DAUGHTERS OF THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS

HANDBOOK
For New Members

Revised 2017
PERMANENT MAILING ADDRESS
DRT HEADQUARTERS AND MUSEUM

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Front Cover:

The seal of the DRT is a five-pointed star encircled by wreathed leaves of Live Oak, signifying STRENGTH; and of Olive signifying PEACE; outside of which are the words “Daughters of the Republic of Texas” with “1836” to the left of the topmost point of the star and “1846” to the right of the topmost point of the star. To the left of the lowest point of the star, below the word “Daughters, is a small star and to the right of the lowest point of the star, below the word “Republic,” is another small star; between the lowest points of the star is the date “1891”, (the date of the organization of the DRT). This seal is a reproduction of the Seal of the Republic of Texas except for the added wording, dates and stars.
DRT New Member Pledge

Realizing that the heritage to eligibility in the society of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas is a sacred honor to be cherished, as a Member of __________________________, I pledge myself to be faithful to DRT its lofty ideals and guard its interests and achievements.

Belle Fenn Clark


SEAL AND INSIGNIA

Members may purchase an ancestor bar and DRT membership pin through their chapter treasurers.

The pins are fastened to ribbon which may be purchased from the DRT Headquarters. The one-inch insignia is the membership pin. It is pinned to the top of the membership ribbon and worn over the left shoulder at official DRT functions. No other item shall be worn above the membership pin with the exception of the plain, gold fastener bar approved by the BOM. The ribbon may be suspended from beneath the bar. The official DRT pins that should appear are as follows:

1. One-inch membership pin
2. Senior member pin
3. Ancestor bars
4. BOM pins
5. Ex-BOM pins
6. Preservation Projects Donor pin ($100)
7. DRT General Committee pin
8. DRT General Committee bar
9. Six-Star pin
10. Six-Star bar pin
11. Chapter President pin
12. Ex-Chapter President pin
13. YOUR Chapter pin
14. Chapter Officer pin
15. Bluebonnet pin
16. Commemorative pins (approved by BOM)

The three-quarter insignia (or recognition pin) can be worn as a piece of jewelry over the left breast at meetings of DRT, and on such occasions as are worthy of its display. Pins not approved by the BOM cannot be worn on the ribbon. If a member finds it necessary to wear multiple widths of ribbon, the membership pin, bars and DRT service pins should be worn on the inside ribbon. The commemorative pins should be displayed on the outside ribbon, lower that the membership pin.

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DRT PUBLIC WEBSITE
http://www.drtinfo.org

DRT MEMBER’S WEBSITE
http://www.drtinfo.org/members

The pin carrying the insignia of the DRT shall measure one (1) inch and shall consist of a reproduction of the Texas Flag in red, white, and blue enamel in the corner of a five-point star, each point bearing one (1) of the letters in the word “TEXAS”. The circle around the star, which is gold, shall carry the words “Daughters of the Republic of Texas”. To the left and below the “Daughters” shall be “1836,” and to the right below the word “Republic” shall be “1891”. In the circle and between the two (2) lowest points of the star are the words “ONE AND INDIVISIBLE”.

The small recognition pins shall be replicas of the large pins, three-quarter inch in diameter. Both the large and small pins are worn over the left breast at meetings of the DRT and on such occasions as are worthy of display. The official insignia shall be worn only on the official DRT ribbon to DRT functions; available from the DRT Headquarters. The recognition pin may be worn at any time as a piece of jewelry without being put on the ribbon. Members may purchase DRT membership pins and ancestor bars through their Chapter Treasurer.

The one-inch insignia is pinned to the top of the membership ribbon and worn over the left breast. No other item shall be worn above the membership pin except for the plain, gold fastener bar approved by the BOM. The ribbon may be suspended from beneath the bar. Ancestor bars should be worn below the membership pin.

