

November 2023

Stephen F. Austin Chapter Newsletter

President's Letter

Hello, Ladies!

Many of you know our immediate past treasurer and usual newsletter editor, **Lucy Duncan**. Lucy is recovering from a recent surgery, and is unable to do this month's newsletter. I take full responsibility for any errors. Let's keep Lucy in our prayers and good wishes.

I hope everyone else is getting out and enjoying this cooler weather we're having on and off. Gotta love Texas weather. Or not.

Our next meeting is Monday, November 20th at Northwest Recreation Center, 2913 Northland Drive, Austin, 78757, in our usual meeting room. The speaker will be **Doug K. Boyd**, Senior Archaeologist at Stantec, Inc., who will be presenting the program *Historical Archaeology at Frost Town: Investigating a 187-year-old Residential Community near Downtown Houston*. Juanita Painter, Allyce Dolan, and I will be your hostesses. I hope that many of you can make it. For those of you who can't get to the meeting, I am going to experiment with Facebook and try to livestream the meeting. I will email everyone the details on how to connect as the meeting date gets closer (and I figure it out). Please try to get to the physical meeting if you can, though. Those of us who lived through the covid Zoom meetings will attest that nothing beats live interaction.

If you missed the October 18th field trip to LaGrange, you missed a fun trip! Sharyl **Burshnick**, **Debi Pantalion**, **Sherilyn Owren**, **Sharon Rankin**, **Allyce Dolan**, and I toured **Monument Hill and Kreische Brewery** in LaGrange, where we met Katy, a wonderful volunteer tour guide. Katy walked us through the beautiful grounds, and was able to answer every question we asked her about the Mier Expedition and the Dawson Massacre. If you're ever headed through LaGrange, I would highly recommend stopping by and soaking up some history.

October 20-21 was the **District VIII DRT meeting**. Chapters from all over the area came to New Braunfels to learn, enjoy some good German entertainment, socialize, and shop! The Ferdinand Lindheimer Chapter had the honor of hosting this year, and they did a fabulous job. **Debi Pantalion**, **Laura Kitley**, **Barbara Walters**, and I attended. Those of you who remember last year's district meeting know what a monumental amount of work it takes. I will hit some of the highlights of the District meeting at our meeting, but for now I'll just say, I think we're steering the right course.

We just broke a record heat wave, and it's already time to think about **Christmas!** This year we will be meeting at **Sherry Crickmer's** house on December 1st, at 6:30pm. We will do a white elephant gift exchange, with a \$20 limit. Sherry's address is **10203 Aqua Verde Court, Austin, 78733.**

After the Christmas get together, the next meeting will be Wednesday, January 17th. Be sure to change that in your calendars. Because Monday, January 15th is Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, a federal holiday, the Northwest Recreation Center will be closed. We will be meeting at the **Texas Military Forces Museum at Camp Mabry** for a meeting/field trip. After the business meeting and lunch, we will have a guided tour through the Texas Revolution exhibit. You all are free to look around the rest of the exhibits after the guided tour. For those of you who have never been to this museum, it is a hidden gem here in Austin. Since this is a military installation, everyone coming in the gate will need a photo ID. **Admission is free.**

It is time again to start spreading the word. Our 4th and 7th graders, and high school seniors, need to start planning their essays for their respective contests! If you have contacts with 4th or 7th grade teachers, or with schools or home school parents, please tell them about our **Texas History Essay Contests.** This year the topics are:

4th grade: Collin McKinney

7th grade: The Canary Islanders

Winners at our chapter level receive \$50, and will have the honor of presenting their essay at our scholarship luncheon in April. They will also move on to a district competition, where their essay will be judged beside the other chapter winners in the district, with another \$50 prize for the winner. District winners move on to the national competition, which is a **BIG DEAL!** Winners of the national competition will be invited to the National Convention in May, where they will present their essays, they will receive a plaque, and they will get a check for \$500. A copy of the essay will also be preserved at the DRT Library in San Antonio. Go to drtinfo.org, click the "Learn" tab, then go to "Texas History Essays" for all the details. Entries are due to **Laura Kitley** at ldkitley@aol.com or **Barbara Walters** at bwalters7@att.net by February 1st, 2024.

The **Senior Scholarship Essay Contest** is also coming up. This year's topic is **Founding Mother: a woman who made a significant contribution to the Republic of Texas.** Any high school senior who is a relative of a member of the Stephen F. Austin Chapter (associates included) may submit an essay. Those essays are due March 1st, 2024, and winners will receive a \$1000 scholarship. Contact **Laura Kitley** or **Barbara Walters** for more information. {I would highly encourage those of you with high school seniors in their lives to get them to write an essay.

Historically speaking, more entrants than not have walked away with a scholarship. Would you throw away a \$1000 check?}

Member News:

In addition to **Lucy Duncan**, please keep **Don Creighton**, the husband of our lone Arizona member, **Shirley Pope Creighton**, and **Andrew McVeigh**, husband of **Ervalyn McVeigh**, in your hearts and prayers.

Financial Report:

As of September 26th, our balances were:

Checking Account: \$10,083.02

Scholarship Fund: \$11,752.15

Texas Honor Days:

November 3 - Stephen F. Austin's birthday

November 6 - DRT Founder's Day

Please observe these days by flying your Texas Flag.

This Month in Republic of Texas History:

Wednesday, November 30, 1836- The Republic of Texas government, by an act of the First Texas Congress, designated Houston City the temporary capital of Texas. Houston's developers, August C. and John K. Allen, claimed "nature seems to have designated this place for the future seat of government", and that Houston will become "the great commercial emporium of Texas".

Et c.:

To order:

SFA Chapter name tags: GTX Awards in Georgetown (512.868.5881) or info@gtxawards.com.

Cost is \$12.50, including shipping.

SFA Chapter pins, stickers, or other merchandise: Send check payable to **DRT-SFA** to

Milli Pope

**2641 W. 45th Street
Austin, TX 78731**

OR

Send **Zelle** payment to StephenFAustin@drinfo.org; note what it is for.

Chapter Pins are **\$25.00**

Associate Pin with ribbon are **\$20.00**

Stickers and cling decals are **\$5.00** each.

2023-2024 SFA Chapter Directory/Yearbook: You can request a free digital copy from **Milli Pope** at millipope@gmail.com or **Lucy Duncan** at lucyd4622@gmail.com. A limited number of paper copies are available at the meetings.

Native Texan License Plates: Visit the Texas Department of Transportation website.

And Finally....

If you would like to put something in the Chapter newsletter, contact **Lucy Duncan** by email at lucyd4622@gmail.com.

If any of your contact information changes, please let Sherry Crickmer and Lucy Duncan know through their email addresses:

sacrickmer@gmail.com

lucyd4622@gmail.com.

It's important we keep our records up to date.

Until the meeting, happy trails!

Milli Pope