

TEXAS FOLKLORE SOCIETY



Established 1909

A Partner with
Tarleton State University

501(c)3 Nonprofit

TexasFolkloreSociety.Org

The Texas Folklore Society collects, preserves, and shares the practices and customs of the people of Texas and the Southwest.



HOWDY, Paisanos

I hope 2025 is starting out great for all of you. I got to kick the year off by attending the Fort Worth Stock Show for Western Music & Cowboy Poetry featuring our own John Pelham reading his poetry. It was a great opportunity to see Texas folklore in action. One of the performers sang the classic cowboy song, "Oh Bury Me Not" (also known as "The Lone Prairie). A fun bit of trivia is that this song was published in TFS's book *Southwestern Lore* way back in 1931. Crazy to think that was almost 100 years ago!

This fall was busy! I did a lot of traveling to events around the state on behalf of TFS. Along the way I got to see and talk to many of you, which is always a lot of fun. I want to send out thanks to all the Paisanos who volunteered at events such as the McKinney Literary Fest, the Ft. Worth Harambee Festival, Dobie Dichos, and the Texas Book Festival. I want to give a special shout out to Blanca Jenkins and Suzann Thompson for sharing their research as part of the TFS panel at the East Texas Historical Assoc. meeting in Nacogdoches. Presentations like this are so important for showcasing the exciting work that Paisanos do, and this panel sparked a really dynamic conversation with the audience that definitely made it clear how fun it is to be part of TFS.

As we ramp up for our 2025 annual meeting, things are staying busy! Our latest publication, *Fiestas in Laredo* is getting great responses both from our members and the broader field of folklore and we hope to have a couple of books close on its heels. We hope to see you all in April.

—Kristina Downs, PhD, Secretary-Editor/Executive Director

106TH MEETING



Where the West Begins and Folklore Never Ends . . .

JOIN US Registration for our meeting is now open!
REGISTER ONLINE [HERE](#)

OR PRINT AND COMPLETE the registration form on page 9 and mail to Texas Folklore Society, Box T-0295, Stephenville, TX 76402.

If you haven't had the chance to pay your 2025 dues, you can include your renewal with your online or mail-in registration.

If you're traveling from out of town or simply want to stay close to the action, book your room at the Radisson Hotel Fort Worth North-Fossil Creek. Located at 2540 Meacham Blvd, the hotel is a pet-friendly facility with an indoor heated pool that offers complimentary parking, breakfast, and Wi-Fi.

Rooms are \$130 per night in the TFS block online Check-in time is at 3 p.m., and check-out is at noon. Reserve a room in the TFS block online or call the hotel at **817- 769-4023** and mention the **Texas Folklore Society**. **[HOTEL INFO](#)**

Thanks to our SPONSORS



*John & Rita
Pelham*



**Texas Folklore Society
PAST PRESIDENTS CLUB**



NATIONAL
Cowgirl Museum
AND HALL OF FAME



PUT YOUR BOOTS ON

Kick off the meeting with the TFS Tour



Permanent exhibitions: “The Hitting the Mark: Cowgirls and Wild West Shows Gallery highlights women, like Annie Oakley, who were immensely popular during the heyday of wild west shows.” The second floor contains the Kit Moncrief Galleries, of which the It’s Never Just a Horse™ exhibition examines the partnership between people and horses, particularly the Museum’s Hall of Fame Honorees. These include pioneers, artists, writers, musicians, actors, humanitarians, business owners, educators, ranchers, and rodeo cowgirls.

TWO TEMPORARY GALLERIES: the Anne W. Marion Gallery, primarily for art exhibits and the Legends Gallery for textiles. Currently showing is Soldaderas to Amazonas: Escaramuzas Charras, with an accompanying photography and poetry exhibit: Escaramuza, The Poetics of Home.

Did You Know?

TFS has held its annual meeting in the City of Fort Worth six times! The first time —1929, and the most recent —2014.

The city is known for their world-class museums. You may want to come a day earlier or stay through Sunday.

