

**GREAT PLAINS
AMBUCS
NEWSLETTER**

AMBUNK

AMBUNK is a publication of
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THIS WEEK

The August 16, 2021 club meeting was called to order by Kelly Harris. Jeff Dunning led the group in prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

SPEAKER

New club member Scott Meadors spoke to the club about our court system. He is a State District Judge, appointed in 2017 by Gov Mary Fallon. Previously he was a Deputy City Attorney, a LTC in the Judge Advocate Corps of the US Army Reserve, an Assistant District Attorney for Comanche County and had a private law practice.

Scott is one of 4 State District Judges in our county. They cover larger civil cases, felonies & a variety of other cases. There are other Judges who deal with smaller cases. Scott's presentation dealt more with criminal cases. There are some procedural differences with civil cases.

Crimes either occur in police presence, such as traffic violations, or it happens and no one knows who did it, such as a burglary. In the former, the defendant signs a citation which is in effect his bond. Or in cases like DUI the officer can make an arrest. In the latter the crime has to be investigated. When completed the case is presented to the



District Attorney's office. Depending on the severity of the crime the DA has some discretion where to send the case. In minor cases the injured party can file a police report. The municipal court can issue a summons for the accused to go to court to answer for the charge.

State criminal charges are filed in criminal court by the DA. The same is true for state traffic charges made outside city limits by the highway patrol. Municipal criminal/traffic charges are filed in municipal court by the City Prosecutor.

Bond is not punishment. It is used to make sure a defendant appears in court. He is presumed innocent and cannot be punished before conviction. Scott told us about four different types of bond. When a defendant doesn't get to court the bond is forfeited & a bench warrant is issued for his arrest.

We learned about Misdemeanor Sounding of the Docket, Felony Preliminary Hearings & Felony Formal Arraignments. Scott explained plea bargains and how they can be used to manage the docket. There are rules for guilty pleas. Scott broke down the steps for the jury trial process. He said serving on a jury can be an informative experience. We heard the differences between deferred and suspended sentences as well as

consecutive or concurrent sentences. He answered a few questions, such as issues with the McGirt decision. Scott said he has been honored to serve as a State District Judge the past four years.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This week the National office decided to cancel the National Conference set for later this month due to the worsening disease curve in COVID-19 cases across the country. Members who registered will get refunds.

The pandemic is affecting local events. The International Festival and Oktoberfest was cancelled during the week. Due to rising local COVID-19 case numbers the City and others decided it would be prudent to call off the events.

Our AMBUCS District 5 meeting is still set for September 9 at VFW post 5263, 103 NE 20th Street. Deadline to RSVP is Sept 1. Cost is \$20 per person. Happy hour will start at 6:00pm.

The Bags for Cash Tournament will be held Sept 10, 11 & 12 at Apache Casino. Just a few sponsor slots remain available.

During the meeting Kris Keller was finally presented with a plaque to commemorate her year and a half as the President of our chapter.

50/50

Zeldon Rice drew the 4 of Clubs. The pot was left standing at \$272.

NEWSLETTER

Gordon Shaw had the winning ticket & his copy of AMBUNK.

GUESTS

Barbara Ryans (app. submitted)
sponsored by Vic Menendez,
Megan Siaca-Cook
sponsored by Hanna Muirhead,
Curtis Darby
sponsored by Kris Keller,
Scott Meadors
Speaker