

**GREAT PLAINS  
AMBUCS  
NEWSLETTER**

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**AMBUNK**

AMBUNK is a publication of  
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Great Plains AMBUCS, chartered July 1981. 2020-2021 Officers: President, Kent Jester; 1<sup>st</sup> VP, Kelly Harris; 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, Chuck Morgan; Secretary, Gordon Shaw; Treasurer, Jenny Clement-Shaw; 1-year Director, Larry Kindt; 2-year Director, Zeldon Rice; Sergeant At Arms, Kristina Keller. Big Hat Club President, Open; BHC Secretary-Treasurer, Open; Board Members: Jenny Clement-Shaw, Kelly Harris, Kristina Keller, Larry Kindt, Chuck Morgan, Zeldon Rice, Gordon Shaw.

Today is a GREAT day to be an AMBUC per Vic Menendez out Direct Past National President! & A GREAT day it is when we get to swear in new members, whether it is one or four!

Today we swore in Kathleen Martin, she is the Clinic Director of H2 Health, which is a nationwide rehab company with an emphasis on physical therapy that wants to be involved in the community where they have offices, so much so that they are looking at starting a chapter in one of the Carolina states! They are very interested because both groups have the same mission and same goals. Kathleen has been a physical therapist for 30 years, 4 of those she did on active duty while serving our Country! Kathleen and her husband moved here about 10 years ago and her husband retired from active duty 4 year ago. Kathleen has worked both in-patient and out-patient, she's done a little bit of everything, but her favorite is out-patient. She has also worked @ Goodyear, Duncan Regional, even out at Fort Sill, now Kathleen has her own clinic and she really excited to be a part of the community to be able to give back to that community! Welcome Kathleen! We are so happy you are a part of our Chapter!

Phil Kennedy then got up to introduce our guest speaker for this week, and of course, we get an awesome story of how these two know each other! Phil started off by saying that we are so fortunate to have someone of his caliber to be our guest speaker on such short notice! Phil stated that there are two points that he wants to bring up, he always try to have a personal connection with our speaker, our speaker of the day

**THIS WEEK**

The 16 November, 2020 chapter meeting was called to order by Kent Jester. Direct Past National President, Vic Menendez led the group in prayer & the Pledge of Allegiance.

**THIS WEEKS GUEST SPEAKER-**

**NEWSLETTER-** Larry Kindt had the winning number for this weeks newsletter & he did have a copy on his phone.

**50/50-** What is this?! Larry had the 50/50 ticket too?! Fix! But unfortunately, he pulled the 2 of Diamonds out of the thinning deck of cards. Better Luck next time! The pot of \$419 carries over one more week!

Is Albert Johnson Jr. He is the Vice President for advancement at Cameron University. He is definitely what Phil called one of the twin faces of Cameron! Albert & President Macarthur are at most of our community events, they are doing a fantastic job, so we appreciate them both. Phil personal connection involves Cameron University, sometimes he thinks we all forget the importance of Cameron University, especially those of us that grew up here. Many years ago, Phil and his wife had someone move in across the street from them and the guy had gotten a tour of Cameron, and he was just gushing about our gym @ the campus, and it revitalized Phil to make sure that he is sharing that info with others. Phil's really personal connection with Albert involves quite a few stories, but Phil will try to keep it to 2-3 minutes! For starters, Albert is memorialized in picture at CETES, Phil plays golf with his dad pretty much every weekend and they always talk about how great a golfer Albert's dad was, and great of a guy he was in general, and so Phil & Albert both have great roots and a great bond, and Phil appreciates that. Phil and Albert worked together on the foundation over the years and they have done the Aggie Mile @ a couple of events. And if you know Albert, he is always stopping to pick up trash, and Phil is just trying to finish the run, and Albert keeps stopping to pick up the trash! For those of that know me, know that I have had a drinking problem over the years, and Albert got him to kick the habit, and while it is not the same problem as others, Phil's problem was Diet Coke, he used to drink 88 ounces a day on a good day, and if it was a bad day, Phil would have one more just for good measure! Albert told him, you have got to stop that! Phil said he could

not even tell you the last time he had a Diet Coke. We are blessed to have Albert, he is a Lawtonian, he joined the Army, then he came back after he got out, and went to work at Cameron University. It is an honor to have him speak here today as the amazing individual that he is and on the gemstone of our community, Cameron University.

