ALAMO CHAPTER CONTEST REPORT

20,801! Yes, folks that the number of students that have participated in the seventh grade Alamo Chapter Texas History Contest for the past thirteen years. This contest was the idea of Al McCutcheon. The contest started simply as a poster-essay contest. Each student would prepare a poster on a selected Texas History theme, major event or battle of the Texas revolutionary period. The value of the poster entry would be 60%. All pictures used on the poster had to be referenced with a caption. Early topics might have been; Stephen F. Austin, Sam Houston or Santa Anna. The student could also choose key battles of the Texas Revolution. The written entry would have a 40% value. The paper would need to be 400-600 words. It would require footnotes and a bibliography. The poster would be judged separate from the essay. After grading both the poster and the essay the top three students from each school would receive a cash award. The first place winner received $200.00, the second place winner received $150.00 and the third place winner received $100.00. The teacher of the first place winner would receive $50.00.

This contest could not have happened without the support of the Alamo Chapter #40’s Fiesta event. Our format has changed over the years, but our goals remained the same. This goal was to get students to explore the Revolutionary Period of our state and have a better understanding of the people and events which made Texas what it is. The winners of the contest would be recognized in April during the Alamo Chapter #40’s Fiesta event. Prior to giving out the awards, Bob Benavides would take the students, parents and history buffs on a walking tour of Alamo Plaza. He, with the help of the Alamo Chapter #40 members, as well as the members of the San Antonio Living History Association would bring history alive and visual.

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PRESIDENT GENERAL’S MESSAGE

Heavy rains and flooding were cause for concern for the Executive Meeting and Workshop on June 3-4, in Bay City. After some consultation, the decision was proceed with the schedule. At any time you perceive your safety is marginal for travel to a meeting, event or activity, heed the warnings. I appreciate the efforts of those members who came and also those who followed their conscience. Congratulations to Mike Young, newly sworn in Post Oak District Representative. Two districts are without representatives but work is completed on one and continues on the other. Past President General, Robert Kendall, KSJ, directed the 1st Workshop in the back room at SRT Headquarters. Historian General Clay Fisher is processing applications. Thank you members and continue to make contact with prospects and starting and assisting

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The next Quarterly Meeting is Dec. 2-3, 2016
Hampton Inn & Suites, 7006 Navarro,
Victoria, TX 77904; (361) 573-9911;
King or Double Queen, Room Rate $99.+ tax;
Cutoff date November 11, 2016.
Please give this Group code; SRT.

• Be thinking about submitting a nomination for the Educator of the Year Award to be presented at the Annual Meeting in 2017. Last year we had no nominations! The deadline is February 3, 2017. The criterion for the award is available from the National office or in your SRT Manuals.

• The website is under construction. We hope to have it up and running soon. Please be patient and if you need any information please call the National office or email Janet: aa-srt@son-rep-texas.net. She will be glad to assist you.

• Nominations from the chapters for Honorary Membership and The Knights of the Order of San Jacinto are due November 4th, 2016.

• The Topic for the Texas History Essay Contest is: “Stephen F. Austin, The Father of Texas.” Brochures will be available at the National office in September 2016.

• I would like to thank you for the articles and pictures you are sending for your newsletter; they have been GREAT. I need YOUR help with articles and pictures.
If your chapter has or will be celebrating any events PLEASE email me at: aa-srt@son-rep-texas.net. I will be submitting the Nov. issue for publication; the deadline for submissions is September 23, 2016.
ALAMO CHAPTER CONTEST REPORT

A second contest was started two years ago. It was the idea of Tom Wood and Gilbert Garcia with the assistance of Al Davis. The contest very simply was a written assignment where an Alamo defender would be writing a letter to their family: wife, sister, brother. The theme of the letter would be about the battle as they viewed it. Each defender could state what their hopes and dreams were. The letter would describe battle conditions on both sides of the wall. This year we had 1976 entries in “The Texas Proud” contest and 125 in the “Poster/Essay Contest.” The Texas Proud winners would receive a $500.00 stipend for their school for Texas history materials. In 2016, 2101 students participated in these two contests. Our school partners this year were the Northside Independent School District and the Schertz-Cibolo-Universal City School District.

