



AHS 50TH ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

SANDIE SPIRIT

AHS 50th Alumni Association

P.O. Box 7146,

Amarillo, TX 79114

WEB SITE – 50thahs.org

Email – AHS50thalumniassociation@gmail.com

Kurt Gehring, '70, President

Daphne Adkins '73, 1st Vice-President

Kirk Cunningham '71, 2nd Vice President

Janette Park Whitsett '59, Secretary

Soapy Sudbury '58, Treasurer

Carolyn Kilpatrick Maas '58, Past Pres.

Bob Damon '53, President Emeritus

Gwen Bain Murphy '62, Historian

Rita Benton Bryant, '55 Class Rep

Peggy Lowe Martin, '55 Class Rep

Marjorie Royse Walsh, '56 Class Rep

Phyllis SoRelle Hicks, '56 Class Rep

Tuggie Tuckness, '57 Class Rep

Rosemary Somerville Gresham, '59 Class Rep

Phyllis Pannier Miranda, '65 Class Rep

Jeri Jackson Farris, '70 Class Rep

DECEMBER 2024 ISSUE MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

WONDER IF YOU PAID YOUR DUES?

LOOK AT THE ADDRESS LABEL ON THIS ISSUE—YOUR EXPIRATION DATE IS RIGHT ABOVE YOUR NAME.

IF YOU RECEIVE THE SS BY EMAIL, THE EXPIRATION DATE IS ON THE SUBJECT LINE OF YOUR EMAIL.

IF YOUR EXPIRATION DATE IS 12-31-2024, YOU NEED TO PAY 2025 DUES NOW!!

KURT'S COMMENTS.....

What a fantastic reunion we had this past October. As always, it was so good to get together with all of our Sandie friends and former classmates to see each other again and share memories of days past. And, what great memories were shared !

Regardless of what year you graduated, we are all part of the rich heritage, tradition, and spirit of being an Amarillo High School Sandie.

I want to give a big thank you to everyone who made this great event possible, especially all the members of our reunion committees. They worked many hours, not only at the event itself, but for many months prior in the planning and coordination of our registration, our business meetings, our memorabilia room, door prizes, and the wonderful dinner and dance at the Amarillo Club on Saturday night. They all worked tirelessly to make it happen ! A special thank you to Daphne Adkins and Jeri Farris for their hard work !!

I would also like to say thank you to Jack and Debra Sisemore for hosting a beautiful evening for all of us in their home Friday night. It was free for all attendees with amazing food and an open bar. It was a very enjoyable night! Thank you for being so generous, Jack and Debra!!

To all who were unable to attend our reunion this year, you missed a fun time and we missed seeing you. We look forward to seeing you in three years at the next reunion.

As always, “ONCE A SANDIE, ALWAYS A SANDIE” !

I am honored and excited to be your president for this fine organization for the next three years. I will do my best to do a good job for you. We have a great group of people serving on the board of directors and look forward to working together.

Amarillo High has held a special place in my heart since I was a child. My mother (Class of 1942), my brother (Class of 1964), and I (Class of 1970-The year of the fire), all graduated from the Polk Street campus. My two sons and my daughter all graduated from the new campus. My late brother, Larry, was a teacher and wrestling coach at AHS from 1972 until he retired in 2004.

And now my granddaughter is a freshman at AHS this year. That makes four generations of Sandies. Boy, am I one proud grandfather!

I would like to say thank you to Carolyn Maas for her dedication and hard work serving as our president for the past two years. I definitely have to work hard to just keep up, as she has done a tremendous job, She will remain on our board as past president. For that, I am very thankful, as I will seek her knowledge and expertise as I assume the role of president.

I would also like to thank Soapy Sudbury, who has served as our treasurer for many years, but also puts together our newsletter. He took over the publishing of our Sandie Spirit newsletter after Rita Bryant stepped down as publisher for many years.

Thank you, Rita for your dedication to our association as a President, Board Member and Editor of our newsletter.

I would like to say that this is your association. Let's keep it going and growing !! We need everyone's help to make that happen. Please tell others about us, tell them to join us and attend our meetings, and help us KEEP SANDIE TRADITION ALIVE!

Praying that all of you will have a very merry and blessed Christmas, and a healthy and happy New Year!