Albert started off with that was the best introduction he had ever heard! Albert thanked us for the invite to come talk. He then said that Phil was being modest, he was Chairman of the foundation, and many of the chapter members are also on the board of the foundation. Albert then congratulated Kathleen on becoming an AMBUC, and he thanked the chapter as a whole for what we do in the community. Albert said he wanted to talk about one of his favorite topics which is Cameron University, and one of his biggest jobs is keeping the cost of tuition down for the students. They do that through private fundraising, many of the contributors are in the audience today, and he thanks you for that. Albert said two things on your table, one, the picture that Phil never passes up talking about isn't on the front cover of our Spring 2021 Magazine, but one of me with a lot more hair is on there as well as page 16. The second thing on your table is the fundraising opportunities that exist for Cameron, and I will talk about that on the back end. Albert started off with the subject of covid, Albert said he is very proud of what they have been able to do thus far. When everything shut down, it was spring break for school districts across the country, and Cameron was no exception. Many of the faculty had not been back to campus since March so they had been off of campus for 5 months. Shocking but still very real. Albert said he was very proud of President Macarthur, they have stayed to their schedule, didn't make any adjustments, no in & out, Albert's granddaughter is up @ OU (BOOMER SOONER!!), and they are going virtual after Thanksgiving break. The things that are being asked of Cameron and the faculty is a lot, but we stayed with our schedule, we started when we said we were, we took fall break, we are taking Thanksgiving break, we are planning on taking a Christmas break. But we try to create an environment for predictability for our students.

Organically, inside the campus, Shepler towers, all of our rooms are now singles so there is no cohabitation. Cameron Village is different cause it is apartment style, so everyone has their own rooms. Cameron currently has about 300 students living on campus right now. Another thing we did was that we left the dorms open, other schools closed their dorms down, Cameron is saying, this is their home, they may not have someplace that they can go at the drop of a hat in a situation

like this, so we are leaving the dorms open throughout the period.

We also have a covid hotline, so if they are feeling under the weather, fever, or cough, we will coordinate with the health department to get them tested, and we have a few spaces in Cameron Village for isolation for those that need it, and they are provided 3 meals a day, and that is not easy to have to try to find an easy way to handle that, but very proud of our housing staff on how they are managing that.

NCAA, golf, tennis, cross country, were the three sports that were in play for this fall, the NCAA division most of our conferences right now identifying what we are going to do with basketball, it MAY start in December or it may not, at the beginning of the semester, we thought nothing would happen till spring time.

Very proud again of how we have allowed faculty to deliver the teaching, as well as, the students have been allowed to pick how they receive the teaching, either virtual or in person. Albert said the LPS transition has been backwards of theirs, LPS has been the students have been coming back into the classroom more but in college, they can get up right before class, turn on their laptop, and boom they are in class. But one thing is for sure, they miss being in the classroom! Albert thinks that is what sets us apart from other universities. Cameron is not hosting outside events on campus, the only thing that they have done external is host a memorial service for Mary Lou Johnson, huge Cameron supporter, we worked closely with the family to put that on in a safe environment. But they have not allowed anything external, so if you are a member of the Aggie Rec Center, and you are upset that you can't get in, please, get over it, we are not opening it up to outside family right now until we can make sure we get through this semester, then we will go from there.

We are in the middle of our Academic Festival, we have had two speakers so far, Frank Lorn, & Lynn Lancaster was here a couple of weeks ago, & our next speaker is Talithia Williams, a mathematician, she really helps us to better understand our body.

An update to Cameron University, a big thank you to the McMahan Foundation, is providing us with a \$1.25 million grant and we are going to provide some foundation

Funds, we are going to be able to expand our library and our offerings. It is going to take the east side of the library and extend it out, we are adding more collaboration spaces, adding some technology, students are learning more in groups now, they are always looking for plugs so there will be area for them to plug in while they are studying with their group. On behalf of the trustees, the current chairman, Mike Mayhall, thinks that is just huge. McMahon foundation has donated over \$18 million in support to Cameron University, and we could not be who we are without their support.

