



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

Wednesday, May 11, 2022 at 6:30pm

Location: Zoom

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

Board Members Not in Attendance: Jo Anna Cardoza

Additional Attendees: See Sign-In Sheet

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

- Welcome and Call to Order was at 6:34pm, followed by Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence.
- Laura Heymann announced that April Minutes were posted online. There were no corrections offered, and therefore the Minutes were approved as posted.
- Speakers
 - Juan Villarreal (Principal)
 - Thanked the alumni association for helping fund the t-shirts for graduation volunteers this year.
 - EOC testing has been completed.
 - Senior Prom had just passed and all the students had a great time. Seniors will also have a Senior Breakfast and Senior Sunset later this month. The focus for seniors is now graduation and improving the graduation rate. Graduation will be held on June 7th at 8:30am, Globe Life Park.
 - Joe Looney, former NFL player, has joined SHHS and is planning to teach US History, along with mentoring/recruiting for football.
 - Wilemon Field has been confirmed to be part of the AISD bond package. For the past couple of years, the alumni association had discussed the possibility of renovating the water tower as a spirit gift. That discussion was placed on hold when the AISD bond was announced. However, it was now been determined that the water tower will not be part of the renovation. Meeting attendees discussed their thoughts on the water tower, and options will be emailed to Mr. Villarreal for him to share with his AISD contact.
- Admin Updates
 - Elections
 - Laura Heymann reviewed the slate:
 - President – Darla Peznell
 - Vice President – Fernando Benavides
 - Secretary – Brenda Allen Wolf
 - Treasurer – Jayme Thomas
 - Assistant Secretary – Jo Anna Cardoza
 - In following Robert's Rules of Order, Laura asked for any nominations from the floor for each position. No individuals ran from the floor.

- Melody Rushing motioned to accept the slate as proposed, considering that no individuals ran from the floor; motion was seconded by Erica Garcia; motion approved.
- The 2022-24 board term, which begins on June 1st, is as follows...
 - President – Darla Peznell
 - Vice President – Fernando Benavides
 - Secretary – Brenda Allen Wolf
 - Treasurer – Jayme Thomas
 - Assistant Secretary – Jo Anna Cardoza
- 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 became a 501(c)(3) registered non-profit. The second class to be inducted were Texans who may not have been founding board members but have been dedicated volunteers.
 - Again this year, the board is inducting a new class of Long Haul Texans who have continued to support the association and the Sam Houston High School community. We appreciate and honor you!

Al Critz, class of '67
 Brenda Allen Wolf, class of '98
 David Inman, class of '78
 Melody Rushing Frank, class of '73
 Melynda Merrifield, class of '75
 Nicia Dibben, class of '08

- Scholarship Committee
 - 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)
 - Class of 1967 Memorial Scholarship (est. 2021)
 - More details on each scholarship can be found on our website at www.shhstexans.org/scholarships.
 - The total amount to be given out this year is \$12,500 - this is a new record for the largest amount awarded in one year! Thirteen students will receive a scholarship.
- Budget Committee
 - Committee will meet this summer to create the 2022-23 budget. It will then be presented at the August General Meeting for approval.
 - Melody Rushing Frank, Travis Garnett, Nicia Dibben, Erica Garcia, and Laura Heymann will be asked to join the committee this year.
 - Meeting is scheduled for the afternoon of Sunday, June 26th.
- North Texas Giving Day
 - NTX Giving Day is coming up! Communities Foundation of Texas hosts the annual NTX Giving Day event, which is an 18-hour online giving event designed to

empower every person to give back to their community by supporting local nonprofits and causes they care about in one easy-to-use platform. In 2021, NTX Giving Day raised \$66 million benefiting over 3,300 local nonprofits, bringing the thirteen-year total to over \$441 million for our community. NTX Giving Day is the largest community-wide giving event in the nation.

- Stay tuned for updates on how to give to the alumni association on Thursday, September 22nd!
- Arlington Fourth of July Parade
 - David Inman asked if the alumni association will be joining this year's Fourth of July Parade in downtown Arlington on Monday, July 4th at 9am.
 - There were no plans yet; but Brenda Allen Wolf will reach out to Claudia Perkins to determine if the Big Sam Bell and/or Texan Alumni Band can still be included in the parade this year.
- Program Updates
 - Texans Helping Texans Program
 - As of the April meeting, the association had donated over \$2,700 worth of items to the program.
 - The newest request asked for gift cards to Chick-fil-A (\$100) and Nothing Bundt Cake (\$50) for their annual Senior Recognition, as well as undergarments in various sizes. The gift cards will be dropped off with Cindy Newton and the undergarments will be delivered by Amazon, both by Friday, May 13th.
 - Alumni Support Applications (ASAs)
 - As of the April meeting, the association had fulfilled about \$4,300 in requests, for a total of seven (7) donations.
 - The newest request was from the Mariachi sponsor, who asked for funds to help supplement their participation in the 2022 Mariachi Spectacular festival in July. A check for \$1,500 was issued.
 - Staff Appreciation
 - As of the April meeting, the association had fulfilled over \$2,200 in giving, ranging from snacks on testing days, coffee/creamer/sugar for the Coffee Bar, and food/gift cards for the Back-to-School Breakfast held in the Fall.
 - The newest requests were for Teacher Appreciation Week (\$250 provided in Amazon gift cards for daily raffles) and Graduation (\$300 check for t-shirts to provide to faculty/staff volunteers).
 - School Spirit
 - No major updates since April. The association has continued to provide storage for the Big Sam Bell and are looking into preserving the Water Tower's history.
- Jayme Thomas shared April-May Treasurer's Report. All questions were answered by the Treasurer, and the Treasurer's Report was filed.
- Question/Comments
 - Mike Ledford will be honored as this year's Long Tall Texan. His wife and family will be in attendance at Graduation, and Fernando Benavides will be accepting the award on their behalf. If an alum is interested in attending Graduation but does not have tickets through a graduation senior, please reach out to us at info@shstexans.org so we can assist in coordinating with the school.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:28pm.
- Minutes submitted by Secretary, Erica Garcia.