

AMBUCS

TM

Creating Mobility and Independence For People With Disabilities

***It's More than
Recruitment...
The Four R's
of Membership
Development***

**AMBUCS™ works
'Shoulders Together' to
Help Hurricane Victims**



AMBUCS™ is dedicated to creating mobility and independence for people with disabilities.

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National President-elect:

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Great Plains Region Director:

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COVER PHOTO

A happy Colby rides his Toddler AmTryke® therapeutic tricycle along with his dad, Ward Davis, a member of the Hutchinson, KS, chapter.



Fall Convention Highlights Pages 20-21

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2006 Spring Conference Schedule

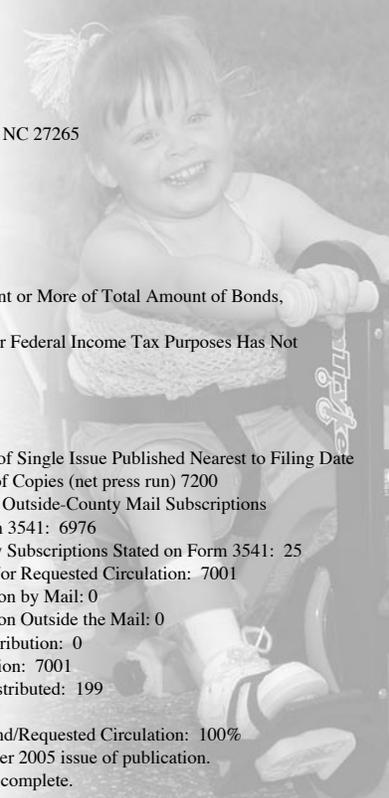
Region	Date
South	Apr 21-22
Mid-States	Apr 28-29
Central	Apr 21-22
Great Plains	Apr 28-29
Southwest	Apr 28-29
Northeast	Apr 21-22

Keep an eye out for more details coming soon on your region’s Spring Conference!

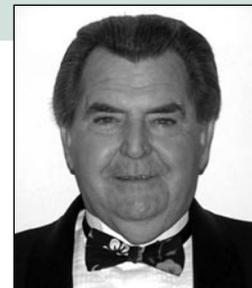
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President's Message



As I return from attending the Fall Region Conventions, I can't help but think of how proud I am to be an Ambuc.

For years I knew AMBUCS™ as my own chapter, the Ponca City Noon, OK chapter. Then as Region Director, I learned that AMBUCS™ was bigger. I learned that chapters throughout my region were doing some really wonderful things. And by visiting with other Ambucs at our national conference, my eyes were open even wider to the great steps Ambucs take to create mobility and independence for people with disabilities. But these last few months have proven to surprise me even more.

After visiting many areas of our association and attending fall conventions, I see the measures Ambucs take to not only continue the mission, but also the hospitality and fellowship extended to one another. We open our homes to one another. We share ideas, strengths and resources. We work together to better the lives of those who we serve and one another. We truly work to make sure that there is "No Ambuc Left Behind."

On behalf of the Executive Committee and my wife, Vickie, thank you for six wonderful meetings. I am sure those of you who attended a region fall convention agree with me when I say that we all should be proud to be part of AMBUCS™.

Fall conventions were another opportunity to extend our goal of "No Ambuc Left Behind" again through education. There are a lot of exciting things going on in AMBUCS™ and a lot of information to be shared. National news presentations and educational sessions provided this opportunity.

AMBUCS™ rolled out a new and improved membership development program called "The 4 R's of Membership Development." The specifics of this program can be found in this issue. But, let me take a minute to tell you why I think you should follow this program.

Often we tend to focus on just one area of membership development: recruitment. Though we can't deny the great importance of recruitment, there are other areas that need to be made just as essential. That is what this program is all about. From cultivating relationships, to recruiting new members, to properly educating new members through orientation, to acknowledging the successes of fellow members, this program will help your chapter make steps towards membership development. Take this to your next chapter meeting or board meeting. How can your chapter make all areas of membership development common practices?

Also at the fall conventions, we explained how you can get your "Duh-ploma." Just recruit three Friends members this year and receive your "Duh-ploma" at the national conference in July. Why would you want to earn a "Duh-ploma?" Well Duh! Because it:

- Identifies potential new members and donors for your chapter
- Earns your chapter scorecard points
- Earns your chapter revenue shares
- Spreads the mission of AMBUCS™

Remember, your chapter can earn a credit through recruiting Friends members. If your chapter has 50 Friends members, you earn 25-percent of the revenue which is at least \$312.50. If your chapter has 100 Friends members, you earn 33-percent of the revenue which earns \$825.

The National Big Hat Club is also doing its part to make sure there is "No Ambuc Left Behind." Their Big Hat mentor program is included in the membership development information. If you aren't familiar with this model, you should definitely get acquainted with it. It is a great way to increase your membership and cultivate new Big Hatters.

Also new this year is the Big Hat Alert. Once a month, a list is sent out via email to all chapter officers with the names of members who are just one or two new members away from earning a Big Hat. Use this with the mentor program and watch your membership take off.

One more thing that really impressed me during the fall conventions was the dedication of our members who already pledged to become a 100-percent contributor to the Living Endowment Fund. These members received a stock certificate for their portion of the Fund. This certificate is ready to be framed and a beautiful display of their support.

If you haven't yet, pledge your support. More information is available in this issue of the magazine as well as on the AMBUCS™ Web site. As the holidays approach, take some time to enjoy the season and celebrate with your AMBUCS™ friends and family. We all should be proud to be part of this association. Each day we all take steps to make sure that there is "No Ambuc Left Behind".

Congratulations on a great 2005. Let's make 2006 the best it can be.

Shoulders Together,
Leonard Epperson

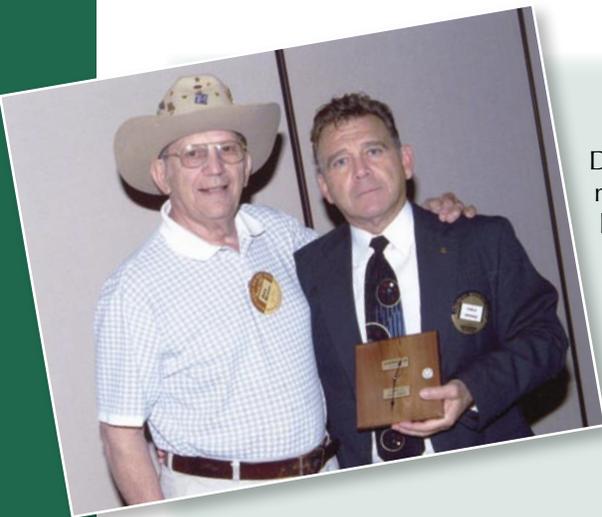


Chapter News

District 3C Says 'It's Time to Get New Members'

District 3C Governor Don Meyer is presenting all members who recruit three members during this year with a special handmade clock, made by the governor himself. It's part of the district's theme "It's Time to Get New Members." The clock, made from oak, cherry or walnut wood, is designed to use stars earned for recruiting new members or pins collected during fall conventions or national conferences.

Pictured is District Governor Don Meyer with Carlo Spataro, both members of the Muskegon, MI, chapter.



Tri-City Chapter Receives a Special Thank You

After being introduced to the AmTryke® therapeutic tricycle by her local DemoSite, Elaina wanted a tryke of her own. The Tri-City, FL, chapter made that possible and in return received a special thank you note from Elaina which she typed on her Braille machine. The note read: "Dear Am-buc Friends, Thank you for giving me the bike. I really enjoy it. I had a good time at the lunch. You are good friends. Love, Elaina"



Enid AM Too Shares Their Fantasy

The Enid AM Too, OK, chapter participated in the 2005 United Way Chili Cook-off in Enid. Some 850 people attended and raised over \$13,000 for the United Way.

This year's theme was "What's Your Fantasy?" The chapter chose an AmTryke® therapeutic tricycle theme for the booth which they entitled "Our Fantasy... Each child that needs an AmTryke receives an AmTryke." Along with some fine tasting chili, guests received information on AMBUCS™ and the AmTryke Project.



Community Appreciation Day

The Urbana, IL, Branch of National City Bank worked with Greater Champaign County chapter to install a wheelchair ramp for Community Appreciation Day. The bank closed its lobby for the afternoon so that employees could get involved with the construction.

Broken Arrow Chapter Partners With Local Business

The Broken Arrow, OK, chapter teamed up with local restaurant, McAlister's Deli, to raise money for AmTryke® therapeutic tricycles. A sign was placed at the front counter stating that all tips received for twelve weeks would be donated to the chapter.

