

Noon Network



A M B U C S

2025 - 26



AMBUCSTM
Inspiring Mobility & Independence

*Inspiring
Mobility &
Independence
Since April 1992*

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OUR HISTORY

The History of National AMBUCS

AMBUCS began with the vision of William L. White, a young Auburn University graduate who dreamed of forming a national service organization for young professionals. With ingenuity and determination—funded by profits from selling turpentine cups—White founded the first American Business Club in Birmingham, Alabama, on May 18, 1922. With 50 charter members, the club adopted the enduring motto “Shoulders Together,” marking the start of a nationwide movement focused on service and community.

In the early 1990s, AMBUCS took a transformative step with the creation of the Amtryke program. Sparked by a Texas physical therapist's need for affordable adaptive tricycles for her pediatric patients, the Longview chapter began hand-building and donating trikes to children with disabilities. The idea quickly gained momentum, and in 1995, it became a national project. Today, over 5,000 AMBUCS members across 36 states continue to inspire mobility and independence, with many chapters partnering closely with physical and occupational therapists to provide custom-fitted Amtrykes to those in need.

Local History

The Noon Network Chapter of AMBUCS was officially chartered on April 10, 1992, with 24 dedicated charter members. Sponsored by the Salina A.M. Club, known as the “Breakfast Bandits,” the new chapter was supported by Pete Adrian of Sunflower Bank and Jim Cram of Jim’s Pharmacy, both of whom played pivotal roles in recruiting charter members. Among the original members were Jennifer Johnson (President), Cindy Reed (Vice President), and Karen Stansberry (Secretary), who helped lay the foundation for the club’s mission and growth.

Over the years, the club has maintained strong ties to its roots. Cindy Reed, Kristi Copas, and Karen Stansberry remain active members today, demonstrating long-term commitment to the organization’s purpose. Additionally, Linda Andrew and Rita Northup joined just months after the club's formation in 1992 and continue to be involved. This enduring dedication highlights the strength and spirit of community that has defined the Noon Network Chapter since its beginning.

JOIN NOON NETWORK

Meeting Times & Location

When: Every Thursday from 12–1 p.m.

Where: Martinelli's Little Italy at 158 S Santa Fe Ave, Salina, KS

What to Expect:

Networking & Lunch: Catch up with fellow members and enjoy a delicious meal.

Club Business: Updates on projects, volunteer opportunities, fundraisers, and chapter news.

Guest Speakers: We regularly host engaging speakers.

A Little Fun: Make sure to bring a quarter or two!

Membership Options & Dues

We offer flexible membership options to match your availability and commitment level:

Full Membership - \$130 per quarter

Best for members who attend and eat lunch weekly

Includes your weekly meal, national AMBUCS dues, and local chapter support

Great way to stay fully involved and connected

Associate Membership - \$57 per quarter

Ideal for those who can attend less frequently

Includes national and local dues, with three meals per quarter included

You're still welcome to join us every week — just pay for your additional meals when you come

Business Partner - \$130 per quarter

Perfect for businesses or organizations

Allows multiple employees to rotate attendance under one membership

Includes meals, national dues, and local impact

A great way to increase visibility, give back to the community, and support team involvement

Unsure which membership is right for you or your organization? We can help you decide.

How to Join

Joining AMBUCS is easy, and we're excited to have you!

1. Visit a few meetings to get a feel for our group
2. Complete a membership form (available at meetings or online)
3. Board approval (our board typically meets on the last Wednesday of the month)
4. Pay your first dues and start getting involved!

Not quite ready? No pressure — we welcome guests any time.

FUNDRAISING

The Fundraising Committee works together to raise the funds necessary to carry out our chapter's mission in the community. As a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, AMBUCS relies on successful fundraising to support our service projects, membership growth, and educational opportunities.

What We Do:

Before Bid Appétit, Noon Network hosted several small but labor-intensive fundraisers like monthly BINGO nights, cookie dough sales, peppernuts, custom cups for local sports teams, and restaurant nights at Applebee's and Gambino's. While these helped, they limited how much we could grow and give back.

In 2005, a group of Noon Network members took a leap: they adopted the dissolving March of Dimes auction and transformed it into what became Bid Appétit, our signature fundraiser.