KURT GEHRING '70, PRESIDENT



DO YOUR FRIENDS THAT ARE FORMER CLASSMATES KNOW ABOUT THE AHS 50TH ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AND THE SANDIE SPIRIT? YOU WOULD BE SURPRISED AT HOW MANY SANDIES DON'T KNOW WE EXIST!

SPREAD THE WORD SO EVERYONE CAN KEEP UP WITH THEIR CLASSMATES!

THE TRIANNUAL REUNION WAS HELD OCTOBER 25—26TH, 2024 AND DID WE HAVE FUN! IF YOU MISSED THIS ONE, PLAN TO MAKE THE NEXT ONE IN 2027!

FRIDAY AFTERNOON WE HAD REGISTRATION AND A CHANCE TO SEE THE MEMORIABILIA ROOM.



FIDAY NIGHT WE ATTENDED A FABULOUS PARTY DONATED BY JACK & DEBRA SISEMORE AT THEIR HOME. THERE WAS A FABULOUS BUFFET AND AN OPEN BAR. EVERYONE HAD A GREAT TIME!

Editors Note:

Unfortunately, we all had fun and no one took any pictures for the Association. If you attended this great event and took any pictures, please send them to us at ahs50thumniassociation@gmail.com and we will print them in the next issue.

SATURDAY MORNING BUSINESS MEETING AND ELECTING NEW OFFICERS



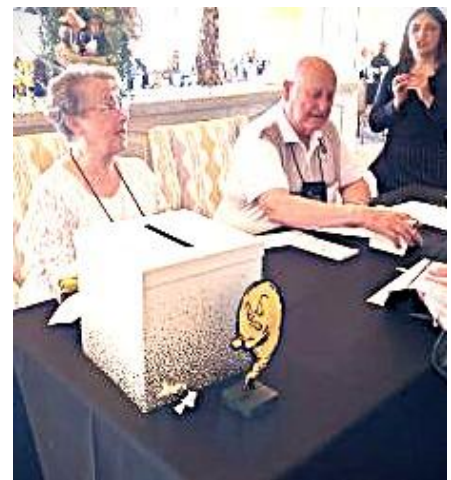
OUT WITH THE OLD AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!

Carolyn Kilpatrick Maas '58	-President
Kurt Gehring '70	-1st VP
Karen Caldwell '67	-2nd VP
Janette Park Whitsett '59	-Secretary
Soapy Sudbury '58	-Treasurer
Historian	-VACANT

IN WITH THE NEW WITH PRAYERS FOR YOU AS YOU GUIDE US IN THE FUTURE!

Kurt Gehring '70	-New President
Daphne Adkins '73	- New First VP
Kirk Cunningham '71	-New 2nd VP
Janette Park Whitsett '59	-New Secretary
Soapy Sudbury '58	-New Treasurer
Gwen Bains Murphy '62	-New Historian

SATURDAY EVENING WE ALL WENT UP TO THE AMARILLO CLUB ON THE 31ST FLOOR OF THE FIRSTBANK SOUTHWEST TOWER. EVERYTHING WAS FIRST CLASS AND THE MEAL WAS ABSLUTELY DELICIOUS. WAYNE WILLIAMS FROM THE CLASS OF '70 AND HIS CREW WAS THE DJ FOR THE EVENING AND WE WERE ENTERTAINED BY THE AMARILLO HIGH SCHOOL SHOW CHOIR. THE VIEW WAS SPECTACULAR, THE ENTERTAINMENT WAS FABULOUS, THE FOOD WAS FANTASTIC, WE HAD UNBELIEVABLE DOOR PRIZES AND THE MUSIC WAS TO DIE FOR! HERE ARE A FEW PICTURES.







CLASSMATE COMMENTS.....

SUE PATTERSON LANE '55 MERCER ISLAND, WA

Dear Sandies,

I know you will all have fun at the Reunion! Wish I could be there.

At that time, I am flying to see my three sisters, all of whom are Sandies. I'm leaving Seattle and flying to El Paso, TX for our mini-reunion, which includes me and Carol Patterson Esser 62, Cathy Patterson Parker'62 and Judy Patterson Delafield '58. We will all lift a toast to the reunion and wish the best for its success. ALWAYS A SANDIE!

Editors Note: Carol & Cathy have not joined our group and don't get the Sandie Spirit. Please encourage them to join in!

