

**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,

Never a dull moment around here! We had a few guests, Kelly got up & introduced Kathleen Martin, she is a clinic Director with H2 Health & she is joining the chapter! She is also a physical therapist! Kristina got up and introduced her fiancé, Curtis Darby, he kept saying he wasn't there, he was just 'driving ms. Daisy', she told him she had to introduce him, to just deal with it! Mark then got up and introduced our newest member, Waheed Gbadamosi!

Kent then had Waheed stand up and he swore him in & Waheed told us a little about himself. Waheed is from Nigeria, he came to Lawton to study at Cameron University, and Lawton was so welcoming and awesome to Waheed, that he decided to make this his 2<sup>nd</sup> home! He joined the Army Reserve to get his citizenship & to give back to the great nation that has so much opportunity for him. Being a part of so many organizations and projects in town, has been his way of giving back to the community that has giving so much opportunity to grow and achieve his dreams. Welcome Waheed! Get ready for a fun-filled crazy ride!



**THIS WEEK**

The 26 October, 2020 chapter meeting was called to order by Kent Jester. Zeldon Rice led the group in prayer & the Pledge of Allegiance.

**THIS WEEKS GUEST SPEAKER-** Glen Gatling who started a group called "All About Understanding" to help mentor underprivileged youth in the Lawton community.

**NEWSLETTER-** Waheed Gbadamosi had the winning number for this weeks newsletter & he did not have a copy on his phone.

**50/50-** Dr. Jimmy had the winning ticket, but unfortunately, he pulled the 5 of hearts out of the thinning deck of cards. Better Luck next time! The pot of \$368 carries over one more week!

Phil got up to introduce Mike Brown, owner of CDBL Construction, as well as numerous other businesses, he has served our community in numerous capacities to include city councilman, he is currently serving our state as a member on the Oklahoma Career Tech Board. Today Phil asked him to come talk to us on his National appointment from the Secretary of the Army, as the Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army for Oklahoma South. Phil asked him to come talk about this because of the importance to our community, it is something that is very important, and we have had some numerous strong civilian aides, the first one that Phil knew, was Dr. Gilbert Gibson, who is still with us, meritus. It is important for us to have a strong and active civilian aide to the Secretary of the Army, not only for Fort Sill behalf, but Lawton's and for our nation. We all know and love how Phil likes to share a personal note on how he knows the guest speaker, and today is no different! Well, there are numerous connections between Phil and Mike! (hmmmm, me thinks there is some juicy fine material maybe?) The personal connect that Phil chose to share with us today reflects upon the reason why he is the great person in the position that he is at. Phil remembers receiving many phone calls, one on a particular Christmas Eve, but he didn't want to talk about that one, nor did Mike! Well, the call they did want to talk about took place on a chilly, rainy Saturday morning, when Mike asked Phil to come down to his office, so when Phil got there, Mike said I want to know all of the property owners in this 12 block area, he gave people the rolls, by the end of the day, they had found the 83 people that owned property in the 12 block area that Mike was inquiring about, which is the area that we

are currently seating in! That was the start of the whole process of redeveloping this area. He had the vision then to spearhead that, be a catalyst for that. Phil has always said that Mike has always been one of the most visionary people that he is associated with, that has a vision that will blur your mind at times, and he has said things a lot of times and Phil looks at him like are you serious? Did you just say that? But Mike not only says it, but backs it up by following through with what he says! It is my great pleasure to introduce my friend and my brother, Mr. Mike Brown.

