Paisanos,

To paraphrase George Bernard Shaw, without change, there can be no progress. The TFS Board has been embracing this philosophy wholeheartedly, and they have been planning significant changes to the location of the organization’s headquarters and, subsequently, its leadership.

You can learn about all the usual stuff in this Newsletter—details on our last meeting, the annual Financial Report, names of our new Board members, and a preview of this year’s publication.

However, you’ll have to hold on for other news that will be announced at some point in the future—namely, where the TFS will call home, and who will be taking over as Secretary-Editor. Rest assured, lots of changes will occur in the course of the next year.

Your official 2019 Dues renewal notice was sent via email in January; 214 people have already paid, and we appreciate your prompt attention to renewing. If you haven’t yet paid, this is your “second notice.” Charlotte Blacksher, our office secretary, will send a paper “bill” via the U. S. mail to those who haven’t renewed by the end of August. You have a few options for how to pay: you can send a check, pay online via the web site, or call and give your card information over the phone. Contact the main office if you have questions or need to update your information.

We want to ensure that you receive all of your TFS benefits, so please renew your dues as soon as possible. This fall current members will receive this year’s publication, TFS Extra Book #27. Burle Pettit’s book, A Boyhood Dream Realized: Half a Century of Texas Culture, One Newspaper Column at a Time provides unique insight of the lore of West Texas through the lens of a newspaper editor’s weekly columns.
We’re going to be meeting on Easter weekend again next year. At this year’s meeting in McKinney, the Board recommended changing the meeting date back to Easter weekend, and those in attendance at the meeting on Sunday, April 28, 2019 voted to approve the change. We’ll be at the Omni San Antonio Hotel at the Colonnade, which is where we met the last time we were in San Antonio, back in 2007.

San Antonio is the seventh-most populous city in the United States, so we all know there is plenty to do there. It’s also a city rich in local culture and lore. We have quite a few members who live within a stone’s throw, so this is their chance to really get involved. Former President Elaine Davenport has been making some of the initial plans; if you’re interested in helping with Local Arrangements, contact her or the main office to volunteer.

You can visit the Alamo, stroll along the River Walk, check out the San Antonio Botanical Garden, or enjoy a refreshing beverage in the Buckhorn Saloon. However you spend your visit, San Antonio will be a great location for the Texas Folklore Society’s 104th Annual Meeting, on April 9-11, 2020.

Call for 2020 Meeting Papers!

Contact our office now to submit a presentation proposal for the upcoming meeting. Please remember that the committee prefers to receive complete papers, although a brief abstract that explains your topic and proposed presentation style will give the committee an idea of possibilities. All presenters must be current members, but we encourage everyone to spread the news and get new folks to join in order to give a paper. Also, invite a friend or two to come with you to attend the meeting. First-timers are always welcome.

Email papers to us (tfs@sfasu.edu), or send them by mail (to the return address on this newsletter). We’ll distribute submissions to the Program Committee members: Lori Najvar is chairing that committee, and she and Ken Untiedt will work with a third member to put together the program. Send submissions as soon as possible, but no later than October 15th. Please see the website under Meetings for further submission requirements.
If you were at the final session of the 103rd Annual Meeting in McKinney (on Sunday, April 28, 2019), you
heard the news that the TFS is looking for a new home. President Elaine Davenport announced that the TFS
Board was making plans to relocate the headquarters of the Society. This will, obviously, be a monumental
task, and there are many details that must be ironed out.

The Board held a mid-year meeting in March 2018, and another in January 2019. At the most recent of those
meetings they voted to send Requests for Proposals to other potential host institutions. Prior to our meeting
in McKinney, a couple of institutions had expressed interest in hosting the TFS, but they had requested exten-
sions to the deadline for responses. The Board agreed to the requests, but no further details have been given.

The TFS has been at Stephen F. Austin State University since 1971. As noted in the January Newsletter, SFA was currently in the pro-
cess of designing new, centrally located office space in the library for us and other related organizations hosted by SFA (including
the East Texas Historical Association), and ongoing student efforts through graduate assistants and internships has provided increasing
support in the main office over the past couple of years. Prepara-
tions for new office space are still in the works, but the plans to
include room for the TFS office space are now on hold.

In addition to finding a new home, there will necessarily be a need for new organizational leadership. When I
learned of the Board’s decision to find a new host institution, I notified them that I would not be leaving SFA. The Secretary-Editor position is not a paid position; rather, my job at the university is a Professor of English, and my teaching load is merely reduced by one course each semester. Upon hearing of the plans to relocate
the organization, I agreed to take on an administrative position I had been asked to fill at SFA, as the Interim Chair of the Department of English and Creative Writing.

I will continue as Secretary-Editor until next year’s meeting. I had planned on continuing in the Secretary-Editor’s position for at least twenty years, but again, things change. I have assured the Board that I will assist as much as possible in the “transition” they have planned. I’ve enjoyed my time with this organization more than I can say.

Lots of Changes Ahead for the TFS

We are sad to report that Lu Mitchell passed away in March. Lu wrote hundreds of songs and recorded more
than ten albums, and she had attended dozens of TFS meetings and entertained members with her unique brand of folk music at the Hootenannies. She was 95.

