

President General's Newsletter

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September 2013

A Message From the President General

Let me introduce myself...

I have been a member of DRT for 32 years. I served as the Chairman of the Bylaws Committee in 1990-1991; two terms on the Nominating Committee; Headquarters Committee in 2011-2013; and member of the Vision Team for 2011-2013. I originally joined DRT's Texas Star Chapter in 1981 and later transferred to Miss Ima Hogg Chapter in Houston. I live with my husband who is a professor of U.S. and Military History at the University of Houston-Downtown. We have two sons, four grandchildren and two cats. I look forward to guiding our great organization through the next two years. Thank you for electing me.



Karen Thompson passing the gavel to Ellen McCaffrey President General 2013-2014.

Republic Village

As you may know, in December, 2012 DRT purchased property adjacent to the French Legation. In May, thanks to generous Daughters and donors, the loan on the property was paid off - we own the land for our new Headquarters and museum! The City of Austin is "unique" when it comes to construction permits and it has been very educational for your President General and the Vision Team learning the layers of city approval. The Vision Team is working with the architect and general contractors for building designs. Inspection of the very old rent houses by structural experts determined that one of the buildings would not hold up to the process of stabilizing its foundation and the other three houses had developed other serious

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Events

Upcoming Dates

- September 17, 2013 - Texian Navy Day
- September 18, 2013 - Texas Heroes Day
- September 20-21, 2013 - BOM

problems. Because of the additional expense on what would still be structures with old frames, the decision was made to change from renovation of the structures to new construction. New construction will provide almost twice as much space. We will be able to include a vault, or fire proof archive room, and it will result in lower building maintenance expense in the years to come. We hope to have much more detailed plans available in the near future.

The Vision Team will be launching a new paver project this fall. Please watch the DRT website for updates.

DRT/GLO Management & Operating Agreement

At the end of May, the First Amendment to the GLO and DRT Management and Operating Agreement for the Alamo was signed extending the term of the agreement from June 30, 2013 to



August 31, 2013. The DRT Alamo Team members - Past President General Karen Thompson, Past Recording Secretary General Mary Carmack, Recording Secretary General Melissa Goodrich, Alamo Executive Administrator Melinda Tomerlin, Treasurer General Beverly Locklin, attorney Jim Ewbank and your President General, met with representatives from the General Land Office. After much discussion and several revisions, a final version was delivered to everyone for final review.

On Friday, August 16, 2013, at a called meeting in San Antonio, the Board of Management approved the Second Amendment to the GLO and DRT Management and Operating Agreement for the Alamo. We will manage the Alamo for the next three years. A big change in the agreement is that any DRT entity will pay rent for the use of Alamo Hall. This is a sad time for the San Antonio chapters considering the volunteer hours their members spent at the Alamo through the years. DRT will continue to receive the monthly management fee. The agreement can be viewed on the members' website.

Meeting in Salado

- September 28, 2013 - District VIII meeting in Lakeway (Austin)
- October 2, 2013 - Gonzales Day
- October 6, 2013 - District VI meeting in Houston
- October 12, 2013 - District I meeting in Abilene
- October 19, 2013 - District III meeting in Dallas
- October 19, 2013 - Stephen F. Austin's Birthday
- November 6, 2013 - 121st Anniversary of DRT Founder's Day
- November 15-16, 2013 - BOM meeting in Katy
- November 15, 2013 - Bylaw Amendment submission deadline

Committee Meetings

- French Legation Committee - 2nd Tuesday
- Headquarters Committee - 3rd Wednesday
- DRT Library Committee - 3rd Thursday
- Republic of

DRT Committees

Meet Your Republic of Texas Museum Committee!

The Republic of Texas Museum Committee has been visiting museums all over the State, getting ideas to help with the design of our new facility. It will be a lot of work and I am confident that these ladies are up to the challenge.



Betty Bird, Linda Dietert, Nancy Shurtleff, Judy Day, Janie Frere, Maryann Pringle, Priscilla Hancock, Jean Sitterle missing Joy Putnam

The Museum Committee is seeking volunteers from the Austin area to work as docents at the museum and is planning a lunch for prospective docents in October. Please contact Jean Sitterle, Chairman - 979-542-3104.