For the coming school year, 2016-2017, we have six schools committed from these districts with approximately 2400-2500 entries.

I would like to mention that the following SRT members have taken part in each of the thirteen years: Bob Benavides, David Jauer, Edward Heath, and Ken Pfeiffer. Our committee which runs this contest has 146 years of teaching experience. Hopefully we can help the students we work with to truly understand and picture these events of 180 years ago.

PRESIDENT GENERAL’S MESSAGE

them with the application process. Patience is needed and pass this on that the process takes up to 8 weeks or more. 1st Vice President General, Edward Heath has secured The YO Ranch Hotel, Kerrville for the 95th SRT Annual Meeting, March 17-19, 2017. Final plans, details and contract are progressing. See Calendar of Events (back page this issue) for Annual Meeting, Executive Meetings, Workshops, Honor Days details. Downtown Temple Library Meeting Room was the site of the 2nd Workshop, July 9th. Thank you, Mike Belcher for setting this up. The Workshop was well attended and the information presented was what the attendees said was needed. The last Workshop will follow the EC Meeting in Marshall, Sept 10th. Chapter presidents and district representatives are required to attend at least one workshop and receive a chapter binder containing the SRT Constitution, Bylaws and Procedures.

Website update: The SRT Website was not hacked. It is being reworked and updated and will need some more work as we go along so be patient as progress is made.

Plan a chapter event for remaining SRT Honor Days - Texas Ranger Day August 9th,”Texian” Navy Day September 17th, Battle of Gonzales October 2nd and Stephen F. Austin Birthday November 3rd.

On a personal note, SRT was recognized opening night at the DRT Convention, May 12th in Addison. While there I had several inquiries for SRT membership. Following the 180th SJ Day and a fast trip back to San Antonio, 1st Lady Carol and I were present at the Alamo for the presentation of a bronze and gold leaf covered “Texas Lady Liberty”, sponsored by Spirit of Texas Bank. 1st Vice President General Edward Heath, Secretary General, Ken Pfeiffer and SRT members from Houston and San Antonio and DRT members were present. I attended the CRT Convention, Castroville June 24 – 25 and entered the Great Medina River Duck Race with our 3 granddaughters. What great fun!

July 8th, SRT lost a valued member with the passing of Past President General Lavon Tindall, KSJ. Sir Knights Billy Johnson, David Hanover and I were honorary pallbearers, truly an honor and privilege to assist with a compatriot’s final wishes.

See you somewhere in the Great State of TEXAS!
President General Bob Steakley, KSJ
The public is invited to attend our 15th annual ceremony commemorating the Battle of Medina, this being the 203rd anniversary of the bloodiest battle in Texas history! The Battle of Medina occurred on August 18, 1813 between the Royal Spanish Army and the Republican Army of the North when between 800 and 1,300 Americans, Tejanos, Indians, and Spanish soldiers died in this all but forgotten battle which historians have named the Gutierrez-Magee Expedition. Since August 18th is on Thursday this year, we will hold our normal commemorative ceremony beginning at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 20, 2016 under the large oak trees on Old Applewhite Road. We will have a Color Guard representing the U.S.A., Spain, Texas and Mexico, plus descendants of the men who fought and died in this battle on both sides. Due to the heat, we will try to keep this ceremony as short as possible, and adjourn to the nice cool meeting room at the Atascosa County Leming Annex (Old Leming School) located at 25 E. 5th Street in Leming, Texas. An afternoon seminar will begin at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday afternoon, August 20, 2016, courtesy of Barbara Westbrook, Atascosa County Historical Commission Chairman.