The restaurant's management was happy to present the chapter with a check for \$945 at the end of twelve weeks. The chapter thanked them with a special plaque to display in the restaurant. The funds will be used to provide AmTrykes to area kids.





Youth Auxiliary Holds Installation Banquet

Recently, the Longview Too Teen, TX, AMBUCS™ Youth Auxiliary, along with sponsoring chapter Longview Too, held an installation banquet. Highlights included an AmTryke® therapeutic tricycle give-a-way and speakers Judy Moffiet from P.O.W.E.R. (People on Wheels Encouraging Responsibility), and Longview Too members Sue Haywood and Carmela Davis.

The youth auxiliary plans on holding two fundraisers including a local garage sale and a poinsettia sale. They are very actively involved with their sponsoring chapter.



Give a Child an AmTryke® Get a Smile in Return

Tia gave the Indian Valley, PA, chapter and their guests a big smile after receiving her AmTryke therapeutic tricycle. The chapter presented her with the tryke at their annual golf outing in August.

Griffin Chapter Builds Ramp to Enhance Mobility

The Griffin, GA, chapter built a ramp in September for a local woman with a brain tumor. Several steep steps around her home made it dangerous for her to get in and out. The new ramp will enhance her mobility and help prevent future falls.



Ramp Gives Local Artist Mobility

In July, the Augusta, GA, chapter built a ramp for a local artist. The ramp helps her transition to and from her home to her studio and her vehicle using her wheelchair. This was an exciting time for the chapter as it was the first ramp built in several years!

Springfield Chapter Presents \$60,000 to Local Charities

The Springfield, IL, chapter awarded checks exceeding \$60,000 to Springfield area charities at a September 30 presentation on the Illinois State Fairgrounds. The funds were collected as a result of the chapter's contract with the Illinois State Fair to manage parking and admissions at the 2005 event. The presentation took place in front of the All-Access Park the chapter donated to the Fairgrounds in 1997.

"\$60,000 can help do a lot of great things in our community," chapter president Jason Mahon said. "Thanks to the second year of a successful partnership with the Illinois State Fair, Springfield area charity organizations are getting the help they need to continue youth athletics, music education, scholarships, and other vital programs that help our neighbors. Our total contributions this year will likely exceed \$160,000."

Funds earned at the 2005 Illinois State Fair exceeded funds earned last year by \$10,000, allowing the chapter to assist a total of 32 charities - 7 more than in 2004. The chapter has contributed more than \$2 million to local charities over the last 40 years. For the past decade the organization has donated between \$65,000 and \$95,000 a year to as many as 30 different charity groups, and the addition of the parking project last year enabled the group to donate over \$145,000 to area causes.

In all, 32 local charities participated in the parking project. These groups received donations based on the number of gates they covered. Charities included youth sports teams and athletic booster clubs, church youth groups, UCP, Boys & Girls Club, service clubs and fraternities and sororities, as well as Police Explorers and the Springfield Housing Authority. All of the groups have expressed interest in returning for next year's State Fair.



Chapter president Jason Mahon thanks volunteer Mari Swaggerty of Springfield Lanphier High School for her role in the AMBUCS-Illinois State Fair Parking Project.

Howdy Fellow Big Hatters!

Well we're far enough into the year to have our feet wet and we sure have a lot going on! Let's get started with some congratulations!

First of all, congratulations and thank you to the Big Hat Region Directors for their efforts at the fall conventions. Awesome job gang!! I keep hearing great reports from all regions about the fun times. Hope you enjoyed it as much as we did. Because of your hard work, we had some great auctions and were able to raise \$21,650 for Living Endowment. The breakdown is as follows:



Southern Region: \$850
Mid-States Region: \$4209
Central Region: \$2837
Great Plains Region: \$6500
Southwest Region: \$5054
Northeast Region: \$2200

On behalf of the Big Hat national officers, thank you to all big hatters for your assistance and generosity. Congratulations also go out to the newly elected Big Hat Region Director-elects:

Southern Region: Karen Bures, Aiken, SC
Mid-States Region: Sue Eakle, Greenebucs, OH
Central Region: Terry Dare, Decatur, IL
Great Plains Region: Leon Smith, Sooner, OK
Southwest Region: Diane Ulbrich, Grapevine Heritage, TX
Northeast Region: Al Jackewitz, Indian Valley, PA

I also need to recognize regional ticket managers Charlie Young, Gary Miles, Alan Eakle, and Al LeMieux. They led their regions to sell enough tickets in the NASCAR raffle to win a free trip to Cancun to use at their regions' Big Hat auctions. (The other region reports weren't available at printing time.)

Good luck to all of the ticket managers and get ready for the next big push! This could have the biggest impact on both Living Endowment and the AmTryke® Project that the Big Hat Club has ever seen. Let's not let it slip past us and miss the opportunity of a lifetime for our friends in need.

So much for congratulations, let's get down to business!!

Rita hasn't stopped us! The "Big Hat Attacks Cancun" trip is still on for February! The hotel reports that it will be up and running in December, long before our trip. We look forward to the chance to enjoy an all-inclusive four days and three nights at the Gran Costa Real resort. If you still are interested in joining in the fun, details are available on 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 are not yet a Big Hatter, why not become one now?

The biggest contribution you can make today to both your chapter and the national organization is to be a mentor to your own chapter members. Show newer members in your chapter how important they are to our existence. Let's not just talk about Big Hat, show them what being a leader is all about. Make sure those new members feel welcome and let's get them involved as soon as possible so they can enjoy the benefits of our great organization. You, as big hatters, voted to be the leaders this group need to make a difference. Let's step up and do it!

I personally want to thank you all for all you do for AMBUCS™!

Kip Miles
National Big Hat President
2005-2006

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Welcome new AMBUCS™ Members!

The following is a list of all individuals who joined AMBUCS from June 1 through Oct. 31, 2005.
Congratulations and welcome to the AMBUCS Family!

Mark E. Adkisson
Gary P Affolter
Carol A Amatore
Robert D. Anderson
Melissa L Aungst
Margaret B Averre
Tara Ayres
Dorothy D Badger
James H Ballard
Tracy L Bass
Sandra K Bonnar
Renee Burns
Terry J Bussinger
Tammi L Calvin
David Casalena
Dulce Cedillo
Karina Cedillo
Mark A Clark
Mark A Clark
John D Cohorst
David P Cook
Chris Cotton
Gregory G Council
Allen Cox
Donald E. Dahlquist
Michelle Davadilla
James J Dean
Jo Ann Dean
Jennifer Dixon
Melissa Drake
Ronson H Dykstra
Brandon K Ebert
Phillip C Edwards
Cindy Elliott
Kirk P Fanning
Jim A Fellhauer
Gordon H Flynn
Loran L Forbes
Dana Foster
Meghan E Fox
Andrea F Fredericks
Amber A Freeman
Christopher Gandy
Kendra Garrett
Perry G Garrett
Jason R Gordon
Sandra Grabowski
Donald J Gracia
Cindy Griesel
Christine M Gustafson
Robert A Hague
Marilyn H Hart

Lisa Kelleher Hedberg
Robert Hedberg
Laura A Heleniak
Cameron R Henderson
Mark A Henry
Barbara G Hina
Denise A Hollenbach
Sheldon A Hoyt
Beverly Jerrigan
Brendon J Johnson
Jenifer L Jones
Richard Kars
Jeremy M Keller
Sharon Kenyon
Denise Keylon
Joe M Kulek
Rochelle Kulp
Ginifer L Lawrence
Leslie Lee
Mary L Lee
Stacey A Lehmann
Alan C Lester
James A Lewis
Heather M Lindblom
Ken A Lokey
Al N Masood
Monique Masterson
Jeramie B Mayer
Bruce W McCurdy
Phillip D McDonald
William B McGough
Stephen W McKenna
Raymond P McMurry
Allan E Meagher
Sally A Mentry
Jeremy L Milbradt
Christopher P Miller
Jessica B Miller
John E Miller
Kevin A Miller
Cevin B Moberly
Sheryl Moser
Michael R Mueller
Vida J Murry
James L Nichelson
John Peters
Kevin M. Pingsterhaus
Tammie G. Pingsterhaus
Michael D Piper
Jacqueline J Pittman
Shannon M Pupillo
Don R Radcliffe

Suzann Raibourn
Denise L Reimer
Debby K Reinbold
Bruce Roberts
Rita C Roberts
Ben Robinson
Marvin Rodriguez
Billy C Sander
Kenneth J Schirling
William T Shanks
Jenifer Shaw
Robert D Shaw
Robert A Shiltz
Sidney S Siegel
Jodi A Skeba
Guy M Smallwood
Leon Smith
Melinda E Smith
Rhonda K Smith
Russ Smith
Kim L Snider
Mike Solis
Troy J Soukup
Bob W Srack
Tom L Srack
Laura J Stephenson
Lin Stevens
Mark R Stover
Trisha D Stow
Geraldyn M Strait
Amy Taliaferro
Robert E Thatcher
Ralph J. Thompson
Mark Treaster
Paula Tullos
Ronald Scott Turner
Nancy T Turow
Kristofer K Upson
Toyia L Urbaniak
Alberta M Ussery
Chris C Vajgrt
Steve R Van Dam
Douglas J VanderLaan
Shandra D Waksmonski
Teresa L Walden
Tim R Wallin
Michael Webster
Ken Weirman
Brian W Wensauer
Randall C Whitney
Kinvin Wroth
Marcy Ann Yanus

AMBUCS™ works 'Shoulders Together' to Help Hurricane Victims

AMBUCS™ members are always willing to do their part to better the lives of those in need. The days following the recent hurricane disasters were no different. Ambucs throughout the association found ways to help.

