



September 25, 2002

Welcome to AMBUCS where we are dedicated to creating opportunities for independence for people with disabilities, especially children.

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P.O. Box 266 Danville, IL 61832

Pledge: Bob Richard

Prayer: Gary Tucker

Guests: Kim Wright, Lisa Coburn and Becky Osborn

### Dave Johnson, Uof I Sports

"Where's the defense," was echoed by our senior member Don Beard as Dave Johnson, from the University of Illinois Sports Information, took the reins at the podium.

Johnson's reply: the pass rush and our quarterback. Unfortunately, the question wasn't answered last Saturday as Michigan convincingly beat the U of I. But, we digress.

A few of the many collegiate sports offered at the university, notably football, men's and women's basketball, men's tennis, men's golf, women's soccer, softball and men's wrestling were discussed.

Danville native and 2001 Big 10 Golf Coach of the Year Mike Small passed on a message through Johnson that he was thinking of us (back here in Danville).

Johnson told us that the programs were all doing very well and had raised \$60 million for facilities over the last 15 years. There has been no tax dollars spent on the programs; rather all of the money was private donations. Also, there are 600 students at the university on scholarship status.

Dave was a great speaker and a lot of fun. We wish the university all of the luck in fielding national championship teams. Their success reflects well on our state.

### Activity Reports

Blues Sister Donna Carlton-Vish donned her fedora and dark glasses to remind us that it's member recruitment time for all AMBUCS nation-wide. She wants us to strive to be a Blue Chip Chapter, i.e. for each of us to recruit one new member and make contact with a member who's not been active and bring them to a meeting. Not only will it win us national recognition but make us stronger than ever on a local level.

Cathy Reardon asked that we all participate in the All in the Jeans Day, a national program where employers donate a small sum to allow each employee to wear jeans to work. This year's All in the Jeans Day will be held on Friday, Oct. 4. The small stipend from the employers will be donated to Provena's Regional Cancer Center to help offset treatment costs for women with breast cancer. AMBUCS Notes agree that the program is powerfully worthwhile. Donate once, donate often and help eradicate the affliction.

Pat Phillips has thrown us a challenge: she wants all AMBUCS to bring plush animals (a/k/a, stuffed animals) to the Big Hat meeting on Oct. 30. The cute, soft, furry animals will be donated to the annual Festival of Trees, sponsored by the Provena United Samaritan Medical Center Foundation. Any size or kind will be accepted, but, please, make sure they are in good condition, in fact, new ones would be appreciated.

Christmas party planning meetings and Home Show meetings are taking place. Stay tuned for more info.

### Future Program

9/25 Rita Garmon, IL Supreme Court

10/9 Alice Kirby, All Our Kids Ntwrk

10/16 John Spezia, DACC Basketball

10/23 Festival of Trees

10/30 Big Hat Day!

11/6 Adri-Anne Trammell, Ambility

11/13 Fall Convention Report

### Board Meeting

October 14 at noon at Clifton-Gunderson. Feel free to join us, please park in the lot.

### Nomenclature

*AmTryke*

A therapeutic tricycle for children with disabilities that can be driven by hands or feet. It improves motor coordination and increases self-esteem. Available from the AMBUCS Resource Center.

### History

*1950's Expansion*

By 1957, the association was emphasizing expansion, and 74 chapters existed. "We had good years nationally, from 1956 to 1958, with our association growing in membership and in chartered clubs", writes Thomas J. Natoli, National President from 1963 to 1964.

But Natoli notes a transitoin through the end of the decade. Once again, membership dropped, as it had during the war years. As the 1950s came to a close, Natoli notes that membership had decreased from more than 5,000 to about 3,600. Natoli attributes most of the blame to the lack of guidance and assistance from the national office, but that was about to change...

Meetings - Wednesdays at Noon - Days Inn

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Creating Independence for Persons with Disabilities