



SHHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION • P.O. BOX 152742 • ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76015
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April General Meeting

Wednesday, April 21, 2021 at 6:30pm

Location: East Library and Recreation Center – Arlington, Texas

Board Members in Attendance: Laura Heymann, Darla Peznell, Jayme Thomas, Erica Garcia

Board Members Not in Attendance: N/A

Additional Attendees: See Sign-In Sheet

**The President was present at the meeting.*

- Welcome and Call to Order was at 6:39pm, followed by Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence.
- Laura Heymann announced that March Minutes were posted online. There were no corrections offered, and therefore the Minutes were approved as posted.
- Jayme Thomas shared March-April Treasurer's Report. All questions were answered by the Treasurer, and the Treasurer's Report was filed.
- Announcements
 - 2021 Scholarships
 - Great news! In just one year, we have acquired the Jo Ann Goolsby Memorial Scholarship and most recently, the Haile Mariam Scholarship.
 - The Haile Mariam Scholarship acquisition is currently wrapping up, and we are both honored *and excited* to be taking it on.
 - The acquisitions can be attributed to the hard work of the volunteers, our growing presence both online and in the community; and the trust in the association.
 - The association is currently awarding the following...
 - SHHS Alumni Association Scholarship
 - Judy Thomas Memorial Scholarship (est. 2019)
 - Laurie Cree Flynn Memorial Scholarship (est. 2019)
 - Benavides-Semones Scholarship (est. 2020)
 - Jo Ann Goolsby Memorial Scholarship (acquired 2021)
 - Haile Mariam Scholarship (acquired 2021)
 - More details on each scholarship can be found on our website at www.shhstexans.org/scholarships.
 - Given the circumstances (pandemic, virtual learning, and recent flooding at the school due to the winter storm), we expect lower numbers of applications this year. Many students may be focused on life after school and going into the workforce rather than higher education. The committee will review applications and decide the best way forward, which may include rolling over funds into next year.
 - This year's timeline is as follows, and we are still accepting committee members!
 - Go-live with apps: Monday, 3/22
 - App deadline: Thursday, 4/22
 - Process apps (applicants list and redact info): Friday, 4/23
 - Committee individual review: Saturday, 4/24 to Friday, 4/30

- Committee meeting: Saturday, 5/1 at 3pm
 - The district is planning to have in-person Senior Awards Night. However, it is still in the early phases, and it may be canceled or changed to virtual. The scholarship committee will decide how to present awards should an event not be held (similar to last year's).
- Grant Updates
 - Association did not receive last couple of grants that were applied to, but still receiving income through various sources.
 - Waiting on application feedback from additional requests that have been submitted.
 - Next grant to apply for is on a rolling grant cycle (quarterly), and it will be completed during the Summer with updated data. Due date is in September.
- SHHS Funding Updates
 - No major asks have been received in the last month because students are mostly completing virtual (at home) learning. Organizations/sports have not been as active as a result.
 - We expect next year to have a large influx of funding requests if students are back in-person learning and the COVID-19 pandemic eases up.
- Strategic Plan Updates
 - Nearly all Q1 goals have been completed already, with increasing memberships and creating a leadership pipeline becoming the next big project. This project is being finalized and will go live in the summer. Association will reach out to past members and supporters to encourage them to join as a member for 2021-22.
 - The full strategic plan and all quarterly goals can be found on our website at www.shhstexans.org/strategic-plan.
- Alumni Legacy Video Project
 - The board is excited to start back on a project we had planned for last spring, which got put on the back burner when the COVID-19 pandemic hit: creating a legacy video of SHHS alumni from all through the decades, telling stories about their time at SHHS in their own words. Think of it as something of a video time capsule. Only WE, as alumni, can tell the story of SHHS through the years, so we want to preserve it!
 - Meeting attendees were asked to choose 1-2 questions (found below) and step out one at a time to tell a couple short stories on camera.
 - Questions/Topics:
 - Tell us about an SHHS teacher, coach, or faculty member who had a positive impact on your life.
 - Tell us about your favorite SHHS traditions.
 - Do you have any special SHHS memories or stories to share (dances, pep rallies, homecoming, notable athletics events, competitions, awards, etc.)?
 - Do you know of any past newsworthy stories about SHHS or SHHS Alumni that should be documented?
 - Tell us what it means to you to be a Sam Houston Texan.
 - What are some of your best style, music, or pop culture memories from your years at SHHS?
 - How did you come to be involved with the Alumni Association? Tell us about the roles you've held as a volunteer and what it means to you to give back to SHHS.
 - What is your favorite part of being involved with the SHHS Alumni Association?

- If you were unable to come to the meeting, don't worry - this will be a progressive project and we'll keep collecting these memories at various events moving forward. Another option is to schedule a time to chat with you over Zoom, and we'll record your answers that way.
- 2021 Nomination Slate
 - The board thanked the Elections Committee for their hard work on this task. This year's committee was formed by Nicia Dibben, Fernando Benavides, and Mike Mullen.
 - The committee submitted their nomination slate for this year, and it is as follows...
 - President – Laura Heymann
 - Vice President – Darla Peznell
 - Secretary – Erica Garcia
 - Treasurer – Jayme Thomas
 - Assistant Secretary – Jo Anna Cardoza
 - In addition to presenting their slate at this meeting, the committee will also be counting election ballots at May General Meeting.
- Long Haul Texan Awards
 - The Long Haul Texan Awards were established in 2019 to honor long-time volunteers. The first awards were given to founding board members from the 90s who stayed active and supported the new association after it become a 501(c)(3) registered non-profit.
 - This year, the board inducts another class of Long Haul Texans who may not have been founding board members from the 90s, but they have been dedicated volunteers, from the 501(c)(3) registration through a global pandemic! We appreciate and honor you!

Karen Fox, Class of '71
 Michael Mullen, Class of '75
 Claudia Perkins, Class of '71
 Sheila Ivy Young, Class of '72
 Michael Ledford, Class of '77

- Several of our inaugural Long Haul Texan award recipients were also present to congratulate their fellow alumni.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.
- Minutes submitted by Secretary, Erica Garcia.