

**GREAT PLAINS
AMBUCS
NEWSLETTER**

AMBUNK

AMBUNK is a publication of
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Great Plains AMBUCS, chartered July 1981. 2020-2021 Officers: President, Kent Jester; 1st VP, Kelly Harris; 2nd 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.

David Dunn, Legend Driven Buick GMC Lawton Managing Partner is with us today, he is glad to see us participating in the fundraising event. David said that this turnout has been quite inspiring, it has shown him how much people love Lawton and Southwest Oklahoma. David said that there has been about \$7,500 from the tickets that have been returned thus far. Vic mentioned that he has told other chapters about this, and a business up in Enid is doing something very similar to it.



THIS WEEK

The 23 November 2020 chapter meeting was called to order by Kent Jester. Mark Glenn led the group in prayer & the Pledge of Allegiance.

THIS WEEKS GUEST SPEAKER- *This week we are doing our chapters New Member Orientation! So, come one, come all if you are a new member or a member that just needs a refresher! Cannot wait to see y'all there!*

NEWSLETTER- Jeff S. had the winning number for this week's newsletter & he did have a copy on his phone.

50/50- We LOVE our guests, but this is twice now that a guest has won the pot!! Kent's guest, David Dunn from Legend Driven dealership had the winning ticket, and he pulled the Joker out of the thinning deck of cards! He won the \$431 pot & he the donated it right back to the chapter/cause! Thank you David!

Phil made his way up front and introduced our guest speaker Mr. Brian Henry, S.V.P. of Liberty National Bank, a great Cavs supporter, Brian has been quite involved in the community over the years. He was past Chairman of Lawton Chamber of Commerce, Cameron University Foundation, LPS Foundation. Today we are fortunate to have Brian here to talk about his current passion for our community, the Youth Sports Center. But, before Brian got up to talk, Phil told of his personal connection with Brian. While there have been many projects that they have worked together on for years, they each have two daughters & two of them are about the same age and they all went to MHS. Phil stated that the most prestigious thing that connect him & Brian is that they were on homecoming court at the same time. Oh, yeah, they were on the homecoming court for their daughters! Great dads!

Brian then got up and started with that things for the Youth Sports Center are all up for naming grabs! In a CIP that Lawton voted on, there is up to \$8 million that is set aside for the Youth Sports Center out of the \$20 million that is set for Parks & Recreation. Everything was obviously paused till about late July, early August, and then talks started back up again. Brian said that there are quite a few new developments, he had met with John Shyer, principal of Stantec Architecture, out of DFW, they have done all of the facility work for PSA, Plano Sports Authority, and they are who we are trying to base our design/set-up off of.

Brian and John have gone and checked out some sites for the center, and Stantec and the City of Lawton are talking conceptual design contracts with Stantec, there is \$250,000 set aside for the Master plan for parks & rec, and the center was supposed to be a part of that plan. Some of the sites that they have looked at but nothing has been made definite, they are hoping for city land, since it will basically be under the city of Lawton's care. They even looked at putting it one of the corners of the Central Mall parking lot if the sale of the mall goes through, it would be ideal. When they went into the process, Brian has been very specific when it comes to the cost numbers, they took a 5% cost increase each year over the cost per square foot from when Plano built their last facility and that was 5 years ago when they made this pitch, so they were estimating roughly, \$130,000. Costs of building have gone up, and where we were looking at \$12-\$13 million, but now we could be closer to the \$15 million mark. Obviously when you do a project like this, scale with expansion is always ideal. Brian and Jack Hannah had conversations about having to use Mac High, Central Middle, Lawton High, & Eisenhower High for the basketball games, and it was stretching it very thin, with 12 Courts between the 4 schools. So to have 6-8 more courts is really important. But, if cost to construct vs. money on hand that will be a consideration.

Brian said that despite popular belief, he will not be managing the center, nor will or Albert, or Hossein. They have been asked if they would sit on the advisory board, and they said yes. Ideally, it should be contracted out to someone who does this full time, so that way they know what needs to happen to make the center a success. Brian said he has kept an eye on Plano, and their main facility is 175,000 sq ft. and when schools shut down, they sectioned off two courts set up computers and WiFi so that students could do their school work and those that went to daycares, still had a place to go. The youth could be brought to the center at 7:30am and be picked up by 5pm.

One of the things that Brian gets asked about quite frequently is, are they going to price the kids out of the league, and Brian said that they have no intention of doing that, but Brian did say that we can't expect to have amenities similar to Edmond and Norman on a ramen noodle budget. The last time that City of Lawton Parks and Recreation looked at their participation fees, they intentionally decided to go cheaper than the cheapest entry fee in the area, which is Altus.

So, they went below Altus' fees per season to set our fees here. If there is value for the money, parents will pay it. Another thing that will draw people in is that it is only 30 minutes down the road. So, it could draw people in cause right now, A LOT of families are constantly going up to OKC or Texas for their kids to play in some sports. We have had several positive conversations with city businesses before everything shut down.



In addition to the 8 basketball courts, one court could also be a volleyball court, the equipment for that sport can be operated by the push of a button, nets for volleyball, hoops for basketball. Different number of courts so that the smaller kids can also play on the right size court, also looking at a 200-foot indoor soccer area. Plano's facility was also doing a light saber camp during the summer. So, there are ways to use the center for more than just sports. There are Taekwondo and other martial arts classes taught there too. Our facility is looking at only 85,000 square feet. So, not all that Plano has done is totally feasible. One thing that ours can have is a fully functioning kitchen so that people will stay there and eat and go elsewhere and take money away from the center.

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. Our next social is our Christmas party set for 17 December @ 6 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. THIS IS STILL HAPPENING! IF YOU FEEL COMFORTABLE GETTING OUT THAT EVENING PLEASE LET JENNY KNOW & PLEASE COME HAVE FUN WITH US!!

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 \$6,120.00! 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! We need to get all of the tickets turned in to Mark by 11 December. The drawing will be on 21 December @ approximately 11:30am.

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, 2nd place will get a \$50 gift card to Texas Roadhouse, and 3rd & 4th places will get \$25 gift cards. We have had a couple of new members, but always looking for more! Tomorrow is the deadline!

Last week we talked about if we should continue meeting or not with the covid numbers rising. And it was decided by the chapter as a whole to move to Zoom meetings for at least the month of December. Hannah Muirhead sent out an email in regards to this but just to make sure that everyone gets covered Kristina will send out another email right behind the newsletter!

We have a few members that need a little extra care and thoughts right now, Kelly is recuperating from a surgical procedure, Jeff Dunning's mom passed away a couple of weeks back, Kent's stepmother-in-law passed away recently, and Chuck Morgan's granddaughter that had health problems also passed away a couple months ago, there will be a memorial on 20 December in Edmond @ the funeral home. Gentlemen, please know that you and your families are all in our thoughts & prayers! If you need anything, please do not hesitate to reach out to your AMBUCS family!

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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