The Fundraising Committee supports this event and works year-round to:

- Maintain a list of past and potential donors
- Send support request letters
- Develop auction item lists and organize collection efforts
- Design posters and signage for auction tables
- Set up event displays and coordinate check-out to ensure correct delivery of items
- Send thank-you cards to all donors

Where the Funds Go:

- Community service projects
- Amtrykes for children, teens, adults, and veterans with mobility needs
- Medical equipment or resources (like cranial helmets or gas cards)
- Member education and training at the regional and national level

All allocations are approved by the Board of Directors and chapter membership.

Every member plays a role—whether by serving on a committee, collecting donations, or helping on the day of the event. Together, we make it happen!

BID APPÉTIT

What Is It?

Bid Appétit is our signature annual fundraiser, supporting AMBUCS' mission of providing mobility and independence to individuals of all ages—from toddlers to veterans. This event brings the whole chapter together for a night of giving, community, and celebration.

History of Bid Appétit:

Bid Appétit began in 2006 when our chapter took over the March of Dimes Auction in Salina. The first event raised \$19,000, and the growth since has been tremendous, netting over \$60,000 in recent years. The Board of Directors later voted to make Bid Appétit our only fundraiser, allowing us to focus our energy and impact year-round.

General Event Details:

- Held annually, typically the first Sunday in March at Tony's Pizza Event Center
- Features a Live Auction, Silent Auction, Games, and samples from local food and drink vendors
- Local businesses can become event sponsors, and larger sponsors receive a table at the event
- Every member is asked to participate—whether by joining a committee, collecting items, or helping with event setup and execution

What the Funds Support:

All proceeds go directly to support our mission, including:

Amtrykes for children and veterans

Cranial helmets for infants

Gas cards to help families travel to specialists or appointments

We are proud to be planning our 21st Annual Bid Appétit—proof of the commitment, passion, and generosity of our members and community.

Everyone has a role. Whether you're great at soliciting donations, organizing logistics, or just ready to help out where needed, your involvement makes this event a success.

ALLOCATIONS

The Allocations Committee is at the heart of AMBUCS' charitable mission. We help ensure that the funds raised by our club are used responsibly and meaningfully to improve mobility and independence for those in need.

What We Do:

Review Requests for Charitable Assistance

The Allocations Committee carefully reviews all incoming applications for financial assistance from our club's charitable funds. These requests must fall within our approved guidelines and support our mission of promoting mobility and independence.

Make Recommendations to the Board & Club

After reviewing applications, the committee decides which requests meet our criteria and should be funded. The committee chair presents those recommendations to the AMBUCS Board for discussion and approval, and then to the full club during an in-house meeting for a final vote.

How the Process Works:

Application Submitted: A requestor submits a completed application for assistance, describing how the funds will help improve mobility or independence.

Committee Review: The Allocations Committee reviews the request to ensure it aligns with our mission and funding guidelines.

Recommendation & Approval: The Chair presents the committee's recommendation to the Board and then to the club for a vote.

Notification: The Chair informs the applicant of the final decision—approval or denial.

Reimbursement Process: If approved, the recipient must provide a receipt for the item(s) purchased. The Chair submits the application and receipt to the Treasurer, who then issues a reimbursement check.

Who We Serve:

We provide assistance to individuals living within approximately a 100-mile radius of Salina who need support for products, equipment, or modifications that enhance mobility and independence.

If you have a heart for helping people, a careful eye for detail, and a desire to make real impact in our community, the Allocations Committee may be the perfect fit for you!

AMBILITY

The Ambility Committee helps fulfill our mission of creating mobility and independence by providing Amtrykes to children (starting around age 2) and adults referred by Physical and Occupational Therapists in Salina and surrounding areas.

What We Do

Coordinate Referrals: Therapists submit requests directly to the Ambility Chair, who estimates costs, presents requests to the Noon Network Board for approval, and places orders once approved.

Build Amtrykes: Once parts arrive, build dates are scheduled with our trusted volunteer builders. A Noon Network member helps with building and transport. Builds take place at Eaglecrest Retirement Community or the Chair's garage.

