

# AMBUNK

Week of:  
December 5, 2022

## GREAT PLAINS AMBUCS NEWSLETTER

A publication of  
Great Plains AMBUCS Lawton,  
OK  
Edited by Monte Brown  
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### THIS WEEK

The December 5, 2022 club meeting was called to order by Jenny Clement-Shaw. Larry Kindt led the group in prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.



*James Taylor*

James Taylor, Director for the Fires Innovation Science & Technology Accelerator (FISTA) Innovation Park, was the guest speaker. He spoke in place of Dr. Gary Butler, CEO of Camgian, whose flight to Oklahoma City was delayed.

Taylor described the FISTA as a “shapeshifter” for the Lawton Fort Sill community. He said it’s the culmination of years of ideas and a vision of “what does Lawton need to go to the next level? This is something that provides us the opportunity to bring in defense contractors, academic institutions and innovators to do work with Fort Sill, the Army and with other elements that are there that will propel this community.”

Taylor points to Huntsville, Alabama as an example of a community that has more than embraced the concept. He visited while on active duty in 2000. Twenty years later Huntsville’s population has grown from 180,000 to more than 600,000.

### CHAPTER CHRISTMAS PARTY



*Great Plains AMBUCS members, family and guests gathered for the chapter's Christmas party on Saturday.*

Construction for the first phase of the FISTA is almost 95% complete and tenants will soon be moving in. There are seven locations identified within the old Sears building where highly skilled employees will work on classified projects in the industrial secure facility.

Taylor said the Joint-Counter UAS Schoolhouse, currently located in Yuma, Arizona, will be moving to Fort Sill in 2023. It has 44 instructors and teaches all service branches, in addition to certain intelligence agencies, on how to counter drones. Taylor said drone technology is constantly evolving, as are the challengers with keeping up with it. The mission at Fort Sill will include research and development, science and technology. He said that will open the door for more funding and programs that FISTA contractors will be able to take advantage of.

Recently, thanks to community and state leadership, \$20 million was authorized through American Rescue Plan Act funds to create a STEM lab, engineering makerspace, small business incubator and an anechoic chamber complex at the FISTA.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Great Plains AMBUCS won the District 5A blood drive for OBI! A traveling trophy will be presented to the chapter soon.
- Kathleen Martin is the winner of the chapter’s Fall branding competition. She received 15 points for bringing in guests, new members and earning her Big Hat. Kathleen will be rewarded with a \$100 gift card.
- Jenny is requesting members submit a list each month documenting community service you’ve performed. You can bring it to her in person or send by email.

### GUESTS

Ray Stevens  
Sponsored by Zeldon Rice

### 50/50

Zeldon Rice drew the Ace of Spades.  
The pot stood at \$182.

### NEWSLETTER

Paul Warmuskerken had the winning ticket and his copy of AMBUNK.