

## Member Spotlight: The Borger Aluminum Dome

You might be surprised to learn that one of the coolest venues in Texas sits in the Panhandle City of Borger. But once you see it, you'll be convinced. The venue is the "Borger Aluminum Dome!" The Dome is a full-service event venue designed to meet the needs of the city and the area's business and civic community.

Borger city staff has already booked a multitude of events, conferences, and entertainment at the Dome, which will attract visitors from the entire Tri-State area. The Dome is a beacon of pride in the community and will be as important to Borger's next 50 years as it has been for the past 50.

How did the Dome come about? In the post-war years of the mid- and late-1950s, Borger and Hutchinson County were experiencing an economic boom. The community began pushing for an event center. After residents submitted a petition of 707 signatures to the Hutchinson County Commissioners Court, the Court called for a Bond Election in 1957. The vote passed, with 598 for and 378 against. (The opponents of the project blamed the low voter turnout on the record high temperature of 100 degrees – don't forget that air conditioning didn't exist in 1957!)

The "Hutchinson County Dome" became the first "Kaiser Aluminum Dome" in the continental United States. It is still the oldest remaining Kaiser Dome.

Over the years, the Dome played host to some of Borger's greatest events, including the world's largest fish fry, the Magic Plains Oil Expo, and more. Recently, however, the condition of the dome declined. Without appropriate acoustics, heating and air conditioning, and other modern amenities, the future of the Dome was in doubt.

Not anymore! Hutchinson County transferred ownership of the Dome to the City of Borger in 2018, and it has gone through a complete renovation and expansion so that its legacy will live on. The stunning renovation, funded through the Hotel Occupancy Tax and a Venue Tax Election, is almost hard to believe. Check out this video to see why!

## Inside the Dome

