

**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

THIS WEEK

The August 23, 2021 club meeting was called to order by Kelly Harris. Scott Meadors led the group in prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

GUEST SPEAKER

Christi Chambers, Executive Director of the Lawton location of Oklahoma Blood Institute, told us the latest news about OBI. Currently OBI is in a severe blood supply shortage, bad enough to be rated a Blood Emergency. Over OBI's 40+ year history such emergencies were declared four times. Two were declared this year. The pandemic has affected donations as of late. Donations in Lawton have been declining over the past 12 years.

There is some good news that may help reverse this trend. First of all, OBI launched a new donor eligibility hot line: 888-308-3924. People can visit the OBI web site, obi.org too. Many people don't think they're eligible to donate due to previous deferrals. The FDA lifted the Mad Cow Disease related restriction for people who spent significant time in Europe. The rule affects a lot of active duty and retired military personnel in the Lawton Fort Sill area. Other rules change. People who assume they will be deferred should call the hot line so they can know the current guidelines.



OK Senate Bill 905 was passed just recently. This law allows businesses to set up their own private blood drives and earn a tax credit of \$20 per donor. There is a 15 donor minimum & donors must be employees of that business.

OBI launched a new charitable giving reward program for blood donor groups. It's called The Greater Good. If a group meets certain criteria OBI will donate \$10 per successful donor to the non-profit charitable cause of the donor group's choice. For example, if our club had a blood drive we could tell OBI to give funds to the Lawton Food Bank. *Other groups could donate to AMBUCS.*

There are benefits for donating at OBI. You get a basic health screening. You build up points in the Members for Life program. And you get free t-shirts. The OU/OSU Bedlam shirts are out now.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A virtual AMBUCS National Conference was held on Saturday. The in-person conference in Louisville was cancelled due to the COVID pandemic. Out-going national officers, such as Sue Haywood, were recognized. New national officers were sworn-in, including new National President, Scott Buckelew of Edmond. Our own Vic Menendez finished his five year run on the National Board, with his

term ending as Past National President.

The Bags for Cash Tournament happens in less than 2 weeks. More than \$7000 in sponsor money was collected as of Monday. A couple or so big ones are still outstanding. The Choctaws have a rival tournament set the same weekend. It could reduce our number of teams, but we'll still do very well with fund raising. For next year it's not clear if the event will be held in September or the original time frame earlier in March.

Several member met Tuesday evening at Mark Glenn's home to build a new AmTryke. Jimmy Roggenbuck told us about other used AmTrykes coming back to our club and new requests for AmTrykes coming into the club.

We're about to order new name tags for club members. 3 sample designs were shown at a recent meeting. They're made of hard plastic. They'll cost a few bucks each, but benefits are obvious for having them.

Children United sent our club a thank-you letter for our donation to the inclusive playground project in Elmer Thomas Park. \$167K has been raised so far. The goal is \$450K. They have a fund raising walk in Elmer Thomas Park set for October.

50/50

A.J. Watson drew the Jack of Diamonds. The pot was left standing at \$295.

NEWSLETTER

Hossein Moini had the winning ticket and his copy of AMBUNK.

GUESTS

Rondell Terry
sponsored by Kelly Harris,
CW3 Steven Quast
and CPL John Jackson
sponsored by Sarah Kline,
A.J. Watson (app. submitted)
sponsored by Zeldon Rice,
Christi Chambers
Guest Speaker