

AMBUNK

A publication of
Great Plains AMBUCS Lawton,
OK

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Week of:
October 31, 2022

GREAT PLAINS AMBUCS NEWSLETTER

THIS WEEK

The October 31, 2022 club meeting was called to order by Jenny Clement-Shaw. Larry Kindt led the group in prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.



State Representative Rande Worthen

Rande Worthen, State Representative for House District 64, was the guest speaker. He began the meeting by inviting chapter members and guests to visit the Oklahoma Capitol. The building has undergone a significant amount of restoration and modernization over the last several years. Worthen said artwork has been returned to the walls along with many other features.

Worthen served 29 years as a prosecutor with the Comanche County District Attorney's office beginning in 1987. He retired in 2016, but soon felt a calling to serve in the Oklahoma legislature. He recalled meetings with former State Senator Don Barrington and former Representative

Representative Ann Coody as he explored his candidacy. He was elected in 2016.

Worthen recently completed an interim study as chair of the Judiciary Committee. The focus was on organized retail theft. Worthen said there has been an increase in that crime across the country and he and other lawmakers are trying to get ahead of the trend in Oklahoma. He recalled similar crimes from his time in the DA's office, where groups would travel from city to city, state to state, stealing large amounts of clothing and other items. Worthen said the passage of state questions that raised the felony level for larcenies from \$500 to \$1,000 has allowed criminals to spend months in county jails as opposed to years with the Department of Corrections. Prior to the changes in law, Worthen said repeat petit larceny charges could result in felony convictions. He hopes to address these crimes in the legislature. However, he said there has been pushback from those who do not want to see more people behind bars.

Worthen said he is also concerned about the number of marijuana growers and dispensaries in Oklahoma, figures he said most recently stood at 7,280 and 2,518. The latest patient count, Worthen said, stands at 376,000. He believes the standard to meet the requirements for a medical marijuana license are too loose, and a substantial amount of marijuana is being sold on the black market and out of state. He hopes voters will consider this when recreational marijuana is on the ballot next spring.

Worthen said redistricting has split his district at 38th Street in Lawton. He now represents constituents who live east of 38th all the way to the Stephens County line and points north and south. It's about a 25-percent increase in area. He has been working to meet his new constituents as he campaigns for another term in office.



Top Spread Chapters since October 1

Edmond
Lawton

Chapters on the Board

Clinton	Lubbock
Danville	Mid Cities
Duncan	Noon Network
Grapevine	Salina
Great Plains	Savannah
Irving	Springfield
Longview	Sullivan

Fall Branding ends November 30!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Lawton Public School Foundation is raffling off a 2022 Chevy Silverado provided by Classic Chevrolet. The funds raised will be used by LPSF to support students and educators in the district. The tickets are \$50 each and the winner will be drawn on November 28. See Alan Jolly if you would like to purchase a ticket.
- A U.S. Flag retirement ceremony will be held on Veterans Day, November 11 at 6 p.m. at VFW Post 5263 on East Gore Boulevard. Donations will be collected to fund a new outdoor smoking pavilion. Jenny is encouraging the post to ban smoking indoors soon. She hopes to retire at least 1,500 flags at the event.
- Meeting on Monday, November 7 at the Great Plains Coliseum for the Lawton AMBUCS Pancake Day.

GUESTS

Craig Staser
Sponsored by Gordon Shaw

50/50

Mark Glenn drew the 3 of Diamonds. The pot stood at \$58

NEWSLETTER

Mark Glenn had the winning ticket and his copy of AMBUNK.