

Stephen F. Austin Chapter, DRT

NEWSLETTER

November, 2025



THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE



Hello, Ladies!

Here we are at the end of October / beginning of November, and it finally is starting to feel like autumn. Cooler temperatures and college football; Halloween will be over before you know it, and the holiday season will be upon us.

Even though we didn't have an October meeting, Stephen F. Austin Chapter managed to keep busy. On October 10-11, I was excited to see so many of our chapter members at the **District VIII Meeting** in Austin! Present were **Debi Pantalion, Allyce Dolan, Laura Kitley, Juanita Painter, Audrey Poche, Carolyn Schilthuis, Sharyl Burshnick, Sherilyn Owren, Suellen Mills, Beverly Locklin, Lori Helmers, and Terri Obermiller**, as well as affiliate members **Gayla Lawson and Julie Sheldon**. Lori and her sons were gracious enough to put on a Traveling Trunk presentation for the gathering that was recorded to be part of the DRT website. I told all of District VIII that SFA Chapter is the best, and I stand by that. Y'all do me proud.

On October 21, **Terri Obermiller, Debi Pantalion** and I traveled to New Braunfels and the **Sophienburg Museum**. There we met **Sharyl and Mike Burshnick**, as well as Abishai Mercer Dickson Chapter members **Kreschendalyn Backus and Julie Sheldon** for a tour of the museum and a peek into the archives. If you have German ancestors who came through that part of Texas, it is definitely worth the trip to see what life was like for them. The archives are great for those at the beginning stages of their family research. Afterward we ate lunch at **Krause's Cafe and Biergarten**, then most of us went on to visit the **Museum of Handmade Furniture**. Our docent was exceptionally knowledgeable and enthusiastic to share his love of biedermeier furniture. The museum looks like your Oma's house- the only thing missing is the smell of fresh baked kuchen.

Our First VP **Terri Obermiller** has volunteered to host the SFA Christmas gathering this year. It will be a potluck luncheon on December 17, starting at 11am. We will have a sign up sheet at the November meeting; the chapter will pay for turkey or ham or something along those lines. Time to show off those family holiday recipes! We'll also do a White Elephant / Dirty Santa style gift exchange, with a spending limit of \$25.

Don't forget to pick up your copy of the chapter yearbook at the meeting. Be sure to check your listing- I will do an addendum for corrections.

I look forward to seeing you all soon.
Until then, happy trails!

-Milli Pope



Top photo (at the District VIII Meeting): Terri Obermiller, Lori Helmers, Beverly Locklin, Suellen Mills, Sherilyn Owren, Debi Pantalion, Milli Pope, Ora Jane Johnson, Jo Macaluso, Juanita Painter, Laura Kitley, Allyce Dolan, Gayla Lawson, Carolyn Schilthuis, Audrey Poche

Bottom left (at Sophienburg Museum): Kreschendalyn Backus, Terri Obermiller, Milli Pope, Sharyl Burshnick, Julie Sheldon

Bottom Middle (at Krause's Cafe): Debi Pantalion, Milli Pope, Kreschendalyn Backus, Julie Sheldon, Terri Obermiller, Sharyl Burshnick

Bottom right (at Museum of Handmade Furniture): Terri Obermiller, Milli Pope, Julie Sheldon, Debi Pantalion, Kreschendalyn Backus

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 17, 2025

What: Stephen F. Austin Chapter meeting

Where: Northwest Recreation Center
2913 Northland Drive, Austin, TX 78757

When: 12 PM to 2:00 PM

December 17, 2025

What: SFA Christmas Luncheon and gift exchange

Where: Terri Obermiller's house at 5728 Standing Rock Drive, Austin, TX 78730

When: 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM

How: Sign up sheet will be at the November meeting. Otherwise, RSVP with **Milli**

FINANCIAL REPORT

As of October 27, our balances were:

Chase Checking Account: \$10,772.00

Chase Scholarship Fund: \$3,768.47

Scholarship CD: \$10,115.65



This Month in Republic of Texas History

November, 1837:

This month, the Republic of Texas took a significant step toward establishing

international relations when the first officially recognized foreign diplomat, Alcée La Branche of the United States, presented his credentials in Houston. His arrival marks the formal recognition of Texas independence by the U.S. government, which occurred earlier this year,

and symbolized our Republic's growing legitimacy on the world stage. La Branche's appointment as chargé d'affaires will help strengthen trade and communication between the two nations and encourage other countries to consider diplomatic relations with Texas. This event reflects the Republic's determination to secure its place among independent nations despite ongoing political and financial challenges.

Texas Honor Days:

Stephen F. Austin's Birthday: November 3

Stephen F. Austin (1793-1836), known as the "Father of Texas," was an American empresario who led the first successful colonization of Texas by bringing 300 families from the United States to settle there in the 1820s. He worked tirelessly to secure land grants, maintain peace with Mexico, and promote orderly settlement. Though initially loyal to Mexico, Austin ultimately supported Texas independence and helped lay the foundation for the Republic of Texas.

DRT Founders' Day: November 6

On November 6, 1891, a group of seventeen ladies met in the home of Mrs. Andrew Briscoe in Houston to carry out the idea of Misses Betty Ballinger and Hally Bryan for organizing a Republic of Texas daughters' organization to meet with the Texas Veterans.

Contest Information

See AustinDRT.org for the scholarship contest information. 4th and 7th grade contest information may be found at AustinDRT.org or DRTinfo.org.

Scholarship Contest: Texas was a Republic from 1836 to 1846. Discuss the economic advantages of Texas becoming part of the United States and how they affected the shape of Texas today.

SFA DRT 4th Grade Essay Contest:
"Alabama-Coushatta Tribe in the Republic of Texas."
Explore their interactions with the settlers and assistance during the Texas Revolution.

SFA DRT 7th Grade Essay Contest:
"Three Important Flags of Texas"
Many flags were used during the Texas Revolution. Choose three and tell why they were designed; who designed them; what is the significance of the design and where they were used.

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

The **2025-2026 SFA Chapter Directory/Yearbook** is available in digital format. You can request a free digital copy from **Milli Pope** at millipope@gmail.com. Hard copies of each are available at the chapter meetings.



Native Texan license plate sales fund grants by DRT to deserving projects. Please

consider showing your Texas pride on your car and supporting some good causes!

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.

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). 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.

Send any contact info changes to **Sherry Crickmer** at sacrickmer@gmail.com or **Allyce Dolan** at 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.