Mike got up and said he was excited about getting to talk to us today about being the Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army. He is sure there are a lot of things that we may or may not know about it. And maybe he can share a couple of things that you didn't know about it. But, first of all, I usually open it up for questions. Jenny raised her hand and asked if Mike had ever eaten at the Bricktown Brewery in OKC? He told her that yes he had, she in turn asked, then why did you make ours so small?! He replied wit hit was all he could afford. David said, apparently size does matter! Mike asked if there were other questions? Kelly asked, how are we doing with spending? We have the Combined Forces Teams out there, there's been a lot of spending out there over the last dozen years or so, how are we looking for future spending out there? Mike said that he had been living in Lawton since 1985 and that the future that he sees for Lawton/ Ft. Sill, is the brightest that I think I have ever seen it, specifically what's going on at Fort Sill, we train about 35,000 people over a course of a year, and the Army wants us to increase that to 45,000, so that means we will have an opportunity to hire about 286 more instructors, so if you look at 286 jobs around \$80,000-\$100,000 a year, that's a huge impact at Lawton Ft. Sill right now. So if you take the Army Futures Command, which is the four star command that was set up in Austin Tx. So that we could modernize our Army, until that was done, it takes about 10 years for an idea to go from an idea to our soldiers actually having it in their hands. Our Army figured out that we couldn't compete with China and Russia doing that, Army Futures Command set up Cross Functional Teams, there are 8 of them in the world, and 2 of those are right here at Lawton/Ft. Sill. So if you can imagine the opportunity of \$20 Billion per CFT, that's \$40 Billion, being invested through these two CFTs at Fort Sill, you will begin to understand why the ideas like the FISTA are so important. So, a group of business people went down to the Army Futures Command and said what can we do to make sure that the CFTs stay here rather than get stolen by people like Texas A&M who would love to have them, and if we continue doing what we are

doing, we won't have to worry about that but we have to earn what was given to us basically. So, CFTs are a huge deal, and as everyone is now aware, something that has been in the works for three years now, the FISTA, but the location of the FISTA, once Dilliard's closed, it became evident that the mall was the best opportunity for that. Sadly, we have people wanting to know who these people coming in are, but the names of those coming in are still being kept under wraps for the time being, but as soon as the cat can be let out of the bag, they will let it out. Some are going to be announced soon.



Sears is almost already utilized, and we are working on half of Dilliard's, but, just like anything else in the economic development world, there's always challenges, nothing is guaranteed until they show up. The Governor was here and they got to go shoot some Howitzers, Mike was with him for the afternoon and explained the importance of the FISTA. It was sure good to see the General tell the Governor that these two CFTs are going to be, over the next 3-4 years, responsible for \$40 Billion worth of potential investment in our Army, that got some attention from the Governor.

Mike thinks our future is bright, but we as a community have to continue doing what we are doing, which for starters, is to be grateful for our military soldiers and families, the second thing that we need to do is look at things a little bit differently, Mike recently had an opportunity to go over to Choctaw, Oklahoma where the Choctaw tribe has purchased 44,000 acres from Aubrey McClendon's group, he had a hunting reserve out there. The Choctaw are doing UAV research out there, they have 44,000 acres of available airspace that not a lot of people are flying around in, different terrain and such than Ft. Sill. So, FISTA will have a memorandum of understanding with them. They said something that Mike thought was awesome, Their leadership says you hear a lot about return on your investment, but they are just as concerned about return on vision, Phil talked about vision. Our community has a vision, right now. We have a huge opportunity to become so different than what we have been in the past, because that vision is being acted upon by majority of the folks. All that being said, the FISTA, the support that's going to give the CFTs, Mike feels really good about what is going on at Ft. Sill, and the future of both Lawton, and Fort Sill.

A question was asked what would happen if the White House changes? Mike said that we are still Americans, and we still have to protect ourselves, and our Army knows and most folks that are concerned about defending us against Russia and China, understand, China has stated that they want to become the global edgemon, they say they will have regional superiority by 2035, they will rule the world, they will have no competitor, by 2050. China has said that openly, everyone in the defense industry knows that. So, the CFTs, Army Futures Command are all about the fact that China wants to rule the world. We are catching up, the high tech things we are working on UAVs, all kinds of hypersonics, some of this stuff is fascinating, what they can do, hear, and understand is very interesting. We have already hired two folks to go into the FISTA for the Artificial Intelligence, Dynetics has hired them, Mike met with them last week and they scared him to death, they were probably listening to our meeting!

Mike said he would love to just answer questions all day, but he does want us to know a few things about the Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army. The Aides are chosen by the Secretary of the Army, it is an incredible honor and privilege. It is exciting for Mike to be able to serve in this way, he is what is known as a non-paid Government employee, so he said he is lower than a private in the Army, but, the interesting thing is, it carries with it, the equivalency rank of a 3 star General, so if Mike goes to the Pentagon, and he has to park somewhere, he gets to park where the 3 stars park, which he probably never would anyway. So, they work at the leisure of the Secretary of the Army, right now, recruiting is a really big deal, so Mike is working closely with recruiters, Soldier for Life program, they have soldiers that transition out of the Army, and can get paid unemployment, which costs the Army billions of dollars, so they started the Soldier for Life program, where the aides help the transitioning soldiers get jobs, and almost all of them are able to get jobs, cause they have the skills they learned in the military, and folks like to hire veterans.

