

The Daughters of the Republic of Texas
French Legation Museum Committee
Minutes – October 14, 2015

Members Present: Karen Thompson (Chair), Janie Babcock (Vice Chair), Kay Valenta (Treasurer), Sherry Causey (Secretary), Tammy Beveridge, Edie Tyler, Gayla Lawson, Sharon Wander, Rachel Bryson, Dusky Waters, Teresa Johnson, Judy Day, Dr. Betty Edwards (President General, via telephone), Janis Keen (prospective member)

Excused Absence: Mariann Laughlin, Kathy Howell, Glenda Black, Gaylon Hecker

Guests: Martha Withers (FLM Director), Sam Myers (Accountant), Steve Franke (Auditor), Ron Oliveira (Public Relations Specialist)

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm and held in the DRT Headquarters Meeting Room. Pledges to the American and Texas flags were led by Karen Thompson. A quorum was declared.

Minutes: September 16, 2015, FLMC meeting minutes were previously distributed. Minutes were accepted with the following change. “Sharon, Martha, Carolyn and Mariann will work on a shorter turn around, either with the current jewelry or another” was changed to “Sharon, Martha, Carolyn and Mariann will work on a shorter turn around, either with the current **jeweler** or another.”

Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer Kay Valenta provided the following figures for the period ended September 30, 2015:

DRT FL Museum (4460)	\$ 68,944.33
DRT FL Memorial (0031)	3,603.19
DRT FL Grants/Collections (0665)	3,214.00
DRT FL Baretta Kitchen Fund (2047)	<u>13,189.66</u>
TOTAL	\$ 88,951.18

*The French Legation Museum is the beneficiary of a fund held at the Austin Community Foundation. The Fund Balance as of September 30, 2015, was \$10,559.50. (Principal: \$5,000).

Accountant: Sam Myers went over the financial reports and a brief discussion followed. In the future, Museum Account Assets entitled **Benches/Wilderness** will be renamed **Sylvia Wenger**, to reflect the patron contributing the funds. Income from the Texas-French Market will be shown on next month's financial reports.

Auditor: Reynolds and Franke, PC are in the process of completing an audit of FLM's financials. Steve Franke provided a draft of Audited Financial Statements for fiscal year ended May 31, 2015. Financial statements were found to be in accordance with accounting principles.

Chairman's Report: Previously submitted via email. Chair Karen Thompson advised that she accepted Pam Lynn's and Carolyn Reed's resignations with FLMC's gratitude for services rendered. Janis Keen's name will be submitted to the BOM for FLMC membership. Karen Thompson brought two 175th Anniversary banners, for which Jan Bullock will repay Karen. Karen attended most of the DRT District Workshops, but will be unable to attend the last two. The **French Connection** newsletter will be completed and distributed to DRT members, soon.

Grants Committee: Gayla Lawson submitted her report via email. Sujiro Seam, French Consul General of Houston, his technology specialist, and a representative of the French-American Chamber of Commerce in Houston met with Gayla, Martha, Karen, and Janie. Sujiro Seam and others will help

FLM to secure partnerships/connections with French-American businesses. Gayla prepared an application to submit a grant request to the Summerlee Foundation. FLM is awaiting signatures from the President General and Corresponding Secretary General on Master Interpretive Plan grants and a Master Interpretive Plan contract. New Grant Committee members are needed.

Flag Committee: Edie Tyler submitted her report via email. She prepared a draft Flag Certificate in three different fonts with an FLM photograph for FLMC to review. An approved Flag Certificate is needed before November 13, 2015.

Grounds Committee: Judy Day submitted her report via email. The FLM grounds, pots, plants and main flower beds look wonderful. A grounds work day will, probably, be necessary to get the wilderness beds in shape. FLMC needs to rethink native plants and wild flowers, as their use has been counterproductive. FLM must have a master plan for the grounds. Major tree trimming is needed in the FLM house front yard to allow grass growth. Sylvia Wenger said her donated funds are available for use, but a new letter of intent is needed for legal purposes.

Gift Store Committee: Sharon Wander submitted her report via email. Gift Store sales are being tracked as of August 1, 2015. To date, \$2,658.00 was spent on merchandise orders and \$1,044.00 in sales has been received. Mariann met with Alicia Brandt and two of her jewelers. Mariann received quotes on medallions and the Texas Lady Ring.

