

February 2024

Stephen F. Austin Chapter Newsletter

President's Letter

Hello, Ladies, and welcome to February! I hope you all are doing well.

The **Stephen F. Austin Chapter** had an eventful January, starting with our chapter meeting/field trip to the **Texas Military Forces Museum** at Camp Mabry. What an impressive collection of everything the military forces of Texas have used, from the time we were part of Mexico to modern times! I hope everyone who attended enjoyed learning about the uniforms and equipment used by the military forces in the Texas Revolution. Also, the January meeting was the inaugural **Facebook live feed** meeting. Viewing it later, I realize the production value could be better, but I hope to improve upon it at subsequent meetings. Sign up for the **Stephen F. Austin DRT Facebook group** to watch the recording of the January meeting or to watch the March meeting live.

On **January 29th**, we held our first **genealogy workshop** at **Allyce Dolan's** home. I hope to have more in the future, while refining the process a bit. It was good to see what everyone's needs and expectations are, and I thank **Debi Pantalion, Lori Jackson-Khalil, Cristina Kurth, Sharyl Burshnick, Beverly Locklin, Beverly Vaughn, Audrey Poche**, and of course **Allyce Dolan** for attending. Also a big thank you to Allyce for opening her beautiful home to us, and being such a wonderful hostess! I presented information on how to order DRT grave markers for our ancestors (and ourselves), as well as some tips and tricks for rooting out background information on our ancestors. I hope everyone who attended came away with information they can use.

It's coming up quickly! Weather permitting; on **February 20th, 2024** we will be heading out for our **Gonzales and Goliad field trip**. We're taking a 12 passenger van this time, and we only have six people (including myself) confirmed so far. Confirmed field trippers are **Fabienne Mayfield, Muriel Parker, Joyce Fisher, Sharyl Burshnick, Debi Pantalion**, and **myself**. Don't forget your **Texas Revolution and Republic Historic Sites passports!** We will meet and park at the Northwest Recreation Center. Plan to be ready to leave there by 8:00 am. If you are planning to join us, please **Zelle \$30 to stephenfaustin@drt.org**, or **RSVP to me at millipope@gmail.com as soon as possible** and let me know the check's in the mail. The \$30 covers the van and gas-there may be entrance fees at one or more of our stops that will cost extra. Join us!

Entries for the **Texas History Essay Contests** are due **February 1st**. Unless we get a "Hail Mary" entry, it looks like we won't be handing out prizes for 4th and 7th grade essays. Despite the valiant efforts of **Laura Kitley** and **Barbara Walters**, we have no essay entries. It's disappointing that the Stephen F. Austin chapter won't be represented in the regional competition, but I hope other Austin area chapters are well-represented. We'll try again next year...

I'm sure we will have better luck with the **Senior Scholarship Essay Contest**. The 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 essay requirements and more information. Please encourage any high school seniors in your life to submit an essay!

Speaking of the scholarship contest, planning for the scholarship luncheon is in the works. As you know, this is our chapter's big event of the year, and it takes all of us to pull it off. This year's luncheon will be on **Saturday, April 20, at Balcones Country Club**. So far I have **Juanita Painter** and **Debi Pantalion** down to handle check in, name tags, door prize ticket sales, et c.; **Muriel Parker** to run the silent auction; **Joyce Fisher** is handling the centerpieces and decorations with the assistance of **Sharyl Burshnick**; **Laura Kitley** will make name tags, and **Audrey Poche** to help set up. If you have an eye for decorating, I am sure Joyce and Sharyl would appreciate some help with that. We also need more volunteers for setup the day of the luncheon. Email me at millipope@gmail.com if you would like to join the effort! As they say, many hands make light work. **ALSO**, be on the lookout for door prizes or silent auction items to donate. Silent auction sales help replenish our scholarship fund every year, and we are grateful to our generous donors!

Our Next Meeting:

The schedule will be back to normal for our **March chapter meeting**. It will be held **Monday, March 18th** at the **Northwest Recreation Center at 2913 Northland Drive in Austin**.

Member News:

Please look out for chapter members who might need prayers and support. We know **Andrew**, husband of **Ervalyn McVeigh**, has been ill, and we hope all is well in the McVeigh home. **Lucy Duncan** is slowly recovering from her recent illness and surgery. She reports that she may be back to her newsletter production duties as soon as next month. She says I'm doing a good job with the newsletter, but I'm sure we would all agree that it looks much nicer under her care.

Financial Report:

As of January 31, 2024, our balances were:

- **Checking Account: \$10,064.85**
- **Scholarship Fund: \$2,252.45**
- **9 month CD bearing 4.5% interest (matures/renews on October 3, 2024): \$10,000.00 plus \$33.80 interest earned since January 3rd.**

Texas Honor Days:

Texas Statehood Day. February 19th, Statehood Day, honors Texas' entry into the United States as the 28th state in the Union.

Please observe this day by flying your Texas Flag.

This Month in Republic of Texas History:

Tuesday, February 23, 1836: The Alamo siege began today. Inside the garrison are 150 Texians, determined to defend their position at all costs. Over 1000 Mexican soldiers are gathered, and additional forces led by General Antonio López de Santa Anna are believed to be advancing. The Mexicans have raised a blood-red flag, indicating that no quarter would be given. Sharing the command of the Alamo are Colonel William Barret Travis and Colonel James Bowie.

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 or **Milli Pope** at millipope@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.

Happy trails until we meet again!

Milli Pope