

### ***My view of the Iraq War - Leland Blanchard***

Leland, husband of our own Michelle (Young) Blanchard and Company Commander of Alpha Company out of Danville & Mattoon, won a Bronze Star for his actions in Iraq.

He trained for only 6 months prior to being shipped out. He eventually became the leader of the Military Transition Team, which was a handful of Americans living on an Iraqis base assigned to train their soldiers for combat. He gave us his daily routine which began at 4 AM preparing for any one of a variety of missions. The Iraqis soldiers learned to trust the Americans and many lives have been changed for both the soldiers and their families.

He said the American troops were helping with women's shelters and schools and that a lot of good is happening. He stated how proud he was of the young 17 or 18 year olds who volunteered for the Army and are showing such high levels of maturity, good judgment and great character. Leland is currently home for surgery and physical therapy after having been injured in an attack and if given the chance to return, he would jump at the chance to continue his work there.

He thanked all of his family and friends for watching out for Michelle and his son while he's been away. In closing, Leland asked that we not forget about the families of those still away but to continue to check on them and offer assistance as much as possible.

### ***Fall Raffle***

The \$15,000 Children with Disabilities Benefit Raffle is almost here! 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! Tickets are \$130 for a raffle/meal ticket and \$35 for a guest meal ticket.

Ticket Chair Pat Phillips would like ticket stubs and money turned in as soon as possible so she can get the information into the computer. If you need extra tickets or if you are having problems selling the tickets assigned to you, give her a call as soon as possible. We need them ALL sold.

Raffle Chair Curt Ellis is working on the volunteer schedule so give him a call if he hasn't contacted you already. Door Prize Coordinator Millie Wilson has been busy soliciting and collecting donations for the event. If you have something, bring it to lunch Wednesday or give her a call.

### ***Fall Convention***

Central Region Fall Convention is Sept. 29-Oct.1 in Decatur. Those representing our club are Carol Wade, Pat & Andrew Phillips, Donna Carlton-Vish, Dean Carlton, Sasha Fitzpatrick and Janis Hecht (from Indy). It's STILL not too late to register.

Donna & Dean plan to take the District's Mobile Demo-Site trailer filled with the new AmTrykes recently ordered to the Fall Convention. Sue Haywood, National's AmTryke Coordinator, will be using it and the trykes for the State Certified Continuing Education Class she will be teaching, but it will be available for anyone to see.

Attendees will surely get some 1st class experience with the new trykes. Six Award Nominations were sent in to District for our 2005-2006 year including AMBUC of the Year (which was Andrew Phillips), Project Manager of the Year (which was Melissa Rome), Visibility, Local Charities and Community Service. Keep your fingers crossed that we win! Those awarded at District will then be forwarded on to National for the 2007 National Convention in San Diego, California.

### ***Guests***

Melissa Harrier with Danville Chiropractic Health Center, Pam Dempsey with News Gazette and Debbie Crose with Downtown Danville, Inc. and Renaissance Danville. Al Runner was welcomed back after an absence due to a back injury.

### ***Sprayground for Everyone***

Bob Richard is soliciting volunteers to be on the Committee. Your job, in part, will be to help raise funds and be involved in the final design process. Signup sheets will be available at the next few meetings or you can call or email Bob and let him know.

### ***Heart Walk***

Mary Ellen Baer with the Heart Walk is in need of four volunteers to help check in walkers from 8:30 to 10:30 (that's AM) at the VA Pavilion on Saturday, September 30. Euan Fernsler and his brother Scott have signed up so we need 2 more. Anyone interested should contact Mary Ellen or Carol Wade.

### ***Polar Express***

Bob Richard is again organizing the Polar Express during the Festival of Trees. LOTS of Elves are needed for November 11 & 12 and costumes will be provided. Signup sheets will be distributed during the Noon meetings or give Bob a call.

### ***Lunch Guest September 27***

Bob Yapp, the new executive director of Renaissance Danville, will tell about his plans for renovating four projects in the West Downtown Neighborhood, the financing now available, the push to bring C-U residents to Danville, a new course curriculum to teach young people preservation construction skills and seminars he will hold to teach homeowners preservation and restoration skills.

### ***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.