

**GREAT PLAINS
AMBUCS
NEWSLETTER**

AMBUNK

AMBUNK is a publication of
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THIS WEEK

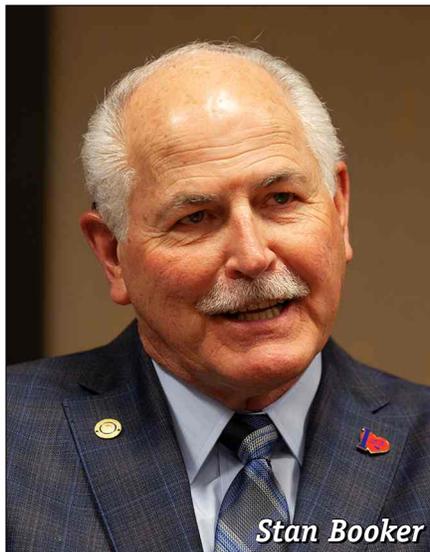
The July 19, 2021 club meeting was called to order by Kelly Harris. Kathleen Martin led the group in prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

GUEST SPEAKER

City of Lawton Mayor Stan Booker spoke to our club this week. He began, saying our club's mission is close to his heart. Stan has a granddaughter with special needs; she goes to speech, occupational and physical therapy 3 times a week.

Stan told us about Hearts for Hearing, a non-profit clinic founded in Oklahoma in 2003. They provide various services for hearing impaired adults and children. They do technical service for Stan's cochlear implant. They offer charitable service to families with kids in need. The cost is zero for children ages 3 and under. Hearts for Hearing has locations in OKC, Tulsa and Shawnee. Stan is working with various people to get them to expand to Lawton. If he is successful Stan will then press for Lawton-based services for families who have children with autism.

Stan covered a bunch of issues with the city government; trash is a hot topic lately. Putting it bluntly, he said they didn't roll out bulk trash service very well and the city now has egg on its



face. The flak extends to everyone there, including all council members even if some didn't have anything to do with the problem. What happened is the city staff underestimated demand for bulk trash pick up. A lot has built up at homes across Lawton over the years. So they ended up with 5 times as much bulk trash to collect than expected. The city had a square yardage limit for what could be put by the curb. People put out a lot more. Stan said from his POV we're trying to clean up Lawton. The city will have to collect all that trash sooner or later. So let's just pick it up now. He is confident once a week trash service can work. If Edmond can do it we should be able to do it; *and Edmond doesn't even offer bulk trash service.*

The FISTA has generated some negative buzz in town. Stan explained the finances of it and that \$600,000 in principal has been paid down on the \$18 million note in just 7 months. Like OKC's MAPS program, he thinks more of the public will get on board over the next year or two. Stan covered several other issues, like the Open Meetings Act. We have a lot happening with new job creation in town. More announcements are on the way. The city now has more street repair projects planned and in progress than ever in the city's history.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tickets are still available for the Big Hat Raffle. Tickets are \$20 each. Drawings will take place at the AMBUCS National Conference next month in Louisville. You do not have to be present to win. 1st prize is \$5000, 2nd is \$3000 and 3rd prize is \$2000. Contact Gordon Shaw to buy tickets.

Jenny and Gordon Shaw won the use of a suite for an OKC Dodgers game on August 15 at 6:05pm. They invited 18 others to attend, giving Big Hatters in our chapter first dibs. They'll have soft drinks and water in the suite. To lower costs members will dine where ever they like prior to the game.

The Bags for Cash tournament is on Sept 10, 11 & 12. Some sponsorships are still available. Almost all the court sponsors slots are sold.

During the meeting the club voted to approve a \$500 scholarship for a Marlow physical therapy student who is enrolled in a PhD program at Harding University in Arkansas.

NEXT MEETING

On July 26 we'll have an orientation meeting so newer members can hear more about the mission of AMBUCS. A couple of our newest members will be officially sworn into the club.

50/50

Dan Kite picked the King of Hearts. The pot will carry over to the next meeting.

NEWSLETTER

No drawing was held this week.

GUESTS

Ernie Altic
sponsored by Gordon Shaw
Sarah Kline
sponsored by Jenny Clement-Shaw
Stan Booker
Guest Speaker