Trinket pins are not to be worn on the ribbon. Insignia of other organizations, such as DAR or UDC pins are not to be worn on the ribbon. Upon the death of a member any eligible family member may wear the insignia.
The DRT Legacy

In 1907, at the last meeting of the Texas Veterans Association, only six members answered the roll call. After the usual memorial service, each of these men expressed that, owing to the increasing infirmities of age, he would be unable to attend another meeting. Then they unanimously voted for the dissolution of the organization.

Before adjourning for the last time, it was resolved that “the holy memories clinging around it should be merged into the patriotic association, The Daughters of the Republic of Texas.”

Upon motion, they retired to the Presbyterian Church where, without the furling of a banner or the strain of martial music, these old heroes laid aside forever their badges of membership and bequeathed their memories and their deeds with an “Undivided Texas” as precious legacy to the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, by them to be held in trust forever.
Members of the Texas Veterans Association

Veterans who were present or remitting dues at the convention held in Austin, Texas in 1907 include John Darlinton, Melbourne Harral, Asa Hill,* L. G. Lawlor, Alfonse Steele, J. N. Scott and William P. Zuber.

*not present

MEMBERSHIP

Eligibility
Any woman having attained her sixteenth (16) birthday and is a lineal descendant of a man or woman who rendered loyal service for Texas prior to the consummation of the Annexation Agreement of the Republic of Texas with the United States of America on the nineteenth day of February, 1846, is eligible for membership. Any girl who is a member of the Children of the Republic of Texas is eligible for transfer to the DRT any time after her sixteenth birthday, but before her twenty-first birthday without payment of the initiation fee.

Fiscal Year
The fiscal year of the DRT shall be from the first day of June to the thirty-first day of May inclusive.

Dues and Fees
Dues and Fees are set by the convention upon the recommendation of the Board of Management.

Resignation
A Member-at-Large who, for some reason, does not wish to pay annual dues may request to do so by letter to the Custodian General and HQ. This usually occurs during dues collection.

Reinstatement
A member who has resigned may request reinstatement as a Member-at-Large or to a chapter. A member who has resigned may be reinstated with the payment of the current year’s dues and, if to a chapter, when accepted by that chapter. Information about reinstatement may be obtained on the DRT members website. A member who was dropped for non-payment of dues shall pay a reinstatement fee. Reinstatements will be handled by HQ.

Transfer
A Member-at-Large who wishes to transfer to a chapter must have her name presented and voted upon. She should then send the information and transfer fee to DRT Headquarters.

Forms
All DRT forms are listed on the DRT member’s website (www.drtinfo.org/members) under Forms & Publications > Forms > Forms by Alpha.
GOVERNMENT
The Daughters of the Republic of Texas operates under a Charter filed with the State of Texas, renewable every fifty years, and by a set of Bylaws approved by the members at Convention on even numbered years. The Charter was filed in the Department of State on March 9, 1895, as No. 6702. It has been extended and amended.

THE PRESIDENT GENERAL’S PROJECT
The President General selects one or more special projects each year. Members are encouraged to contribute. Chapters, if working towards the Six Star Award, will need all members to contribute is at least one dollar per member. Members-at-Large may send their contributions with their dues.

FOUNDERS OF THE DAUGHTERS
In the summer of 1891, Hally Bryan (Perry) and Betty Ballinger spent much of their time reading the volumes of Yoakum’s History of Texas. Mr. Ballinger, Betty’s father, had converted his small law office into a library containing books that told the story of the struggles for Texas independence. These accounts fascinated Hally and Betty, who were first cousins.

The two girls grew up together in the Ballinger’s home in Galveston after the death of Hally’s mother. Betty’s grandfather had fought in the Battle of San Jacinto and Hally was a descendant of Moses Austin. They decided to do something to keep alive the ideals of pioneer Texans and to preserve, for future generations, the heritage of people and events that led to the formation of the Republic of Texas.

