

I am not able to attend any meetings this week due to work and other obligations. Do you send minutes out for the Board meeting?

After receiving questions like the one above, I've realized that, unless you have a good personal relationship with a Caprock AMBUC member to whom you can ask questions, new members aren't informed as to what they've **signed up for**. It's no problem for me as I'm naturally inquisitive but I didn't have a close, personal relationship with any of the Caprock AMBUCS when I joined in January of 2010. I've had no mentor which is usually the person who invited you to come to a luncheon.

A solution to this problem is this document which gives information to any member or prospective member. Hopefully for you, it's like a mini-skirt: long enough to cover the subject but short enough to keep it interesting. Thanks to Lea Davidson for inspiring the idea of a **new member memo**. I'll send this to everyone and with your input, massage this into an informative document or perhaps a few documents to guide new members toward what we all want: a great AMBUCS club.

For whatever reason you joined, everyone should know some history. AMBUCS means **AMERICAN BUSINESS CLUBS**. Started in 1922 by William White in Birmingham Alabama, his dream was to begin a national service organization for young business & professional men. The first club had 50 members and they adopted a constitution and the motto that is still referred to today: **Shoulders Together**.

More thorough information about the National AMBUCS is at <http://www.ambucs.org>

The three clubs in Lubbock, a club in Big Spring and the newest in San Angelo form District 6-C. A district is a geographic area and the current governor is one of our club members, Missy Hopson. The national head quarters are in High Point, North Carolina. That's close to the middle of the state, Winston-Salem and Greensboro the closest large cities. Each club is a non-profit and the purpose is to create mobility & independence for people with disabilities. This is done through community service, providing the AmTryke to individuals unable to operate a traditional bike, awarding scholarships to therapists and ramps.

Our fund-raiser fortunately is not selling turpentine cups (see <http://www.ambucs.org/history/>) but the Caprock Christmas high school basketball tournament. This 3-day event provides the funds to operate the programs we decide to carry out our mission. One member slots the members (and Friends of AMBUCS) for shift work in the tournament. Other members are "gym directors", at least one person at each site used to facilitate the tournament.

Some of the proceeds go to local charities like the Texas Boys Ranch, High Point Village and Challenger Little League, three of over 10 charities that usually request support.

The club is overseen by the Board, 8 to 10 members with an interest to serve and see that the club is following the purpose of its existence. Members serve a two-year term and they meet on the Monday before the third Thursday of each month. The reason for this meeting is to hear and act on business brought before the club on the third Thursday of the month which is usually designated as a meeting for committees and is void of a speaker.

Members can be as involved (or not) as their life allows. Some members cannot physically perform but still want to be a dues-paying member to support the purpose of AMBUCS. Obviously, working members are needed to accomplish AMBUCS goals.

Committees are comprised of members with an interest (or interests) in the following: fun, service, friendship, information and Ambility. There are other committees of which (most) anyone can be a part. Other examples are the basketball committee (ad hoc type), executive (comprised of the president, vice president, secretary & treasurer) and scholarship. Each committee has a chair and the committee develops a plan to execute the function of its purpose.

As part of the basketball tournament, eight scholarships of \$1,000 each, are awarded to students, four girls and four boys, who to participate as either a player, manager and/or trainer. They apply for a scholarship in March and a committee of members selects the recipients.

Each year, new officers are put in place to guide the club. The new year starts June 1st. These officers are sworn in by the District governor at an installation banquet. The banquet is for all the members who can bring a guest. It usually takes the place of the weekly lunch meeting, a noon Thursday lunch currently at Danny's Fins and Hens.

Once a member has recruited three or more members in a 12-month time span, they have a special designation as a "Big Hat". This member received an honest-to-goodness beige cowboy hat from the national organization. This hat can be worn at any time and this "club within a club" has a function to promote membership and has a service involvement of its own.

Now YOU received a welcoming letter from Joe Lunardon (lu NAR don) who is our treasurer. He sends your completed application to the national organization. They send the president a lapel pin and he/she gives you when you sworn in. This is usually done as part of the general meeting, one of those "repeat-after-me" deals.

Our club is not constantly meeting, but there are opportunities to serve and/or get together. During April-June, Challenger Little League is a Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday baseball league that plays two games a night, starting at 6 PM. <http://lubbockchallenger.org/> The third weekend of the month is designated "ramp build", a Saturday morning to create a ramp for someone who has trouble walking. Each quarter, the club has a "Social", this event is planned by the Fun committee and sometimes is in conjunction with one (or more) of the activities of the non-profits we support. The AmTrykes given away during meetings and 10+ during the basketball tournament are assembled by members.

Lubbock Caprock has our own web page, <http://www.caprockambucs.com/> is on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/pages/Lubbock-Caprock-AMBUCS/116090365083981?ref_type=bookmark and the basketball tournament has its own web page: <http://www.caprockclassic.com/> Visit the web pages and give suggestions as to how it can be better.

If you've joined, by now you should have received **The Flash**, the club's weekly newsletter usually sent out every Tuesday. This one-page report (with pictures!) has a list of what's going on and what happened at the last meeting. Joe Hoelscher has produced **The Flash** as long as I've been in the club. He's another member who, even as a past president, has continued to be involved.

Sometimes, people will call or e-mail and request stuff like wheelchairs, walkers and shower seats. We have a storage unit (close to 82nd & Upland) that houses a trailer (with demo AmTrykes), tournament stuff (like basketballs) and used equipment like walkers and wheel chairs. Anyone who asks, we'll give them what they need, if we have it there. This is yet another example of community service.

Our club is over 50 years old and always needs working members. We may not be large in numbers but we are mighty. If it seems overwhelming, just remember that if we're helping, that's the best thing. If you have any questions, ask the president. If they don't know, they should. We're glad **YOU'RE** part of **US**.