

## **MEETING MINUTES**

### **April 27, 2011**

The William Joel Bryan Chapter #14 – Bryan of the Sons of the Republic of Texas held our second meeting in 2011 on Wednesday, April 27, 2011 at 11:30 AM at C&J BBQ in Bryan, Texas. Attending were eleven members plus four state officers: President General Sam Clark, Second Vice President Tom Houston, Executive Committeeman Randy Pollard and District Representative Robert Schuhmann. The meeting started with an Invocation followed by the Pledges to the US and Texas Flags led by VP John Hicks.

Following lunch, Chapter President George Nelson called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone there including new members Andy Adams, Blair Fannin and Bookman Peters. President Nelson then called upon Past President General Charlie Briggs to introduce our four distinguished guests previously mentioned.

At that point President Nelson asked for an Ancestor Honor Roll and following completion Secretary Mervin Peters read the minutes from the February 23, 2011 meeting. On motion to approve the minutes by John Hicks and seconded by Alton Rogers a favorable vote was unanimous.

Treasurer Charlie Briggs then gave a financial report that included indicating the chapter has \$4,139.20 deposit and no liabilities.

President Nelson then called on Mervin Peters to present the currently developed project possibilities which are:

- Member Ancestor documentation and information access enhancement. All member ancestors have been identified and separated into two groups, one for those whose burial site has been located and another for those not yet located. It is recommended that we seek to locate all of these ancestors, make sure they are listed in the appropriate cemetery in Find A Grave and that each have included in the site a bio, photo of gravestone, photo of image of ancestor and photo of SRT Medallion if one has been placed. For those not having medallions and whose member descendant desires to place one the chapter will assist in any way possible except for the cost. This item did not require a motion to approve. (Copy of list attached.)
- Identification of all possible Citizens of the Republic who died in Brazos County are near by in adjacent counties and location of their burial site. A list of forty-one already identified of which seventeen have been located and four with SRT medallions or state historical markers. The project would be to have an annual ceremony at graveside in conjunction with the Robert Henry of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas annually on either Texas Independence Day-March 2 or San Jacinto Day-April 21 at which time a Citizen or Veteran medallion would be place at the foot of any existing monument. If more than one citizen is in the particular cemetery then all in that cemetery will have medallions placed. Cost is estimated not to exceed \$100 annually. Motion to approve by John Raney and seconded by John Hicks was unanimously approved. (Copy of list attached.)

- The final project is the adoption of the Monument Garden at the entrance of the Brazos County Courthouse. Items include in the garden are an old cedar tree removed for the original courthouse site at Booneville when the courthouse was moved to Bryan when the railroad was built, Masonic cornerstone placed in the original courthouse built at the current location, and state historical markers for the Commissioners Court, Harvey Mitchell and William Joel Bryan, our chapters name sake. Brazos County has indicated they would be totally responsible for all planting, watering and maintenance if WJB-SRT would furnish additional planters of the county's choosing and provide reimbursement for the annual cost of flowering plants. Preliminary estimates are that the planters will cost no more than \$1,000 and the annual cost of the plants should not exceed \$350. Motion to approve by John Hicks and seconded by Bookman Peters was unanimously approved. Copy of images and emails attached.)

President Nelson then called upon President General Sam Clark to present the program which was a very interesting overview of the goals, mission, activities and projects of the Headquarters of SRT directed at promoting awareness of the Republic of Texas Heritage and preserving and expanding the many historical places and objects associated with the era of the Republic. At the conclusion of his presentation, Tom Houston was called upon to make a presentation of District Representative of the Year 2010-11 to Bob Schuhmann, District Representative of the of the Brazos Valley District.

The four guests then jointly conducted a brief question and answer session ranging over a number of outreach opportunities. Most relevant of these was the San Jacinto Chapter's annual Republic of Texas Day at the George Bush Library for 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade children from Brazos and surrounding counties to be held this year on May 12<sup>th</sup> with two identical sessions to be held, one at 9AM and the other at 1PM. Everyone was encouraged to attend. Attendance was also encouraged for the SRT Executive Committee meeting to be held at the Sam Houston Museum on June 3<sup>rd</sup> in Huntsville.

Brief discussion was then held by chapter members regarding the desire to have someone fill the position of Publicist and Blair Fannin was asked if he would accept such a roll to which he agreed. Mervin Peters moved and John Hicks seconded that Blair Fannin be elected to the officer position of Publicist. Motion carried unanimously. Secretary Mervin Peters was elected to the additional position of Genealogist.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned shortly after 1PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mervin Peters, Secretary (Rev. 4/30/11)