Our speakers this year for the Saturday afternoon seminar include Caroline Castillo Crimm, Ph.D., Professor of History, Sam Houston State University. Dr. Crimm spoke at the 201st Anniversary seminar, and you will not want to miss what she has to say about this all but forgotten event in Texas history. Dr. Frank de la Tejas, the former Texas State Historian, appointed by Governor Perry, and head of the History Department at Texas State University will speak again on the Spanish Influence on Texas. Dr. Amy Porter, PhD, Professor of History, Texas A&M University San Antonio has been invited to speak. Al McGraw will be back this year to show us some of the archeological items he has found over the years. Jessie Villarreal will bring his second book on the Tejanos involved in the American Revolution, and we have asked Jessie to say a few words to us this year. Anthony Delgado, of the Canary Islands Descendants Association will speak about the participants of the Battles. We are expecting representatives of both the Texas General Land Office, and the Texas Historical Commission. I have invited Dan Arellano, who has organized the Battle of Medina Association to tell us what he has been doing this past year. Doc L’Harrison, from Louisiana, who will again speak this year, and tell us what he has found about the men from Louisiana who came to fight in Texas. We always invite Robert Thonhoff, Teacher, Administrator, County Judge, and award winning author; who spent years researching this all but forgotten battle. However, due to health reasons, Professor Thonhoff probably will not attend. If it were not for Bob Thonhoff most of us would not even know about the Battle of Medina.
The Battle of Medina was between approximately 1,800 men in the Royal Spanish Army and approximately 1,400 men in the Republican Army of the North, which included about 400 Spaniards, 400 Tejanos, 200 Native Americans, and about 400 men from the USA. In fact we have identified 5 men who fought in the American Revolution who were involved in some way in the Gutierrez-Magee Expedition, with only one Patriot of the American Revolution, Peter Sides having been proven to have fought in both the American Revolution and also fought and died in the Battle of Medina. Direct descendants of Peter Sides are eligible for membership in the DAR, the SAR, and the SRT, and descendants directly related to any of the 3,200 men who fought in this battle on either side are eligible for membership in the SRT. Over the past 16 years the SAR, DAR, SRT, DRT, Mayflower Society, the Daughter of the War of 1812, and descendants of the men who fought here have dedicated markers to the men who fought and died in this battle, and these descendants will rededicate their markers at the Saturday morning ceremony under the large oak trees. Everyone interested in history is invited to attend.

Exhibitors will include the Order of Grenaderos y Damas de Galvez, Canary Island’s Descendants Association, and we have invited Los Bexarenos Genealogy and Historical Society.

Signs will be placed where you turn to the west off Highway 281 onto the Old Pleasanton Road about 15 miles south of San Antonio, and 10 miles north of Pleasanton. Signs will again be placed where Bruce Road branches off Old Pleasanton Road to the west. Signs will also be where Old Applewhite Road branches off Bruce Road to the west, but for additional directions, contact Tom Green at TBGreen3@gmail.com or 713-340-1965. The afternoon seminar will begin at 1:00 p.m. Saturday afternoon at the Atascosa County Annex (Old Leming School) located at 25 E. 5th Street, in Leming, Texas.
More than 75 seventh grade students from the Bryan Independent School District experienced Texas history live and up close in their own backyard during a recent field day event at the newly dedicated Boonville Heritage Park.

Boonville Heritage Park in Bryan, Texas, is a project led by the William Joel Bryan Chapter #14 Sons of the Republic of Texas. The park features the history of both Texas and Brazos County. It includes a period finished 1856 dog trot cabin, a six flags over Texas plaza, a council ring and replica of a Twin Sister cannon, a smokehouse, Masonic Lodge and replica original courthouse along with bronzes of four men of vision during Brazos County’s early inception.

Also, the Republic of Texas era Boonville Cemetery is adjacent with grave markers dating to the 1840s. The field day was attended by four seventh grade Bryan Independent School District classes and was a huge success.

