

Week of Feb. 03, 2025

AMBLINK

GREAT PLAINS AMBUCS NEWSLETTER

CHAPTER NEWS -

Our February 3rd meeting was called to order by Larry Kindt.

Dan Kite led the group in prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMITTEE REPORTS -

MEMBERSHIP - The 3rd quarter new member orientation was held Monday night at SWMC. **Thank you Joe Elkins for hosting us.** We had a fun Ice Breaker BINGO led by Tanna Vu. Jason Poudrier presented each new member with their AMBUCS lapel pin. President Larry's theme "Up and Away" is surely taking flight. As these new members bring fresh ideas to our club.



BIG HAT SOCIAL - The next social will be held on **February 13th** at Harlow's which is located in the Days Inn Motel on 2nd Street.



Anyone who earns a Big Hat (or re-arns one) this club year through May 31, 2025 will receive one of the below belt buckles.



4.0" x 3.0" (Product Size)

DISTRICT 5A MEETING/SOCIAL - It will be held on **February 27th** at **Mutti's** German restaurant. The Lawton Chapter will be hosting this social.

SCHOLARSHIP - Gordon reminded everyone that the scholarship season kicked off February 1st. Reach out to those students who are working on a doctoral program as they are eligible for a scholarship from us. We already have a couple of candidates. One of which is an OU basketball player.

SAVE THE DATE - Our awards and Installation Banquet is set for Thursday, **May 15th**. It will be held at the **Lawton Farmers Market** downtown.

RED RIVER CRAFT BEER FESTIVAL - We are currently seeking sponsorships. We have received our first \$5,000 sponsor. The next meeting is **Feb. 12th at 1:30pm, Trophy Room.** **Event Date: April 26th.** POC is Monte Brown.



BAGS FOR CASH CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT - Sponsorships are still available. See Kent for forms. It takes place the weekend before St. Patrick's Day. **The event dates are March 14, 15 & 16, at Apache Casino.**

SERGEANT AT ARMS - 'Get a tattlin' It is gpambucsdirty@gmail.com



Looks like the Piret's got BUSTED!!



GUEST SPEAKER - We heard from Brad Cooksey, LEDC President. Barry Ezerski introduced Brad and said outside the Mayor, Brad is the best person we have to sell the City of Lawton. To sell

something you have to believe in it and Brad believes in Lawton. Brad said he has been integrated into the Lawton way for 50 years with his mother being a former school teacher and his father working at Goodyear. Brad has been the LEDC President for 7 years now, which has been the most compelling, joyful but quite frustrating job that he's had. There is a lot that goes into this job and he has learned he needs to be a part of more civic groups like AMBUCS. Brad mentioned this job is a TEAM effort. When Brad first started this job Dr. Tom Thomas was the President and he learned under his leadership. Brad's background from education, real estate, and insurance fields has led him to where he is now. Barry said it best "he is a true salesman of our community." One of his better traits is building relationships. This is why Brad feels he is a good fit for this job. Brad has relationships with the community, legislators, educational system, people in D.C., and with site selectors and consultants. Relationships is what puts Lawton over the top which allows us to be involved with projects that we have never been involved with before. The current switch in administration has made economic development kind of a turbulent time for businesses to consider how they want to operate. Oklahoma however is on the foremind of this current administration which is a good thing for us. We are one of the 'hot spots.' Governor Stitt wants to make Oklahoma one of the top 10 states in economic development. We are seeing more projects now. We are also seeing local manufacturing companies that are growing/expanding. Passing the 2040 CIP was huge for us. Our larger companies are going strong because they are investing in Lawton. Westwind is our sleeping giant. It is going very well.

NEWSLETTER: Dan Kite had the winning ticket.

50/50: Kelley Piert had the winning ticket. She drew the 9 of Clubs. Pot stands at \$869.

RAMPS - A few members put together a temporary ramp Friday for a 92 year old woman who fell and broke her hip.



Jenny assisted the Lawton AMBUCS chapter with a ramp build Saturday morning to learn how they assemble their ramps. Located at 602 SE 41st St