We are doing a similar event in Duncan, we are going to transform the learning spaces over there, we just found out this past week that the McCasland Foundation is going to give us \$750,000.00 to be able to do the same thing in Duncan. Albert said he can promise it is going to transform that community, because just like here, Cameron University Duncan campus is a resource for the community, not just for the students. One more thing that we did during covid was that we put in two WiFi stations for our students to do their school work, one is at the east side of the library parking lot and the football parking lot down by the softball field. We generally take it for granted that we have WiFi wherever we go, a lot of rural areas don't have WiFi, many of them were driving into campus to tap into the university's WiFi.

Albert has 3 fundraising priorities for this year, Agriculture, Engineering, Cameron Aggie. We are the only 4 year agriculture program south of Interstate 40, so there is OSU and the potential of Cameron University. So, thanks to some incredible donations by John and Cindy Zelbst, Weston Farms, Farm Credit of Oklahoma in Tuttle, OK, have made two sizable donations that will allow us to completely revamp our plant science and animal areas. Charles Loopy owns Loopy Construction, Charles and Albert serve on the Comanche County Fairgrounds Trust Authority together, and they started a conversation around the Lawton Rangers Rodeo, but Loopy wants to make the Agriculture department better, so he went in and put concrete in aggie barn, he is helping with the landscape, Dr. Legako has moved the Farmers Market, into the animal science arena, and will be in there till they open up in November of 2021 in their new facility. Mr. Loopy has been an amazing resource to make this happen. We are gonna make Agriculture a signature program once again @ Cameron, we currently have about 75 graduates, and we want to double that in the next five years, one way we do

That is to make sure that people know we have a program and that two that it is relevant.

You all might have seen in the paper that we have started an initiative to add an Aggie Art walk, it actually fits pretty well with the covid environment. We have an Aggie mile that Phil and I ran some years ago, that goes through campus, the north side by the Theatre, Music building is on the west side, the Aggie mile goes through there, we have had 12 artists that were able to pick a 4x8 or an 8x8, and through a generous donation partnership with Comanche Home Center, we were able to provide the artists one of the spaces, and we are getting them ready to be mounted to the wall area that fits their canvas. So go for a walk around the Aggie Mile in the next few weeks and check out the talent that we are lucky to have!

Some Fundraising successes, Randy (used to be CG @ Ft. Sill, retired 3-Star) & Carol Rigby donated \$10,000 to endow scholarship of Military Science, and the Military Science Dept. did their own initiative to raise \$10,000, they closed it our a couple of weeks ago. Tina Solamon, (we have a Legacy of Excellence Program for our faculty members) gave \$5,000.00 which matches a donation from the foundation, which will endow a scholarship in Tony Allison's name who has just been a Rockstar in our dept.

Presidents Partners created a new category to bring people like our very own Waheed in, so basically, Presidents partners had a \$1,000 annually, cooperate level we added which is \$2,500, we added a \$750 level for those that are ages 31-39 & \$650 for those under age 30. We just wanted to create an opportunity for young people especially like Waheed, that are graduates and are starting their careers, and they have the ability to give back, because Presidents Partners every year gives a quarter of a million dollars to students. Better than 50% of Cameron's graduates walk across the stage with no debt, we are extremely proud of that and its all thanks to private donations, our graduates can pick a job on what they want, not what they have to just to pay the bills.

One more thing, thanks to McMahon foundation, we have an Esports arena, a perfect idea to have, they are competing from home against other universities, they are playing; Overwatch, Legal Legends are two of the four games that are played in the arena.

Lastly, through the covid program, we received \$1.75 million through the CARE program from the Federal Gov't, it was directly related to the students, and once we gave all that up, we got another \$1.7 million in support and supplies that barely closed the gap of what we lost by being closed down, our enrollment has gone down, we are sitting at about 3,800 students, our sweet spot is 4,500-5,000 students, so the funds were a huge help to be able to keep our staff. We did get a 2.1 million grant that will allow us to do somethings on campus that we could not have done before, we did apply for this grant, we also got \$131,000 from the state also designed for higher education, so all in all, we have gotten \$5.6 million in funding that has allowed us to stay afloat. We will continue to go out and recruit students.

Our athletes have been tested, the faculty and staff are plugging through this. Spring sports that were cancelled, those seniors were allowed to come back and finish their spring season, they had 11 student athletes that chose that option, softball, golf, tennis and baseball, thanks to the foundation for covering those scholarships, the students are getting advance degrees which is good, and if there is a spring season, the students will get to play.