Mike went on to say that he does all kinds of things, public speaking, go to changes of command, dignitaries come in, tomorrow I get to go visit with the Chief of Staff of the Army while he is here tomorrow. He has a cool opportunity to nominate folks for Minute Men Scholarships, so ROTC students can qualify. He also has the opportunity to weigh in on those that are trying to get into West Point, so last year, he got review all the applicants, from Oklahoma, there were some that were not really serious about it, and others that were all about it. They went through about 190 applicants, and Mike said he was just totally impressed by those that were wanting to serve. A lot of school systems are resistant to letting recruiters in to talk to the students, but they are working on it. Mike has the opportunity to nominate people to go to a week long national security symposium, not everyone nominated gets picked. They only take 30 of the 120 Civilian Aides that are nominated. Also, the Joint Civilian Orientation Course, where folks take a week and go pretty much all around the world to meet with leaders from all over the world, and check out military bases. A unpleasant activity that Mike potentially could have to do is to talk with families about a casualty, he said he hopes he never has to do it, but if he does, he will do it with a big heart.

The one thing that is exciting to Mike about the opportunity to serve in this way, for starters, it's one of the biggest honors of my lifetime to get to serve my country nationally like this, but secondly, and more importantly, I am in a unique position to get to know a lot of people in leadership with our Army, these people are incredible people. One thing that has been interesting to me is that our Army leadership talks about love a lot! When they speak, when they change command, when they talk about their soldier, mission, whatever, they talk about it. Mike calls himself a son of Lawton, and is extremely proud to be from here, and we are extremely proud to have him a member of our chapter!

Jenny asked Mike what led him to want to be a CASA, seeing as he wasn't in the military. The news that he was in consideration for this position, completely humbled Mike, and astonished him, he felt honored to be considered. The opportunity to leverage the best possibilities for our town and the surrounding communities was also very important. CASAs serve two years at a time, Mike is coming up on his one year anniversary, he has to write a significant acts report every 6 months. You can serve up to 10 years @ that point, you will most likely become a CASA Meritus, which is an honor for the remainder of your life. Mike is doing something for CASA almost daily.

After a lot of talk between the military people, it was decided that the UAV school in Arizona is getting moved here. The Choctaw land will be good if everything works out with the memorandum of understanding.

Mike also works with two other CASAs that cover Oklahoma North. They all work together all over the state.

Base closures still a possibility? If Bidens wins, most definitely, but if Jim Inhofe remains in office, we will most likely be safe. But Fort Sill is safe because of how much the base is growing, and how much we support them.

The Army has decided to work a program with the JROTC program called the Cyber Pilot program, they are going to have 20 locations throughout the country, and they will teach youth 9-12 grades, teach them cyber and cyber security, and then when the youth graduates, they will have certain levels of security clearance. So, Mike called the program and said we have 3 high school JROTC programs and we have Ft. Sill, we have the FISTA program coming. We would be prime for your program.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Ramps- Ramp build 21 November, with the prebuild on the 18 November @ World Headquarters.

Trykes- Dr. Jimmy has an application for a young lady that needs a bigger tryke, she outgrew her first one. Jimmy is going to do the research this next week & will let us know next week the cost of the tryke that will fit her.

Mark has tickets! Come get your tickets! Jenny has been selling these things like CRAZY!! We are currently looking @ \$5,000.00 of pure profit! DON'T forget the 5013C that sells the most tickets, gets an additional \$5,000.00! So, let's sell those tickets!!

Jenny talked about socials, and spoke on Sean Garibay's behalf while he is in family quarantine, Congrats on the upcoming baby! We are doing a Veterans Day flag memorial service on 10 November 2020, @ the VFW on the east side. We are also going to have our Christmas social @ Ted's in catering room. Jenny & Vic are gonna get together after the meeting and set up the next Big Hat social.

It is Branding time! For the member that brings in the most new members by the end of November 2020, 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.

Junior Ambucs made salsa, \$8 a jar! Medium and Mild. Get yours while you can!

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. Kent also put fliers on everyone's table so that they can start putting the word out. We should have fliers to pass out by next Monday (this Monday). There was a little snafu on the fliers/ sponsorship form, so Kent will get those fixed up and ready to get out. 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 20 sponsors.

