

President General's Dispatch March/April 2012

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TRIP TO SALTILLO, MEXICO

It was my honor to make the first ever presentation of The Daughters of the Republic of Texas to the BINATIONAL HISTORY CONFERENCE of Coahuila, Mexico on March 17, 2012 in Saltillo, Mexico. My presentation was on the "Mission Period Frescoes of The Alamo" discovered in the church/shrine by our Alamo Conservator Pam Rosser, with film by Bill Millet of Millet Films. Ed Mata, President of Los Bexarenos Genealogical & Historical Society of San Antonio, translated my talk into Spanish. For me to undertake such a trip was totally out of my comfort zone, but I felt it was too much of an opportunity to pass up, since part of my "President General's Project" was better research and documentation of the Alamo Mission Period and better "Communication" of DRT history. This event did both. Also, friendship with Mexican Senator Jesus (Chuy) M. Ramon made the security possible for the five-day trip. For more information about Senator Ramon see my *President General's Dispatch* Volume 1, #6, for January 2012.

Photo of left, Miguel Munoz, Director Coahuila Archives, Karen Thompson, Senator Jesus M. (Chuy) Ramon, Ed Mata, President Los Bexarenos Genealogical & Historical Society at conference on March 17, 2012 in Saltillo, Mexico.

Because this trip was being sponsored by Senator Chuy Ramon, he provided trips to all the historical sites, archives, museums, and historic churches and cathedrals

Photo outside, in front of the Saltillo Cathedral from left Julie Mata, Ed Mata, Miguel Munoz, George Nelson, Karen Thompson, Rafael Garcia, and Janie Babcock.

Photo of Mission Santa Maria built in 1722 by same soldiers and workers who then went up to San Pedro Springs and built Mission San Antonio de Valero in 1724.

NEWS ORLEANS GRAY'S REPLICA FLAG

On March 3, 2012 at the ceremony for the Alamo Defenders Descendants Association in the shrine, Lorena Roman of the Mexican National Archives in Mexico City presented the association with a replica flag of the New Orleans Gray's. Lee White had met Lorena at the National Archives and arranged for her to duplicate this historic flag, the only known American banner flown at the Fall of the Alamo on March 6,

1836. Lorena was the conservator that did the restoration work on the original flag that still remains in the vault in Mexico City.

BYLAWS AT CONVENTION

This 121st convention of DRT will work on a revision of the bylaws as presented by Bylaws Committee Chairman Doris Johnston. The complete proposed revision has been emailed to every chapter president and if you haven't seen it please contact your chapter president. Some of the changes include:

- Lineal or legally adopted descent for DRT or CRT membership.
- Increase Initiation Fee to \$70, Supplemental Fee to \$40, Dues to \$45, Convention Registration Fee "not more than \$50"
- One-month earlier Dues deadline, September 1, collect dues starting May (except this year, right after convention)
- Add office of President General Elect to enhance continuity
- Past President General not eligible for election to office or nominating committee
- Officers may repeat one term in office if willing, nominated, and elected
- Candidates for office and nominating com agree to electronic communications, meetings
- Amend eligibility for registrars general, treasurer and custodian general
- Increase President General's reimbursable expenses to \$10,000
- President General Elect reimbursable expenses to \$5,000
- BOM all officers = 24 voting + two nonvoting members
- Create Executive Committee out of BOM with 8 voting + one nonvoting to more full time officers involved in business and finances: President General, President General Elect, 1st Vice President General, 2nd Vice President General, Recording Secretary General, Treasurer General, Custodian General, District Representatives Chairman, Parliamentarian General.
- Revise some officers duties
- Revise some meetings
- Create elective District Representatives Chairman to serve on Executive Committee
- Divide Headquarters and Republic of Texas Museum Committee
- Add a DRT Executive Director position
- Stagger committee terms
- Rename and revise some committees
- Changes to funds, projects, and employees
- Some CRT changes
- Permit DRT Seal usage to be left of name, chapter, address on name badges, stationery, business cards and websites
- Amendments changes include submission per member to five.
- Parliamentary Authority: unchanged.
- And others, this is just a short review.

I also recently sent out a memo to all chapter presidents about our need to review the Texas Business Organization Code. It is not just important to have Robert's Rules of Order, you need additional information to be sure DRT is in compliance.