Engineering is only a two year program, and we know that if we do go for a four year program, we can only do mechanical, so we are looking at a partnership with OU, whose engineering program has at least 15 different disciplines, so we want to work with them and those that are not strong in math, physics, science, and we can spin them up in our two year program, then go back to OU, and when they graduate from OU, they come back to here and work @ FISTA.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS!**

30 November will be a new member orientation meeting, and Jenny will be getting into contact with David D., Gordon S., Vic M., Jimmy R., to get up and talk about their positions within the chapter and what their committee does.

Ramps- The cases of COVID are rapidly increasing, so due to that piece of info, we will be postponing the ramp build this weekend.

Socials- Kent asked Jenny about socials, Jenny got up and spoke on how well the Veterans Memorial Day social went. The youth from the Scouts retired about 100 flags, then when they went home, the adults went inside and had some food and fellowship, and the firemen that were there retired about another 100-150 flags. Our next social is our Christmas party set for 17 December and we are partying @ Ted's Café Escondido, so, we do need as definite a head count as possible, so we can figure out what room we will need for the evening.

Trykes- Dr. Jimmy has an application for a young lady that needs a bigger tryke, she outgrew her first one. Dr. Jimmy did check on the price, it was about \$1,200. We may look into a business in town sponsoring this, & when we get it in, we would like to set up a build time with the business that sponsored, & they can help build the tryke, and will hopefully be present when we present the tryke to the young lady! Maybe get a new member?

Fundraising/Projects- Mark has tickets! Come get your tickets! DON'T FORGET THIS AWESOME PIECE OF INFORMATION, for the 5013C that sells the most tickets, gets an additional \$5,000.00! So, let's sell those tickets!! We are currently sitting @ a total of \$5,680.00! This is awesome!! So, let's sell those tickets!! The first prize is \$25,000.00 towards a new(er) vehicle, second place prize is \$1,000.00 cash, and third place prize is \$500.00!

Membership- It is Branding time! For the member that brings in the most new members by the end of November 2020 (& that is just right around the corner!), will get a \$100 gift card to Outback, 2<sup>nd</sup> place will get a \$50 gift card to Texas Roadhouse, and 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> places will get \$25 gift cards. We have had a couple of new members, but always looking for more!

Kent then moved on to a not so fun subject, covid numbers are rising, so it brings up the inevitable question, do we continue to meet? Or do we call our meetings off until after the first of the year and see where everything lays? Kent was going to send out voting emails & Jimmy said lets just decide now, majority of us are here now. Kent agreed and said his proposal would be to not meet after 30 November, for the month of December, and then we would decide what we will do beyond that. Kelly agreed with that, saying that there might be some movement on the vaccine front, and we all have other stuff to do next month. Kent said he hopes we get one more new member by the end of this month, but our health and safety comes first. Kelly suggested doing 3 to a table instead of four, Kent liked that idea, but Phil said two would be better distancing wise, and a couple of people agreed. Kent then said do we have a motion for not meeting in December, Kelly said he makes the motion that we don't meet in the month of December, and it was 2<sup>nd</sup> by, Bob. We put it to a vote, there were 10 for not meeting, and 8 to keep meeting. The subject of the larger room/more tables will be discussed for after the new year. David D. brought up the Christmas party, and Kent said he was going to talk to Jenny about that.

Here is what the Cornhole Tournament banners are going to look like! A banner just like this one only where the Arrow Sign logo is, will be one of 19 other cornhole sponsors logo. We have Fliers, & sponsorship forms! When you get a sponsor, PLEASE let Kent know so that he can keep track of how many sponsors spaces we have left. We only have room for 19 Court Sponsors & the Main Court & Broadcast Sponsor. We also have Broadcast Partners, Broadcast Buddy, and last but not least T-Shirt Sponsors! The Sponsorship forms are fairly simple, but you need to make sure that the form gets to Kent A.S.A.P., also make sure that you either make a copy of the form, or take a picture of it so that the Sponsor can have it as their 'receipt' and get the actual form to Kent. If you do take cash, make sure that you sign on the form that you took it, that is also the sponsors guarantee that the funds will get to where they are supposed to go. Make sure that you get all the necessary information on the form so we can make sure that we get everything possible correct. Jeff came up with an idea when we are going to sponsors, tell them about AMBUCS, about the Trykes, & scholarships, not everyone knows who we are and what we are all about! Any questions



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