

**GREAT PLAINS
AMBUCS
NEWSLETTER**

AMBUNK

AMBUNK is a publication of
Great Plains AMBUCS, Lawton, OK
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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.

We love guests! Waheed Gbadamosi brought his girlfriend Kathleen O’Neill to check us out before she starts working as an OT @ CCMH! Welcome Kathleen, we hope you enjoyed yourself & would love for you to come back!

Barry Ezerski came up to introduce our guest speaker this week. Joe Chesko came to our meeting just over a year ago, and we were pleased to present him with a check from our chapter for the Children United Playground for handicapped children, that is going in @ Elmer Thomas Park. That money has definitely already been put to good use, some equipment has already been purchased and even though the recent/current events have slowed things down, fundraising efforts, but they are making headway, so Barry thought it would be a good time to have Joe (& his daughter Juli-Ann Chesko!) come back and update us on what all awesome work that they have been up to over the last year.

Joe thanked us for having him back, and felt honored to be able to talk about something he is so passionate about as the Children United Playground. They are in their second year of fundraising, to date they have raised approximately \$150,000 towards their goal, & Covid has kinda put the kabosh on majority of the fundraising opportunities, so they have had to go a different route on getting funds, they have turned to applying for all kinds of grants, they have received two grants thus far. Joe said that whenever he thinks about AMBUCS, his mind and vision is always reaching for this playground, and he is already looking to the future, the completion of the playground and what else would make the

THIS WEEK

The 9 November, 2020 chapter meeting was called to order by Kent Jester. Jeff Sadler led the group in prayer & the Pledge of Allegiance.

THIS WEEKS GUEST SPEAKER- *Dr. Edward Legako will be here this week to tell us all the awesome things going on with Lawton’s Farmer’s Market!*

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

50/50- Jenny Clement had the winning ticket, but unfortunately, she pulled the 6 of Diamonds out of the thinning deck of cards. Better Luck next time! The pot of \$392 carries over one more week!

playground even greater? A two-way Amtryke track around the entire playground! The cost of the playground has increased by 20-25% since the start of the project. Right now, joe said that they are working on the wheelchair swings, there will be four wheelchair swings. Initially there were going to be two but after seeing disabled veterans and seniors just sitting in their chairs lined up on a wall, joe decided he need to do something to get them out, so he increased the swings to four. A couple of facilities for seniors as well as the Veterans Center have already contacted Joe and said that they can’t wait for the playground to be done cause they want to bring their patients there to swing and get some fresh air! The playground will be located just to the west of where the current playground is. That way the two playgrounds are next to each other and parents can let their kids play.



The main structure that is on the front page that Juli-Ann handed out has been purchased and is sitting in the old National Guard Armory, Originally, that structure was going to be \$259,000! But the company contacted Joe and said if you can secure this by 25 October, we will give it to you for half the price! Sweet! But, Joe still needed \$129,500.00, so he reached out Barry, who reached out to LETA, and LETA, purchased it and the Children United paid the funds back to LETA.



The next goal is the wheelchair swings, which were \$7,000 each, so \$28,000 plus \$7,000 freight, totaling \$35,000 but they have since gone up in price so now it will cost \$67,000 and they are jumping again another 4% later this month. They are about \$30,000 shy of the goal amount. The swings are made in Europe by the ONLY company in the world that makes them! There are still even more pieces of equipment that they have to secure and once it is all said and done, there will be around 60 pieces of equipment on the playground! There will be stuff for those on the spectrum, there will be a challenge course, it will be geared towards their mental capacity, but, no matter what that may be, they will also have a sense of pride and accomplishment after they complete the course. There will be sound machine equipment, there will be bongo drums, sonata, all kinds of stuff. There will be a high back swings for those with cerebral palsy, those with spinal cord injuries. The ground surfacing when Joe started this was \$240,000, and today is \$311,000, the playground company has been working closely with Joe, to keep costs down, and to get them any discounts that they can. The Lawton Home Builders agreed to go ahead and get the ground leveled and ready for the foundation, and JC Grayson has agreed to do the concrete work at cost. A lot of entities are coming together and things will happen, Joe is very thankful for AMBUCS help in putting this together and Joe said this playground is in his blood and it will happen.

Joe ended with saying that he does not want another child in a wheelchair to not know the joys of playing on a playground or to not be able to feel like they are flying while swinging in a swing. Joe also said that he is really proud to be doing this with LETA. We need to get the word out that we want this playground here! It will be one of 15 in the US, it will be one of the largest in country, and it will be only the second one in the country that is near a military installation. They are about 50% complete with the purchase of the equipment, need 75% for the company to start putting the playground in place. The city of Lawton have been put on target to receive a \$20 million grant for Parks & Recreation, and in order for the playground to get any more headway in the funding dept., is for us to get out and tell the Mayor, and the council members that we want this playground! Then he can push to give the Children United funds.



17 April 2021! Mark your calendars now and get your dance moves polished up! Come Dance the night away @ the Apache Casino Hotel!

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Ramps- Ramp build 21 November for a trailer-house, with the prebuild on the 18 November @ World Headquarters, starting around 5pmish, come by & see if we are still working! Saturday the 21, we will meet @ the World Headquarters at 8 & caravan out to the house in Walters, will have breakfast @ 7 @ Lee's cafe on Lee.

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?

Mark has tickets! Come get your tickets! Jenny has been selling these things like CRAZY!! We are currently looking @ \$5,500.00 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!! 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!

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 5263 on the east side, starting around 6pm. We are also going to have our Christmas social @ Ted's in catering room. Jenny & Vic are going to 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, 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!



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 feel free to reach out to Kent Jester.

ANNOUNCEMENTS cont.

Also, there is a fundraiser going on at the National level! You can get an Ambuc &/or Amtryke face mask! They do request making an order by chapter so that it cuts down on shipping costs. Get with Jenny, she has the masks!



Call, text or email to order!
Paula Bleckley 580-334-5207
paula.bleckley@yahoo.com

White Amtryke Mask

Navy Ambucs Mask

\$10 each
Please place one order
for your chapter.

Thank you!