From collecting donated items, to making monetary donations or even housing hurricane victims, Ambucs found ways to make a difference. Here is only a partial list of the good deeds done.

Money was most needed to help hurricane victims. Many chapters such as Lincolnland, IL, reported opening their wallets and making donations.

The Alive After Five, MI, chapter used a bi-annual fundraiser to fund their donation. Twice a year, the chapter is the beneficiary of a bartending competition, called Flair Night, at a local restaurant. The event in September raised \$3,000 for the chapter who in turn gave part of that to the American Red Cross.

The Edmond, OK, chapter combined their group's giving with a fundraiser. They teamed up with their local parks and recreation department to hold a Labor Day dance and fundraiser. The chapter coordinated bands, decorated and sold food items. Proceeds from this fundraiser along with the chapter's donations totaled \$3,000. Chapter member Carl Catania personally took the check to the Baton Rouge, LA, Red Cross office.

The chapter didn't call it quits after one fundraiser though. Members Cathy Williams White, Teresa Fritz and John Combs even participated in the New Orleans resident relocation efforts.

Other chapters decided donating much needed supplies was the way to go.

The Ponca City Noon, OK, chapter "passed the hat" at a chapter meeting on September 8th, which raised \$426. Quality Water Services of Ponca City matched that money. Together, the chapter and the company provided 170 five-gallon bottles of water to hurricane victims.

Both the Yellow Rose, TX, and Grapevine, TX, chapters collected items for hurricane victims.

The ladies of Yellow Rose collected water, diapers, canned goods and much more. The Grapevine group helped to fill a 48-foot trailer with supplies and some members even volunteered to help with hurricane evacuees move into a local hotel. The hotel originally planned to host 120 families but was surprised with almost 700.

The First Seniors, OK, chapter also did their part. They organized efforts to collect supplies- two pick-up trucks full- worth almost \$2,000 for those affected by Hurricane Katrina.

The Lubbock Monterey, TX, chapter also wanted to do something to help the 400 evacuees moved to Lubbock. After inquiring with local officials, the chapter learned that diapers were needed most. Chapter president Gail King put out a call to the membership and collected over \$1,000 in cash and diapers at the chapter meeting.

These are just a handful of examples of the measures chapters and individual members took to help. It's evident that when there is a need, AMBUCS™ is ready to stand "Shoulders Together" to make a difference.



Are You Working Towards Your 'Duh-ploma'?



Everyone who recruits three new Friends members during the 2005-2006 chapter year will receive their very own Duh-ploma. *Yes, DUH-ploma.*

Why should you work towards earning your Duh-ploma?

Well Duh! Because more Friends members mean:

More potential new members, donors and volunteers!

- There has been a noted trend of Friends members changing to active member status.
- Friends members are also great resources for donations and assistance with chapter projects!

Additional scorecard points for your chapter!

- Your chapter earns 2 scorecard points for each new Friends member you recruit!

Revenue for your chapter!

- Chapters with 50 Friends members, earn 25-percent of the revenue which is at least \$312.50.
- Chapters with 100 Friends members, earn 33-percent of the revenue which earns \$825.



More people know about the AMBUCS™ mission!

- Use this level of membership as a way to educate and involve more people about your chapter's activities.

Don't miss out on the special "educational" presentation for all Ambucs earning a Duh-ploma at the 2006 National Conference!

It's More than Recruitment...

The Four R's of Membership Development

When thinking of membership development, attention is often turned to recruitment. While successful recruitment is a vital part of the health and success of a chapter, it is only one aspect of membership development.

All chapters should have a planned membership development program. Whether you are a chapter of 10 or 210, a well thought out, yearlong plan to promote positive membership development is essential to the future of your chapter.

With the combined dedication of your chapter's leadership and general membership, success can be found by focusing on the four key areas of membership development: relationships, recruitment, retention and rewards.

Relationships

Relationships are at the heart of successful membership development: relationships between the board and the chapter, relationships between chapter members, relationships between chapter members and those who haven't joined AMBUCS™ ... yet. Careful cultivation of these relationships can lead to a stronger membership and therefore, a stronger chapter.

The leadership of your chapter needs to be strong, confident, optimistic and open. Leaders who demonstrate chapter pride, motivation and encouragement to members will have a positive impact on member satisfaction. To achieve this, chapter leaders should remember to accept new ideas and suggestions, delegate responsibilities, accept criticism and help, listen and understand members, and take responsibility when mistakes occur.

Cultivating stronger relationships between chapter members can sometimes be a difficult task. Someone joins AMBUCS™ because they have a void they need filled. Be it networking opportunities, giving back to the community or social opportunities, your chapter needs to find ways to fulfill each of these needs and strengthen these relationships. This can be attained by providing time for members to visit with each other during meetings, offering ample opportunities for involvement in projects and being creative in planning socials.

Relationships between your chapter members and the public are also of utmost importance. This is a key step, which has a direct effect on the next step, recruitment. It is often said that successful recruiters see everyone as potential AMBUCS™ members. By cultivating strong relationships between your chapter and the public, you can open up the doors to membership recruitment. You can take steps to better these relationships by properly promoting your chapter events, keeping in contact with those you serve such as AmTryke® therapeutic tricycle families and scholarship recipients and keeping an eye out for partnership opportunities with other organizations.

Recruitment

Once you've taken the steps to strengthen your chapter's relationships, the next logical move is to capitalize on them by strategic and smart recruitment efforts. The most important thing to do is to develop a membership program that best meets the needs of your chapter.

Look at what "roles" most need filled within your membership. What skills could help your chapter? Look at the people your chapter has established relationships with to select individuals to meet these needs and skills. As you work to establish new relationships, your pool of potential members will grow.

There are some qualities that need to appear within your chapter to have a successful membership recruitment program. They include:

1. Energetic members who are excited about AMBUCS™.
2. Members who are knowledgeable about AMBUCS™ locally, regionally and nationally.
3. Chapter officers that are actively involved in recruitment.
4. A yearlong recruitment plan.
5. Leadership opportunities for new members.

AMBUCS™ helps with recruitment with programs like Branding Time and Spring Round Up. The National Big Hat Club also announced the new Big Hat Mentor Program this year.

The concept of the mentoring program is to match up Big Hatters with members who are just one or two new members away from getting their own Big Hat. The steps include:

1. Recruit mentors from those who are already Big Hatters.
2. Match them up with the future Big Hatters in your chapter (those with one or two new members to go or those with aspirations to become a Big Hatter!)
3. The mentors work one-on-one with the future Big Hatters to call on potential new members.

Together they set up phone appointments, meet with the potential new member and invite them to the meetings as well as serve as hosts to welcome the guest to the chapter meeting.

Cultivating relationships leads to a larger pull of potential new members. Strategic and focused recruitment efforts lead to more new members. Once you have your new members, its time to focus on the third "R" of membership development, retention.

Retention

Retention is probably the most important “R” of successful membership development. To succeed, a chapter must have proper retention strategies woven into day-to-day chapter operations. Members are a chapter’s most precious resource. We all must find ways to provide them with a source to meet their needs, involve them and give them real responsibility to make them feel valued. When your chapter meets these goals, you ensure a lasting relationship with the member, long after the new member application is submitted.

It is the entire chapter’s responsibility to always warmly welcome new members. It’s sad but true that one negative experience can have a lasting impression on a new member. A new member should never be left standing in a corner or sitting at a table alone. Welcome him or her at the entrance and escort the new member around making introductions.

As soon as a new member joins your chapter, sit down with them and review the committee preference sheet, Form 1145. Explain to them the different opportunities available with each committee. Ask them to fill it out and return it to you.

Once they are assigned to a committee, communicate with the committee chairperson. Make sure that the chairperson makes a phone call to welcome the new member, explain jobs that he or she can participate in and explain when the next orientation event will take place. The quicker a new member becomes involved in chapter activities, the higher the retention rate.