Colonel Guy M. Bryan, a member of the Texas Veterans Association, took his daughter and niece-in-law to Houston to meet with other women whose families had served the Republic. On November 6, 1891, the group organized with Mrs. Anson Jones, widow of the last President of Texas, chosen as the first president of the “The Daughters of the Lone Star Republic”. In Lampasas on April 21, 1892, the organization changed its name to “The Daughters of the Republic of Texas”.

The small library building in Galveston is preserved and known today as “The Cradle”. Each year on November 6, the Daughters of the Republic of Texas celebrate Founders Day, honoring Hally Bryan Perry and Betty Ballinger.
HISTORY OF THE TEXAS FLAG

The first official, national Lone Star Flag of the Republic of Texas as adopted on May 11, 1836, by the provisional government. It was designed by Lorenzo de Zavala with a blue field, large white five-pointed star in the center, and the letters “TEXAS” between the points of the star. However, this flag was never made up in cloth or flown by the Texas army.

A month prior to the adoption of the Lone Star flag, President David G. Burnet and Commodore Charles E. Hawkins devised a flag for use by ships of the Texas Navy. Its conformation was union blue, white star central with thirteen stripes alternating white and red.

When the first Congress of the Republic of Texas met, an act was passed on December 10, 1836, designating the official flag to be the one designed by David G. Burnet showing a blue field with a large gold star in the center.

On January 25, 1839, Congress changed the national flag to the one we fly today. Designed by Charles B. Stewart, it consists of a three-bar arrangement, blue at the hoist central with a five-pointed lone star and two horizontal bars of white and red joining the blue and extending to the fly with white stripe uppermost.

Flag Protocol

The Texas flag should be displayed on the viewer’s right, and the United States flag should be displayed on the viewer’s left when the flags are on separate poles.

When one flag pole is used for the United States and Texas flags, the United States flag is flown above the Texas flag; the flags should be of equal size.

MISCELEANOUS

CONVENTIONS
The Annual Convention of the DRT shall be held by districts in their numerical order on the fourteenth day of May, or on the approximate date agreed upon by the Board of Management and the hostess district, but after the second Sunday in May. The Convention city is to be decided by the chapters in the district. All members whose dues have been paid for the current year may attend Conventions and vote. The Convention shall be held for the purpose of receiving reports of the Board of Management and the committee chairmen, to transact DRT business, and to vote upon ratifying the actions of the Board of Management since the last Convention.

THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

The DRT is governed by a Board of Management consisting of: President General, President General-Elect, Chaplain General, Recording Secretary General, Treasurer General, Registrar General, Custodian General, Executive Secretary General and Historian General. The Parliamentarian General is appointed by the President General and has no vote. The District Representatives will serve two year terms beginning in the even numbered years to stagger the term of the BOM. Each District elects a representative from its district, making the nineteen members. Officers are elected in odd numbered years for a two-year term. No officer is paid a salary.
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

“I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all.”

PLEDGE TO THE TEXAS FLAG

“Honor the Texas flag. I pledge allegiance to thee, Texas, one state under God, one and indivisible.”

OFFICIAL STATE SONG “TEXAS, OUR TEXAS”

Texas, our Texas! All hail the mighty State!  
Texas, our Texas! So wonderful, so great!  
Boldest and grandest, withstanding ev’ry test;  
O Empire wide and glorious, you stand supremely blest.  
(Chorus)

Texas, O Texas! Your freeborn single star,  
Sends out its radiance to nations near and far  
Emblem of freedom! It sets our hearts aglow,  
With thoughts of San Jacinto and glorious Alamo.  
(Chorus)

Texas, dear Texas! From tyrant grip now free,  
Shines forth in splendor your star of destiny!  
Mother of Heroes! Welcome your children true.  
Proclaiming our allegiance, our faith, our love for you.  
(Chorus)

CHORUS

God bless you, Texas! And keep you brave and strong.  
That you may grow in power and worth,  
Throughout the ages long.

