



March 13, 2002

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

news@ambucs-dnv.com

P.O. Box 266 Danville, IL 61832

Pledge: Cindy Marks

Prayer: Dee Douglas

Guests: Becky Hanner, Rose Jacobs, Bill Warren, Dean Lingley, and Larry Brown

**Meeting Notes**

Bob Richard and Shari Hous will give away an AMTRYKE at our next lunch meeting at the Day's Inn (that's March 20).

Then on March 21, judges from the Illinois Governor's Hometown Award selection committee will be on-hand at the Playground for Everyone at 3 p.m. - they'll be there for one hour while Bob, Bill the Elder and Bill the Younger present the specifics on the playground to them.

Looks like the AMBUCS Home Show was quite successful. About 3,000 people attended the event, but the numbers aren't in yet on the money raised by the show. Phyllis, Carol and Tonya did a super job in planning and executing.

Rose Jacobs stopped by to plug the Women's Health Conference to be held on Saturday, May 4 from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. at the David S. Palmer Arena. Jacobs is married to AMBUC Terry Coyle. Coyle took a moment to let us know that between his business and AMBUCS, he raised \$320 for Oklahaven Have A Heart Camp for children with disabilities.

**Spring Training**

April 27 at the Springfield Prairie Capital Convention Center is the home of this years Training session. The training is for current and new board members as well as any AMBUC interested in leadership roles. The club pays a flat fee regardless of who shows, so the more the merrier!



**Lincoln's Challenge Academy**

**Becky Hanner**

It's not a 'boot camp' even though its roots are quasi-military, said Linda Hanner, assistant registrar with Lincoln's Challenge Academy located at the former Chanute AFB in Rantoul.

Youths entering the voluntary program could be deemed pre-delinquent juvenals. The academy's mission is to graduate 800 young people a year, between the ages of 16-18, with their GED diploma and a new outlook on life.

The academy began as a pilot program in 1993 and is funded with 60 per cent federal dollars and 40 per cent of state generated funds. The graduates can then use their diploma to enter the military, continue with their schooling or get a full-time job. And the other side of the program is to help foster self-discipline, leadership and fellowship in addition to teach life skills. Like all high school seniors in Illinois, they also have to pass the Constitution test, which covers both federal and state documents.

During the 18-month program each 'cadet' wakes at 5:15 a.m. to begin their day with a round of physical activity followed by training in their GED classes. They also must perform 40-hours of community service during their time at the academy. Security at the facility is provided by Military Police, who lock down the dorms at night and secure the grounds.

Academy graduates can receive a living stipend as a part of the post-residency phase as long as they meet the academy's criteria in addition to maintaining contact with their assigned mentor.

It's a great program that has helped to save many young people from ruining their lives. Our thanks to Linda for sharing her time and insights with us.

**Future Program**

- 3/20 Joyce DeBoer - Provena USMC Found. Lunch will be Swiss Steak
- 3/27 Cheri Hand - District 118 Found.
- 4/3 Bob Richard - Playground for Everyone
- 4/10 To be announced
- 4/17 Mike Cleary - Drug Program
- 4/24 Pack the Place!

**Board Meeting**

April 8 at noon at Clifton-Gunderson. Feel free to join us, let Donna know so she can make sure there's enough lunch for all.

Please park in the lot - Clifton-Gunderson needs the parking against their building for their clients - THANKS.

**National News**

*National Scholarship Deadline*

The deadline for the AMBUCS Scholarship is April 15th. If you want to sponsor any students or know of any that are interested in applying, please make sure they apply by the deadline.

**Nomenclature**

*Therapist of the Year*

A local therapist that a chapter considers to be the most outstanding therapist in their community. The chapter honors this person as their Therapist of the Year and submits an application to the AMBUCS resource center. The scholarship committee reviews the applications and chooses a National Therapist of the Year.

**Membership Corner**

- William E. Fulton* 1971 (Guess which one!)
- Lon Henderson* 1996, Big Hat in 1998
- Kathy High* 1999

If you would like more of your information listed in the newsletter or on our web site, let us know: info@danvilleambucs.com.

**Meetings - Wednesdays at Noon - Days Inn**

**Creating Independence for Persons with Disabilities**

**Newsletter Author**

Chuck Cannady (ccannady@soltec.net)