Orientation is one of the most neglected areas of membership development, but is a crucial element in retention. Your chapter should have an established orientation program and schedule. The orientation should be a special time for the new member, in fact consider asking their family members or significant others to attend too. Orientation for new members should be held as soon as possible. It is important that new members understand the expectations of membership including, chapter policies and procedures, attendance and dues structures.

We have talked about how cultivating relationships leads to a larger pull of potential new members. How strategic and focused recruitment efforts lead to more new members. And how education and involvement lead to higher retention rates. Once you’ve accomplished this, you are left to reap the rewards of membership development, the fourth and last “R.”

Rewards

Like any long journey, it is important to celebrate reaching your destination, or in this case, celebrating the rewards of a positive membership development program. Measuring and acknowledging the hard work of your chapter is extremely important to ensure long-term success. You can measure overall success best by taking a look at the chapter as a whole and also the achievements of individual members.

Your Chapter

How do you measure the success of your program and the successes of your chapter? National AMBUCS™ have two tools to do this in the Blue Chip Report and the Chapter Operations Scorecard Recap.

After the end of each quarter, National AMBUCS™ publishes the Blue Chip Report. The Blue Chip Report shows each chapter’s membership total for the quarter including the number of new members, dropped members and the retention rate. This is a good way to track your chapter’s progress as well as compare your activities with other chapters in your area and throughout the association.

A healthy chapter has an on-going, successful and active membership development program. The best measure of a chapter’s health is the Chapter Operations Scorecard Recap. Also published quarterly, this report will share your chapter’s cumulative scorecard points earned for membership and other activities. Compare your chapters points to other chapters of similar size as well as to your chapter’s scorecard points the last few years during that same quarter. Do you see a positive change? If so, you know you are doing things correctly!

Chapter Members

Just as important as celebrating your successes as a chapter, it is important to acknowledge and reward the hard work and successes of individual members. National AMBUCS™ helps out with this through the Big Hat Club. But your chapter can make your own efforts to acknowledge the good works of chapter members. Hold big hatters-only events or let the big hatters have a special meal or special seating one chapter meeting a quarter. Be creative and help make the Big Hat Club something exclusive and something your members will want to be a part of!

Congratulate those who sponsor new members as intensely as you welcome new members. Share their good works with the chapter. Congratulating them in your newsletter is a perfect place, along with your chapter meeting. Finally, don’t forget to thank your Friendship committee or whoever in your chapter leads the membership development program. Their hard work is what inspires the chapter to succeed.

Relationships, recruitment, retention and rewards... the four steps between your chapter and excellence. This basic approach, when adopted as a practice of your chapter, will position you for success and long-term growth. It just takes a driving force, a commitment to succeed and the participation of your chapter.

Be sure to use the tools available to you. Those include the recruitment, retention and orientation workshops, the seven steps to successful recruitment, the blue chip report and the chapter operations scorecard recap.

And most importantly, **PLAN!** Follow these steps carefully, take it seriously and come up with a plan that best works for your chapter.

National Board of Directors Elections Held

Clingenpeel, Moore and Trainor selected as Region Director-elects

Great Plains Region Director-elect



Kent Clingenpeel, a member of the Enid AM, OK, chapter, joined AMBUCS™ in October 1982. He became a Big Hatter in 2001 and a life member in 2005. Kent has served in many offices including chapter treasurer, vice president and president and is currently serving his second term as District 5B Governor. He has been named chapter Ambuc of the Year twice, was a superior chapter president in 2002-2003 and was named #1 Superior

District Governor for 2004-2005.

Kent is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma and just celebrated 23 years of employment at Ward Petroleum Corporation in Enid where he is the Manager of Information Systems. He and his wife Terri, a member of the Enid AMBUCS chapter, have been married for 25 years and have two daughters Amber, 25, and Ashley, 21.

He says one of the goals he sees for his term is increasing member retention.

"Right now that seems to be our biggest hurdle to overcome," said Kent. "In order for AMBUCS™ to grow, we have to do something about member retention. It seems to me that we can recruit members, but we have a problem keeping them."

Through the misfortunes of his family, Kent says he has seen first hand the importance of the AMBUCS™ Scholars- Scholarships for Therapists program. "Therapists have shown us that you can indeed live on and succeed in life even in the hardest times," said Kent.

In addition to his admiration and belief in the AMBUCS mission, he says that the camaraderie he has seen within AMBUCS™ keeps him committed and motivated.

"To watch a group of people who become such good friends have this much fun, but know when its time to get down to business and get their hands dirty to help 'create mobility and independence for people with disabilities' (is inspiring)," said Kent.

Northeast Region Director-elect



Peter Moore joined the Conshohocken, PA, chapter in 1978. He earned his Big Hat in 2002 and became a Life Member in 1999. This long-time member has held many offices including twice as chapter president and chapter secretary and four terms each as District Governor and District Secretary-Treasurer. He has been named superior and honor governor and has served twice as the National Conference Parliamentarian.

Peter is an attorney and partner at Narducci Moore Fleisher & Roeberg, LLP. He has been married for 27 years to wife, Kathleen. They have two children, Shawn, age 24 and Kelly Anne, age 22. He is also active as a unit leader for Boy Scout Troop 140, board of directors member and past president of the Conshohocken

Fellowship House Community Center and is a member of both the Montgomery Bar Association and Pennsylvania Bar Association.

Peter has three specific goals during his term as Region Director. He says those are "to foster and improve cooperation among the four districts in the region, to assist the chapters with growth and greater involvement with the national programs."

He has a special reason for being so involved in AMBUCS™.

"Our purpose of helping people with disabilities is meaningful since (my wife and I) have a child with Down syndrome. Aside from that, I have met and worked with some wonderful people and despite the work, have had an enjoyable experience," he said.

Southern Region Director-elect



Matt Trainor, a member of the Augusta, GA, chapter, joined AMBUCS™ in October 2002, and has made the most out of his membership in just three years. He has been chapter president twice and is currently the District 1A Governor. He became a Life Member in 2004 and is a William L. White member.

Since 1990, Matt has been employed by the Medical College of Georgia. He currently works as a Business Systems Analyst in

the Information Technology department. He has a son, Tommy, a 17-year-old high school senior who hopes to become a physical therapist. Matt's hobbies include basketball, chess, reading, guitar, hiking and camping.

His story of becoming involved in AMBUCS™ is inspiring. He was introduced to AMBUCS™ and the AmTryke® therapeutic tricycle before his daughter Virginia, who had severe disabilities, passed away at the age of 5.

"I was heavily involved in the building of Georgia's first fully accessible playground located in Augusta, which was later dedicated as 'Virginia's Playground' in her memory," says Matt. "It was invigorating to be involved in such a wonderful experience. I read a magazine article recently that discussed the health benefits that come from volunteering and helping others. I know that we have all experienced that 'helpers high' and after building that playground, I didn't want to lose that feeling. I joined AMBUCS."

Matt is excited about his term as Region Director and has set some clear goals.

"New club building and greater visibility for AMBUCS in the region are areas that I intend to focus on," he said. "In addition to membership practices of recruitment and retention, I would like to see more member involvement in all AMBUCS activities along with better education and leadership building activities."

He says that his daughter and children like her are what keeps him committed to AMBUCS. "Helping kids that need it and providing them with a rich lifestyle is very rewarding to me. We help to create an environment where children of all abilities can play side-by-side. This concept not only levels the playing field, it also helps erase the false preconceptions about children with disabilities and teach important lessons about accepting other people's differences."

Make Plans Now To Open the Doors To Increased Visibility

2006 Visibility Project: Big Bell

February, National Visibility Month, is just a few short months away. It's time to make your chapter's plans to promote AMBUCS™ through public relations efforts and special activities. This year, AMBUCS has a great Visibility Month project in the Big Bell.

Announced at July's national conference, the Big Bell is developed for businesses as an affordable alternative to power doors. It is an oversized, wireless-alert system which meets ADA standards and enables mobility-challenged people to request assistance with entry. It is cost-effective, easy to install and a universally implemented accessibility solution.

The bell is marked with the international symbol of accessibility and easily recognizable and used. Businesses can easily mount it outside at the appropriate height and mobility challenged customers can easily activate the large pushbutton. The bell comes with an interior chime receiver that rings alerting store employees to customers in need.

Best yet, each Big Bell you order from the AMBUCS Store contains the AMBUCS logo!

Big Bell is a perfect fit with the AMBUCS mission and a ideal opportunity for a visibility project. You can purchase them at a special discount and place them on the doors of businesses in your community. Not only will it be a service to both the business and individuals with disabilities, it is a unique way to get the AMBUCS name out around your town!