Since the mandatory application date of January 1, 2010, the BOC applies to all Texas corporations, partnerships, limited liability companies, and other domestic filing entities, as well as all foreign filing entities registered to transact business in Texas. The BOC applies regardless of an entity's formation date or whether the entity has taken affirmative steps to adopt the BOC. Ask your chapter president for my Memo dated March 30, 2012 and for them to send you a copy.

Bylaws Chairman: Doris Johnston

Others on committee: Karen Thompson, President General, ex officio, Barbara Wright, Parliamentarian General, Carolyn Casterline, Sue Cravy, Ora Jane Johnson, Lisa Kight, and Shelley Rardin.

DRT Member Focus

Fayrene Balin

Every March 2nd when the birthday of Texas independence is celebrated, friends and relatives of DRT Alamo Mission Chapter member, Fayrene Balin, celebrate her arrival on the Texas scene as well. Born exactly eighty-five years after the famous document was signed at Washington-on-the-Brazos, Fayrene, and her daughter Donna, were on hand for the ceremony in front of the Alamo marking Texas Independence Day's 176th anniversary and I enjoyed meeting them.

Fayrene is a descendant of John May of Ireland, who in 1835 received a Mexican land grant where Yoakum, which was also Fayrene's birthplace, and is known as a gathering point for cattle to be driven up the Chisholm Trail and where the San Antonio and Aransas Pass Railway was established. Later it became a center for commercial tomatoes with an annual "Tom-Tom Festival" first held in 1928, and where Fayrene was crowned a duchess in the Yoakum Tom-Tom Festival when she was a teenager. Fayrene's mother also was from Yoakum, and her father was from nearby Hochheim – both from a long line of Texans. She grew up on the family farm that was part of John May's original land grant, until her parents moved to San Antonio when she was still in elementary school. "It was during the Depression years, and she told me she was instructed to cook an egg sandwich for anyone who showed up on her family's doorstep," says Donna. "Maybe that's where she got her gift for cooking. She became a fantastic cook."

She graduated from Brackenridge High School and began a degree at Incarnate Word College (now the University of the Incarnate Word), until marriage took her out of San Antonio after her sophomore year. At age 19, Fayrene married Arnold Beyeler of Ithaca, New York, a graduate of West Point and the Advanced Flying School located at Kelly Field in San Antonio. They moved to Miami where Arnold was a pilot with Pan Am and later was enlisted in the war effort during World War II. During one of his missions in which he was to ferry a plane from Brazil to North Africa, his plane never arrived and the military formally declared him missing-in-action.

As a young widow, Fayrene returned to her home and family in San Antonio. She completed her degree in home economics at Incarnate Word College, while also earning a teaching certificate. She married Henry (Hank) Balin, originally from Elizabeth, New Jersey. Hank came to Texas during the Great Depression, finding work as a roughneck in the oil fields. At the time when he met Fayrene, he was

enlisted in the United States Air Force at Lackland and later at Randolph Field in San Antonio. Soon after their wedding, Hank was transferred to Fontainebleau, France, site of NATO headquarters. During their three years there, Hank and Fayrene made many new international friends, with whom they continued lifelong friendships. Their first child, Tim, was born there, and soon after Hank's transfer to Langley Field in Hampton, Virginia, Fayrene gave birth to another child – this time a daughter, Donna. After three years in Virginia, Fayrene was fortunate that Hank's next transfer was back to San Antonio, where her parents still lived. While Hank had a yearlong assignment to Korea, Fayrene and her young family were able to remain in Texas with relatives.

After her children entered school, Fayrene began teaching second and third grades at Robbins Elementary School in the Alamo Heights School District. She was recognized by the state for developing a curriculum while at Robbins, and completed twenty years as a teacher in the district. By then, Hank also had completed twenty years in the Air Force at Randolph Field and had worked another twenty years for Southwest Research Institute, also located in San Antonio.

Their son, Tim, became fascinated with planes at a young age, and after pursuing a degree in aviation, became a Southwest Airlines pilot in 1984. Tim has a son, Justin, of Houston, and a daughter, Hayley, of Austin. Tim's wife, Margaret Balin, is also a captain with Southwest.

Fayrene's daughter, Donna, is also an Alamo Mission Chapter DRT member. She earned a Ph.D. in geology from Cambridge University and is married to another geologist, Andrew Scott, who grew up in Indiana and works as Exploration Manager for an Australian oil and gas company.

