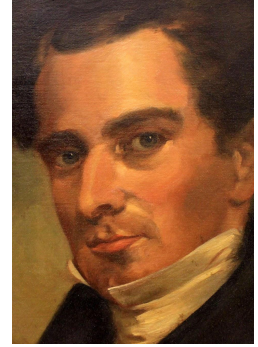


Stephen F. Austin Chapter, DRT NEWSLETTER

April, 2026



THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE



Hello, Ladies!

Well, we are winding up another DRT year, and I am so proud of our Stephen F. Austin Chapter! We have one more meeting on May 18, and then it's Convention time.

But first, the crowd at the **Stephen F. Austin Chapter Scholarship Luncheon** was fairly small, but everyone brought their checkbooks. Can you believe that from 38 attendees, we grossed over \$4600 in silent auction and raffle sales and donations that day? Thank you to all our attendees, donors, and members for your generosity in putting the day together and making it a success! Our \$500 scholarship winner, **William Russell** and our 7th Grade Essay Contest winner, **Abigail Williams**, read their winning essays. The Russell kids are so smart! Our \$1000 Scholarship winner, **Cassidy Lino**, was unable to attend because her senior prom was the same day. **Captain Scott Powell**, Admiral of the Texas Navy spoke on the role the Texas Navy had in the Battle of San Jacinto, with just four ships. Captain Powell has had a fascinating life and career and is full of stories. I hope to get him back for another talk sometime. By the way, next year's Scholarship Luncheon is on the calendar for April 24, 2027 at 11:30, at Balcones Country Club. The Scholarship Luncheon is how our chapter fulfills its mandate to promote Texas education, and it's our flagship event. Please note the date and plan to attend.

As mentioned, the DRT Annual Convention is coming! It's May 28-30 in Fort Worth. Details and the registration form can be found at DRTinfo.org. It's a chance to catch up on all things DRT, as well as reconnect with old friends, learn a lot, and shop! Be sure to swing by the DRT Headquarters Committee table for some new bling- if you are in multiple lineage societies, you probably know about

“branch bars”, the brooch you can hang mini insignia from. DRT now has an official mini insignia for \$70, debuting at Convention. And, if you are in the market for a branch bar, we have a new one coming out that you can’t get anywhere else. It is kind of a Texas spin on the traditional branch bar, and it will be sold for \$100 (versus \$110 for a traditional branch bar. Fingers crossed it will be ready in time for Convention!)

Have you been tracking your DRT volunteer hours on DRTinfo.org? You could qualify for a DRT VIP pin! The Volunteer Initiative Program is live. After tracking 50 volunteer hours you may purchase a VIP pin for \$20. As your logged volunteer hours progress, you may add star dangles to your pin to indicate milestones. Details on the program will be available at Convention, but I will share them at the next meeting as well. Start tracking those hours!

- Go to DRTinfo.org, log in with your member number and password.
- Click on your name and go to your account.
- Go to the “Volunteer” tab
- Click the + sign. It’s to the right of “Volunteer history”
- You don’t have to be too specific- you could even put in a month’s hours at a time. Just make sure it’s DRT HOURS ONLY.
- Come by the DRT Headquarters booth and get your bling!

I hope to see many of you there.

Have you considered being a chapter officer? You, yes YOU can do it! If you’ve been a full DRT member in good standing for two years, you are eligible to be any officer in your chapter. Associate members are eligible to be any chapter officer other than president, treasurer, or registrar. Interested in being an officer or helping choose the next round of leadership? See **Debi Pantalion** to join the Nominating Committee or to put your name forward for an office. If you’re thinking about it but you think it might be too difficult or too much work, talk to the person currently in the position. I promise it’s not that bad! We need new officers, and I know our chapter is loaded with talent.

Finally, by now you should have received notice to pay your DRT dues. Please don’t wait until the last possible moment to pay. Cash, check, or Zelle are gratefully accepted.

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

-Milli Pope

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 18, 2026

What: Stephen F. Austin Chapter Meeting

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

When: 12:00 Noon

May 28-30, 2026

What: DRT Annual Convention

Where: Sheraton Fort Worth Downtown, 1701 Commerce Street, Fort Worth, 76102

FINANCIAL REPORT

As of March 28, 2026, our balances were:

Chase Checking Account: \$16,790.02

Chase Scholarship Fund: \$3,910.00

Scholarship CD: \$11,500.00



This Month in Republic of Texas History

Tuesday, May 23, 1843

Today, a trading party returning from Indian

Territory along the Canadian River reports that in a Comanche village they encountered a young woman who at first they thought was a Comanche squaw, but then realized she had blonde hair and blue eyes. She was identified as Cynthia Ann Parker, captured by the Comanches during a raid on Parker's Fort on May 19, 1836. She was 9 years old at that time, and is currently 16.

Miss Parker refuses all attempts by the traders to get her to accompany them back to civilization. She is the wife of Comanche Chief Peta Nocona, and says she is happy in her present life.

Texas Honor Days:

Treaties of Velasco Day: May 14, 1836

Today the Treaties of Velasco were signed between General Santa Anna and Republic of Texas Interim President David G. Burnet.

▪ In the public treaty, the Mexican ruler promised to never again fight against the Texans. He also agreed to order all Mexican forces out of Texas immediately. ▪ In the secret treaty, in return for his freedom, San Anna agreed to work for Mexican recognition of Texas independence. It called for the Texas government to release Santa Anna immediately and give him an escort back to Mexico. In return, Santa Anna would also agree to work inside Mexico to get the Texas boundary set at the Rio Grande.

Contest Information

We have our winners for this year! Next year's 4th and 7th Grade Essay Contest topics will be announced at Convention in May. Be on the lookout for next year's Scholarship Essay topic as well!

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.