How To Plan your Big Bell Visibility Month Program

1. Get your chapter on board... Talk with your chapter's board of directors and present the idea to your membership. The success of any project depends on the full support of your chapter. Download the Big Bell information kit available on the AMBUCS Web site and share the details with your fellow chapter members.

2. Contact local businesses... Once your chapter agrees to make Big Bell your visibility project, compose a list of local business owners you want to approach. Explain the goal of the Big Bell project to them using the information sheet included in the kit. Be sure to use the assessment form provided to measure the business' true accessibility. The answers might surprise everyone! If accessibility options are needed, ask the business to purchase the AMBUCS™ Big Bell or your chapter can purchase it and donate it to the business. Don't forget to assess the threshold and steps! Could a portable ramp be needed?

3. Contact your media! The Big Bell project is a great media event! Make plans for a kick off celebration on National Service Day (February 11). Get a business owner on board and hold the event at that business. Make this a celebration of your chapter's dedication to both the business community and individuals with disabilities.

Personally contact your local media (a press release alone won't do!). Explain to them how the Big Bell will help make your town accessible to people with mobility issues! Once they understand the impact this makes to both the business community and those with disabilities, it's a sure winner!

The key to a successful project is proper planning! Begin the process now so your chapter is more than prepared for your February 11 kick off. Please remember that if along the way you have questions, the AMBUCS Resource Center is there to help!



'Tis the Season! Holidays and Observances Can Guide Your Visibility Efforts

As the holidays approach, we move closer to a brand new year. Many chapters fill their calendar with parties, events and fundraisers this time of year. 'Tis the season as they say, right?

You will also notice that the media is filled with seasonal stories. "Good news" is especially popular this time of year. Don't forget to promote your chapter's holiday events through the media. Are you having a party for a group of

people with disabilities? Supplying gifts to those less fortunate? Or how about giving some special children their own AmTryke® therapeutic tricycle for Christmas?

Contact your local media personally. Don't just send a press release. Your press release would be just one of hundreds they receive this time of year. Spend a couple of minutes talking to your media contact about your event and explain to them personally why your event is worth covering. Remember they need good stories as much as your chapter needs the media coverage. Be sure to review 2005 National Conference Speaker and Emmy-award winning

reporter Jeff Crilly's book Free Publicity, available from the AMBUCS™ Store.

It's not just during December that the media covers seasonal stories. In addition to holidays like Valentines Day and Thanksgiving, why not use one of the many observances to promote your chapter and help your community? Hold a volunteer appreciation event in April (Volunteer Appreciation Month). Hold a AmTryke® give-a-way in May (National Bike Month). You get the idea. And be sure to "sell" that connection to your media contacts when pitching them the story!

Plan your chapter's year-long visibility activities using holidays and observances. With a little research on the Internet, you will find that there seems to be an observance for every day of the year! The following is a list to get your started:

January

Birth Defects Prevention Month
Special Education Week (third week of month)
National Thank You Month

February

National AMBUCS Visibility Month
Low Vision Awareness Month

March

Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month
National Multiple Sclerosis Education and Awareness Month

April

Volunteer Appreciation Month
Autism Awareness Month
National Occupational Therapy Month
Youth Sports Safety Month

May

National Scholarship Month
Better Hearing & Speech Month
National Bike Month
National Physical Fitness and Sports Month
Health Care Administrator's Week (first week of month)
National Hospital Week (first week of month)

June

Helen Keller Deaf-Blind Awareness
Fireworks Safety (June 1-July 4)

July

Fireworks Safety (June 1-July 4)
Therapeutic Recreation Week (second week of the month)

August

Smile Week
Spinal Muscular Atrophy Awareness Month

September

Rehabilitation Week (third week of the month)
Deaf awareness week (fourth week of the month)

October

National AmTryke® Month
Child Health Month
Disability Awareness Month
Disability Employment Awareness Month
Spina Bifida Prevention Month
National Physical Therapy Month

November

Child Safety & Protection
National Family Caregivers Month
Allied Health Professions Week (second week of the month)

December

Safe Toys and Gifts Month

Creating Legacies:

AMBUCS™ Planned Giving

Past National President Sue Eakle Named as Chair

One of the goals set by National President Leonard Epperson this year is the re-education of AMBUCS™ on major gifts and planned giving opportunities. In July, Epperson named Past National President Sue Eakle of the Greenebucs, OH, chapter as chair of the Planned Giving Committee.

Sue, along with her husband Alan, knows what major gifts and planned giving is all about. Through their significant financial commitment to AMBUCS, the Alan and Sue Eakle Fund was established in 1999.

“I am really excited to chair the Planned Giving Committee this year,” said Eakle. “We all hold AMBUCS close to our hearts and put a lot of hard work into the successes of our chapters and the organization as a whole. The options available with the planned giving program allow all members to ensure the continued success of AMBUCS long into the future.”

The Planned Giving Committee and the Alan & Sue Eakle Big Heart Fund was established to attract major and planned gifts. The Fund was established to both recognize current donors as well as help encourage new donors to give to AMBUCS.

Major gifts and planned gifts are different in nature. Major gifts are realized gifts of cash, securities or trusts. Planned gifts are life insurance policies, gifts planned from trusts, wills or estates or real estate.

Tax advantages may exist for the donor with any one of these types of gifts. A tax professional should always be consulted regarding the specific benefits of any gift.

“I am optimistic about the possibilities out there for future donors,” Eakle said. “No matter the size of the gift, donations to AMBUCS are crucial to our continued successes of creating mobility and independence for people with disabilities. I think there is a lot of potential within our organization to secure the future.”

Types of Gifts

The desire to support AMBUCS can sometimes be overshadowed by basic economic practicality. But your gift to AMBUCS, large or small, can be customized to fit your economic situation. There are many giving options available from very simple to more complex. They include the following.

Gifts of cash. This is the simplest way to make a gift. By doing this you may be entitled to a tax deduction and AMBUCS can immediately be able to use your gift to further its mission.

Gift of securities. Stocks or other investments that have grown in value, and which you have held for more than one year, can become a substantial gift at a low net cost to you. You receive a charitable deduction for the donation based on the fair market value on the date of gift. You also avoid general capital gains tax that would otherwise be done on a sale of the assets.

Gifts of life insurance. Life insurance is a great way to increase the impact of your giving. Premium payments by donors for policies in AMBUCS name are tax deductible. Options include:

- Naming AMBUCS as the beneficiary on an individual or group policy
- The gift of an existing policy through which AMBUCS becomes the owner and beneficiary
- The gift of a new policy in which AMBUCS is initially named the owner and beneficiary

Gifts of Real Estate. Almost any real estate developed or undeveloped is potentially a charitable gift. If you have owned property for a long time, it likely has increased in value. This property provides a unique giving opportunity and at the same time helps to continue the AMBUCS mission. You can donate the property to AMBUCS outright, place it in trust or retain the use of it for life.

Bequests. Donors often find the best way to make a lasting difference is to remember a charitable organization in their wills. A bequest is simply a charitable gift to be delivered at the time of the donor's death. A bequest provides donors the opportunity to make a significant gift to support AMBUCS and create a legacy in their name at the same time. Bequests can be funded in a number of ways. Donors can be included in your will, in a codicil to your will or in a trust instrument.

Charitable Gift Annuities. A gift annuity is a contractual agreement between the donor and AMBUCS in which assets are transferred to AMBUCS in exchange for a promise to make payments to the annuitant for the remainder of their life. A portion of the gift is tax deductible when the gift is made as well and a portion of the annual payments may be tax-free.

“Donations to AMBUCS are crucial to our continued successes of creating mobility and independence for people with disabilities.”

It's Impact on AMBUCS

Donors of planned gifts to the Alan & Sue Eakle Big Heart Fund can direct their gift to any of three different programs within the AMBUCS Living Endowment Fund: AMBUCS Scholars – Scholarships for Therapists, AmBility™, or Cornerstone Growth and Development.

Donors will always have the ability to specifically direct their gift. Donations can be restricted, partially restricted or totally unrestricted and can even be applied to specific projects or directly to the operating budget if the donor so chooses.

There are many ways to give your financial support to AMBUCS. With the many recent tax changes you should seek the advice of a tax advisor before taking any action.

The AMBUCS Resource Center is also available to answer your questions regarding charitable gifts. Feel free to contact Executive Director Joe Copeland (800) 838-1845 ext 12 or joec@ambucs.org

New Tax Incentives for Year End Giving

The Katrina Emergency Relief Act (KETRA) of 2005, signed into law in September provides the opportunity for a taxpayer to claim, as an income tax deduction, charitable cash donations made from August 28 to December 31, up to 100 percent of the taxpayer's adjusted gross income (AGI). Traditionally, the law is just 50 percent of the taxpayer's AGI. KETRA even applies to gifts made to most non-Katrina-related charitable organizations, including National AMBUCS™.