ALICE D GILES '57 RALEIGH, NC

Hi from Raleigh to everyone. Actually, I was in Texas this summer for my brother Charlie's 80th birthday.

We took a fast side trip to Branson, MO, where we enjoyed re-living Elvis. Having experienced the original, I can say the impersonator did an excellent job. He did a bit of "Army Elvis", Jailhouse Rock and Las Vegas. At 86, it made me feel young again! Good times and great memories!

DONNA HIX ROQUEMORE, '71 DE BERRY, TX

Thanks to Kurt Gehring and Kirk Cunningham for all you are doing to keep the Sandies of 1971 and every other year connected!

I, personally, graduated a year early and have had a hard time trying to stay connected with all my 1971 classmates.

It is great to hear there is a newsletter called the Sandie Spirit to help us keep in contact. Please put me on the list to receive it.

Love and prayers for all of you

CALLING ALL SANDIES!! THE SUCCESS OF THE SANDIE SPIRIT DEPENDS ON YOU! Your fellow classmates want to hear from you..... Where are you? What have you been doing since high school? Memories from high school, family information, trips, etc. Please send in stories, photos etc. It would be especially meaningful if we got some pictures and stories from this reunion, especially from Jack & Debra Sisemore's party.

JIM BEAVERS '57, GRAND JUNCTION, CO, an Oldie sent to him by
JOHN PRESTRIDGE, '57, MESA, AZ

THIS IS US
IF YOU ARE NOT IN THIS GROUP, I AM SORRY
YOU MISSED IT BECAUSE IT WAS REALLY THE
BEST OF TIMES:

99 % of those born between 1930 and 1946 (worldwide) are now dead. If you were born in this time span, you are one of the rare surviving 1 % ers of this special group. Their ages range between 77 and 93 years old, a 16 year age span.

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE 1% ERS:

You are the smallest group of children born since the early 1900's.

You are the last generation, climbing out of the depression, who can remember the winds of war and the impact of a world at war that rattled the structure of our daily lives for years.

You are the last to remember ration books for everything from gas to sugar to shoes to stoves.

You saved tin foil and poured fried meat fat into tin cans.

You can remember milk being delivered to your house early in the morning and placed in the "milk box" on the porch.

Discipline was enforced by parents and teachers.

You are the last generation who spent childhood without television; instead, you "imagined" what you heard on the radio.

With no TV, you spent your childhood "playing outside". There was no Little League. There was no city playground for kids

The lack of television in your early years meant that you had little real understanding of what the world was like.

We got "black-and-white" TV in the late 40s that had 3 stations and no remote.

Telephones were one to a house, often shared (party lines), and hung on the wall in the kitchen (no cares about privacy).

Computers were called calculators; they were hand-cranked.

Typewriters were driven by pounding fingers, throwing the carriage, and changing the ribbon.

'INTERNET' and 'GOOGLE' were words that did not exist.

Newspapers and magazines were written for adults and the news was broadcast on your radio in the evening. (your dad would give you the comic pages when he read the news)

New highways would bring jobs and mobility. Most highways were 2 lanes (no interstates).

You went downtown to shop. You walked to school.

The radio network expanded from 3 stations to thousands.

Your parents were suddenly free from the confines of the depression and the war, and they threw themselves into working hard to make a living for their families.

You weren't neglected, but you weren't today's all-consuming family focus. They were glad you played by yourselves.

They were busy discovering the postwar world.

You entered a world of overflowing plenty and opportunity; a world where you were welcomed, enjoyed yourselves.

You felt secure in your future, although the depression and poverty were deeply remembered.

Polio was still acrippler. Everyone knew someone who had it.

You came of age in the '50s and '60s.

You are the last generation to experience an interlude when there were no threats to our homeland.

World War 2 was over and the cold war, terrorism, global warming, and perpetual economic insecurity had yet to haunt life.

Only your generation can remember a time after WW2 when our world was secure and full of bright promise and plenty.

You grew up at the best possible time, a time when the world was getting better. More than 99% of you are retired now, and you should feel privileged to have "lived in the best of times!"

IF YOU HAVE ALREADY REACHED THE AGE OF 77 YEARS OLD, YOU HAVE OUTLIVED 99% OF ALL THE PEOPLE WHO WERE BORN IN THIS SPECIAL 16 YEAR TIME SPAN. YOU ARE A 1%ER!