Three years after Hank's death in 1993, Fayrene met Charles Fraser at a seniors' exercise class and they have remained constant companions for fifteen years. Keeping in the Texas tradition, Charlie grew up in San Geronimo and is a member of the Sons of the Republic of Texas. His late mother, Clara Fraser, was a DRT member in San Antonio. Together Charlie and Fayrene traveled on many cruises around the world.

Indeed Happy Birthday Fayrene!



Susan D. Reed

Susan D. Reed was the first woman to be elected District Attorney of Bexar County. Prior to her election in November of 1998, she served a Judge of the 144th District Court for 12 years. Susan was raised in San Antonio and graduated from Alamo Heights High School. She received her undergraduate degree from The University of Texas at Austin and her Doctor of Jurisprudence from UT in 1974.

She is also licensed in Federal court and board certified in Criminal Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization.

Susan began her legal career as an Assistant District Attorney in Bexar County in November 1974, she served in that position for eight years and was chief prosecutor in the 144th ad 187th District Courts. Her civil experience stems from four years in private practice concentrating in business litigation at the firm of Soules and Reed. She is also responsible for the Bexar County Family Justice Center which is the first in Texas to be created and remains to this date the only such center in the State.

Susan has received many honors throughout her career. She was chosen by the state's elected district and county attorney's to serve as President of the Texas District and County Attorney's Association in 2005 and presently serves on its board. In 2009 she received the "Speaker's Gavel" award from the Texas House of Representatives for her hard work in the pursuit of justice. She has been honored by induction into the San Antonio Women's Hall of Fame, presented the Eastside Community "Honors Award", and has been recognized by School Districts, FamilyViolence Prevention Services and the Children's Shelton for her many community contributions. She has also been recognized by the National Association of Social Workers-San Antonio Branch as the Elected Official of the Year for 2010. Susan is a proud and long time member of DRT, Alamo Mission Chapter.

Meet the Board



Mary Carmack

Mary Carmack is Recording Secretary General and a member of the Alamo Mission Chapter. Mary has worked in San Antonio and been a businesswoman for four decades, all the while contributing to almost two dozen social and civic organizations. Mary started her career as a Coronary Care Unit Nurse at Santa

Rosa Hospital and then was the office nurse for a physician for many years. She was a business owner for many years and still serves on the Board of Directors of a corporation.

Some of her civic organization memberships include: San Antonio Gardenia & Music Club, San Antonio Conservation Society, Downtown Alliance, San Antonio Fiesta Commission, and Assistance League of San Antonio, The Alamo Plaza Historic District, Friends of McNay Museum, Southwest Foundation Forum, Downtown Alliance, San Antonio Council of Presidents, Cancer Center Council and Friends of Hospice of San Antonio. Most of those she was president or an officer.

In DRT Mary has held every office in her chapter and served our organizations in many areas. Most of us remember the outstanding job she did as chairman of the Alamo Capital Campaign Special Task Force and on the Alamo Gala. She served on the DRT Nominating Committee (2009-2011).

Joe and Mary are the parents of four children and have four grandchildren. They are members of the Leon Springs Presbyterian Church. Many of us in DRT envy Mary for her knack for wearing scarf's!

Janie Babcock

Janie Babcock is Corresponding Secretary General and a member of the Martin Wells Chapter of Round Rock. Janie has been my dear friend for years and as many people know, she does most of the out-of-town driving for me when I am "on duty" as president general. She fills in for me at committee meetings and keeps up with many organization details and arrangements. She most recently went with me to the BiNational Historical Conference in Saltillo, Mexico for five days.

Janie grew up in Austin just like I did, but since Janie is younger than I am, we didn't go to school together. Janie started her career working in the Texas Senate, went on to do research and consulting and recently retired from the Office of the Attorney General-Tort Litigation Division, as a legal secretary. Janie is interested in Texas history; gardening; particularly herbs; crafting; jewelry making; antiquing; decorating; cooking; and party/family gathering planning. She used to be the Wedding Coordinator for her entire church, as well as Finance Committee member.

In DRT Janie served on the French Legation Committee for several terms. In the Martin Wells Chapter she has held nearly every position, and is still Corresponding Secretary, which we almost consider a lifetime position she is so good at it. Janie is good at any job she undertakes. Janie's mother, Jody Cook, sister Tammye, and niece belong to the Martin Wells Chapter.

Janie receives a lot of support from her husband Terry, who also supports her in her capacity on the BOM. Terry has a great knowledge and appreciation of Texas history and taught for a time at Texas State University in San Marcos.



Photo of the Naval Academy at the Alamo with Alamo Chairman Melinda Navarro.