

**GREAT PLAINS
AMBUCS
NEWSLETTER**

AMBUNK

AMBUNK is a publication of
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THIS WEEK

The April 5, 2021 club meeting was called to order by Kent Jester. Jeff Sadler led the group in prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

GUEST SPEAKER

Kathryn Moore gave us the latest news about the travel industry. She is a APRN or Nurse Practitioner, but she has been at Adventure Travel full time for over 10 years. The SARS-CoV-2 pandemic shut down much of the travel industry early last year. Business is starting to pick up again as COVID-19 case numbers drop and the pace of vaccinations improves.

Kathryn said it's possible that tourists may soon have to show proof of vaccination to travel out of the country or board a cruise ship. There have been good price deals on items like airline tickets, but prices have risen 27% since January. Rental car prices are up 300%. Last year the industry sold off cars to stay afloat; now there is a shortage of cars to rent. Many restrictions are still in place for international travel. Taking trips within the US is much easier.

Currently Americans traveling outside the US must test negative for COVID within 3 days before returning. Mexico and the Dominican Republic do not require tests to visit. Resorts in the



Caribbean do require testing. But many offer free tests while there. Some will let you stay free for 10 days if you do test positive for COVID. Most international travel requires testing even for those who are fully vaccinated.

Europe and Canada are a no-go for US citizens. Most cruises are off til June at the earliest. Alaskan cruises are off til at least next year due to ports in Canada being closed to US citizens. Royal Caribbean will start some cruises this Summer out of Bermuda and the Bahamas, but not US ports. You have to be tested to enter either country. Any one 16 and older must be vaccinated to board the ship.

Passport offices are open after being closed for months. There is about a 12 week wait to get a new passport, so plan trips accordingly. Wait times are to August to get an appointment for a Real ID Oklahoma driver's license. Kathryn strongly recommends getting insurance on a trip and using a travel agent due to the changing nature of the pandemic and how it affects rules & restrictions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The slate of officers for the 2021-22 club year was elected during the meeting. The new club year begins June 1. This is the list of officers:

President: Kelly Harris
1st VP: Chuck Morgan
2nd VP: Alan Jolly
Secretary: Larry Kindt
Treasurer: Jenny Clement-Shaw
Sgt At Arms: Kent Jester
Hanna Muirhead, Board Member
Spring Round-Up ends April 30 and so does the recruiting contest. So far the three prizes, like a \$100 gift card to Outback Steakhouse, appear to be safe. We have 3 meetings left in April. Recruit 2 members and you'll be eligible to win.

The AMBUCS Great Plains Region Conference takes place in just a couple weeks at the Hilton Garden Inn. The early registration deadline has passed. The cost is now \$120. The cost for other events, such as the Golf Tournament remain the same. For those attending the Big Hat Breakfast Jenny gave a helpful reminder. To enter you need all your credentials in your hat: your Big Hat Club card, a printed membership application (aka Form 126), a copy of the Big Hat Club bylaws (2014 version) and a dollar. *Better yet, bring a decent number of dollars. You'll need them.*

The April board meeting will take place Wednesday, 4/21 at noon in the Hilton Garden Inn.

NEXT MEETING

A city official will speak to the club about the Trash Off, LETA yard of the month & maybe the Freedom Festival.

50/50

Zeldon Rice picked the 4 of Hearts. The pot was left standing at \$54.

NEWSLETTER

Jeff Sadler had the winning ticket and his copy of AMBUNK.

GUESTS

Kathryn Moore
Guest Speaker