**“Whoever established the high road and how high it should be should be fired”
— Sandra Bullock**

“Keep calm and carry a wand.” - A.W. Jantha, “Hocus Pocus & The All New Sequel”

“Have you ever noticed that anybody driving slower than you is an idiot, and anyone going faster than you is a maniac?” — George Carlin

OBITUARIES.....

CLASS OF 1946



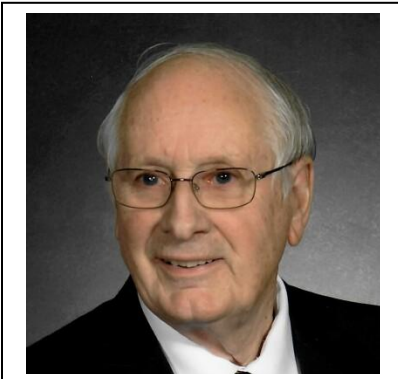
Horace Neal Lowe died 9-28-2024 in Amarillo

<https://www.schoolerfuneralhome.com/obituaries/horace-lowe>



Earl "Jay" O'Keefe died 11-8-2024 in Amarillo

<https://www.boxwellbrothers.com/obituaries/jay-okeefe>



Harold Donald Taylor died 11-15-2024 in Amarillo

<https://www.boxwellbrothers.com/obituaries/harold-taylor>

CLASS OF 1947



Virginia Irwin Maynard died 10-14-2024 in Amarillo

<https://www.boxwellbrothers.com/obituaries/virginia-maynard>

CLASS OF 1949



Jeter George Dickinson, III died 10-17-2024 in Amarillo

<https://www.boxwellbrothers.com/obituaries/jeter-dickinson-iii>



Wahleah Ivy Beck died 10-9-2024 in Albuquerque, NM

<https://www.boxwellbrothers.com/obituaries/wahleah-beck>

CLASS OF 1952



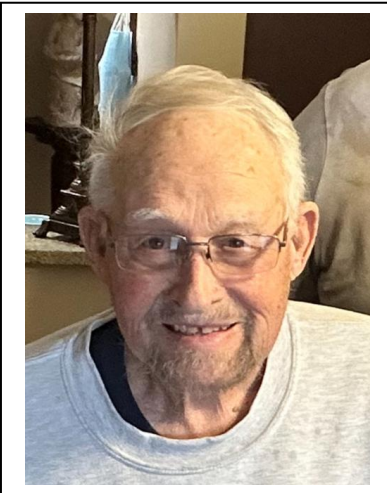
Dr Carter Edmond Karr died 11-3-2024 in Amarillo

<https://www.schoolerfuneralhome.com/obituaries/dr-carter-karr>



Dr Charles Kerr Hendrick died 10-11-2024 in Amarillo

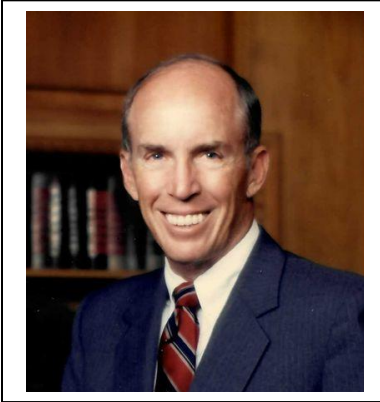
<https://www.schoolerfuneralhome.com/obituaries/charles-hendrick-md>



