

December 2023

Stephen F. Austin Chapter Newsletter

President's Letter

Hello, Ladies!

I hope everyone had a safe and happy Thanksgiving, and are ready for the rest of the Holiday Season.

I am still on newsletter duty, as **Lucy Duncan**, our usual newsletter editor extraordinaire, is still on the mend from her surgery. Let's continue to keep Lucy in our prayers and good wishes.

Last month I had promised I would do a Facebook live stream of the November meeting. I had the best of intentions, but due to contact with a very ill patient the night before, I had to wait on medical clearance to go to the meeting. I missed the first part of the meeting, so it was not set up. For those of you who may have been counting on me to stream the meeting, I apologize, and will try again in January. To see the meeting live, you will have to join the "**Stephen F. Austin, The Daughters of the Republic of Texas**" Facebook page, and be watching the page at meeting time.

Our next meeting is at noon on WEDNESDAY, January 17th, at the Texas Military Forces Museum at Camp Mabry. This will be a unique opportunity to have a meeting and field trip all in one! The Texas Military Forces Museum honors Texas military personnel from before the Texas Revolution to present day. After our business meeting and lunch, we will have a guided tour of the exhibit encompassing the Republic of Texas era. Feel free to explore the rest of the museum afterward- you won't want to miss it! **Debi Pantalion, E.J. Vande Streek, and Sherry Crickmer** will be your hostesses. Entrance to the museum is free, but you *must* show a valid ID at the main gate to Camp Mabry to go on base. The main entrance is at Maintenance Drive off 35th Street, just west of MoPac. Here is a link to the map:

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/ULdqpSmQYhyoPvQQ8>

If you haven't already done so, please respond to the eVite for the **Christmas get-together at Sherry Crickmer's** house. It's on December 1st, at 6:30pm at **10203 Aqua Verde Court, Austin, 78733**. We will do a white elephant gift exchange with a \$20 limit. It'll be a fun warm-up to the rest of the holiday season! Contact Sherry at sacrickmer@gmail.com with any questions.

Come to **Allyce Dolan's** house on **Monday, January 29th, 2024** for an informal **genealogy workshop**. It'll be kind of a paper party for posthumous applications, DRT grave marker applications for Republic of Texas ancestors and deceased DRT members, and supplementals. Also, if you have an interest in genealogy but not a lot of experience, this is a wonderful opportunity to pick up tips and tricks! Everyone is welcome. Allyce's address is **2318 Shoalmont Drive, Austin, TX 78756**. RSVP to Allyce at allyce.dolan@gmail.com.

Save the date: On **February 20th, 2024** we will be heading up and moving out for another **field trip**. This time we will be visiting **Gonzales and Goliad**. There are so many Texas Revolution and Republic of Texas

sights to see in both places, and we are just the ladies to appreciate them. Don't forget your Texas Revolution and Republic Historic Sites passports, because this is our next opportunity to get stamps as a group! We will meet and park at the Northwest Recreation Center. Plan to be ready to leave there by 8:00. RSVP to me at millipope@gmail.com by February 1st. The cost will be **\$30 each**, to cover the cost of the van and gas. There may be entrance fees at one or more of our stops.

Keep 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, receive a plaque, and 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** 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.

Member News:



SFA immediate past President **Debi Pantalion** recently visited with another past SFA President, **Gayla Lawson**. Gayla moved to Huntsville but is still an affiliate SFA member. They had a lovely lunch at the Country Club on Elkins Lake, and afterwards had a very nice visit at Gayla's home. Of course, they talked genealogy! Debi says they talked too long, but it was so good to see her. They are doing well and love their new home, but Gayla misses us. The feeling is mutual, Gayla! Come visit us whenever you can.

In addition to **Lucy Duncan**, please keep **Don Creighton**, the husband our member (and my aunt) **Shirley Pope Creighton**, and **Andrew McVeigh**, husband of **Ervalyn McVeigh**, in your hearts and prayers. If you know of anyone else who is going through a hard time and could use some extra

prayers (and they don't mind having their names in the newsletter), please let me know.

Financial Report:

As of November 22, 2023, our balances were:

Checking Account: \$10,058.02

Scholarship Fund: \$11,752.25

Texas Honor Days:

December 9th- Siege of Bexar Day

The Siege of Bexar began in October 1835 and ended with the surrender of Mexican General Cos on December 9, 1835. This was the only victory of the Revolution until the Battle of San Jacinto. When Texian troops were about to go into winter quarter, Colonel Ben Milam drew a line in the dirt and challenged them by saying, "Who will follow old Ben Milam into San Antonio?"

Three hundred men, under the leadership of Ben Milam and Francis Johnson, entered San Antonio before dawn on December 5. The conflict was fought house to house. Milam was killed by a sniper. General Cos surrendered on December 9. This is how the Texans got the Alamo.

Please observe this day by flying your Texas Flag.

This Month in Republic of Texas History:

Tuesday, December 27th, 1836: Texas Secretary of State Stephen F. Austin, the Father of Texas, died today at the age of 43 after a lengthy illness. Texas Secretary of War William S. Fisher orders all garrisons to fire 23 guns (one for each county in the Republic) at five minute intervals, and to hang the garrison and regimental colors with black. Weeks before his death Austin wrote: "I have no farm, no cotton plantation, no income, no money, no comforts. I have spent the prime of my life and worn out my constitution in trying to colonize this country." He was never married, and leaves no children.

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