

AMBUNK

Week of:
September 12, 2022

GREAT PLAINS AMBUCS NEWSLETTER

A publication of
Great Plains AMBUCS
Lawton, OK
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THIS WEEK

The September 12, 2022 club meeting was called to order by Jenny Clement-Shaw. Rondell Terry led the group in prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.



Gary Dees

Gary Dees, Director of Athletics for Lawton Public Schools, was the guest speaker. This is his sixth year in the position.

Dees spoke about the Gridiron Golf Tournament hosted annually during the last week of July by the Lawton Public Schools Athletic Foundation. The event raises funds to pay for equipment for LPS students. This year's tournament raised \$75,000, the most in the event's history. Dees said there are several ways to donate to the tournament and sponsorship opportunities.

Dees said the budget for LPS athletics has changed under the administration of superintendent Kevin Hime. In the past, he said funds were raised from attendance ticket sales and then distributed to the schools. The funds were used for player meals, transportation, officiating crews and things along those lines. Dees said the level of funding often left him in a position of saying "no" to new requests. Under the new budgeting, he has

been able to buy new equipment, uniforms and weights for all three high schools. The district has also purchased subscriptions to online platforms for coaches and players. In addition, LPS has added sports, including slow pitch softball, cross country and soccer for middle schools. Dees said dance will be added next year.

Indoor facilities are planned for each high school. At Eisenhower and MacArthur, these will be approximately 15-thousand square foot areas with open turf sections for practices, hitting cages, golf simulators, locker rooms and more. The proposal for the Lawton High facility includes a track, two soccer fields and a basketball gymnasium to be added later. The latter will require an agreement with the city. Dees said he and other administrators toured similar facilities at other school districts. In Blanchard, he was impressed by the fact that very young athletes were using the equipment. He attributes that to their district's success at the varsity level.

Upgrades are also in the works for outdoor facilities. Dees said plans include turfing all baseball, softball and football fields. Lights, score boards and bleachers would be required for the football fields. Dees said this will allow some games to be held on the high school campuses.

TEMPORARY BIG HAT PRESENTATION

Paul Warmuskerken received his temporary Big Hat during Monday's meeting. Way to go Paul!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Great Plains AMBUCS will receive credit for boot strapping the Duncan chapter back into active status. District 5-A now includes the Duncan chapter. Future district events will be held there and in Lawton.
- The next evening social will be September 27 in the Trophy Room at Cache Road Liquor. It will feature a dessert competition and new member orientation. 11 new members are set to officially be sworn into the club.
- Kent Jester announced that the venue has been secured for the 2023 Bags of Cash Cornhole Tournament. It is scheduled for March 17-19, 2023, which will include the St. Patrick's Day holiday. The 580 Cornhole Club will once again oversee the competition.
- Barry Ezerski invited chapter members to attend Children United's upcoming fundraising walk. It will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday October 22 at Elmer Thomas Park. Proceeds will be used for the continuing mission to install an inclusive playground in Lawton.

FLAME OF THE WEEK

Larry Kindt was honored as Flame of the Week. The chapter helped celebrate his birthday at Monday's meeting. Larry serves as the 2nd Vice-President of Great Plains AMBUCS and chairs the Programs Committee.

GUESTS

Rocco Bonacci
Sponsored by Sarah Kline

Onreka Johnson
Sponsored by Rondell Terry

50/50

Sarah Kline drew the Jack of Spades. The pot stood at \$438.

NEWSLETTER

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