Cecil Johnson died 10-11-2024 in Amarillo

<https://www.coxrowleyfuneralhome.com/obituary/Cecil-Johnson>

CLASS OF 1953



Alan Roberson died 11-24-2024 in Amarillo

<https://www.boxwellbrothers.com/obituaries/alan-roberon>

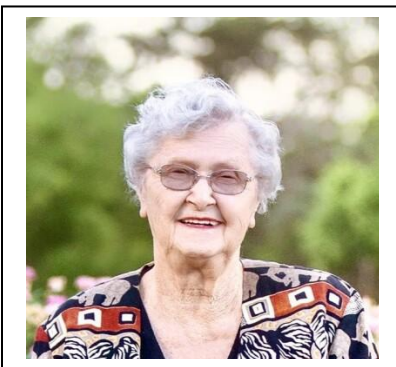
CLASS OF 1954



Patsy M Patrick Fox died 11-18-2024 in Amarillo

<https://www.schoolerfuneralhome.com/obituaries/patsy-fox>

CLASS OF 1955



Alva Jean Witherspoon Dremmel died 10-4-2024 in Amarillo

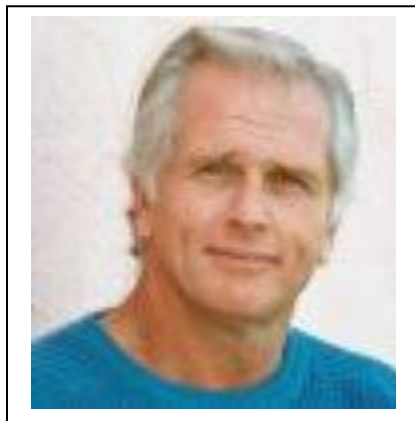
<https://www.lagroneblackburnshaw.com/obituaries/alva-dremmel>

CLASS OF 1956



James “Turtle” Bailey died 1-16-2024 in Garden Grove, CA

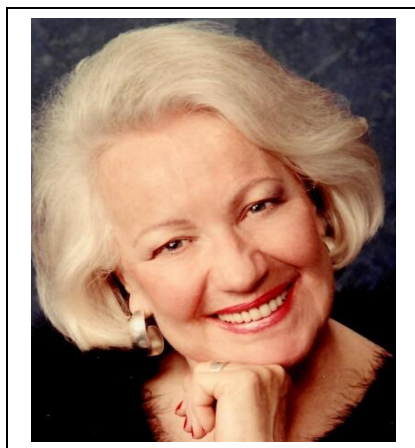
No Obituary is available



Ronald Pierce “Ron” Ely died 9-29-2024 in Los Alamos, CA

(Obituary not available. (Link to his Wikipedia page below)

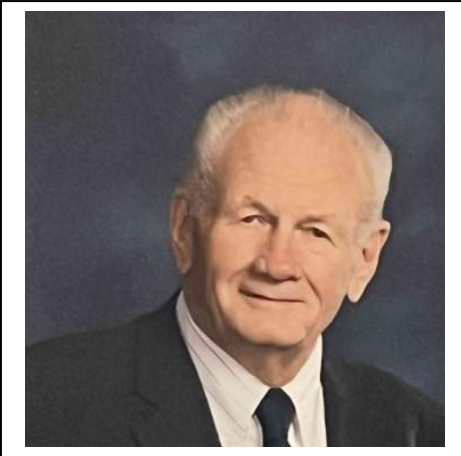
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ron_Ely



Mary Louise “Marilou” Morrison Guinn died 11-3-2024 in Amarillo

<https://www.boxwellbrothers.com/obituaries/mary-guinn>

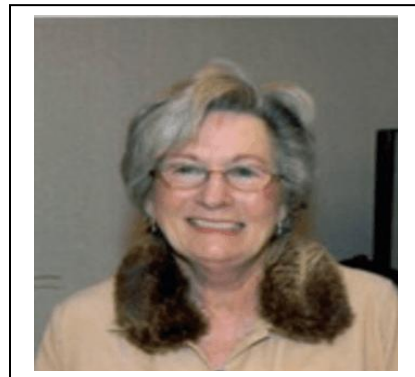
Class of 1956 Continued



Ray T “Tommy” Pace died 2-11-2024 in Nederland, TX

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/oaoa/name/ray-pace-obituary?id=54371896>