FORT WORTH FUN FACTS

The City of Fort Worth began as **Camp Worth** on the bank of the Trinity River in 1849. Camp Worth was named for Mexican-American War hero Gen. William Jenkins Worth.



During their notorious crime spree in the 1930s, infamous outlaws Bonnie and Clyde evaded law enforcement at the historic Stockyards

Hotel, now one of the city’s most haunted spots.

Three museums pay homage to the city’s cattle industry heritage: **The**

National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame, the **Texas Cowboy Hall of Fame**, and the **Cattle Raisers Museum**.

Kimbell Art Museum features works by El Greco, Cezanne, Rembrandt, Picasso, and Matisse.

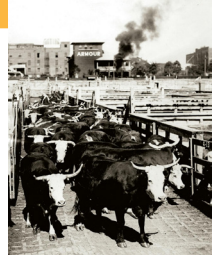


On Sept. 21, 1908, the **Palace Theater Light Bulb** began burning as a backstage light at the Old Byers Opera House. It continues to burn today at the Stockyards Museum. Known as the “Light Bulb Methuselah,” it is the world’s second

oldest continuously burning light bulb.

EXPLORE MORE

Fort Worth Water Gardens • Bureau of Engraving and Printing • Stockyards National Historic District • Fort Worth Museum of Science and History • Log Cabin Village • Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth



BUFFALO SOLDIERS TO WELCOME ATTENDEES



Bravo Zulu Homefront Alliance will welcome attendees to our 106th Annual Meeting, Friday morning, April 18.

The Dallas-area nonprofit organization was founded in 2023 and is operated by U.S. military veterans. According to founder Regina Thompson, the organization “strives to reduce challenges that many veterans face with adjustment to civilian life upon completion of their service.”

The group assists veterans with finding jobs, by providing transportation, and by helping them navigate the complicated VA (Veterans Affairs) system. In addition,

Regina said the group provides meals and necessities such as toiletries and blankets to veterans and other community members living in homeless encampments and works with inner-city youth, encouraging them to get outdoors and embrace nature at community garden sites. Still, the nonprofit has another purpose—education.

“We also do Buffalo Soldier living history,” Regina said. “Many people, especially younger generations, do not know about the Buffalo Soldiers and their contributions to the American military. We talk about their contributions, take artifacts, and share their history.”

CELEBRATING THE LOMAX WOMEN



John Lomax III, grandson of TFS cofounder and pioneering musicologist John Avery Lomax, will entertain and inform with a presentation on the Lomax women during Friday’s Celebration Luncheon at the 106th Annual Meeting of the Texas Folklore Society.

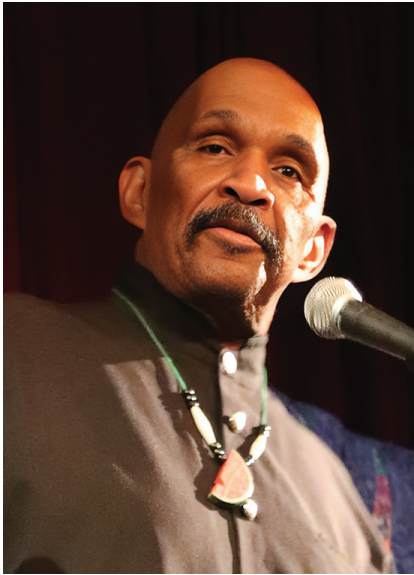
John III tours the country performing the *Lomax on Lomax Show*, which tells the story of four generations of Lomaxes, who have found, recorded, preserved, promoted, and presented unique American Music for over 140 years. In his Annual Meeting presentation, John III will dig deeper into family history.

“The careers of John Avery Lomax and Alan Lomax, and to a lesser extent, my dad, John Avery Lomax Jr., have been well documented both in biographies and autobiographies but their success would not have happened were it not for the efforts of four very strong women,” John III said. “Bess Bauman Brown Lomax, Ruby Terrill Lomax, Dr. Anna Lomax Wood, and Margaret Marable (Mimi) Lomax supported John Avery Sr., Alan, and John Avery Jr. far beyond acting merely as wives and a daughter.”