This is the perfect opportunity to make your gift to National AMBUCS through one of the many giving opportunities. But remember, your cash gift must be made by December 31, 2005.

If you would like more information, please contact Executive Director Joe Copeland at joec@ambucs.org or at (336) 852-0052.

Blessings and thanks to AMBUCS:

I cannot begin to thank all of the AMBUCS who have extended their support to me after Tom's death. The cards, letters, phone calls, E-Mails, all helped me realize just how much Tom was loved. Contributions in his name have been more than generous. Tom Taylor would not have been Tom Taylor without AMBUCS. He loved the work, loved the people involved and was proud to be affiliated with an organization that gets things done.

I have personally experienced the "Shoulders Together" motto in action over the past few months. For those of you who traveled many miles to attend Tom's Celebration of Life Party in October and those who worked to make it happen I can only say I was overwhelmed by your special efforts. It meant so much to me that you cared so much for him. My many thanks! I have been humbled by your kindness and honored by your regard for my Tomas.

Carmen Biddle

AMBUCS™ Member Vannoy Serving In Iraq

Lance Corporal Sean Vannoy, of Lubbock, TX, and member of the United chapter is currently stationed at Camp Fallujah, Iraq. He was deployed out of Camp Lejeune, NC, at the end of August with the United States Marine Corp Combat Logistics Battalion 8.

Sean is the son of Lubbock Monterey chapter members David and Patty Vannoy.

Sean has reported to his parents that he is doing well and "having a blast" doing his mechanics job, working on tanks and other assault vehicles. He is scheduled to return home in March.

Anyone wishing to contact Sean can do so at the following address or e-mail Patty, at pattyv1@cox.net, who can forward the messages to him.

L Cpl Vannoy, Sean O.
CLB 8/ORD/MAINT
2nd FSSG FWD
Unit 73965
FPO AE 09502-3965



Sean Vannoy

Vannoy Named to National Scholarship Committee



Patty Vannoy

In July, National President Leonard Epperson announced that Patty Vannoy of Lubbock, TX, was his appointee to the National Scholarship Committee.

Patty, who joined AMBUCS™ in 1995, is a member of the Lubbock Monterey, TX, chapter. But says that she has been active in AMBUCS™ since the early 80's as "David's wife".

Patty has served as chapter president, District 6C Governor, Southwest Region Director and Southwest Region Big Hat Director. She is also past chapter Rookie of the Year, two-time recipient of her chapter's Presidential Service Award, chapter and district Ambuc of the Year and a two-time Sparkplug.

Patty has been married to her husband, David, for over 25 years. She has two sons, Zakk, who lives in Houston with his wife Kristina and their two children, and Sean, who serves in the US Marine Corp and is currently deployed to Iraq. She retired in 2000 after working for 31 years as a MRI and Radiological Technologist.

During her term on the National Scholarship Committee, Patty says that she would like to see an increase in Living Endowment Giving by chapters and individuals.

"It has been a great privilege for me to be able to meet and visit with many of the therapy students over the years. I know that they make a huge commitment to their education, both in time and money. They really appreciate the funds and support that AMBUCS™ provides them," she said.

Knowing how far dollars go that are given as scholarships keeps Patty committed to the program.

"When we help that one therapy student with a scholarship, those dollars go on to provide service to the thousands of patients that the therapist will serve in the course of their career," Patty said. "Talk about the gift that keeps on giving!"

AMBUCS Announces Mentor for Success Program

National AMBUCS™ is excited to announce the expansion of the AMBUCS Scholars- Scholarships for Therapists program with the creation of the "Mentor for Success" program, a clinical practitioner program that will partner scholarship recipients with professionals in their field of study.

The "Mentor for Success" program is designed to foster and encourage students' development by helping them make appropriate educational choices for their respective career paths. It is aimed to ensure that their undergraduate degrees prepare them for their chosen advanced field of study.

The program was the outcome of a collaborative effort by AMBUCS and the Tri Alliance: the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA), and the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) to secure a grant from the Innovation Fund of the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation.

The Innovation Fund is one of its grant programs offered to organizations that serve high-achieving students with financial need. Each year, the fund awards money to nonprofit organizations that spark the creation or expansion of innovative education programs. For 2006, it invited grant proposals from mentorship or internship programs that serve high achieving, low to moderate-income high school or undergraduate college students.

The four organizations thought that the Mentor for Success program was a perfect fit for the Innovation Fund. The grant application outlines details on the program.

The National Scholarship Committee would select an appropriate number of students for the program, with each student receiving a \$4,000 scholarship, payable over two years, beginning in the fall of 2006. The program will be open to high school seniors, undergraduate freshmen and sophomores who are low to moderate income. While most students are

anticipated to be between the ages of 17 and 21, non-traditional students will also be encouraged to apply.

Scholarship recipients would then be matched with a qualified professional from his or her indicated career path. The Tri-Alliance organizations will supply the needed professional mentors. The scholarship recipients will be selected so as to equitably represent the three partnering professional associations.

The program hopes the mentors will support students primarily through traditional communications like e-mail and telephone, but face-to-face meetings and informal mentor sessions will be encouraged. Job shadow experiences and possible summer employment opportunities are also envisioned.

The National Board of Directors was excited about the future possibilities of the "Mentoring for Success" program.

The Board approved to begin the program in the Fall of 2006 even if the Innovation Award is not secured and began to solicit sponsorships from AMBUCS chapters. Currently seven chapters have guaranteed sponsorships totaling \$32,000 for students in their chapter communities.

Those chapters are:

Edmond, OK
Greenebucs, OH
Kalamazoo, MI
Longview Too, TX
Reading, PA
Salina AM, KS
Springfield, IL (two sponsorships)

Chapters committing to the Mentors program pledge \$4,000, paying \$2,000 a year for two years.

If your chapter is interested in sponsoring a student for the Mentors for Success program, please contact Executive Director Joe Copeland at joec@ambucs.org or (800) 838-1845 ext 12.

New Therapeutic Tricycle Added to Product Line



AmTryke®, LLC is excited to announce the newest addition to its product line. AmTryke® ProSeries 1402 is a departure from the original AmTryke hand and foot connection. It was developed in response to requests from therapists for a more traditional tricycle for special needs kids.

Model 1402 allows for extensive adaptations. It provides full support to children with low tone, trunk support, etc. It can be adapted to different size riders as it has three foot crank positions and four seat post positions. It comes with many accessories including a padded seat back, lateral support, helmet and foot supports.

This tricycle is designed for children ages 8 to 15 and is built on 16-inch wheels. Future plans include adding two additional sizes built on 12 and 20-inch wheels for smaller and larger riders.

At the time of printing, the tricycle was in stock and ready to ship, but pricing was not yet available. Call the AMBUCS™ Resource Center for pricing details at (800) 838-1845 ext. 14.

Occupational Therapy Accreditation Update

By Sue Graves, AOTA's Senior Program Manager, Accreditation

Trends in Occupational Therapy Education

Occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants help individuals achieve independence in all facets of their lives and give people the "skills for the job of living" necessary for independent and satisfying lives. Occupational therapists work in a variety of job settings, including public schools, hospitals, mental health centers, nursing homes, physician practices, and home health agencies. With such broad and diverse work settings, it is no surprise that the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) anticipates that employment of both occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants is expected to grow much faster than the average for all occupations through 2012. The BLS states that "Job growth will result from an aging population, including the baby-boom generation, which will need more occupational therapy services."

At odds with the positive job outlook is the reduced numbers of applicants and graduates of occupational therapy (OT) and occupational therapy assistant (OTA) educational programs. Between 1999 and 2005, the number of students enrolled in OT programs declined from 17,665 to 10,224 and in OTA programs from 7,903 to 4,480. These significant drops in enrollment resulted in the unfortunate closure of 58 occupational therapy assistant programs during that period. With the demand for therapists and therapy assistants increasing, there is concern that the occupational therapy profession may once again be facing personnel shortages. This does, however, create an opportunity for new graduates of OT and OTA programs. In 2005, OT and OTA educational programs reported that 60% of OT graduates and 50% of OTA graduates were employed with 4 weeks of graduation and 97% of OT and OTA graduates were employed within 8 weeks. It is anticipated that this strong job placement rate will continue.

Programs are also seeing increased interest among applicants. In spite of the large number of closed OTA programs, both the total and average student enrollment in OTA programs increased for the third consecutive year. Between spring 2002 and spring 2005, total enrollment increased from 3,350 to 4,480 and average enrollment increased from 19 students per program to 33 per program. Average class sizes in OT programs dropped during that same period (from 89 to 68 students per program), but total enrollment increased from a low of 13,739 in Spring 2004 to 14,704 in Spring 2005.