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DRT FLAG

The Flag of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas was first shown to the members May 13, 1987, at the Formal Opening of the 96th Annual Convention in Dallas. The flag was designed by Edith Mae Johnson, Chairman of the Alamo Committee 1985-87, to be flown at the Alamo during the Texas Sesquicentennial Celebration in 1986.

Official adoption of the flag by the Daughters of the Republic of Texas came at the 100th Annual Convention in San Antonio in 1991. Martha Rash moved the adoption of the flag that was first presented during her term of office as President General. The motion was seconded by Florence Railing, and it carried unanimously. In 1993, during the term of President General Gail Loving Barnes, the seal on the DRT flag was changed to conform to the official description of the DRT Seal as stated in the DRT Bylaws.

The flag consists of the Seal of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas in blue and white centered on a field of white. Three edges of the flag are trimmed in gold fringe. The flag is double faced so that the seal can be seen from either side.

The original flag measures three feet by five feet and is made of nylon. It was made by Capitol Flag Company, 1822 Fannin, Houston, Texas 77011. DRT flags are available from DRT Headquarters, 510 East Anderson Lane, Austin, Texas 78752

DRT Library Collection

Texas A & M University—San Antonio

The DRT Library Collection is located in the former Federal Depository at 126 E. Nueva, San Antonio, which is owned by Bexar County. An agreement was made with Texas A & M University-San Antonio to move the Collection under their oversight for five years.

The Collection has been developed and is supported and maintained by the DRT for the use of all researchers. The need to encourage the study of Texas history and to preserve its documents was of such significant importance to the founders of the DRT that this was stipulated specifically in the 1893 charter. The Collection contains approximately 17,000 book titles, primarily history, but also including genealogy, politics and government, art, natural history and science, religion, folklore, and fiction, all associated with Texas, including the extensive libraries of Dr. William Eager Howard, C. Stanley Banks, and Maury Maverick, Sr., approximately 450 collections of personal and family papers and organizational records dating from 1519 to the present, and maps, photographs, artwork, vertical files, and other media.

Hours of operation will be posted on the DRT Website and on the TAMU-SA Library Website.

DRT COLLECTION

Texas A&M University @ San Antonio
126 E. Nueva St.
San Antonio, TX 78204

Email: drtl@drtl.org
Website: www.drtl.org
TEXAS HONOR DAYS

DRT promotes the celebration of Texas Honor Days. Chapters are encouraged to honor these days in some way, and members are encouraged to fly the Texas flag on each of these Honor Days.

Mirabeau B. Lamar Day (January 26)
Lamar is honored as the Father of Texas Education. DRT can observe this day by providing historical materials to local schools and the news media. It is also an excellent time to honor teachers of Texas history.

Texas Statehood Day (February 19, 1846)
The legal entry of Texas into the Union was 29 December 1845, but the decade-old Republic of Texas did not formally transfer its authority to the new State of Texas until 19 February 1846. DRT celebrates 19 February 1846 as Statehood Day and as a Texas Honor Day.

Texas Independence Day and Flag Day (March 2, 1836)
On this date, the Texas Declaration of Independence was signed at Washington-on-the-Brazos. A big celebration is held at the site each year and many daughters participate in the event. Various programs and social events are held throughout the State by DRT chapters on this day which is also Sam Houston’s birthday.

Alamo Heroes Day (March 6, 1836)
An observance at the Alamo honoring the patriots who died there is held annually by the Alamo Mission Chapter. The heroes’ names and places of birth are called out by the President General in a solemn and impressive ceremony. Daughters are encouraged to participate in local celebrations on this day if possible.

Goliad Heroes Day (March 27, 1836)
Following the fall of the Alamo, the Mexican Army, under the command of General Santa Anna, attacked Colonel James W. Fannin’s men at Goliad. Fannin was forced to surrender. He and his men were promised fair treatment and parole, but General Santa Anna ordered that all the men should be shot. On March 27, 1836, 320 Texian prisoners were executed, the largest loss of life in the cause of Texas Independence. “Remember Goliad” became one of the great battle cries at San Jacinto.