Deliver Amtrykes: The Chair contacts the therapist to coordinate delivery. A therapist (or an AEFT trained committee member) fits the Amtryke to the rider, and Noon Network members attend presentations to cheer on the new rider.

Track & Share: After delivery, photos are posted to the chapter's Facebook page, and presentation details are recorded in the AMBUCS.org HUB.

Amtryke Parade

Held annually at Coronado Elementary School, this event celebrates past and new Amtryke recipients. Families are invited, adjustments are made by our builders, and the Social Committee provides refreshments. All members are encouraged to attend.

Who We Serve

We partner with:

Local schools and therapy clinics (USD 305, OCCK, Revive, Infant Child Development)
Regional communities (Manhattan, Beloit, Concordia, Newton, Overland Park, and more)

The Ambility Committee is hands-on, heart-driven, and vital to our chapter's mission. If you want to make a direct impact and witness life-changing moments, this is the team to join.

SCHOLARSHIP

The Scholarship Committee supports future professionals in therapy fields by coordinating both local and national AMBUCS scholarships. Our goal is to invest in students who will help others gain mobility and independence.

National AMBUCS Scholarships

National AMBUCS has awarded over \$10 million to more than 16,000 students in:

Physical Therapy
Occupational Therapy
Speech-Language Pathology
Audiology

Eligibility:

Eligible applicants must be U.S. citizens enrolled in accredited graduate-level programs, with selection based on financial need, community service, integrity, and career goals. Applications sponsored by a local AMBUCS chapter receive priority consideration.

Awards:

Over \$200,000 in scholarships are awarded annually, ranging from \$600 to \$1,500, with one \$6,000 award. Funds are sent directly to the student's school, and our chapter proudly sponsors strong local applicants.

Local Scholarships

We also offer local scholarships to students in therapy-related fields, selected based on financial need and available funding.

Committee Role

- Promotes scholarship opportunities
- Assists with applications and sponsorship
- Reviews and selects local recipients
- Builds connections with local therapy programs

Get Involved

If you're passionate about education and supporting future therapists, join the Scholarship Committee and help us make a lasting impact.

ATTENDANCE

Keeping Connections Strong

The Attendance Committee plays a vital role in fostering a warm, inclusive, and connected AMBUCS experience. We're all about people—making sure our members feel seen, celebrated, and encouraged to stay engaged.

What We Do

Welcome & Greet:

We're often the first friendly face you'll see at meetings! We help greet members as they arrive, making sure everyone feels welcomed and included.

Celebrate Milestones:

Birthdays and membership anniversaries don't go unnoticed! The Attendance Committee tracks and acknowledges these special occasions, adding a personal touch that reminds our members how much they're valued.

Reach Out & Reconnect:

If a member hasn't been to a meeting in a while, we check in. Whether it's a friendly call, text, or email, we let them know they're missed and invite them to reconnect. Life gets busy and we're here to bridge the gap.

Shake It Up!

To keep things lively and help members get to know each other better, we occasionally organize seat shakeups—simple activities that encourage members to mingle and meet someone new.

The Attendance Committee helps create the kind of club where people feel like they belong, because they do. If you're passionate about connection, community, and making sure no one slips through the cracks, this might be the perfect committee for you!

COMMUNITY SERVICE

The Community Service Committee brings the AMBUCS mission to life by organizing volunteer projects that support individuals, families, and nonprofits in Salina and surrounding areas. It's a great fit for members who enjoy giving back and being active in the community.

What We Do

This committee plans and participates in a wide range of service projects throughout the year. Common activities include:

- Food assistance through packing and distributing meals
- Back-to-school drives to provide backpacks and supplies
- Event support for local fundraisers, festivals, and marathons
- Seasonal service like blanket drives, holiday gift wrapping, and special needs prom nights
- Health-focused projects including assembling care kits or helping with awareness events

How It Works

Projects come from community partners, member suggestions, or local needs. Committee members help organize logistics and recruit volunteers from within the chapter.

Members can choose the events that match their interests and availability.

Why It Matters

Our service projects provide real help to those in need while strengthening connections within the chapter and the community. Whether you're handing out food, wrapping gifts, or cheering on an Amtryke rider, you're creating impact and carrying out our mission.

