

Pledge: Donna Carlton-Vish
Prayer: Frank Young
Guests: Bonnie Bodensteiner, Debbie Crose (with their respective spouses), Maher Owens (Larry Owens's granddaughter)

Announcements

CHANGE FOR NATIONAL CONVENTION: Due to Hurricane Katrina the event has been moved to Kansas City, KS, July 5-9, 2006. The rooms will still be \$99.00 per night.

Please remember to record your Community Service Hours; this includes volunteer time for AMBUCS and other volunteer groups. Either list them on the sign up sheets at the meetings or let Pat Phillips know.

Board Meeting

January 9th at Noon

Personal Information Changes?

Please notify Cathy High as soon as possible by phone 427-2176, email cathy.high@catlinibank.com.

License Plates

Lincolnland is having their fundraiser and extending it to all of Illinois. Show your AMBUC support by sporting these plates for the months of January and February. Call Pat Phillips for more information.



Program: Shelia Owens Special Children

Shelia Owens (member Larry Owens's daughter in law) not to be mistaken as Sheelagh Owens (Larry's wife) was our guest speaker today. She attended the meeting with her daughter Maher. Shelia works in the special education division at the Westville schools. She and her husband have adopted two children from India and we were fortunate enough to meet Maher.

Shelia had wanted to be a teacher as a child, but the movie Mr. Holland's Opus convinced her that she wanted to work with the hearing impaired. Her experiences included working with deaf pre-schoolers from whom she learned lots of signs. She indicated that working with kids that age is a fantastic way for an adult to learn to sign because the kids will just keep doing it over and over until you get it.

Her concern is that many children go undiagnosed too long. Children with a hearing disability have to work two to three times harder than a child with hearing. She advises early detection and intervention in order to get a good start. Feel free to contact her if you have specific questions about how to do this.

She and her husband decided that they wanted to have a family and looked into adopting a hearing impaired child. They were blessed with Maher. She came into their family already knowing some signs. Dad had to play catch up and learn sign language.

Program (continued)

Maher is a typical kid who loves school but doesn't like schoolwork. She attends Liberty School in Danville. Maher has an adopted younger sister now who hears and signs very well.

Shelia says working with deaf children and raising one are quite different. Life has presented it fair share of challenges. One rule that may be in the Owens home and not in others is "Closing your eyes when you do not want to hear is unacceptable behavior."

Meals on Wheels

Sign up by calling Terminix. We are serving the middle 2 weeks of January.

National Big Hat Raffle Off to the Races...

National Big Hat is holding a raffle for a NASCAR weekend package for the 2006 season.

For a \$20.00 donation you will be entered to win 2 tickets to each of the following: Sturday's Bush Race, Sunday's Nextel Cup Race, garage and pit passes to visit #01 Army car race team and driver Joe Nemecheck.

Plus the following: \$500.00 travel money and \$500.00 lodging allowance. The drawing will be held July 21, 2006 at the Biloxi, MS National Conference.

Our club contact is Gary Dyar, Big Hat Chair for this year. Proceeds benefit the AMBUCS LEF and AmTrykes. The date of the race will be available once NASCAR releases the 2006-2007 schedule.

Meetings - Wednesdays at Noon - Days Inn

Creating Independence for Persons with Disabilities

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