ACOTE Accreditation Update

In occupational therapy accreditation, there are two significant changes currently taking place. The first is the transition of occupational therapy education to the postbaccalaureate degree level, which is reflective of the substantial elevation in the knowledge, skills and attitudes required for entry-level occupational therapy practice. This process will be completed by January 1, 2007. Occupational therapy assistant education will continue to be offered at the associate degree level.

The second major change is the current revision of the accreditation standards of the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE®). ACOTE reviews and revises its accreditation standards every 5 years to ensure that they reflect the current and emerging demands of an increasingly complex practice environment. In addition, as a nationally recognized accrediting agency, ACOTE is accountable to the recognition criteria of both its governmental recognition body, the U.S. Department of Education (USDE), and the non-governmental recognition body, the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA). One of the major anticipated changes to the criteria of both bodies relates to an increase in the amount of information available to the public on the performance of program graduates. As a result, ACOTE has included in its recently released draft ACOTE accreditation standards, a new accreditation standard that would require accredited programs to publish information related to national certification exam pass rates and graduate job placement rates.



ACOTE is also proposing to increase the degree requirements for faculty to better meet the demands of graduate-level education.

ACOTE is currently inviting comment from all communities of interest regarding the first draft of the revised ACOTE Accreditation Standards. Interested parties are invited to review the draft Standards and submit comment through an electronic survey available on the ACOTE Accreditation section of the AOTA Web site (www.aota.org). Additional comment may be submitted by e-mail to accred@aota.org.

Inquiries about occupational therapy accreditation and education are invited at any time, and may be sent to accred@aota.org.

¹Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2004-05 Edition*, Occupational Therapist Assistants and Aides, on the Internet at <http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos166.htm> (visited February 28, 2005).

Resource Center Q&A

The AMBUCS™ Resource Center often gets questions from members on a variety of topics. A page in AMBUCS™ Magazine will now be dedicated to sharing these answers with you. If you have a question you'd like answered, feel free to forward it to ambucs@ambucs.org or fax it to (336) 852-6830. If chosen, your question will be published anonymously.

Q: *It seems that the organization puts a lot of emphasis on the AmTryke® Project, even our marketing plan is focused on it. Why is it always AmTrykes, Am Trykes, Am Trykes? What about all of the other projects we do?*

The marketing plan is not intended to take value away from projects other than the AmTryke Project. The marketing plan was created for AMBUCS by an advertising agency and approved by the National Board of Directors. We believe that the AmTryke is what makes our organization truly unique from other organizations. It is also the most popular project throughout the association. Due to our limited resources, the plan is based on the belief that if AMBUCS is going to target its message, attention needs to be focused on one specific area.

Q: *Only a few chapters are into AmTryke® therapeutic tricycles. What about everyone else?*

According to the most recent results, during the 2004-05 chapter year, 54 chapters gave away more than 5 trykes and 43 chapters gave away between 1 and 4. That is 97 chapters, or 81% of the total population. This shows that the AmTryke® therapeutic tricycle project is indeed quite widespread throughout the association.

The National Board and AMBUCS Resource Center does, however, continue to support all AmBility™ projects and the AMBUCS Scholars program. As stated above, due to its popularity, the AmTryke Project was selected as the marketing focus.

We have already enjoyed success in establishing new chapters by focusing on the AmTryke Project. That is clearly where our new growth potential resides.

Q: *Why are we trying to promote the AmTryke® Project when we already have a long list of kids on the Wish List? Why would we want to make that list even longer?*

The good news is that our Wish List exists and is growing. That is a true measurement of the potential of the AmTryke Project. In actuality, we informally “manage” the Wish List by advising our pediatric partners not to overload the Wish List from any one area or facility. They recognize our capacity, and tend not to recommend more kids than we can handle.

We need the Wish List and the kids who want bikes need the Wish List. It is a call to do more, to provide more AmTrykes, to grow our organization to meet the high demand!

Q: *The AmTryke® Project might work in some areas, but it won't in mine. There just doesn't seem to be any kids who could use a tryke in my community. How am I supposed to find them?*

This almost always is due to a lack of a strong relationship with pediatric therapy providers. Every part of the country has children with disabilities. Those children are receiving pediatric therapy services somewhere, either through the school system or area allied health providers. You must establish a relationship with those providers to find the kids who will benefit from early intervention or therapy on an AmTryke. Do your homework. Use the Mobile Demo Site trailers to educate the therapists about the program. Remember, it is AMBUCS' policy to give away AmTrykes only after therapist evaluation.

Q: *Why does AMBUCS™ use “The Fun Way to Serve” in marketing? It doesn't say a thing about what the organization does.*

“The Fun Way to Serve” is not intended to replace the AMBUCS™ mission statement. It is intended to be a tag line, an option for chapters to use in recruiting efforts. What makes AMBUCS™ different from other clubs in your town? AMBUCS™ is the FUN way to serve your community!

Q: *Why would my chapter want to promote signing up Friends members? Our chapter's membership is declining. Doesn't this just take away from the number of potential active members?*

The Friends level of membership is geared towards those individuals who do not live in an area where there is an AMBUCS chapter or who feel that they don't have time to be an active member. Chapters benefit from signing up Friends members. Not only is it a way to earn scorecard points, it is also a great way to identify potential new members and donors. We have noted the tendency to migrate to active member status by previous Friend members. Use the category to educate and involve more people in your chapter's activities. National AMBUCS also offers revenue sharing for chapters with 50 or more Friends members. That's another way your chapter wins by building membership.

Living Endowment Fund Celebrates Fifty Years

As part of National President Leonard Epperson's plan to re-educate AMBUCS™ membership, each of the four issues of AMBUCS™ Magazine during this chapter year will include a feature on the Living Endowment Fund as AMBUCS celebrates its 50th anniversary.

The Living Endowment Fund (LEF) was created in 1955 to fulfill a purpose. That purpose was to provide continuous funding for the AMBUCS Scholars-Scholarships for Therapists program. But, as the mission of AMBUCS expanded, so did its programs.

The Living Endowment Fund now supports three programs: AMBUCS Scholars- Scholarships for Therapists, AmBility and Cornerstone Growth and Development. Donors are now able to direct donations to any of these three areas.

AMBUCS™ Scholars-Scholarships for Therapists

Since 1955, the program has provided scholarship awards to 12,641 students totaling more than \$6.6 million dollars through the Living Endowment Fund.

During the first year of the program in 1955, \$4,880 was awarded. As the fund continued to grow through the years, the largest amount was granted in 1997. A total of 435 awards were given that year, totaling more than \$278,750.

During the most recent award process, 211 scholarships were granted totaling \$121,950 for the 2005-2006 school year. The average award was \$577.96. Of the 2,188 applicants, 393 were chapter sponsored. Of those, 173 received awards.

Scholarships are awarded to students studying physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech pathology and audiology. Students must also meet educational and financial criteria.

The AMBUCS Scholars-Scholarships for Therapists program serves double duty. Not only does it help deserving students complete their higher education, it helps place trained therapists in the field to help people with disabilities. One scholarship helps to provide therapy to hundreds of people over the course of a therapist's career.

AmBility™ Program

The AmBility program was adopted officially as a national program in 1998. It is a combination of the terms AMBUCS and mobility and represents AMBUCS' dedication to creating mobility and independence for those with disabilities.

By 1998, the AmTryke® therapeutic tricycle project had shown to be a great success within the organization but only focused on a small slice of the population with disabilities. The National Board of Directors thought that a larger strategy needed to be employed to help more people. The AmBility program was the result of this strategy with the AmTryke project remaining the cornerstone.

The goal of the program was focused on two areas: equipment and processes. The AmTryke therapeutic tricycle remained the cornerstone of the efforts, but the AmBility Advisory Board would continue to pursue other developments of new or existing therapy devices. Chapters are encouraged to submit new ideas for breakthrough projects like the AmTryke therapeutic tricycle.

The goal was to utilize a therapist referral system as a gateway to qualify people to receive equipment, using both the AMBUCS Resource Center and the AMBUCS Web site as a guide and clearinghouse for information about equipment, supplies and contacts. AMBUCS would promote linkage with manufactures, dealers and corporate sponsors who can help supply mobility items.

Many projects, other than the AmTryke therapeutic tricycle project, fall under the AmBility umbrella. They include: Demonstration Sites, the Mobile DemoSite project, ramp building, accessible playgrounds, Before the Fall- a bathroom safety program for those at risk of falling, and the ASK Project- computer recycling project.