“You are all amazing! Our 4th grade students and staff cannot thank you enough for all the extra time and effort you put into finishing the park for our visit,” wrote Laura Hlvainka, fourth grade science and social studies teacher at Mitchell Elementary in Bryan. “The kids have not stopped talking about the trip! My team and I are already looking forward to booking a visit with you during our next school year.”

Based on the success of the initial field day, plans are to have the more than 1,250 fourth grade students in Bryan Independent School District take part in field day activities next school year to learn more about Texas history and Boonville, which was the first county seat for Brazos County. College Station Independent School District has committed to field trips in the Spring of 2017 for both 4th grade and 7th grade students, adding 2,000 more students that will visit the park.

Prior to the field day, the teachers had already developed their talking points and the plan for each of the four sites to be visited, said George Nelson, district representative.

“Immediately after leaving the bus, the students and teachers, along with some supportive parents, assembled into four groups and prepared to begin the visitation trek. The students were, by the way, remarkable in various ways. They were well informed about the four sites to be visited and already knew much about the topics of the day, they were very mannerly, they followed the instructions of the teachers, they were inquisitive, they completed their work-books at every site, they asked good questions, they remained hands-off around the antiques as needed and they created no problems at all. The teachers were also remarkable.”

Nelson said using their talking points, they delivered their messages at the four sites in an age-appropriate manner so the students grasped the information and became actively engaged in the discussions.

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“All of this continued until the rumbling of thunder could be heard approaching the site. By that time, each group had visited at least two, and probably three, of the four sites. Understanding the approaching potential risks of the weather, the teachers promptly led the students back to the bus for boarding just as the first sprinkling commenced and well before any of the approaching severe weather arrived.”

The docents remained to properly secure the facilities and departed during a pause in the raining and also well before the severe weather arrived.

“What an event it was for all of us,” Nelson said. “A wonderful first-time large group of visitors, supportive and caring docents and a marvelous site supported by Brazos County, investors, contractors, members of Sons of the Republic of Texas, members of Daughters of the Republic of Texas and many others - all reminding us of the ancestors whom we remembered and honored. Much time and treasure has been invested in the Boonville Heritage Park and Cemetery and events like this one are a primary reason therefore.”

For more information about the park, visit Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/boonvilleheritagepark.

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DR. BILL O’NEAL SPOKE TO THE PINEY WOODS SRT CHAPER 52

On Tuesday, 7/26/2016, Dr. Bill O’Neal spoke to the Piney Woods SRT chapter 52 in Tyler about the contributions to freedom made by General Sam Houston in the Texas Revolution and his father, Major Samuel Houston, in the American Revolution. The SRT invited the Tyler chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution to jointly sponsor the program.

After the presentation, SRT chapter president Sam Hopkins gave Dr. O’Neal a Texas flag that had been flown of the state capitol, in appreciation for his service to the SRT. Dr. O’Neal is a full member of the SRT too. SAR chapter president David McLeod gave Dr. O’Neal an American flag that had been flown over the U.S. Capitol in appreciation for his service to our nation.
IN MEMORY OF SIR KNIGHT LAVON TINDALL

Words can’t express the sorrow that I am feeling about the loss of my best friend Lavon Tindall. I have known Lavon since we were just kids. My dad worked with Nathan Tindall, LaVon’s dad. Over the years we grew closer and closer. In 1990, Lavon introduced me to The Sons of the Republic of Texas. We traveled all over the state attending Sons meetings. I recall him telling me to stay close, listen and learn. His exact words were, I will introduce you and you do the rest. With his leadership I moved up the ranks of this organization.

One day Lavon called me and asked what I thought about starting a cannon salute team. I told Lavon that would be fine but we don’t have a cannon. He said that’s no problem, I have found a cannon. We traveled all over the state doing salute firings at marker ceremonies. Since my son was around the age of ten, I approached Lavon about a musket crew. With this we purchased several muskets and recruited five of my son’s friends and we had a musket crew. This was probably LaVon’s proudest moment. With the firing of the cannon and musket at school, also came the talk about what Texas history should mean to them. Lavon was an excellent story teller and would always dress the part.