CLASS OF 1958



Sara Lynn Barnard Fansler died 11-18-2024 in Amarillo

<https://www.tributearchive.com/obituaries/33825128/sarah-lynn-fansler>

CLASS OF 1960



Joy Ann Elgin Clark died 10-22-2024 in Amarillo

<https://www.coxrowleyfuneralhome.com/obituary/Joy-Clark>

CLASS OF 1962



Sheldon Robert Massey died 10-15-2024 in Amarillo

<https://www.schoolerfuneralhome.com/obituaries/sheldon-massey>

CLASS OF 1963



Larry Kenneth Baggett died 10-24-2024 in Amarillo

<https://www.boxwellbrothers.com/obituaries/larry-baggett>

CLASS OF 1965



Margaret Lee Lutz Stavros died 11-23-24 in Paterson, NJ

<https://www.schoolerfuneralhome.com/obituaries/margaret-lutz-stavros>

MEMORIALS

DONOR

Carole LeMaster Boyer '66

Carolyn Kilpatrick Maas '58

Soapy Sudbury '58

Bill Hisey '56

Bill Hisey '56

MEMORIAL/HONORARIUM

Gene Boyer '64

Betty Askew Howell '58

Eva Jo Miller Sudbury '58

James "Turtle" Bailey '56

Ron Ely '56



**THE BOARD OF AHS 50TH ALUMNI ASSOCIATION,
INC. WISH ALL SANDIES A VERY MERRY
CHRISTMAS AND A VERY PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!**



Membership/Renewal Form

AHS 50th Alumni Association
P.O. Box 7146, Amarillo, TX 79114
ahs50thalumiasociation@gmail.com

The AHS 50th Alumni Association is active in promoting fellowship among graduates of the finest school anywhere—Amarillo High School. People really do enjoy hearing from the old gang and our bi-monthly publication is the surest way to get regular updates. Please share membership info with fellow Sandies who are not members.

First Name	Last Name in High School	Married Name (Ladies)	Class	
Spouse Name	Last Name in High School (Only if AHS) (Only if AHS)	Married Name (Ladies)	Class	
Address	City	State	Zip	Home Phone
Cell Phone	E-mail Address			

Annual Dues (due January 1, each year): Single Dues \$10.00 _____ Couple's Dues \$15.00 _____

DONATIONS

Amarillo High School 50TH Alumni Association, Inc. is a 501c3 corporation,
Tax Id # 75-2597825. Donations may be tax deductible. (Consult with your accountant)
**DONATIONS MAY BE MADE IN HONOR OF SOMEONE ALIVE OR IN MEMORY OF SOMEONE
DECEASED (Attach the Memorial/Honorarium form or list on back of this form)**

SCHOLARSHIPS: GENERAL \$ _____ KEN KOHLER \$ _____ Gary Biggers \$ _____
ART RESTORATION FUND \$ _____
HALL OF HONOR SCHOLARSHIP & MAINTENANCE FUND \$ _____
(Honoring Sandies who served and/or died in the U.S. military)

POLK STREET SCHOOLS HISTORICAL MARKER \$ _____
SANDIE SPIRIT PUBLICATION FUND (To help Keep Our Dues Low) \$ _____

(Mail check & this form to the address at top of this page) TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

NOW, WHY DON'T YOU WRITE A NOTE TO THE EDITOR telling classmates where you have been and what you have been doing? You know how you enjoy hearing from your friends. They, too, would like some news—FROM YOU!! Mail your story to the address on the Membership Registration Page. (Room to write on next page)



Name (Please Include Maiden Name)_____

**Mail to :
AHS 50th Alumni Association, P.O. Box 7146, Amarillo, TX 79114**

AHS 50th Alumni Associaton

P.O. Box 7146, Amarillo, TX 79114

AHS50thalumniassociation@gmail.com

MEMORIAL/HONORARIUM FORM

Your First Name Last Name in High School Married Name (Ladies) Class

Address City State Zip

In Memory _____ Honor _____ of _____ AHS Class _____

Please send an acknowledgement to:

Name _____

Address _____

AMARILLO HIGH SCHOOL 50TH ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, INC is a 501c3 corporation,
Tax Id # 75-2597825. Donations may be tax deductible. (Consult with your accountant)

Scholarships: General \$ _____ Ken Kohler _____ Gary Biggers \$ _____

Hall of Honor Scholarship & Maintenance Fund \$ _____
(Honoring those Sandies who served and/or died in the U.S. military)

Art Restoration Fund \$ _____

Polk Street Schools Historical Marker \$ _____

Sandie Spirit Publication Fund (To help Keep Our Dues Low) \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

(Mail check & this form to the following address):

AHS 50th Alumni Association, P.O. Box 7146, Amarillo, TX 79114



**Amarillo High School 50th Alumni
Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 7146
Amarillo, TX 79114**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

**OUR NEXT GENERAL MEETING WILL BE
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH, 2025 at 2:30 pm
SW AMARILLO PUBLIC LIBRARY
6801 SW 45Th AMARILLO, TX 79109
MAKE YOUR PLANS TO ATTEND!**