Cornerstone Growth and Development

Cornerstone is the newest addition to the Living Endowment Fund. This fund was established in the late 1990s by the National Board of Directors to provide financing for the growth and development of the association.

Contributions designated to the Cornerstone Fund are used to finance new chapter building in remote areas or for special growth programs approved by the National Board of Directors. Most recently, the Cornerstone Fund provided financial support for new club building efforts in states where a AMBUCS chapter did not exist.

Do your part

Stock certificates are being re-issued this year to anyone pledging to become a 100% contributor to the Living Endowment Fund. Certificates were originally issued in 1955.

These certificates are based on the \$40 per member goal. Members pledging to give more than \$40 will be issued more "shares" of stock in the Living Endowment Fund.

How do you become a 100% contributor to LEF? It is best done through your chapter. Chapters tend to support in the Living Endowment Fund one of these ways:

1. **Big Heart campaigns.** Through this program individual members make pledges and donations through their chapter to support the Living Endowment Fund. This is usually an annual appeal done at the chapter level.
2. **Dues structure.** Some chapters build Living Endowment contributions into their dues structure. This makes it easy for individual members to participate in the Living Endowment and ensures that the chapter is always a 100% contributor.
3. **Fundraisers.** Another common activity is chapter-sponsored fundraisers to support the Living Endowment Fund. These annual events include auctions, raffles and special events.

How to receive your personalized LEF Stock Certificate:

1. Fill out a pledge form showing how many shares of stock you pledge to donate the interest on annually.... Please keep in mind that 10 shares equals \$40 and will make you a 100% giver. The pledge form is available at www.ambucs.org or by contacting the AMBUCS™ Resource Center.
2. Indicate how you want your pledge handled... You can choose to make your contribution through your chapter, request an invoice or donate using your credit card.
3. Your stock certificate suitable for framing will be sent to you. Chapter officers can request certificates for your entire 100% Living Endowment Giving chapter.

AMBUCS LIVING
ENDOWMENT
FUND 50
1955-2005



Great Plains



Southwest



Central





Northeast



Mid-States



al

South



Memorial Contributions

Memorial contributions to the Living Endowment Fund are an excellent way to support AMBUCS™ Scholars- Scholarships for Therapists, the AmBility™ Program and Cornerstone Growth and Development, while honoring the memory of a friend, relative or acquaintance who has passed away.

Contributions are credited to the donor and toward total Living Endowment giving for the chapter, if the donor is an AMBUCS member. A distinctive memorial letter is sent to the family of the deceased advising them of the donation and identifying the donor.

A listing of memorial contributions is included in each issue of the AMBUCS Magazine.

If you wish to make a contribution to the Living Endowment Fund, request a memorial transmittal envelope from your chapter secretary, from AMBUCS Resource Center or include the following information when sending your check to AMBUCS Resource Center.

- In memory of (deceased)
- Name, address and the relationship to the deceased or to the person to whom the letter will be sent
- Your name, address and chapter

All contributions to the Living Endowment Fund of National AMBUCS Inc. are tax-deductible. The following contributions were made through 11/04/05.

<i>In Memory Of</i>	<i>Donor</i>	<i>In Memory Of</i>	<i>Donor</i>
Ada Bremer	Mrs. Jay Yeardeley Marlene & Bud Taylor	David White	Edmond AMBUCS™ June & Leroy Cartwright
Floyd Payne	Duncan AMBUCS™ Enid AM AMBUCS™ Sooner AMBUCS™	Gerald D. Frazier Irene Frock Tessie Lee Jordan Perry Mayo	Enid AM Too AMBUCS™ Dannell & Joe Copeland Ann & Jerry Hester David & Brenda Towe Junior AMBUCS™ of Lawton
Bill Harlan Kelsey Kidd John Luchini M. Rodney Cannell John Malantonio	Dick & Shirley Hudson Lyle & Donna Byars Valley Forge AMBUCS™ Kenneth & Suzanne Bohner West Norriton AMBUCS™ Lawrence P Nuskey	Lou Brox	Lawton AMBUCS™ Enid AM AMBUCS™ Enid AM Too AMBUCS™ Dodge City AMBUCS™
John Radmaker	Gtr. Champaign County AMBUCS™ Luella & Bob Price	Nancy Warkenton Big Earl Dennet Bill Vickers A. E. Williams Willie Harris, Jr. Richard Purdeu Cort Eberhardt Don Huber	Enid AMBUCS™ Enid Noon AMBUCS™ Carmela Davis Carmela Davis Don Dufford Don Dufford Del Oltman Alan Bedell
Billy Joe Jordan Marie Hodges Joe Wren Billy Payne Roger Van Praag	Ann Hester Walter E. Peacock Carmela Davis & Mark Adkisson Carmela Davis & Mark Adkisson Decatur AMBUCS™ Gregory & Janet Ferris Richard & Doris Barnett Eula & Doc Snow Linda & Steve Grunden	Russell Guin Jimmie Wright Wally Price	Pat Phillips Yellow Rose AMBUCS™ Nancy Allred
Oscar Curtis	Mr. & Mrs. Dennis R. Smith First Seniors AMBUCS™	<i>In Honorarium</i>	<i>Donor</i>
Sue Waldrum	Norma & Ray Alexander Yellow Rose AMBUCS™	Melody & Tom Ansley, Jr. Ms. Jeanne Hanlin Ben White Travis Williams Ray Schoonover	Carmela Davis Altoona AMBUCS™ June & Leroy Cartwright June & Leroy Cartwright Enid AM AMBUCS™ Enid AMBUCS™
Glenn Neill Jack Mapes	Ed & Betty Norman Combelt AMBUCS™		



Santa Has a Gift for You

Are you looking for a gift for a special Ambuc? Why not check out the items available from the AMBUCS™ Store! All items come with one of the AMBUCS logos so that every member can show how proud they are to be an Ambuc! These are only a few of the many other items available including shirts, caps and bags!

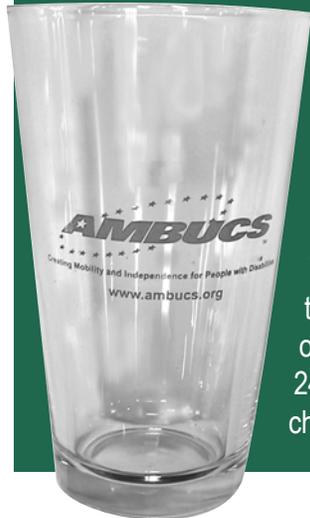
Sueded Zip Sweatshirt- \$35

Perfect for both males and females, this extremely soft red unisex sweatshirt has an open bottom hem and 1/4 zipper. It has a sueded finish and embroidered AMBUCS logo on the left chest. Available in sizes M-XXXL. Please refer to item number CF292 when ordering.



LEF Wine Glass- \$5 each

Celebrate the holidays and the 50th anniversary year of the Living Endowment Fund with this 10 oz. wine glass. It has a gold imprinted logo and is dishwasher safe.



AMBUCS Pub Glass- \$3.50 each

This 16 oz. Pub style glass features the AMBUCS logo in red. They can be ordered individually or by the case of 24. This is a perfect gift for your fellow chapter members.

Luggage Tag- \$2 each

This red luggage is the perfect stocking stuffer. It is made of durable rubber and features a pull out information area, an attachment strap and the AMBUCS logo in white.



To place your order
Call the AMBUCS Resource Center at
(800) 838-1845
or visit
www.ambucs.org/Astore.htm

Happy
Holidays!

It's Off to the Races...

With the Big Hat Club!



The National Big Hat Club is excited to announce its fundraiser for the 2005-2006 year. Big Hatters will be holding a raffle for a thrilling NASCAR package for next year's season. For a \$20 donation you will be entered to win a trip for two to the Homestead-Miami, FL Speedway the weekend of November 18-19, 2006.

The package includes:

- 2 tickets to Saturday's Bush Race
- 2 tickets to Sunday's Nextel Cup Race
- 2 garage and pit passes to visit #01 Army car race team and driver Joe Nemecheck
- \$500 travel allowance
- \$500 lodging allowance

Drawing will be held at the 2006 National Conference

For tickets, contact your region ticket manager:

South	Chuck Foster	(803) 663-6701
Mid-States	Allen LeMieux	(616) 837-9058
	Alan Eakle	(937) 429-2118
Central	Dean Jackson	(217) 726-6239
Great Plains	Gary Miles	(580) 762-3908
Southwest	Charlie Young	(972) 966-2075
Northeast	Bud Van Horn	(610) 777-6633
	John Ruser	(610) 831-1063
National Ticket Manager	Ray Schoonover	(580) 237-0518

*All proceeds benefit the AMBUCS™ LEF and AmTryke®
therapeutic tricycles for children with disabilities!*