About two and a half years ago, Lavon was diagnosed with colon cancer. We set and talked about it on several occasions with the faith that he could beat it. With constant chemotherapy, doctors told him that nothing was helping. Lavon, at no time would give up keeping his faith and belief that he could be cured.

Lavon had received every honor the Sons offer, with the exception of the Life Time Achievement award. I am proud to say that he was presented with this award a little over a month ago. I do not know of anyone who deserved it more than him. He was so proud of our organization and his fine Texas heritage.

I am very proud to have called Lavon my friend and even more my best friend. I will forever miss him and this organization and the State of Texas has lost a fine compatriot.

I can just see it, up in heaven Lavon visiting with the likes of Gen. Houston and other Texas heroes, listening to their stories and him telling his. He will be greatly missed and may he rest in peace.

Sincerely,
Billy Edward Johnson ,KSJ

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
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<tr>
<td>LaVon Tindall</td>
<td>20</td>
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<td>Joseph Louis Benham</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>Kerrville, TX</td>
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<td>Ronald Reed Franke</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donald Ray Mudd</td>
<td>6</td>
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NEW SRT MEMBERS

Charles Richard Edwards  Joseph Brinkley McDermett  West Lafayette, IN
Weston Fuller Shanley  James M. Perrin  New Canaan, CT
Charles Edwin Bobbish  Sylvanus Castleman  Burlington, MA
Michael Malley Roach  Robert Wilson, Sr.  Houston, TX
James Cage Cantrell II  John Jackson Snider  Galveston, TX
Andy Lee McGlothlin  Patience Wells  League City, TX
Christopher Lee McGlothlin Sr.  Patience Wells  League City, TX
Ryan Andrew Belcher  John Belcher  Belton, TX
Erik James Belcher  John Belcher  Belton, TX
Richard Kevin Asher  Tomas Asher  Boerne, TX
John Speers Holt  Jacob Johnson Gholson  Washington, D.C.
Edgar Ross Norwood  Aaron Cherry, Sr.  Liberty, TX
Samuel David Brister  John Stewart Roberts  Columbus, GA
Samuel David Brister  James Nolan  Columbus, GA
James Travis Crysup  James Williamson Standifer  Bastrop, TX
Chris Scott Kappmeyer  Johan Heinrich Conrad Keppmeyer  West Lake Hills, TX
William Arie Muske  Rev. John Patton  College Station, TX
Michael Timothy Parker  Edmund T. Estes  Houston, TX
David Leon White  John Andrew Box  Littleton, CO
Larry Gene White  John Andrew Box  Hilltop Lakes, TX
Jason Scott Munford  Reuben Hornsby  Victoria, TX
Gary Wayne Munford  Reuben Hornsby  Victoria, TX
Jacob Arthur Munford  Reuben Hornsby  Victoria, TX
Joshua David Packard  Reuben Hornsby  Victoria, TX
James Stanley Bluntzer PhD.  Peter Bluntzer  Goliad, TX
Powell Thompson Calhoun II  James Norman Smith  Goliad, TX
Thomas Marin Cloud III  Mourad Whitfield Bumstead  Austin, TX
Danny Lee Dutton  George John Glasscock  Weatherford, TX
Mark Randall Landt  David Aaron Gage  Katy, TX
Clarence Alvin Maedgen III  Amanda(Amy) Comstock White  San Angelo, TX
Bobbie Allen Nowlin  Sion Bostick  San Angelo, TX
Lynn David Winston  Jane Herbert Wilkinson Long  San Angelo, TX
James Dale Moore, Jr.  George Washington Smyth  Helotes, TX
Johnny Brian Coers  Heinrich Elisabeth Coers  New Braunfels, TX
Randy Stephen Levensailor  August M.G. Wolfshohl  New Braunfels, TX
William Samuel Wiseman III  John Alexander Caudle  Mt. Juliet, TN
William Samuel Wiseman III  Marcus Caudle  Mt. Juliet, TN
William Samuel Wiseman II  John Alexander Caudle  Mt. Juliet, TN
Kenneth Boyd Seay  Joseph Harbour  Norman, OK
Kenneth Boyd Seay  Issac Banta  Norman, OK
Jimmie Choate Parker  Champion Choate  Horseshoe Bay, TX
Frederick Calvin Mead  Clement Clinton Dyer  Conroe, TX
Hugh Cecil Sadler  John Sadler  Conroe, TX
John Walter Walker Jr.  James Walker  Conroe, TX
Randall Leon Wheeler  Richard Hooper  Trinity, TX
2016

