



Howdy, fellow Big Hatters!

We're off to a great start thanks to a super finish by our 2004-2005 leader, Vic Bobo. You, the National Big Hat Club, under Vic's leadership, were able to contribute \$13,400 at the Big Hat Breakfast and Auction during the National Conference in Greensboro! This, added to the totals from region fall and spring events, brought the grand total of Living Endowment giving to \$34,370!

We owe Vic and his lovely wife, Brenda (she did all the dirty work), a great deal of gratitude, and I hope you will take the time to drop them a note or an e-mail thanking them for all they have done for AMBUCS™, especially the Big Hat Club. A huge thank you also goes to the 2004-2005 Big Hat Region Directors. This position has transformed into a real working office, and it takes a lot of desire and enthusiasm to make it successful.

With this being said, don't forget to make note of who your new Region Big Hat Directors are. I've always known to surround myself with successful people. They were chosen because of their commitment to seeing that the Big Hat Club continues to be a driving force in the success of AMBUCS™. They have agreed to step up to the task, and I know they will do a great job. (Remember, it's important to make the National Big Hat President look good.)

We have more going on this year than ever before in the Big Hat Club. We will continue with the region fall and spring business and education sessions that have been so successful (and fun) in the past. We have also committed to National President Leonard Epperson to take the lead in recruitment/retention for the next year. We know how to do it best. Now is the time for all Big Hatters nationwide to lead by example.

There are also two new events coming our way this year.

'Big Hat Attacks Cancun'

What would the Big Hat Club be if not FUN? Let's have fun at the first-ever "Big Hat Attacks Cancun" in February. We're going to enjoy an all-inclusive four days and three nights at the Gran Costa Real resort. For all the details, costs and dates, please visit the Big Hat page on www.ambucs.org. It's a great package at a great price. I hope to see you there! If you're not yet a Big Hatter, why not become one now?

NASCAR Fund-Raiser

We also introduced at the National Conference a new Big Hat Club fund-raiser that we hope will involve all clubs nationwide. We are raffling a NASCAR package for two, including a Saturday Busch race, a Sunday Nextel Cup race, pit and garage passes, \$500 for travel expenses and \$500 for lodging expenses. All of this for a simple \$20 contribution that will go to help people with disabilities.

It's a fantastic package and an even bigger opportunity for your region. Any region selling 250 tickets before its Fall Convention will receive a free trip to Cancun to use at their Big Hat auction! This should be an easy sell.

You can contact the national ticket manager, Ray Schoonover, or your region ticket managers if you want tickets or have questions. You can also visit www.ambucs.org/Abighat.htm for contact information.

Region Ticket Managers:

Southern — Chuck Foster
Mid-States — Allen LeMieux and Alan Eakle
Central — Dean Jackson
Great Plains — Gary Miles
Southwest — Charlie Young
Northeast — Bud Van Horn and John Ruser

I have to close with a thank you and congratulations to Cliff Bauerle and Bill Dredge. Cliff worked so hard all last year to keep Vic and me in line. It is a full-time, thankless job, and he was a tireless contributor. Bill Dredge has been elected to succeed him as Big Hat Secretary/Treasurer. (I hope he knows what he's gotten himself into.)

As you can see, it's going to be a busy and an exciting year. I believe we work the best when we work the hardest, and I think we have plenty to keep us occupied throughout the year. I'm looking forward to working for you as National Big Hat President. The National Big Hat officers welcome your input and questions. Please contact us if we can assist you in any way.

Thank You for All You Do for AMBUCS™,
Kip Miles
2005-2006 National Big Hat President

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