Admission into the Celebration Luncheon, sponsored by the Texas Folklore Society Past Presidents Club, is provided at no additional cost to registered meeting attendees. Registration for the meeting is \$40 per person, which also includes admittance into five sessions of folklore papers (Friday and Saturday), a kickoff reception (Thursday evening), and two evening hootenannies (Thursday and Friday night). **Friday night’s meal banquet tickets and entertainment are available for an additional fee of \$35 for adults and \$10 for children.**

PRIZED PRESENTERS LINE UP FOR 106TH

DECEE = Award Winning Storyteller



Fort Worth goes by many names—Panther City, Cowtown, Hell’s Half Acre, Funkytown. It’s the final stop on that infamous Jacksboro Highway, the home of the Goatman, the Lake Worth Monster, and more. You’re invited to enjoy the folklore, history, and hysterics of “Da Fort” with Decee Cornish, a longtime Fort Worth resident and award-winning storyteller. A native

Texan born and raised in Houston’s Fifth Ward, Decee will serve as Friday night banquet entertainment with tales of our host city at the 106th Annual Meeting of the Texas Folklore Society.

For decades, Decee, known as the “Urban Aesop,” has told

stories and entertained nationally. He is a recipient of the prestigious John Henry Faulk Award, presented by the Tejas Storytelling Association, for his outstanding contribution to the art of storytelling in Texas and the Southwest.

“Decee Cornish is a revered member of the Texas-storytelling community and has charmed and entertained audiences in Texas and beyond for nearly forty years,” **TFS President MaryAnn Blue** said. “His stories know no bounds. They are hilarious, thought-provoking, heartfelt, and informative. You never know what stories he will have up his sleeve, but one thing is certain, you will enjoy every minute of what he has to tell!”

Decee has been a featured teller in festivals statewide, including the Annual Tejas Storytelling Festival in Denton, the Houston Storytelling Festival, the George West Storyfest, Storytellers of the High Plains, and the Texas Librarian Association’s (TLA) annual conference. He is a five-time Texas State Storytelling Champion, Texas Commission of the Arts Touring Artist, five-time chair of the TLA Storytelling Round Table, Program Provider for the Education Service Centers State of Texas, and 2015 National Storytelling Network “Storyslam” Champion. His work was recognized by the President’s Commission on the Arts and the Humanities in 2004.



SUNNY SAUCEDA = Grammy Winner

The Texas Folklore Society is excited to welcome Texas Folklife to the presenter lineup at our 106th Annual Meeting. The organization’s newly appointed director of music and heritage Sunny Saucedá—a three-time Grammy winner and cultural trailblazer—will present “The Story is in the Song.”

In his role at Texas Folklife, Sunny spotlights the voices, stories, and sounds that define Texas’s rich cultural landscape. During his annual meeting presentation, Sunny will explore the ways in which the diverse music traditions of the Lone Star State carry the stories and songs of Texas Communities.



TEXAS
FOLKLIFE

“Every song carries a story,” Texas Folklife Director Elisha Oliver said. “Whether it’s a ballad of love, a hymn of struggle, or a concert of celebration, the heart of every tune beats with narrative. These stories are not just words set to music; they are the collective experiences of communities, the whispers of ancestors, and the cries of a culture striving to be heard.” A nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving, celebrating, and promoting the state’s diverse cultural heritage, Texas Folklife strives to showcase the traditions, arts, and stories of communities across the state through various programs and events. Learn more at TexasFolklife.org.

Cowtown Opry Saddles Pals

The Cowtown Opry Saddles Pals will perform for attendees at the **President's Pre-Hootenanny Reception on Thursday, April 17**. In their acoustic performance, set to take the stage at 6:30 p.m., the group will share the "great musical heritage of Texas" while "setting forth that unique style that is associated with American cowboy music."

