for bringing out so many great cars!

We had the usual hay rack and barrel train rides which were a hit with kids and adults alike. The hay rack ride is a good way to see some of the cars in the show and gives the parents a little quiet, sitting time.

The barrel train ride bumps the kids along a route which covers most of the park. There's also a small dip and hill that the kids love and where the driver gives the ATV a little extra gas.

He slows back down a little when he hits the flat land before doing a tight circle that has the kids and adults giggling. And the train can take kids with walkers or wheelchairs in the expanded engine car. There's a ramp into the car and the seats fold up. The adults are usually a one-and-done ride because the barrels have no shock absorbers and no padding on the seats. The kids ride over and over again!



The other hit with the kids is the many games we have on the east side of the park. Each player gets some sort of prize and we gave out almost 1,400 prizes! Students from the **U of I Alpha Phi Omega National Service Fraternity (APO)** come out in shifts to operate each of the 14 games we have. Anywhere from 10-20 students give us invaluable help running these games allowing members to work the food tent, bake sale, rides and car show. We can't thank them enough for coming out! And they seem to love it, too!



We had a good turnout at the festival and the food tent even ran out of hot dogs. We had delicious pulled pork as well plus lots and lots of bake sale items. There were vendors around the Driscoll pavilion and they only had a little trouble with the wind this year. We had pumpkins and straw bales for sale, too. Last, but not least, and the most fun for the workers and adults, we had great live music from the **Discount Rhythm Dukes**, a local band that plays a variety of oldies music!

We thank the event leader, **Keith Jamieson**, all the members who worked and donated time, the **APO** students, the vendors, and the businesses who donated to make this happen! Hope to see everyone next year!

## disAbility Expo

**October 26th** saw **Harvey the rabbit** enjoying the day riding an Amtryke at the **disAbility Expo at Market Place Mall** in Champaign.



This Expo brings out the companies and agencies in our area who help people with disabilities, from wheelchairs, to special vans, to pets with disabilities paired with people with similar challenges. We were there to highlight our Amtryke Program and to let people know how AMBUCS can help. We

had a double-wide booth with room for two display boards and Harvey. Three members helped with the display, **Pat Webb**, **Richey Vanderspool**, and **Sally Denhart**. They talked with over 20 people about AMBUCS and about 6 of those people stopped by just to say thank you for the Amtryke they already had. One therapist, new to the area, checked out all the booths in prep for opening her own business. She was invited to attend one of our meetings and even join the group. We hope to participate again next year.



## Christmas Party

**Wednesday, December 11th, 5:30pm** is set as our annual Christmas party, this year hosted at the **Italian Patio** on First street in Champaign. As always with this party, family are welcome. The food and soft drinks are on us but adult beverages are on your own.

We will have our usual gift exchange where each person who wants to take part, will bring a gift, costing around \$20. People pick a number and the person with the number 1 will start the game. People pick one of the wrapped gifts and unwrap it, then the next person picks. This per-

son has the option of taking an unwrapped gift or “stealing” one of the open gifts. Each gift can only be taken 3 times before it is “frozen” with it’s current person. At the end, the person with the number 1 can keep what they have or grab any of the non-frozen gifts and the game ends.

Everyone has a great time and the food, served family style, is tasty! Let **Elaine Windingland** know if you want to attend.

## Tidbits

### **Member Don**

**Dunlap** marked another thing off his bucket list this month. He spent three days in Scotland and played the historic St. Andrews Golf Course! (Stock photo)



**Cris Vowels** took a few days and attended a wedding in Hot Springs, AR.

**We have several members** who are struggling with health issues. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers!

## Winning Chances

**10/01/24**—50/50: \$6 won by Pat Webb; Attendance: \$19 could have been won by Brooke Chilton but she was not present.

**10/08/24**—50/50: \$8 won by Sally Denhart; Attendance: \$34 could have been won by Dave Miller but he was not present.

**10/15/24**—50/50: \$8 won by Pat Webb; Attendance: \$46 could have been won by Maggie Brown but she was not present.

**10/22/24**—50/50: \$5 won by Pat Webb; Attendance: \$56 was won by Sally Denhart

**10/29/24**—50/50: \$6 won by Larry Windingland; Attendance: \$12 could have been won by Kyle Moe but he was not present.