The Cradle

This building was originally the law library of William Pitt Ballinger, father of co-founder, Miss Betty Ballinger. Now known as the Cradle, it is cherished by the Daughters as the place where Miss Ballinger and her first cousin, Mrs. Hally Bryan Perry, formulated the idea for their new organization which would become the Daughters of the Republic of Texas. The Cradle was restored in 1993-95 to reflect the original furnishings of the late 1800's.

The Cradle is open by appointment only. Please contact the Cradle Chairman Linda Cooper at 409-938-8053.

Location
2902 Avenue O ½
Corner of O ½ Street and 29th Street Galveston, Texas

Mailing Address
The Cradle
P.O. Box 3268
Galveston, Texas 77552-0268
San Jacinto Day (April 21, 1836)
On this date, General Sam Houston and the Texas Army defeated Santa Anna’s Mexican troops in the Battle of San Jacinto. An annual celebration is held at the San Jacinto Monument and Battlefield.

Texas Heroes Day (September 18th)
This day is designated to honor and preserve the memory of the soldiers who died defending the Republic of Texas and to pay tribute to the men and women of the military, both past and present, who serve Texas.

Texian Navy Day (third Saturday in September)
In September 1835, the first naval engagement of the Texas Revolution occurred near Velasco. In the resulting battle, the Texian Navy won its first victory in the War of Independence on the high seas.

Gonzales Day (October 2, 1835)
The first recognized battle of the Texas Revolution was fought in Gonzales. The Texas force of one hundred and sixty men challenged the Mexican military authority by refusing to surrender a brass cannon previously given to the town for protection against the Indians. The Battle Gonzales lasted only a few minutes, but most citizens in Texas realized that there was no turning back. A war had begun.

Stephen F. Austin’s Birthday (November 3, 1793)
The Father of Texas.

DRT Founders Day (November 6, 1891)
On this date, a group of seventeen ladies met in Houston in the home of Mrs. Andrew Briscoe to carry out the idea of Misses Betty Ballinger and Hally Bryan for organizing a Republic of Texas daughter’s organization to meet with the Texas Veterans.

Siege of Bexar (December 9, 1835)
The first battle at San Antonio. The Texian army defeated General Cos and forced his retreat back to Mexico. His return with Santa Anna resulted in the 1836 massacre and battle at the Alamo.

DRT Headquarters
The DRT Headquarters is the communications center for the DRT and houses the archives and Business Office. The archives contain bound membership records and related documents from 1891 to the present. The Business Office staff maintains membership and ancestor records. Staff members can do limited searches on ancestors registered with the DRT for a small fee plus copying costs. DRT supplies and historical publications are available for members to purchase.

Business Office hours: 9:00 am to 4:30 pm, Tuesday through Friday

DRT Headquarter & Republic of Texas Museum
510 East Anderson Lane Austin, Texas 78752-1218
(512)339-1997   FAX (512)339-1998
Email: headquarters@drtinfo.org
Website: www.drtinfo.org/members

Republic of Texas Museum
In 1903, the Republic of Texas Museum was housed in one room of the State Capitol. The collection of Republic era artifacts grew rapidly through the dedicated efforts of the DRT, and more space was required.

In 1916, the Land Department moved from the Old Land Office Building on the Capitol grounds, and a portion of the structure was turned over to the DRT for use as a museum. The DRT Museum occupied the second floor of the building until 1989 when restoration of the deteriorating structure began. Four years later, during the centennial year of the DRT, the Daughters purchased a building to house the museum and the organization’s headquarters.

Museum hours: 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, Monday through Friday
Admission: $5 Adults; $2 DRT Members; $3 Seniors; $2 Students/Teachers & Children