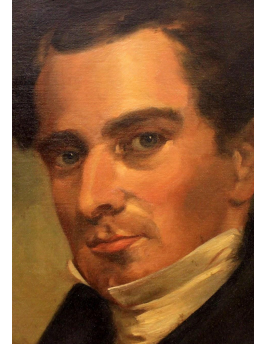


# Stephen F. Austin Chapter, DRT NEWSLETTER

November, 2024



## THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE



Hello, Ladies!

I would like to start off by saying thank you to you all, for the support, encouragement, and overall positivity I receive regarding my job as your SFA Chapter president, and your District VIII Representative. It means the world to me to have you all in my corner! Thank you to everyone who came to Kerrville for the District VIII meeting. The Joshua D. Brown Chapter ladies did a wonderful job putting on a lovely meeting, and they made it easy for me to preside over it. I look forward to doing it again with the William Barret Travis ladies in Austin next year. I hope those of you who came out to Kerrville enjoyed your meeting, met some new friends, and learned a lot! The district meetings are an important way we get together as a community, exchange ideas, and help each other get the most out of our DRT experience.

Believe it or not, it is already time to be thinking of our next officer elections, both for the chapter and for the District Representative. Both of those elections are held in odd numbered years. (For those of you wondering, I was made District VIII Representative at the 2024 Convention in Lubbock, to replace **Marilyn Wade**. I did not go through the election process in 2023.)

All that to say, if you are interested in holding, or want to nominate someone to hold, a chapter office in 2025-2027, please let **Muriel Parker**, the Nominating Committee Chair, know at [muriel.parker@gmail.com](mailto:muriel.parker@gmail.com).

If you would like to see me, or someone else from our Stephen F. Austin Chapter, as District VIII Representative on the Board of Management in 2025-2027, I will be asking for nominations at the November 18 SFA Chapter meeting.

On October 14, **Debi Pantalion** and I drove to Jacksonville (about 3.5 hours from Austin) to visit our friend and longtime chapter member, **Lucy Duncan**. Lucy has been in poor health for a few years, but has taken a turn for the worse. It would mean the world to her to hear from you. If you would like to send your love and good wishes, you can contact her at [lucyd4622@gmail.com](mailto:lucyd4622@gmail.com).

Another field trip is in the books! On October 23, **Sharyl Burshnick, Sherry Crickmer, Debi Pantalion, Muriel Parker, Febienne Mayfield**, and I drove to the historic townsite of San Felipe de Austin, where we learned about life in Texas Revolution-era life in a bustling frontier town, and about the terrifying Runaway Scrape ahead of Santa Anna's army. Bonus, we got another stamp in our Revolution and Republic Historic Sites Passport. We always have a grand time on our field trips. The next one will be in February, when we will go on an overnight trip to tour San Antonio missions. I hope we can get a big group! I will share details as soon as I can.

And finally, please consider attending the Stephen F. Austin Birthday and DRT Founders Day Luncheon, hosted by the William Barret Travis Chapter. **Dawn Buckingham**, the Texas Land Commissioner, will be speaking on "Save Texas History", and she will be inducted as a DRT member! The invitation and registration form are attached to this email. Act quickly; the deadline is Wednesday, October 30.

Happy trails!

-Milli Pope



Lucy Duncan sends her love from Jacksonville



Building reproductions from Revolution-era San Felipe de Austin



Our merry band of road trippers- we had a great time at San Felipe de Austin, and a delicious lunch at Wolfpack in Sealy!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

November 8, 2024

**What:** *Stephen F. Austin Birthday & DRT Founders Day Luncheon* hosted by the William Barret Travis Chapter

**Where:** *Balcones Country Club - 8600 Balcones Club Drive - Austin, Texas 78750*

**When:** 11:00 AM

**Please RSVP by 10/30/24 for this luncheon.** \*\*PDF invitation is attached to this email\*\*

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## FINANCIAL REPORT

**As of October 24, our balances were:**

**Chase Checking Account:** \$10,273.79

**Chase Scholarship Fund:** \$1,293.72

**Scholarship CD:** \$10,000.00

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### This Month in Republic of Texas History

**Thursday, November 30, 1837:**

Erastus Smith died today at his home in Richmond, Fort Bend County at the age of

50. Nicknamed "Deaf" for his hearing problem, he was renowned throughout Texas as General Sam Houston's most trusted scout and spy. He joined the Revolution almost at its outset, and participated in the Siege of Bexar and the battles preceding it. Recently retired from public life, Smith is survived by his wife, three daughters, and a son, aged 9 to 14 years.