DRT Library Committee

The DRT Library/The Daughters of the Republic of Texas Collection is nearing completion of their "proof of ownership"



for our collection - 85.7%. The staff and volunteers have worked tirelessly and uncomplainingly to resolve the ownership of over eight hundred billion trillion items and deserve our thanks. Once that is completed we will know which items belong to DRT; which belong to DRT but per donor request must remain at the Alamo; and which items belong to the Alamo/State of Texas. We are working on a separate agreement with the State for the future of our collection. DRT and the

Texas Museum
Committee - 4th
Wednesday

E-mail addresses

BOM

DRT official e-mail addresses can be found on the DRT Members Website.

General Land Office (GLO) both want the collection to stay at the Alamo. We are not being asked to leave the grounds of the Alamo! Because Alamo funds pay for staffing and building maintenance, special arrangements will be made to justify those expenses. It is all about money - justifying to the Legislature why Alamo funds are used to support the private research collection.

We are fortunate to have three former Library Committee Chairs on the committee and Elaine Davis, Library Director for 10 years, has agreed to be our "special advisor." Committee members are: Connie Impelman and GayNell Wells, Co-Chairs; Cecilia Cheever, Martha Fenstermaker, Kay Myers, Yolanda Kirkpatrick, Nancy Marion, Laura Beavers, Susan Riedesel and Florence Dodington. They are spending hours assisting the library staff with the proof of ownership ordeal - it is time consuming and painstakingly tedious! They are also gathering information to assist with our discussions with the State. As we move forward in this new chapter in the life of our Library, their experience will be invaluable. In addition to the President General, members of the DRT Collection Negotiating Team will be Dr. Betty Edwards, First Vice President General, Melisa Goodrich, Recording Secretary General, Connie Impelman and GayNell Wells, Committee Co-Chairs and Leslie Stapleton, Library Director. Other expertise will be sought as we progress.

The French Legation Committee

The French
Legation
Museum will
be the site
of



The French Legation

Hometown Harvest, November 10th. Visit Austin's oldest house and enjoy an afternoon on the lawn with music, local food prepared by Austin chefs. Bid to win trips, wine, jewelry and more! The event will be from 3:00 pm to 7:00pm. For more information contact the French Legation at 512-472-8180.

CRT News

Meet the CRT President General

Reed Denton is the CRT President General for 2013-2015. His President General's Project is to mark graves of the Texas Revolutionary War and Defenders of The Republic of Texas. For more information about this and how you can

donate to CRT scholarships and other projects, please e-mail him at: CRTPG@yahoo.com or e-mail DRT's Third Vice President General, Billie Dawson, at: 3vicepresident@drinfo.org.



DRT President General Ellen McCaffrey with CRT President General Reed Denton.

District Workshops

District II Workshop

Hurst, Texas.

Isaac Low -
Host



1st Vice President General, Dr. Betty Edwards and District II Representative, Linda Jackson.

**District IV
Workshop**
Lufkin,
Texas.



Lufkin Mayor Bob Brown with Dr. Betty Edwards and Mary Goodwin.



Mary Hall Mantooth - Host

**District VII
Workshop**
San
Antonio,
Texas.



Alamo Couriers - Host

District X Workshop,
Lubbock, Texas.



General James Smith
- Host



**District V
Workshop**
Georgetown,
Texas.

John Berry -
Host



Ben Milam members and the CRT
President General enjoying the
District V Workshop.

**District IX
Workshop**
Santa Fe,
Texas.



Santa Fe Mayor Ralph Stenzel with the
DRT Ladies.



Sidney Sherman - Host.

I hope you enjoy these photos from several of the district meetings held so far. Hostess chapters worked long and hard and it was evident - each meeting was

fantastic. How wonderful to travel the State and visit with those who attended.

Help Wanted!

Committee Chairs Needed

Two standing committees are still unfilled - Annual Proceedings and Publicity Records-- Media Relations. If you are interested in chairing and/or serving on one of these committees, please contact me at 713-917-0527. There is a place for you to use your skills to help showcase our work in preservation, in education, and in leadership to the public, who are often unfamiliar with our work.

We are forming an ad hoc committee to study and research our organization's technical needs. I am seeking ladies with expertise in: website design, newsletter design, computer hardware and software knowledge - especially Microsoft Access and other database programs. This will be a team of technically experienced ladies to study and evaluate our current capabilities and needs. The BOM would like to have a plan for our technical future and recommendations for implementation of that plan.

This will begin as a temporary study team, but in time it may become a permanent committee. I ask any member with interest in participating to please contact me at 713-917-0527, or Kelsey at Headquarters at 512-339-1997.

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