

**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 September 13, 2021 club meeting was called to order by Kelly Harris. Vic Menendez led the group in prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

GUEST SPEAKER

Oklahoma State Senator John Michael Montgomery visited this week. He is an Eisenhower and OU grad. John spent 4 years as a OK State Representative; now he's in his first term in the State Senate. John and his wife, Kylee have a 3 year old daughter.

Times are very different today. John said normally the budget would be the main topic of conversation; now it's not in the top 5 of subjects. COVID is the top concern. Hospitals are past capacity due to the latest surge. John advised us to get vaccinated; he doesn't want any of us in need of treatment struggling to get an open hospital bed. He also asked those of us who are vaccinated to be patient with those who are still trying to make up their minds. It has been 20 years since the 9-11 tragedy. We need to remember how we came together as a nation on 9-12 and be more like that.

Oklahoma's legislative session runs February thru May. In the interim a lot of bills are being written. John joked it's the source of all the cockamamie



ideas you see on the news in January. He said some of our members have been confident enough to reach out to him. John said he's happy to help out if you have a great legislative idea or just be a resource to help with other issues.

Other activity is taking place. Monday morning the Ag committee met to discuss the Ag sales tax exemption. It's a big topic as it relates to the budget frequently.

A special session is scheduled for November for redistricting. Dozens of in-person and virtual meetings have been held to discuss the topic already. This covers US congressional districts as well as state house & senate all the way to down to boundaries at local levels. Normally a bill would have been passed in the last session, but they didn't have the 2020 Census data yet.

Lawton had some wins in the past session, such as with education funding. The legislature passed a bill to reimburse local districts for some of the losses they suffer from the ad valorem exemption for 100% disabled veterans. This would bring districts like LPS up to a state-wide average. They also passed legislation to head off a lawsuit filed by charter school organizations. Some of the medical marijuana tax revenue was used to fill funding gaps.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Bags for Cash Cornhole Tournament was a success. Apache Casino and the Shady 580 Cornhole group were happy the event played out smoothly. Our club had plenty of help to manage people going into the tournament area. Next year the club plans to hold the event in March, maybe near St Patrick's Day. Too many competing events take place this time of year. We had fewer teams than expected; our club had to cover part of the prize purse. We're still going to net between \$6500 & \$7500. That's a pretty good return on the amount of work that went into the event.

Gordon Shaw told the club we are on track to Blue Chip. Branding Time starts in October and runs to November 30. Jenny and Gordon Shaw drove to Louisville, KY despite the National Conference being cancelled. They met up with members of the Longview, TX chapter to help build a ramp planned as part of the in-person conference. They had to deal with local red tape, adding to the challenge. AMBUCS members still followed through for the recipient of that access ramp.

Dale Keesee was Super Hero of the Week. He retired after working on Fort Sill for 35 years. Dale joined to help build AmTrykes & for the camaraderie.

50/50

Zeldon Rice picked the Queen of Hearts. The pot was left standing at \$330.

NEWSLETTER

Chuck Morgan had the winning ticket and his copy of AMBUNK.

GUESTS

Cindy Garcia
sponsored by Esther Jones,
CPL John Jackson
sponsored by Sarah Kline,
Robert Haversano
sponsored by Jeff Dunning,
John Michael Montgomery
Guest Speaker