

Love Notes

The newsletter of the Loves Park Illinois AMBUCS™



March 2009

Creating Mobility & Independence
for People with Disabilities

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815/282-2628



HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY

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NOTICE TO LOVES PARK AMBUCS™ MEMBERSHIP

By unanimous vote of the Board of Directors of the Loves Park Chapter of AMBUCS™ at its meeting on Wednesday, March 4, 2009, the name of this club shall be changed to Rock River Valley AMBUCS™. A vote by the membership is necessary to effect this change. Said vote shall take place at a special joint club event on April 24th at 6 p.m. at Sam's on Harlem Road, Machesney Park, IL. All members are requested and encouraged to attend this important meeting.

President's Message by Pat Hubly

Wow! So much happening, so little space to tell you about it!

- **Big Hat social March 10th**
If you're a Big Hatter you should have gotten your invitation and information by now. If you're not a Big Hatter, oh well.
- **Membership meeting March 12th**
6:30 p.m. at Sam's on Harlem. Plan now to attend.
- **Election of officers at March meeting**
The following slate will be presented by the Nomination Committee:

| | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| President: | Brad Shields |
| Vice President: | Robb Hauser |
| Secretary: | Michelle Johnson |
| Treasurer: | Dick Larson |
| Sergeant-at-Arms: | Jim Nordstrom |
- **Green Bear Fair March 28th**
Rich Lierman has agreed to chair this event. Last year's Fair was deemed successful for our club and we look forward to the same results this year. Please help Rich when called upon, be it set up or manning booth.

And this is the schedule just for the month of March!

February meeting notes



We had the honor of presenting Tracy Shields and Rich Lierman with their Big Hats during the February 12th meeting, each having brought three excellent new members into our club within the past 12 months.

Tracy sponsored Heidi and Marc Butz and Chris Shields. Rich sponsored Linda Black, Nick Shields and Kristina Pando.

As you can see, both are proud and happy and look great in their new hats. *CONGRATULATIONS, Tracy and Rich!!*

WELCOME, CHRIS SHIELDS who was installed as a new member at the February meeting.



Great attendance, enthusiasm and excitement prevail at our meetings; come see for yourself and join in the fun. There's no better time than now—March and April—to bring your friends and acquaintances to one of our events and ask them to join. You too could earn your Big Hat. Several members are well on their way to receiving their Big Hat and now's the time to get 'er done, don't you think so Brad, Angie and all you others...you know who you are!

Spring Roundup National membership drive is on. Bring your prospective members to our March 12th meeting, or invite them to our [Invitation to...](#) event to be held Friday, April 24th at Sam's on Harlem in place of our regularly scheduled meeting of April 9th. Social time will begin at 6 p.m. followed by dinner and program consisting of six three-minute presentations giving an overview of AMBUCS and the great things we do. **Please bring to this Thursday's meeting a list of names and addresses for prospective members** that you would like to have invited to our [Invitation to...](#) event and we'll send them an invitation including your name as proposing they join us. As always, meals for guests at the March meeting or the [Invitation to...](#) event are complimentary of the club. Members not on the meal plan pay for their dinner. And remember to consider our Focus Specific Recruiting goals.

Spring Conference is a fun and rewarding way to learn how our organization operates while also building valuable leadership skills.

Once again, each AMBUCS region will host a multi-day conference this year, featuring a number of important workshops and training sessions designed to enlighten, encourage and inspire. Every AMBUCS member preparing to take an office next chapter year should definitely plan to attend as should all members. Central Region Spring Conference information is included with this newsletter. Read it over, plan to attend and make your reservation. You'll be glad you did...really. It is an opportunity to learn and have fun at the same time.



Change, Change, Change

Frankly, I'm tired of that word after the last year or so. It seems like that's what all the leaders are saying we need. Whether you believe it or not, we haven't found safety from change in Loves Park AMBUCS™.