## Texas Honor Days:

### Stephen F. Austin's Birthday: November 3

On November 3, we honor the Father of Texas, who was born on this day in 1793.

### DRT Founders' Day: November 6

November 6 marks the founding of the oldest women's patriotic organization in Texas, the Daughters of the Republic of Texas (DRT). On November 6, 1891, a group of sixteen women formalized a vision to perpetuate the memory and spirit of the men and women who achieved and maintained the independence of Texas.

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### \*Contest Information\*

Topics for the **2025 4th and 7th Grade Essay Contests**, as well as the **Scholarship Essay Contest**, are as follows:

**4th Grade Essay-** Write an essay on **Juana Navarro Alsbury**, survivor of the Alamo

**7th Grade Essay-** Which site should be regarded as the Birthplace of the Republic of Texas: **West Columbia, Washington-on-the-Brazos, or San Jacinto?** Any choice is acceptable, just make your argument with good research.

**Scholarship Essay-** Texas women had a huge part in creating at least five of the first flags of Texas used during the Revolution. Select two of these flags and discuss their design, history, importance, and role a Texas woman, or women, had in creating them.

See the DRT website ([DRTinfo.org](http://DRTinfo.org)) for information on how to enter the 4th or 7th Grade

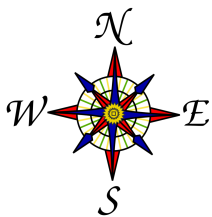


Essay Contests. Winners of the SFA Chapter contests will win \$100.00!

See the Stephen F. Austin Chapter website (AustinDRT.org) for rules and requirements for the Scholarship Essay Contest. Contestants must be related to a Stephen F. Austin Chapter member (including Associates and Affiliates). The winning essay will earn a \$1000.00 scholarship!

Questions? Ask our Honors and Awards Committee! **Laura Kitley** ([ldkitley@aol.com](mailto:ldkitley@aol.com)) or **Barbara Walters** ([bwalters7@att.net](mailto:bwalters7@att.net)).

## WHERE TO GO FOR WHAT:



With so many things going on in DRT and our chapter, it's hard to remember who to contact or where to go for what. This page has the basics.

**To order SFA Chapter name tags:**  
**GTX Awards in Georgetown** (512.868.5881) or [info@gtxawards.com](mailto:info@gtxawards.com)). Cost is \$12.50 including shipping.

**To order SFA Chapter pins and merchandise:**

**Send check payable to DRT-SFA to**  
**Milli Pope**  
2641 W 45th St.  
Austin, TX 78731

Chapter pins are \$25.00.  
Associate pins are \$20.00.  
Stickers or static cling decals are \$5.00  
Magnets are \$3.00

The **2023-2024 SFA Chapter Directory/Yearbook** and the **2024-2025 Yearbook Supplement** are available in

digital format. You can request a free digital copy from **Milli Pope** at [millipope@gmail.com](mailto:millipope@gmail.com). Hard copies of each are available at the chapter meetings.



To order **Native Texan license plates**: Visit the Texas Dept. of Transportation's website.

If you would like something put in the Chapter newsletter, contact **Milli Pope** by email: [millipope@gmail.com](mailto:millipope@gmail.com).

Send any contact info changes to **Sherry Crickmer** at [sacrickmer@gmail.com](mailto:sacrickmer@gmail.com) or **Allyce Dolan** at [allyce.dolan@gmail.com](mailto:allyce.dolan@gmail.com).

Additionally, send email address changes to **Milli Pope** to ensure you keep getting this newsletter. It's important we keep our records up to date.

