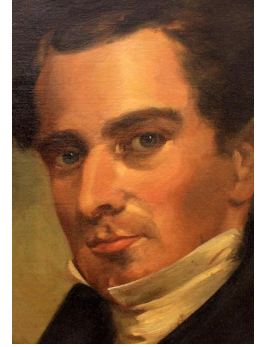


Stephen F. Austin Chapter, DRT NEWSLETTER

September, 2026



THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE



Hello, Ladies!

It's time to get back into the swing of DRT.

Your Stephen F. Austin Chapter board had a productive meeting on August 17, and I think all our ducks are in a row. We are going to have some motions to vote on at our September meeting:

- We need to vote to change our bylaws to reflect the new yearly dues amount and the new transfer fee.
- Whether we want to be a chapter sponsor for the 2027 CRT Convention
- Whether we want to sponsor the Sarah Turner Cottle Chapter kids to go to the 2027 CRT convention. (The Sarah Turner Cottle Chapter is the one SFA DRT Chapter sponsors.)
- Vote to add a new scholarship category, \$1000 to go to a sophomore studying Texas History at the Texas Center at Schreiner University in Kerrville.
- Whether to increase the amount given for speaker honorariums, 4th and 7th grade essay contest winners, and introduce a new prize for the teacher of the winning student.

Lots to think about!

Also at our September meeting, we welcome the members who have joined us over the past year. These ladies will be sworn in to the chapter and DRT and receive their welcome gift. The ladies who have been approved since last October are **Katherine Elizabeth Young, Mary Hereford, Julia Peck Lawrence, Emma Leann Chachere, Turner Caroline Hassack**, and **Daphne Ann Dunlap**. Ladies, please let me know if you will be in attendance! Also, if you have been a longer-term member who will be in attendance but have not been part of a Welcome Ceremony, please let me know, and I will add you to the list.

Debi Pantalion, Sherry Crickmer, and I had a great field trip to the Bob Bullock Museum on August 19! Debi and I especially had a great time shopping at the museum gift shop.

So much fun Texas stuff. The next field trip will be sometime in October, to.... (drumroll, please!) the San Jacinto Battleground. The trip is three hours each way, so I will make sure we have a van with plenty of room to relax. It's another stop and another stamp in the Revolution and Republic Historic Sites Passport! I will pass along the specifics of the trip as soon as the plan is solidified.

I would like to encourage everyone to take advantage of the fact that our District VIII DRT meeting will be in Leander this year. Please mark your calendars for October 30 and 31, and register as soon as possible. The registration and hotel information was sent out by Headquarters, but I'll send the link when I email the newsletter. The host chapter is small, and requests help from other chapters setting things up, keeping everything running and breaking down after the meeting. I have a couple of volunteers, but the more the merrier. Let's show them how great OUR chapter is! Let me know if you are ready, willing and able.

In the meantime, stay safe, stay healthy, and until we meet again, Happy Trails!

-Milli Pope

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 21, 2026

What: *Stephen F. Austin Chapter Meeting*

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

When: *12:00 Noon*

October, 2026

What: *Field trip to San Jacinto Battlefield and Monument*

Where: *Meet at Northwest Recreation Center, 2913 Northland Drive, Austin, TX 78751*

When: *TBA*

October 30, 2026

What: *District VIII Meeting Activity-Spirits of Bagdad Cemetery Tour*

Where: *Baghdad Cemetery Pavilion, 400 Bagdad Road, Leander, TX 78641*
Saturday: Leander Activity Center, 11880 Hero Way W Ste 600, Leander, TX 78641

When: *7 pm to 9 pm*

Saturday October 31: 9 am to 2 pm

October 30, 2026

What: *District VIII Meeting*

Where: *Leander Activity Center, 11880 Hero Way W Ste 600, Leander, TX 78641*

When: *9 am to 2 pm*

FINANCIAL REPORT

As of August 21, 2026, our balances were:

Chase Checking Account:

\$10,363.22

Chase Scholarship Fund:

\$6,650.16

Scholarship CD: \$12,500.00



This Month in Republic of Texas History

September 5, 1836

Today, Texans went to the polls to choose their first president.

General Sam Houston was overwhelmingly elected, receiving more than 5,000 votes. Texans also elected Vice President Mirabeau B. Lamar, as well as members of Congress, laying the foundation for the new Republic's government.

Texas Honor Days:

Texas Heroes Day: September 18

The date of September 18th has multiple significant factors.

On September 18, 1842, thirty-six volunteer Texan soldiers were killed on the field of battle in the Dawson Massacre. Of the survivors, three escaped to tell the story, and fifteen

others were taken prisoner by Mexican soldiers in the Woll invasion near Salado Creek (where Fort Sam Houston is now located in San Antonio). The captured prisoners were marched away to Perote Castle Prison in Veracruz, Mexico. Of these men, only nine survived to return to Texas. The remains of one captive who died was thrown into the castle moat.

September 18, 1848, the remains of fifty-two men who died in Perote Prison, including sixteen of the seventeen who survived the Mier Expedition, were imprisoned at Perote Prison, and drew the "Black Beans of Death" on March 25, 1843, to decide who would be executed, were buried at what became known as Monument Hill at LaGrange.

Texian Navy Day: 3rd Saturday in September

On September 1, 1835, the first naval engagement of the Texas Revolution occurred near Velasco. In that engagement between a Texian privateer, the San Felipe, and a Mexican war schooner, the Correo, the Mexican ship was forced to unconditionally surrender. Thus, the Texian Navy won its first victory in the War of Independence on the high seas. This event was one month before the first significant land battle of the Texas Revolution at Gonzales.

Contest Information

The topic for the 2027 SFA Scholarship Essay Contest is:

The Empresario System and its Failures

Examine the colonization contracts. Analyze why Mexico encouraged Anglo-American immigration, the cultural disconnects, and how land policies led to friction.

The DRT 4th Grade Essay topic is the ***Old San Antonio Road.***

The DRT 7th Grade Essay topic is the ***William Barret Travis Letter.***

Contact our Honors and Awards Chair, **Dusky Waters**, at duskycwaters@gmail.com for more information!

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.

Associate Member ribbons are \$16.00

Stickers or static cling decals are \$5.00

Magnets are \$3.00

The **2026-2027 SFA Chapter Directory/Yearbook** will be available in digital format in September. You can request a free digital copy from Milli Pope at millipope@gmail.com. Hard copies will be available at the chapter meetings.



Sales of the Native Texan License Plate 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.