Based in the Livestock Exchange Building at the Fort Worth Stockyards National Historic District, Cowtown Opry preserves, promotes, and performs vintage and contemporary Western and Texas Music, including music from the singing cowboy movies, old-time cowboy ballads, and Western Swing through free public performances.



"Folks from all over the world come to our Fort Worth Stockyards National Historic District, just to experience the legacy of the Texas cowboy and the American West," Artistic Director Devon Dawson said. "Cowtown Opry performers have the privilege of continuing this legacy through music."

In addition to preserving and promoting the state's musical heritage, Cowtown Opry provides musical scholarships for young performers and produces weekly Sunday afternoon shows. The organization is supported by donations, sponsors, grants, membership fees, an annual gala fundraiser, and performance fees. Learn more at cowtownopry.org

Admittance to the President's Pre-Hootenanny is free for registered Annual Meeting attendees.



Vendor Space Available

Do you, your club, organization, institution, or business have information or goods to share? Are you a publisher with books to sell? Are you a crafter or artisan wanting to showcase your creations? Do you know someone with goods or services that are a perfect fit for TFS?

Limited vendor booths are available for the Texas Folklore Society's 106th Annual Meeting. Six-foot tables are available to reserve for the event for \$50 each.

**Reserve a table by March 1,
email TexasFolkloreSociety@gmail.com**

5 Ways to Support Texas Folklore Society's 106th Annual Meeting

- 1. Attend** Join us at our 106th Annual Meeting April 17–19, at The Radisson Hotel Fort Worth North-Fossil Creek. Registration is available online [HERE](#)
- 2. Invite** Share your excitement about the Annual Meeting. Bring friends, colleagues, and family members interested in folklore, Texas, and The Southwest.
- 3. Create** Door prizes are a big hit. Consider assembling a gift basket representing your local community, highlighting your culture, celebrating your favorite traditions, or featuring your craft. Know local business owners? Consider asking them to donate.
- 4. Donate** Make a one-time, designated monetary donation. Tax-deductible donations can be made online, via telephone, and by mail. Your contribution will add to the general meeting fund and help TFS with meals, entertainment, awards, and other related costs. Contact the home office at (254) 445-5445 for more information.
- 5. Sponsor** Sponsorships are great for businesses, organizations, and families; they can also be made to honor a loved one. They include recognition through event signage, programs, social media promotions, newsletters, member emails, and event mentions. **Email TexasFolkloreSociety@gmail.com for information on sponsorship packages.**

CELEBRATE TFS 2025 Awardees

At this year's annual meeting, the Celebration Luncheon on Friday, April 18, will include the installation of a new Fellow of the Texas Folklore Society, **Kay Reed Arnold**, and honor Hermes Nye Hootenanny Award winner **Jean G. Schnitz**.



KAY REED ARNOLD

has been a TFS member since 2001 and has been a tireless supporter and advocate of the Society, serving in leadership roles, volunteering at outreach events, and more. Her leadership is evident in the recent history of the Society—she was instrumental in the move to Tarleton State University, the hiring of TFS staff, and the development of a strategic plan.



Already a Fellow of the Texas Folklore Society, inducted in 2023, longtimer

JEAN Granberry Schnitz

—who joined TFS in 1989—is also a worthy recipient of the Hermes Nye Hootenanny Award. Always front and center with her

hammered dulcimer and a ready singing voice, Jean's is a familiar face at our annual hootenannies. But her love of music does not stop with TFS. Over the years, she and her husband Lew have packed up that dulcimer and hauled it all over Texas to folklife festivals and other events.

"We hope everyone will join us as we celebrate these wonderful women," Secretary-Editor/Executive Director Kristina Downs said. "They have both been instrumental in the success of the Society and are deserving of a Texas-sized celebration."



TFS Song Vote Extended

It's not too late to vote for the official TFS Song! With only a few dozen votes counted and almost 400 members in the Society, we hope you'll take the time to weigh in before our new extended deadline, Tuesday, February 18.

