

Lose the Training Wheels - Peter Blackmon

Peter presented a slide show on Lose the Training Wheels held during July at the Palmer Arena. The *Danville 100* spearheaded the program along with the help of AMBUCS and Halo Project. Between 50 -70 volunteers helped during the week long camp with 26 children and adults with disabilities enrolled for a chance to learn how to ride a bike – and the success rate was 80%!

It was amazing to watch the progress of each participant as they learned how to ride a bike for the first time. There wasn't a single day that volunteers didn't shed a tear or two – and it was true of those of us watching the slides too. After the presentation, Pete surprised Felicia Chunges with a gift of a new 3-wheeled bike.

Challenger League Baseball

Thanks to Mayor Eisenhower the program will be highlighted during the Innovations Showcase at the Annual Illinois Municipal League Conference starting September 29 at Chicago Hilton. Anyone wanting to travel to Chicago to work the Saturday morning booth should call President Janet ASAP.

The Challenger Baseball has ALSO been nominated as a Governor's Hometown Award and several will go to Springfield on October 18 to receive a plaque and city sign. There is still time to sign up to go to this free awards luncheon.

Fall Raffle

The \$15,000 Children with Disabilities Benefit Raffle is approaching. Have you sold any tickets? Have you purchased a ticket for yourself? Remember, with only 300 tickets sold, and all the cash and door prizes that are awarded, chances are very good at winning something! Chairman Curt Ellis is asking everyone who has a door prize to get it him by the 27th. Call Pat Phillips for tickets, which are \$130 for a raffle/meal ticket and \$35 for a guest meal ticket. Get ticket stubs and money to Pat by Wednesday, Sept. 27, earlier if possible.

Every year for **33** years, AMBUCS has held a raffle to fund our programs - primarily the Summer Camp with expenses over \$17,000 each year. The event is held at the Beef House Conference Center and includes wonderful appetizers and a delicious filet mignon as the main course. Grand prize is \$15,000.00 cash and 2nd-5th prize is \$500.00 each. PLUS there are various other cash prizes and door prizes that are awarded throughout the evening AND everyone has a chance to get into various other 50/50 raffles during the evening. For more see our web site!

Actions by the Board Meeting

- Accepted Leon Parker's request to drop membership
- Authorized Sprayground Committee to seek donations from club members
- Reserved \$3,000 for the purchase of AmTrykes and equipment
- Okayed a membership drive contest for Branding Time October 1 – November 30
- Launie Morgan is now AmTryke Coordinator and Sherri Hous will continue to evaluate and fit each child wanting an AmTryke

Lunch Guest September 20

Leland Blanchard, former member and husband of member Michelle Blanchard, will speak about his experienced in Iraq. Blanchard returned early to the states due to a back injury. He earned two Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star while in Iraq with the Illinois National Guard.

Guests

Guests included Lose the Training Wheels participant Felicia Chunges, Mel Myers, Becky Lucas, Keith & Jennifer Souza, Rhonda Black, Amy Welter, Pat O'Shaughnessy and Sandy Heffernan.

Big Hat Project

Melissa Rome and Sandy Heffernan with Vermilion County Red, White & Blue Team, were presented a \$500 check from the Big Hat Club to purchase harnesses and special car seats for people with disabilities.

Fall Convention

Central Region Fall Convention is September 29-October 1 in Decatur. It's still not too late to register! Carol Wade, Dean Carlton, Donna Carlton-Vish, Sasha Fitzpatrick are going for sure and Gayle Brandon and Jason & Melissa Rome are considering. If you can only go for the Saturday sessions, that would be GREAT! The only cost would be \$25.00 for breakfast and lunch. If you want a T-Shirt, let me know ASAP.

Sprayground for Everyone

...is a GO! We received over 50% approval from the membership. Thanks to everyone who took the time to cast their vote. If anyone has any questions or concerns, PLEASE bring them up.

Bob Richard is now seeking committee members. One of their duties will be to help fund raise. You will also be involved in the final design process.

Pack the Place

"Pack the Place" is scheduled for October 18. A child who received an AmTryke earlier this year will show off for us. Make plans now to invite a prospective member to the noon lunch.

Personal Information Changes?

Please contact Sasha Fitzpatrick at 446-2564 or sashapage@yahoo.com.