If you enjoy hands-on service and want to make a meaningful difference, consider joining the Community Service Committee. Whether you help with one project or many, your time and energy are always welcome.

PROGRAMS

The Programs Committee ensures that every weekly AMBUCS meeting offers value—not just through fellowship, but through engaging, relevant content. We bring in speakers and presentations that inform, inspire, and keep our members connected to what's happening in Salina and beyond.

What We Do:

Line Up Weekly Speakers

Our main responsibility is to secure a program or guest speaker for each weekly meeting (except for the final week of each month, which is reserved for an in-house meeting with no speaker). We coordinate with a variety of individuals and organizations to create a calendar of meaningful presentations.

Focus on Local & Relevant Topics

The best programs are those that resonate with our members and reflect the values of AMBUCS. We seek out speakers who can share insight on:

- Community issues or initiatives
- Local businesses and services
- Health, education, and public safety
- Nonprofits and causes we support
- Stories that align with our mission of mobility and community impact

Keep It Concise & Captivating

Each speaker is given 10–15 minutes during the meeting to share their message, followed by a brief Q&A if time allows. We aim for programs that are informative, well-paced, and spark good conversation afterward.

The Programs Committee plays a vital role in making each meeting something to look forward to. If you enjoy learning, networking, or curating great conversations, this is the committee for you!

PUBLIC RELATIONS

The Public Relations Committee plays a vital role in keeping our members informed, engaged, and connected with the community. This committee manages our communication channels and shares the great work we do — both internally and with the public.

Monthly Newsletter

A monthly newsletter shares club news, upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, and member highlights.

Meeting & Event Reminders

The committee sends reminders for meetings, socials, fundraisers, and other important events.

Photography

Photos from meetings, events, and socials are shared to keep everyone engaged.

Website & Social Media

The website promotes our mission and activities.

Facebook shares meeting updates, events, photos, member shoutouts, and sponsor recognition.

If you're interested in helping with communications, social media, photography, or event promotion, consider joining the Public Relations Committee!

Follow us on Facebook
@Noon Network Ambucs



Visit our Website
noonambucs.com



Send News and Updates
noonnetworknews@gmail.com



SERGEANT AT ARMS

The Sergeant at Arms Committee plays a vital role in maintaining the fun and order of our weekly AMBUCS meetings. This committee helps with general club duties and ensures each meeting runs smoothly—while also keeping the energy light and lively!

What We Do:

The primary responsibility of the Sergeant at Arms Committee is managing Tale Twisting—a long-standing AMBUCS tradition meant to bring laughter and fun to our meetings. Each week, the Tale Twister shares humorous or embarrassing stories about our fellow AMBUCS Sisters (always in good fun!) to keep things entertaining and spirited.

We Organize Weekly Drawings:

Quarters Jar: Every member in attendance puts a quarter into the jar. At the end of the meeting, we draw a name. If the person whose name is drawn was at the previous week's meeting, they win the whole jar! If not, the quarters roll over to the next week until we have a winner.

AMSTUD Prize: We draw names until we find a member who is present that day, then they receive a small door prize selected by the Tale Twister, like \$5 or a local gift card.

The Sergeant at Arms Committee keeps our meetings running efficiently while adding a dose of fun and fellowship. If you enjoy organizing, storytelling, and a little good-natured teasing, this might be the perfect committee for you!

SOCIAL

At the heart of AMBUCS is connection, and the Social Committee makes it happen! We plan and host a variety of events that bring members together, strengthen friendships, and welcome new faces into the fold.

What We Do:

Plan Fun & Inclusive Events

The Social Committee promotes a calendar full of engaging socials for everyone—members, spouses, and families. Whether it's an adults-only evening or a kid-friendly gathering, we aim to create meaningful moments that connect us beyond meetings.

Quarterly Highlights:

Every quarter, we coordinate a mix of events, including:

- A Family Get-Together (think pool parties, parades, or casual outings)
- A Guest Social (a perfect opportunity to introduce potential new members)
- Other events that promote community service or visibility—from participating in AMTRYKE parades to hands-on art projects that benefit our mission

A Little Bit of Everything:

Our socials range from relaxed to lively. Some past favorites include:

Bunco nights
Family pool parties
After-work and early-morning coffee hangouts
Holiday parties (like our beloved Christmas gatherings)

Costs May Vary:

Some events are free; others may have a small cost depending on the venue, activity, or food provided. We always aim to make our events accessible and worth the time!