The TFS Song Committee has composed three songs that reflect the spirit of the Society and we're asking you to vote for your favorite. The song with the most votes will become the official TFS Song and be sung during closing ceremonies at our annual meetings.

Voting is restricted to one per TFS member. Be sure to check your email inbox for instructions on voting.

MEMBERSHIP

Invite a Friend

This is the only organization that you join and attend because you want to. You expect no professional advancements from it; you have no political axe to grind. You are not pressured

—J. Frank Dobie, ca. 1925, Editor

Remember, you can request brochures or direct future members to the website. You can also volunteer at many of the future events when TFS participates.



I joined the TFS on a whim in the early 80s, but stayed all these years on purpose. I joined the TFS when I heard that members annually received a new hardback book on Texas “free” just by paying dues that were less than the cost of a book. I was infatuated with the first several “free” books I got! A year or so later mostly on a whim, I went to check-out the annual meeting that was being held nearby. I was, intrigued by the presentations, enjoyed the banquet, immediately addicted to the hootenanny and overwhelmed by the friendly welcome. I have not missed a meeting since.

—Rollo K. Newsom



GOIN’ DOWN THE ROAD Current Texas Events

Have an event to share? Please submit to:
TexasFolkloreSociety@gmail.com

- Charro Days Celebration Feb 27–March 1, at various locations in Brownsville**

- Mardi Gras! Galveston Feb 21–23, 28; March 1–2, 4, Historic Strand District, Galveston**

- Washington’s Birthday Celebration through Feb 28, at various locations in Laredo**

- Lone Star Cowboy Poetry Gathering Feb 20–22, Alpine**

- Tunes and Tales with Texas Folklore Society 4 p.m. March 1, Southwest Regional Library, Fort Worth**

- Texas Storytelling Festival Mar 6–9, Denton Civic Center**

- Fort Worth African American Roots Music Festival March 15, Southside Preservation Hall**

- 67th Annual San Antonio Folklife & Dance Festival Mar 29–30, Rolling Oaks Mall, San Antonio**

- TFS 106th Annual Meeting April 17–19, Radisson Hotel Fort Worth North-Fossil Creek**

- Real Places 2025 Conference April 23–25, Renaissance Austin Hotel**

- The 19th Annual Big Squeeze Semi-Finals 6–10 p.m. April 25, Edinburg**

- Alliance for Texas History Annual Conference May 15–17, Texas State University, San Marcos**

- Texas Folklore Society 107th Annual Meeting April 2-4, 2026 • San Marcos**

ANNUAL MEETING DETAILS

Thursday, April 17

12–6 p.m.	Registration
12–2 p.m.	Board Meeting
1:30–5:30 p.m.	Tour, National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame
6–7:30 p.m.	President’s Pre-Hootenanny Reception, featuring entertainment by the Cowtown Opry Saddle Pals (Fort Worth) and cowboy poetry from John Pelham (Granbury) and Charles Williams (Rowlett)
7:30–?	HOOTenanny

Friday, April 18

7:30 a.m.	Friday Morning Mingle, Sponsored by Dobie Dichos, Inc.
8:30–10:15 a.m.	Welcome, featuring Bravo Zulu Homefront Alliance

Session 1, Chaired by **Chuck Smith** (Fort Worth)

“College Rodeo Blossomed in Spite of Cultural Biases in the 21st Century,” **Sylvia Mahoney** (Plano)
“Heroes or Villains: The Mythos of the Texas Rangers,” **Jim Matthews** (San Antonio)
“Fort Worth Makes Whoopee!” **Rusty Williams** (Dallas)

10:30–11:45 a.m.

Session 2, Chaired by **Donna Ingham** (Bertram)

“The ‘Stradivarius’ Fiddle of Dublin, Texas: My Grandfather’s Legacy,” **Jeri D. Martin** (Stephenville)
“Folklore in Fiction,” **Robert “Jack” Duncan** (McKinney)
“Houston’s Romeos: Hangin’ with the Codgers,” **Scott Hill Bumgardner** (Houston)

11:45 a.m.–1:15 p.m.
1:30–2:45 p.m.