My wife and I have been members for almost two years now and we got our hands dirty right away. Before that, we were like many people our age that are not joining service organizations. Trust us; we weren't looking for other activities to take more of our time. We are plenty busy and continue to be a day or two short on time every week.

Look at the statistics of service organizations and you'll find the unfortunate reality that they are dying all across the nation. We are not doing our job of engaging and recruiting new members. We are not promoting the work we do in our community. And as a result, the groups age, become obsolete, and then go away. The worst part about this is that there are people in our community who need us, along with other service organizations, and those same people can't afford to pay someone to do what we do.

If you couldn't tell that our chapter is making huge changes, I'd like to invite you to our next meeting. I don't know what AMBUCS™ was like before I joined, but I am excited about our future and our role in the community. Soon, we'll have a new name, new committees, new

members and new ideas. Our job is to serve as many people as we can. If our goal has been to do five AmTrykes and five ramps a year, why can't we do 10 tykes, seven ramps, and 10 other mobility devices? We can! We can become more efficient in the things we do, we can recruit new members, we can have more current members participating, and we can come up with new ideas or better ways to do things we've been doing for years.

Our club has a strong foundation and that will never change. Change is easier for some of us newer members because we were not used to the old. I don't believe that a make-over is what we need. That is temporary and only makes us look different on the outside. For us to last, thrive, and serve our purpose in the community, we need real change. We need to continue getting more efficient, attract new people, and find new opportunities to serve.

My goal as incoming president is to steer the ship just a little different (not better, just different). We will not change things just to change them or to throw you off balance. We will only change things that need to be changed to survive and thrive. Please stay aboard and enjoy the ride (while working). You are necessary to our success. If you haven't been on board lately, jump on quickly. There are people in our community that need you and they need us.

Brad Shields

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Madam President receiving Proclamation for Visibility Month from LP Mayor Daryl Lindbergh.



Our host for the calendar social and drawing relaxes after all his hard work and the exhausting preparation.





Happy Birthday to:

March 2 Kristina Pando
 March 14 Brad Shields
 March 16 Bill Dredge
 March 17 Dan Schrand
 March 22 Robb Hauser

Club Anniversaries – March

1978 Bob Higginson
 1990 David Hardy
 2006 Dan Koski
 2008 Pam Shields

Upcoming Events

Watch this space for news of local, district, regional and national upcoming events. Calendars provided so you will know exactly what day and date AMBUC events are taking place to assist you in your plans to attend.

- March Board Meeting** March 4
- Big Hat Social @ Terry Brown's** March 10
- March Membership meeting @ Sam's** March 12
- Green Bear Fair @ Harlem High School** March 28
- April Board Meeting** April 1
- Spring Conference @ Bloomington** April 17-18
- April Membership Meeting and Spring Roundup Invitation to... Event** April 24
- May Joint Board Meeting** May 6
- May Membership Meeting/Installation** May 14
- National Conference in Reno, NV** July 15-18

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Member News and Updates

Our sympathy to Jesus Calvillo and family on the passing of his father.

We are happy to learn that Josette DeBruyne, wife of past president Paul DeBruyne, has completed treatment and is doing much better. Great news!

Jackie Hardy, wife of life member David Hardy, is undergoing treatment at the University of Wisconsin Hospital for stem cell harvesting. Our thoughts and prayers are with her.

Bob Higginson continues to be home bound and unable to attend AMBUC functions. He would enjoy hearing from his AMBUC friends. Call him at 815/633-6574, or send him a card at 806 Northfield, Loves Park, IL 61111. Get well soon, Bobby. We miss you!

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The Board of Directors would like to have our club participate in the Young at Heart parade May 23rd and will be looking for ideas and volunteers to plan for a float or some other vehicle. If you have a desire to help with this project, please raise your hand! This is a good opportunity for us to present our new name and have some visibility in the local community. Contact Pat or Brad with your thoughts. And as always, your participation is appreciated.