



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

Wednesday, September 11, 2019 at 7pm

Location: Shady Valley Country Club – 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 7:03pm, followed by Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence.
- Laura Heymann announced that August Minutes were posted online. Melynda Merrifield motioned to accept the minutes as posted only if individuals seconding a motion were added by-name in Minutes moving forward; motion was seconded by Jay Thomas; motion approved.
- Jayme Thomas read August Treasurer's Report. Bob Callas motioned to accept the report as read; motion was seconded by Nicia Dibben; motion approved.
- Treasurer's Announcement – Jayme Thomas
 - Girls Wrestling Fundraiser
 - The team has a big tournament in January. This year, there has been an additional expense added to their costs. The team is having a t-shirt fundraiser to help offset these new costs. Those interested in supporting the team can order their t-shirts and pay by contacting Jayme.
- President's Announcements – Laura Heymann
 - August Recap
 - We served our annual Back to School Breakfast for all teachers & staff on their first day back to work.
 - We fulfilled phase one of our Spirit Gift goal for the school year by designing, printing, and delivering 300 of our 2019 #SamFam Spirit Shirts to SHHS Faculty, Staff, and Administration, which they wore on the first day of school.
 - We fulfilled the first round of requests from the PEP Sponsor's Amazon Wish List as part of our Texans Helping Texans Program.
 - We purchased and delivered the first gift card of the year for the FIT Program Social Worker to fulfill specific clothing needs for students as part of our Texans Helping Texans Program.
 - We facilitated school supply donations for students to start the year off prepared, and delivered them to the school.
 - We fulfilled an ASA for the Cheerleading Squad. They will be receiving their pink pom poms on North Texas Giving Day!
 - We fulfilled a request to fund private instrument lessons for a very deserving student, described by the SHHS band director as "the best chance that SHHS (and AISD) has to have an All-State Band student, as we haven't had one in a long time." This student has advanced all the way to Area Band for the past two years, without any private lessons, but if the student can earn a placement in the All-State Band, it "pretty much guarantees a full-ride scholarship to almost any

public or private university in the state." The band director now plans to connect the student to a professor at UTA.

- #SamFam shirts are now available for sale. They could be purchased after the meeting or anytime via our website, www.shhstexans.org/shop.
- Polo shirts are available for pre-order. There are different styles, colors, and sizes all listed online at www.shhstexans.org/shop.
- North Texas Giving Day
 - NTX Giving Day is next Thursday, September 19th. The committee is working a 'war room' at SHHS, focusing on personally calling and reaching out to our supporters for donations. The committee will also be at the Arlington Gives! Rally at Levitt Pavilion.
 - The goal is to raise \$5,000 for the Texans Helping Texans Program. This amount would completely fund the budget category for the FIT and PEP programs for the year.
- Fall Fling
 - Fall Fling is October 12th, with our next meet-up on Wednesday, October 9th. Join us at both the fling and the Pizza & Basket-making Party!
- SHHS Principal – Juan Villarreal
 - The new SHHS principal, Mr. Villarreal, introduced himself to all in attendance. He thanked the alumni association for their support and described how grateful he is to have us serve the school.
 - Our first event of the year, the Back to School Breakfast, was a big hit. Mr. Villarreal also thanked us for the #SamFam shirts and their importance on the 1st day of school.
 - Mr. Villarreal also provided an update on the testing. SHHS went from 'under performing' last year to a 76 (C) score. The school contributed to moving the district's score up to a B. SHHS had 21% increase in Domain 3. He wants to celebrate last year's admin and teachers for the hard work they put into this great achievement.
 - During Operation Graduation, over 60 volunteers went out into the community and contributed to the recovery of about 40 students.
 - The school is still interviewing for teaching and dean positions. Mr. Villarreal wants to find the right teachers, those who want to stay long-term and are committed to the kids at Sam.
 - The culture is thriving and morale is high at Big Sam!
- Long Haul Texan Awards
 - While the SHHS Alumni Association has grown leaps and bounds since its formation as nonprofit organization in 2013, we all know that SHHS alumni have been giving back and doing good for a lot longer. Those who served on the board between 1995-2013 and have continued to contribute to the growth of the association since its formalization, well, they are really in it for the *long-haul*. We could not do all we're doing to help the Sam Houston community if these folks hadn't helped lay the groundwork for the organization as it exists today. In recognition of this unwavering service and dedication to Sam Houston High School, the board recognized the following alums as our first-ever Long-Haul Texans...

Hans Bryson
Bob Callas
Ken Costlow
Brian Murphy
Grace Shane
Phil Wilemon

- Meeting adjourned at 7:41pm.
- Minutes submitted by Secretary, Erica Garcia.