Texian Navy Day

Honoring
The Texian Navy

Saturday, September 17, 2016 10:00 AM

Battleship Texas
USS TEXAS – BB-35

Battleship Texas State Historic Site
3523 Independence Parkway South
La Porte, Texas 77571

Ceremony organized and hosted by:
The Sons of the Republic of Texas

SRT sponsored by:
The Battleship Texas Foundation
With assistance from the staff of the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Contact: Ronald W. Brown / 713 621 5660 / ron@ronwbrown.com
(www.srttexas.org for additional details)

Come see the U S Coast Guard and Rolling Thunder
TEXAS HISTORICAL MARKER

David Hanover last traveled on U.S. Hwy. 69 at the newly dedicated Texas historical marker was two months ago, in June. Since then, take a look at the new signage placed by TxDOT. Six months in the making since our dedication ceremony on February 3, 2016, the signs have been worth the wait. The Texas historical marker and all signage have now been fully restored!

SAM HOUSTON COLOR PRINT
NOW AVAILABLE

Order your unframed, 18” x 24” color print for $30, including shipping. This beautiful print is a reproduction of the ‘856 photograph by Fredrick of New York City when Houston was a member of the United States Senate. A Pre-printed 2” purple border gives the appearance of a real mat, thereby eliminating the need for expensive matting; the mat accentuates Senator Houston’s purple velvet coat.

The matted area includes a printed nameplate:

SAM HOUSTON
1793-1863

Name __________________________________________
Address _________________________________________
_______________________________________________
_______________________________________________

# of Prints _____ @ $30.00 each $___________
Calendar of Events

2016 Quarterly Meetings

Sept. 9-11, 2016  Fairfield Inn & Suites, 105 W. Interstate 20, Marshall, TX, 75672 (903) 938-7666; Room Rates; King $104.+ tax, Double Queen $104.+ tax; Cutoff date August 9, 2016.
Please give this Group Code; G1985

Dec. 2-3, 2016  Hampton Inn & Suites, 7006 Navarro, Victoria, TX 77904; (361) 573-9911; King or Double Queen, Room Rate $99.+ tax; Cutoff date November 11, 2016
Please give this Group code; SRT.

2016 SRT Events

March 2  Texas Independence Day
March 6  Fall of the Alamo
March 27  Goliad Massacre
April 21  San Jacinto Day
September 17  Texian Navy Day on the Battleship Texas
October 2  Battle of Gonzales
November 3  Stephen F. Austin’s Birthday (Father of Texas)

ANNUAL MEETING

March 17-19, 2016  Y.O Ranch & Conference Center, 2033 Sidney Baker St. (Hwy 16), Kerrville, TX 78028 (830) 257-4440; King or 2 Queens; Room rate $104.+tax; Cutoff date is February 15, 2017.
Please give the group code; The Sons of the Republic of Texas.

The Sons of the Republic of Texas

1717 Eighth Street
Bay City, TX 77414
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Contact us at:
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1717 Eighth Street, Bay City, TX 77414
Phone: (979) 245-6644 Fax: (979) 244-3819