Past Presidents Club Celebration Luncheon, Special Presentation by **John Lomax III** (Nashville, TN)

Session 3, Chaired by **Linda Spetter** (Eastland)

“Folk History’s Lens on Slave Health,” **William V. Scott** (Lubbock)
“Milton Brown: Father of Western Swing,” **Moumin Quazi** (Stephenville)
“The Story is in the Song,” **Sunny Saucedo, Director of Music & Heritage, TX Folklife** (New Braunfels)

2:45–3 p.m.
3–4:15 p.m.

Friday Afternoon Break & Refresh

Session 4, New Voices in Folklore Student Panel, Chaired by **Kaitlyn Chacon** (Laredo)

“Folktales Unique to Northeast Texas,” **Emily Hamlin** and **Skylar Hodson** (NTCC)
“Hallucinogens in Mesoamerican Indigenous Groups,” **Leonardo Vargas** (UNT)
“Bonnie & Clyde Folktales from the Winnsboro, Texas Area,” **Sarah Dierflinger** (NTCC)
“Discourse Analysis of Policymakers’ Narratives of Homeless Peoples,” **Berkeley Robinson** (UNT)

5–6 p.m.
6–7:30 p.m.
7:30–?

Happy Hour Cash Bar

Dinner Banquet, Special Entertainment by **Decee Cornish** (Fort Worth)

HOOTenanny

Saturday, April 19

8:30–9 a.m. Saturday Morning Mingle

9–10:15 a.m.

Session 5, Chaired by **Jim Harris** (Hobbs, NM)

“Folk Songs and Instruments Played in Texas, 1823 to 1890,” **Allan Chapman** (Decatur)
“Wagons Ho!” **Carol Hanson** (The Colony)
“Charge Hell with a Bucket of Water,” **Mary Fogel** (Austin)

10:15–10:45 a.m.
10:45–11:45 a.m.

Break

Business Meeting

Alternate:

“How to Live in Tornado Alley,” **Gwen Dixie** (Dallas)



REGISTER ONLINE [HERE](#)

or print and complete the registration form and mail to
Texas Folklore Society, Box T-0295, Stephenville, TX 76402.

Qty.

_____	Registration at \$40.00 each	\$ _____
_____	Thursday Tour at \$15.00 each. <i>Space is limited. If you are mailing in your registration and payment, please call (254) 459-5445 to verify availability.</i>	\$ _____
_____	Thursday President's Pre-Hoot Reception (Free, Donations Welcome)	\$ _____
_____	Friday Celebration Luncheon (Free but we need a headcount)	FREE
_____	Friday Banquet Adult at \$35.00 each	\$ _____
_____	Friday Banquet Child at \$10.00 each	\$ _____
_____	Membership Dues <i>(if you are a newcomer or have not paid annual dues)</i> <i>Rates: Student, \$15; Individual or Organization, \$25; Family, \$30; Paisano Grande, \$30; Individual Lifetime, \$500; Family Lifetime, \$750</i>	\$ _____
	TOTAL:	\$ _____
_____	Sponsorship <i>Please Specify: Past Presidents' Club, Corporate/Organization Sponsorship, or Individual Contributors</i>	\$ _____
	GRAND TOTAL:	\$ _____

Payment Method (circle one): Check or Credit Card *(MasterCard, Visa, Discover, or Amex)*

Credit Card # _____ **Expiration Date** _____ **CVV (On Card)** _____

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Authorized Signature _____

Please Provide Attendee Names

Meeting: _____

Tour: _____

Banquet: _____

Membership Information

Name _____

Address _____ **City** _____ **State** _____ **Zip Code** _____

Telephone _____ **Email** _____

Please mail check payments to Texas Folklore Society, Box T-0295, Stephenville, TX 76402.
If you have questions or concerns, don't hesitate to reach out to us at TexasFolkloreSociety@gmail.com
or (254) 459-5445.