

**GREAT PLAINS
AMBUCS
NEWSLETTER**

AMBUNK

AMBUNK is a publication of
Great Plains AMBUCS, Lawton, OK
Edited by Bobby Henderson
greatplainsambucs@gmail.com
[facebook.com/greatplainsambucs](https://www.facebook.com/greatplainsambucs)

THIS WEEK

The May 17, 2021 club meeting was called to order by Kent Jester. Kelly Harris led the group in prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

GUEST SPEAKER

Officers Matt Dimmitt and Christopher Blessing visited the club to tell us the latest news about the Lawton Police Department.

LPD recently moved to the new Public Safety Facility on Railroad Ave. Nationally it has been a rough couple of years for police due to various things in the news. Matt said police are trained to do many things, but now must learn to be media savvy. Locally the relationship between LPD and the community has remained pretty good.

In the early 1980's LPD started its Community Oriented Police Division. A number of distinguished officers have ran it over the years. LPD doesn't want Lawton to become the next Ferguson or Baltimore with riots in the streets. LPD is striving to be more than just police enforcing laws. They want to be part of the community by hosting events and offering programs. It's not police versus citizens. It's police working alongside citizens for a common cause. That's the goal of the division.



LPD's staff numbers are about 50 people short. They are hiring more officers. People between the ages of 21 and 45 are eligible to apply. Matt said LPD has a mandatory level of at least 12 officers on patrol during any shift and they're maintaining that. In the Q&A session Matt said they have lost officers to better paying departments in other cities. Still, the cost of living in Lawton is low relative to those other cities.

The Junior Citizens Police Academy will be held in July for kids in the 14-17 age range. The academy is an opportunity for LPD to mentor to kids, especially at risk youth. Matt told us of one teen who intended to be a member of the Bloods street gang. After hearing from ex gang members the teen later signed up to join the Marines.

The Cops & Kids Picnic will be held September 4. LPD gives around 50 to 100 bicycles donated by the public to kids in need. Bar-S and Pepsi supply the food and drinks. Vendors can sign up to take part in the event for free.

The Citizens Police Academy is set for January 2022. Students will see many aspects of police work not shown on TV. They'll go through shooting and driving simulators and other fun stuff. Matt said the course is an eye-opener.

NEW MEMBER PROFILE

Dale Keesee was born in El Paso, raised in Indiana & Wisconsin, served 21 years in the military, spent 9 years as an instructor at Fort Sill, then worked 25 years doing military drug testing. Dale is retired now and is a widower. He spent a few years with the Boy Scouts, but said he's getting a bit old to keep up with kids. He picked AMBUCS as a new way to be involved with the community.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Awards & Installation Banquet was held on Thursday. Close to 60 members and guests attended. The 2021-22 slate of officers was sworn in, although they don't officially take office until June 1. Mark Glenn was named Project Manager of the Year. Jenny Clement-Shaw earned the AMBUC of Year honor. Kris Keller was the recipient of a new Superhero award for her service as President and Secretary at the same time. Kelly Harris gave a moving Presidential acceptance speech. Three of his siblings were there at the party.

NEXT MEETING

James Taylor, Executive Director of the FISTA at Central Mall will give the club an update about the tech incubator.

50/50

David Denham drew the 7 of Diamonds. The pot was left standing at \$58.

NEWSLETTER

Jenny Clement-Shaw had the winning ticket and her copy of AMBUNK.

GUESTS

Paul Warmuskerken,
Sponsored by by Gordon Shaw
Ismail "The Iceman"
sponsored by Dan Kite
Matt Dimmitt and
Christopher Blessing
Guest Speakers