



SHHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION • P.O. BOX 152742 • ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76015  
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## **February General Meeting**

**Wednesday, February 12, 2020 at 7pm**

**Location:** Angelo's Pizza, Pasta, and Spaghetti – Arlington, Texas

**Board Members in Attendance:** Laura Heymann, Darla Peznell, Erica Garcia, Jayme Thomas, Brenda Allen Wolf

**Board Members Not in Attendance:** N/A

**Additional Attendees:** See Sign-In Sheet

*\*The President and Secretary were present at the meeting.*

- Welcome and Call to Order was at 7:05pm, followed by Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence.
- SHHS Teacher/Black History Month Committee Lead – Marissa Wright
  - Ms. Wright brought a group of students that are participating in the Black History Month program at SHHS this year. Not only did Ms. Wright recite an original poem, but her students performed a dance for all in attendance.
  - Thanked the alumni for helping with the meals and transportation to the speaker series at UTA this month.
    - The students who attended were also able to take a tour of the campus.
    - Ms. Wright made great connections at UTA. Two UTA students are now mentors at SHHS, with one planning to present on grants, financial aid, etc.
  - Check facebook.com/samhoustonhs for details on the Black History Month program hosted by SHHS. There will be performances by SHHS students, local elementary schools, UTA, and UNT.
- SHHS Principal – Juan Villarreal
  - Thanked the association for the SamFam shirts given to all in the Senior Class. Shirts were handed out the day of the Spring Sports pep rally.
  - Sports/Orgs update:
    - Boys Soccer are 5<sup>th</sup> in state, 1<sup>st</sup> in region, and beat Bowie recently! They hope to get to regional and then play in the state tournament.
    - Seven wrestling athletes qualified for regionals!
    - Mariachi has qualified for UIL state!
  - Scores have improved at each testing round this school year.
  - SHHS has 23 TCU Community Scholar finalists this year! The school hopes to beat the total of 11 SHHS students that became Community Scholars last year, and they are helping this year's finalists by assisting with interview practice and dress/etiquette skills to prepare them for their final TCU interview.
- Laura Heymann announced that November Minutes were posted online. Jay Thomas motioned to accept the minutes as posted; motion was seconded by Mike Mullen; motion approved.
- Jayme Thomas read November-January Treasurer's Report. Nicia Dibben motioned to accept the report as read; motion was seconded by Jay Thomas; motion approved.
  - Friendly reminder that scholarship money is current invested in CDs.

- Mike Ledford
  - There is a big track meet at SHHS on Saturday, February 15th. Meet starts at 8am, ends around 7pm. Volunteers do not have to stay the entire time; any volunteer hours are appreciated!
  - Please contact Mike directly if interested.
- Brenda Allen Wolf
  - 2020 Spring Fling
    - Brenda and Jayme Thomas are co-chairing upcoming Spring Fling.
    - Created spreadsheet of all businesses who have given in the past (and what they donated) and added potential businesses.
      - The list is split by geographic areas (downtown Arlington, Pantego, Cooper Street, North Arlington, East Arlington). Each area is in a folder with donor letters and business cards – ready for volunteers to continue asking for donations!
    - Soliciting tip: it is more successful to go ask in person during the week (when managers are on duty).
    - Save The Date: Sunday, March 15th at Jayme's house. Committee will meet to put together baskets, take inventory, and finalize fling prep!
  - Historian Project(s)
    - Archiving/Digitizing School Newspapers
      - Jayme Thomas found original newspapers from her mom, Judy Thomas (Class of '65). One of the newspapers is the first ever edition from SHHS. Brenda reached out to friend who is an archivist at UNT and SHHS alumni. The alum said the newspapers would be eligible for the Portal to Texas History. This is a free service provided by UNT.
      - We have been accepted and will be first Arlington school to have papers digitized and put into portal. They will be accessible, searchable to the public, and stored by UNT.
      - In addition, we may have yearbooks added to the portal at a later date.
    - Alumni Video Interviews
      - In order to preserve the history of Big Sam, the board has decided complete a video project. The goal is to record interviews and stories from alums of all decades.
      - The board has compiled a list of alumni, including past recipients of the Long Tall Texan Award. They are also working on finalizing a date and locking in a videographer. More updates coming soon!
- President's Announcements – Laura Heymann
  - November-January Recap
    - SamFam spirit shirts provided to all seniors and remaining staff.
    - Coordinated delivery of hoodies for the FIT program. (Big thanks to Nicia Dibben, Ben Dibben, and CustomInk for the donation!)
    - We fulfilled the following Alumni Support Applications:
      - Gift cards for the Mariachi program's fundraiser raffle
      - Various requests for Black History Month program
      - Funding for the Volleyball team's end-of-season banquet costs
      - Gift cards to incentivize PBIS attendance (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports - helps with college readiness)
    - We also fulfilled the following:
      - Staff Appreciation request for prizes for a staff Super bowl Cook-Off event
      - Texans Helping Texans request to supplement Christmas Angel gifts
    - Registered for UTA's Day of Service on Saturday, April 18th. Local schools and nonprofits apply for assistance with specific projects, and approved projects

receive help from volunteers. UTA's goal is to have 1,500 of their students helping the community on this special day of service.

- Letters of Intent (LOIs)
  - Members are welcome to submit letters beginning Wednesday, February 12th. The deadline for letters is Wednesday, March 11th at 11:59pm. Please email LOIs to [info@shstexans.org](mailto:info@shstexans.org) if unable to hand them to a board member in person.
- Election Committee
  - Need three individuals who will establish the nomination slate, as well as count votes at Elections. Committee members must be able to attend both April and May General Meetings.
  - The following individuals volunteered and will receive further instructions via email: Mike Ledford, Jay Thomas, and Nicia Dibben.
- Scholarship Committee
  - Need individuals to join the Scholarship Committee. Jayme Thomas will audit transcripts and determine academic points again this year. Other committee members will read applications and determine who will receive the following: SHHS Alumni Association Scholarship, Judy Thomas Memorial Scholarship, and Laurie Cree Flynn Memorial Scholarship.
  - The board passed a sign-up sheet for interested individuals. The committee members will receive further instructions via email.
- Grants Announcements
  - Received grant from Extraordinary Is (Thasunda Brown Duckett's organization) for \$2,500! The organization would like to see the funds help with spring sports support/meals. This grant allow us to issue a check for the Principal's Discretionary Funds this spring.
  - Outstanding grants:
    - Applied for an Arlington Tomorrow Foundation grant in late 2019 and heard back. They were requesting additional information, and we re-submitted the grant earlier this year.
    - Submitted a Letter of Inquiry for Women Inspiring Philanthropy. We passed the first round (LOI submission and review) and will now have a site visit at Big Sam. More updates coming!
  - We will be applying to two more grants in the coming weeks.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:01pm.
- Minutes submitted by Secretary, Erica Garcia.