



SFA NEWSLETTER

WHAT'S GOING ON WITH OUR CHAPTER

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE



SFA President Debra Pantalion

Happy New Year! Can you believe it's 2023? Last year just seemed to fly by.

We started December with a Christmas get-together at **Sherry Crickmer's** home on December 5th. Her home is lovely and was perfectly decorated. *Thank you, Sherry, for your hospitality.* We enjoyed a scrumptious lunch provided by attendees **Carolyn Schilthuis, Sharyl Burshnick, Allyce Dolan, Barbara Walters, Milli Pope** and yours truly. In lieu of a party and auction, we opted to donate items to a very worthy cause—**The Center for Child Protection**. While drinking and stuffing ourselves on the great food, we also stuffed the donated items in bags left over from the District Meeting. All of the attendees donated items as well as **Jan Gonzalez**. The items included socks, underwear, puzzles, books, colors, pens, drawing pads, games, dolls, candy and more. Sherry contacted the Center and they picked up the bags. They were very grateful.



On December 17th, I participated in placing wreaths at the Texas State Cemetery for Wreaths Across America. The organization raised enough funds to put a wreath on every grave. Several hundred people attended on a beautiful sunny, yet chilly, day. The Color Guard presented the flags and 11-year-old Remmer Machamer led the pledge to the US flag.

Governor Abbot gave the opening statement, and cemetery officials talked about the cemetery and the importance of Wreaths Across America. If you've never attended this ceremony, I highly recommend it. Photos from the ceremony and the Christmas "party" are elsewhere in this newsletter.

Our next meeting will be January 16th at **Eralyn McVeigh's** home and she will be our speaker. **Pat Horridge** will attend our meeting to discuss the RTHC. Hostesses will be **Laura Kitley, Barbara Walters** and **Debi Pantalion**.

In January, we try to have a Welcoming Ceremony for any new members who have not had the opportunity to participate, no matter how long ago they joined. If you plan to attend the meeting and would like to participate in this ceremony, let me know so we can be prepared. Contact me at dpantalion@austin.rr.com.

If you have not logged in to the new DRT website, please do so ASAP. Constant Contact is going away so the only communication you will receive will be through the website-drtinfo.org/members. If you need help accessing the website, contact **Jana** at HQ (512.339.1997). You will need your member number.

This new year will bring many changes, including new officers. We are adding new members, which is wonderful. Meeting attendance has been going up, so I hope that continues.

So . . . Best wishes for a productive year and I'll see you at the January meeting!

-- **Debi Pantalion**

OUR NEXT MEETING

Home of **Ervalyn McVeigh**
48 Cottdale Road
Austin 78738
(in The Hills of Lakeway gated community)



Ervalyn will give a presentation on *Build The Flag.*

The hostesses will be **Laura Kately**, **Barbara Walters** and **Debi Pantalion**.



January 26 – Mirabeau B. Lamar Day

Lamar is honored as Texas’ “Father of Education.” He served as the second President of the Republic of Texas from 1838-1841. During his administration, Congress granted each of the existing 23 counties four leagues of land to be used for education and set aside 50 leagues for the development of a university.

FINANCIAL REPORT



As of January 4th, our balances were:

Checking Account: \$10,417.74
Scholarship Fund Account: \$11,527.66



This is the time we usually announce the opening of the scholarship essay competition. However, before we begin the involved process of setting it up, we’d like to know if there are any eligible AND interested prospects.

If you have a family member (child, grandchild, niece, nephew, etc.) who is a graduating high school Senior and is interested in submitting an essay, please let **Lucy Duncan** know by JANUARY 15th. You can email her at lucyd4622@gmail.com. The essays would be due by March 1st.



We’ve added two more new members!

Lori Helmers and **Kristina Overton**.

Lori lives in Austin, and Kristina lives in Windcrest, TX. Kristina is also the mother SFA member, **Ophelia Overton**. (We do love those family connections!)



Thank you for choosing our chapter for your entry into DRT!

CHRISTMAS

*Packing gift bags
for The Center for
Child Protection*



*From l to r: Sharyl Burshnick,
Carolyn Schilthuis, Allyce Dolan,
Barbara Walters, Hostess Sherry
Crickmer & Milli Pope*



*From l to right: Debi Pantalion,
Sharyl Burshnick, Barbara
Walters, Milli Pope & Sherry
Crickmer*



All of this

went here



 **WREATHS** *across* **AMERICA**

Wreaths Across America places wreaths on the graves of our ancestors, our heroes and our fallen to honor them. No wreath is placed in a cemetery unless enough funds are raised to put a wreath on every grave.



Governor Greg Abbott gave the opening remarks at the ceremony.



Debi Pantalion at the graves of one of her ancestors and author J. Frank Dobie.

All graves at the Texas State Cemetery received a wreath with a red bow.

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 donate 0.5% of your online Amazon purchases to our Scholarship Fund, you must first register at Smile.Amazon.com. Enter this link and follow the instructions.

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7319244>

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 **SFA-DRT** to

Lucy Duncan
914 Crestwood Dr.
Jacksonville, TX 75766

Chapter pins are **\$20.00**.
Associate pins are **\$15.00**.
Stickers and static-cling decals are **\$5.00** each.



The 2021-2022 **SFA Chapter Directory/Yearbook** is now available only in digital form. You can request a free copy from Lucy Duncan. Email is lucyd4622@gmail.com.

The **2022-2023 Supplement** is available in hard copy as of the September meeting. Digital copies are also available. However, it contains **ONLY** the changes from the Directory plus new member info.

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 **Lucy Duncan** by email:

lucyd4622@gmail.com

JUST A LITTLE *Reminder*

If any of your contact info changes, please let Lucy Duncan know through the email address above. It's important that we keep our records up to date.



We will start collecting dues in March or April.

At the May Convention, DRT voted to raise the dues paid to Headquarters by \$5.00. This means we will be collecting **\$65.00** from SFA Chapter members.

The deadline for dues is **JULY 1st**.