175th FLM Anniversary Committee: Rachel Bryson submitted her report via email. Teresa Johnson accepted an appointment as co-chair of the 175th FLM Anniversary Committee. Ron Oliveira will have the Austin Mayor prepare a proclamation declaring March 5, 2015, French Legation Museum 175th Anniversary Day. Rachel and Ron will meet and discuss the musical aspect of the 175th Celebration(s).

Texas-French Market Committee: Tammye Beveridge and Janie Babcock submitted their reports via email. The Texas-French Market brought in 1,000 guests. Income from the event has not, yet, been calculated. Ron Oliveira, Public Relations Specialist, critiqued the Texas-French Market event. He believes we should grade ourselves on the purpose of the event, which was/is public awareness. Social media is the key to educating others about FLM. There are countless Markets Day being held, but our hook is the 175th anniversary. The three public service announcements about FLM on Fox News were worth \$14,500.00 in advertisement. The KVUE public service announcement was worth \$6,000.00, as it was on the day of the event. The KXAN announcement was worth \$3,500.00. Time Warner filming ran two days, as full packages and redoes, and was worth \$10,000.00. KOKE FM with Dick Ellis and Kathy Howell, also, brought in patrons. Ron shot a one hour of video at the event, which will be shared with others and shown next year for publicity. In addition, the public service announcements were taped, which will be used, as well. Time Warner came back for Archeology Day, after learning of it at the Texas-French Market event. The Day tripper episode, showing FLM, received favorable comments. All in all this was a terrific first year event per Ron.

175th Anniversary History Committee: The History Committee sent their report via email. Gaylon is planning to write a children's book, featuring the blond FLM squirrels and encompassing Legation history.

Director's Report: Martha Withers distributed her Director's Report via email. She brought the plaque FLM received for Top Rated History Museum (small museum). In addition, FLM and Cinema East were recognized as the Best Non-Theatre Film Venue. A Native License Plate Grant Funding Request is being submitted for repainting portions of the front and back of the FLM house, etc.

Old Business: Janie Babcock reported on the Austin History Center Eberly Luncheon, scheduled for January 29, 2016, at 11:00 am, which is held annually at the Driskill Hotel. Enough FLMC members were interested in attending to warrant a ten-person-table being reserved for FLMC. In addition, FLM may have a three to five minute presentation spot on the agenda and be able to distribute FLM brochures in the adjoining entrance area. Tickets cost \$125.00. Dress is nice/business.

New Business: Dusky Waters still has oak wood obtained from the Alamo grounds with which to make plaques. In addition, Mason Thompson, Karen's son and manager of Houtz Mill Works, plans to create items, using mesquite wood stumps from the FLM grounds. FLMC members suggestions were to make wine stoppers, pens, etc.

A Quilt Raffle Committee Chairman is needed to promote sales. Martha suggested attending quilt club meetings, as well as other venues, to sell tickets.

Karen will secure a bid for 200/300/500 175th FLM Anniversary Logo Pins to be worn on the DRT ribbon.

Jane Bumpus, a DRT member, is being invited to the November FLMC meeting and may be a candidate for FLMC membership. Karen will invite Harvey Hilderbran, Texas Facilities Commissioner, to the November FLMC meeting.

Angers Day in Austin is November 14, 2015. FLM will present Sujiro Seam, French Consul General of Houston, with a flag(s) flown over FLM and certificate(s), so stating, on November 13, 2015.

Janie brought three different shirts: one that might be sold at the FLM gift store and two others that might be worn by FLMC members at 175th Anniversary Celebrations. Light-blue-light-weight-long sleeve-button-down-shirts were approved for purchase by FLMC members and sizes taken. The cost is \$34.00 or \$35.00 each. Twenty-five navy blue and/or red embroidered polo shirts, at a cost of \$21.00 each, were suggested for FLMC Gift Store purchase.

A FLMC meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 19, 2015, at 10:00 am, in the FLM Kitchen, to critique the FLM Texas-French Market Event.

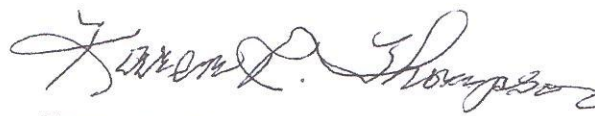
The next regular FLMC meeting will be November 11, 2015, 1:00 pm, at DRT Headquarters.

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by:



Sherry Causey
Recording Secretary



Karen Thompson
Chairman