If you love planning events, bringing people together, and spreading a little joy—this committee is a great fit! The Social Committee is where fun meets purpose, and friendships flourish.

ORIENTATION

Once a new member is approved, the Orientation Committee takes responsibility for welcoming and guiding them through their first steps in the chapter.

The committee ensures new members:

- Are properly inducted by the chapter president
 - Receive their member lapel pin
- Are invited to an orientation meeting
- Complete a Committee Preference Sheet to choose committees
- Understand their responsibilities and the chapter's commitments

The committee holds orientation meetings at least once per quarter, inviting new members and their sponsors.

Orientation Program Includes:

National Organization Highlights

- History and mission overview
- Key projects: AmBility (AmTrykes) and Scholarships for Therapists
- Membership options: Life Membership, new chapter building, Big Hat Club
 - Chapter mission: "Create Mobility and Independence"
 - Motto: "Shoulders Together"

Chapter Overview

- Founding date and charter membership
- Chapter By-Laws and dues (including national dues)
 - Officers, Board of Directors, and their roles
 - Committees and their functions
- Community service projects and fundraisers
- Attendance incentives and chapter friendships

New Member Responsibilities

- Serve on a chosen committee
- Assist with community service and fundraising

If you want to help new members feel informed, welcomed, and ready to contribute to our chapter's success, this committee is a fit for you.

BIG HAT CLUB

A club within a club: The Big Hat Club is an honor group within AMBUCS that recognizes members who go above and beyond in helping our organization grow. To qualify, a member must recruit three new members within a 12-month period. This achievement shows dedication to the AMBUCS mission and helps strengthen our chapter.

History

The Big Hat Club was founded in 1939 by Past National President Charles E. Mitchell. It began as a fun way to encourage member recruitment. At first, those who recruited three members were promised a t-shirt and the top recruiter would win the "Rabbit Trophy." But soon, the group decided to award a ten-gallon hat instead. From that idea, the Big Hat Club was born.

Purpose and Activities

Big Hat members are known for their commitment to membership, fundraising, and fun. They play an important role in:

- Recruiting and welcoming new members
 - Promoting chapter involvement
- Organizing social and charitable events
- Encouraging growth and camaraderie

The group meets regularly to plan ways to support the chapter's mission and membership goals. Our current goal is to continue growing the club and add more Big Hat members each year.

Leadership and Involvement

The Big Hat Club within our chapter is led by a President and Treasurer. These leaders help coordinate efforts and keep the energy high. We are proud to have several active Big Hat members who bring creativity and excitement to everything they do.

Interested in Joining?

If you enjoy AMBUCS, believe in what we do, and want to share that with others, the Big Hat Club might be for you. Once you recruit three new members in a 12-month period, you earn your Big Hat and join a group that leads with purpose and spirit. Get involved, bring in new members, and have fun doing it.

HOW TO SUPPORT US

Noon Network AMBUCS is dedicated to creating mobility and independence for individuals of all ages—and we can't do it without your support. Whether you're a member or a friend of the chapter, here are meaningful ways you can get involved:

Donate

Your donation helps us fund Amtrykes, cranial helmets, gas cards, and more.

All gifts are tax-deductible.

Send donations to:

Noon Network AMBUCS
1915 S Ohio, PMB 192
Salina, KS 67401-6360

We also accept auction items and gift cards for our annual fundraiser, Bid Appétit.

Join Us

Become a member and be part of a fun, hands-on service group that meets weekly, builds friendships, and makes a direct impact in our community.

Sponsor Bid Appétit

Businesses can support our mission by sponsoring Bid Appétit, our signature fundraiser. Sponsorships include recognition and may include event tables depending on level of support.

Give In-Kind

Don't want to give cash? Consider donating: gift cards, auction items, supplies or services, your time and talents.

Spread the Word

Follow and share us on social media

Invite a friend to a meeting

Refer someone who could benefit from an Amtryke

Support Our Members

Attend events, help collect donations, or simply cheer us on. Your encouragement strengthens our impact.