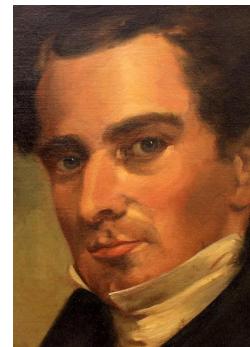


Stephen F. Austin Chapter, DRT

NEWSLETTER

February, 2026



THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE



Hello, Ladies!

Wow, is it just me, or did winter choose violence over the weekend? I hope you all are safe and warm.

On January 19 we had a wonderful January meeting at the fabulous Chez Obermiller, and what a treat to have professor and author **George Obermiller** speak! Thank you again, **Terri**, for your hospitality. And, thank you **Debi Pantalion, Cheryl Mazur, and Jan Redden** for bringing a delicious lunch. If you liked the chicken chili as much as I did, hit up **Jan** for the recipe.

At the January meeting we also toasted Stephen F. Austin, on the (near) anniversary of his receipt of the land grant for the Old 300. I hope you will join us in thinking about his sacrifices and hardships in shaping Texas as it is today. For better or worse, Texas is ours, and we love it.

Speaking of upcoming anniversaries, Monday, March 2 is the 190th anniversary of Texas Independence. I will mention it again in next month's newsletter, but I hope you will be ready to show your Texas pride at an event, or by flying your Texas flag.

Don't forget to RSVP for the upcoming field trip to Washington on the Brazos! Send \$30 via Zelle, or bring me a check or cash. Just make sure you're on the list- I don't want to leave anyone behind. Make sure you have your red Texas History passport, or you can pick one up onsite. We will visit three sites all in the same area, and have lunch at R Place Restaurant in Washington. As usual, we will meet in the parking lot of Northwest Recreation Center and leave as close to 8am as humanly possible.

And, soon it will once again be time to start collecting dues for our beloved Stephen F. Austin Chapter, Daughters of the Republic of Texas. Our Treasurer Extraordinaire **Sherry Crickmer** will start sending invoices on April 1. If you are so moved, though, you may go ahead and pay your dues via Zelle to stephenfaustin@drtinfo.org. Dues for full DRT members is \$65; associate and affiliate memberships are \$15.

Finally, please please ask your 4th graders, 7th graders, and high school seniors to submit essays for our contests! Historically speaking, if they submit an essay, it is highly likely they will make some money. It would be a shame if we had our lovely Scholarship Luncheon and no one got a check.

Stay safe, stay warm, and until we meet again Happy Trails!

-Milli Pope



A toast to Stephen F. Austin, by grateful members of his namesake chapter...

Bottom left to right, prospective member **Emma Chachere**, Past President and 2nd VP **Debi Pantalion**, Past Custodian General and Chaplain General, current Honors and Awards Officer **Dusky Waters**, Treasurer **Sherry Crickmer**, Recording Secretary **Juanita Painter**, Historian **Carolyn Schilthuis**, Chapter President and District VIII Representative **President Milli Pope**; top, **Sharyl Burshnick**, Registrar **Allyce Dolan**, **Jan Redden**, 1st VP **Terri Obermiller**, **Cheryl Mazur**, **Sharilyn Owren**.



Left: **Milli Pope**, professor and author **G.D. Obermiller**, and (his sister-in-law) **Terri Obermiller**
 Right: **G.D.Obermiller** reads an excerpt from his first novel, **River Walk Murder**.

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 18, 2026

What: Field trip to Washington on the Brazos

Where: Meet at Northwest Recreation Center, 2913 Northland Dr, Austin, TX 78757

When: Departing at 8am.

FINANCIAL REPORT

As of January 27, 2026, our balances were:

Chase Checking Account: \$10,902.00

Chase Scholarship Fund: \$3,959.90

Scholarship CD: \$10,500.00



This Month in Republic of Texas History

February, 1836

This month, the Republic of Texas is in the midst of a desperate struggle for independence as the Mexican army, led by General Antonio López de Santa Anna, has launched a major offensive to suppress the rebellion. On February 23, Santa Anna's forces will arrive in San Antonio de Béxar and begin the 13-day siege of the Alamo, prompting defenders like William B. Travis to issue famous pleas for reinforcements that will eventually rally the Texian cause. Simultaneously, the earliest phases of the Runaway Scrape have begun as

settlers in south-central Texas, hearing reports of the advancing Mexican military, have abandoned their homes in a panicked flight toward the eastern border for safety. This pivotal month also sees General José de Urrea achieve a victory at the Battle of San Patricio on February 27, further intensifying the atmosphere of crisis that will lead to the formal declaration of independence just days later in March.

Texas Honor Days:

Texas Statehood Day: February 19

The legal entry of Texas into the Union was 29 December 1845, but the decade-old Republic of Texas did not formally transfer its authority to the new State of Texas until 19 February 1846. DRT celebrates 19 February 1846 as Statehood Day and as a Texas Honor Day.

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.

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.
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.

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.