Also, Bob Compton died in April; he had been the books editor at The Dallas Morning News for decades. And Len Ainsworth, who had been serving as a Director on the TFS Board, died just a few weeks before our meeting. We will miss all of these members.

The TFS Folks

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We give thanks to Dina Lopez and fellow McKinney residents Jack and Elizabeth Duncan for taking care of arrangements for tours, entertainment, and other details that made the meeting a success.

About 30 attendees took advantage of a tour of Chestnut Square and the Collin County Historical Museum, and an optional walking tour of the downtown area on Friday afternoon; that night the President’s Pre-Hootenanny Reception (once again sponsored by Schreiner University) got things started with great food and fellowship before the Hootenanny began. Overall, 74 people registered for the meeting, and 72 attended the Banquet. Willow City provided the entertainment; not only did they put on a great show for us, the whole family (our newest members) stuck around for the entire second Hoot—and participated in that, too. (We welcome all members of the Proch family, including parents Tom and Janet, to our TFS family.)

Thanks to Vice-President Sarana Savage and the Program Committee (Elizabeth Duncan and Ken Untiedt) for selecting some really great papers. In the final session on Sunday morning we had a memorial tribute to Kenneth Davis; Jim Harris and Phyllis Bridges shared some memories of him, and Ken Untiedt read the eulogy he’d given at the memorial service in February. Elaine Davenport provided some audio clips from a couple of his presentations to close out the meeting.

Charlotte Blacksher, our Treasurer, provided the following information as a Financial Report, which was presented by Ken Untiedt at the Board Luncheon on Saturday:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>NET ASSETS as of January 1</strong></td>
<td>$294,233.82</td>
<td>$281,691.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Revenue</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dues</td>
<td>$5,685.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Royalties</td>
<td>$2,021.85</td>
<td>$1,938.53</td>
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<tr>
<td>Permissions to Reprint</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Memorial Gifts, Donations</td>
<td>$4,174.00</td>
<td>$4,165.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Stipend Contributions</td>
<td>$275.00</td>
<td>$325.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investment Interest and Dividends</td>
<td>$15,094.86</td>
<td>$3,484.04</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL REVENUE</strong></td>
<td>$26,700.71</td>
<td>$18,307.57</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Expenditures</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publication, 2017 Legends &amp; Life in Texas</td>
<td>$9,713.63</td>
<td>$10,884.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publication, 2016 Thirty-Three Years</td>
<td>$1,385.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>2019 Meeting expenses paid in 2018</td>
<td>$14,604.81</td>
<td>$365.44</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meeting Overall Costs</td>
<td>$600.00</td>
<td>$400.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Stipends awarded</td>
<td>$765.00</td>
<td>$771.43</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outreach (festivals, fairs, etc.)</td>
<td>$3,051.02</td>
<td>$3,195.10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office Expenses</td>
<td>$30,119.46</td>
<td>$15,616.65</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</strong></td>
<td>$28,406.87</td>
<td>$12,342.64</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Net Increase in Assets</strong></td>
<td>$265,826.95</td>
<td>$294,233.82</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Numbers in black are income, and numbers in red are expenses. As always, being in the black is good.
2019-2020 Board Members

The Nomination Committee (Lee Haile, Carol Boland, and Mary Margaret Campbell) provided the following nominations for the 2019-2020 TFS Board Members, and the slate was presented by Lee Haile; recommendations were approved by the Board and general membership:

President: Sarana Savage  Vice-President: Lori Najvar
Secretary-Editor: Ken Untiedt  Treasurer: Charlotte Blacksher
Directors: Rollo Newsom (2020), Clifton Fifer (2020), Kay Arnold (2021), Chuck Smith (2021), and Acayla Haile (2022);

We thank all these folks for their commitment to the Society.

Our immediate past-President, Elaine Davenport, will chair the Nominating Committee for next year; she and Carol Bolland and one other committee member will select active members to nominate for service on next year’s Board. If you want to be considered, contact Elaine to see what’s involved.

Resolution, Presented by Ken Untiedt

WHEREAS, the 103rd Annual Meeting of the Texas Folklore Society held at the Sheraton McKinney Hotel in McKinney, Texas, on the 26th through the 28th of April, 2019 has provided the members in attendance with many interesting and entertaining sessions;

AND WHEREAS, many hours of planning and work by numerous Society members, the chairpersons and presenters at each session, and the staff of the Sheraton McKinney Hotel have contributed to the success of this meeting;

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED that the members in attendance at this the 103rd Annual Meeting of the Texas Folklore Society express their appreciation to the following:

Local Arrangements Committee members Dina Lopez, and Jack and Elizabeth Duncan; Charles Williams and Elizabeth Duncan for Registration; Alyssa Simmons, Steven Yearwood, Cecilia Mejia, and the staff of the Sheraton McKinney Hotel; Sponsors Charlie T. McCormick and Schreiner University, and Scott Sosebee and the East Texas Historical Association; Willow City for the Banquet entertainment; President Elaine Davenport and Vice-President and Program Chair Sarana Savage, and Program Committee members Elizabeth Duncan and Ken Untiedt; all of the members that chaired a session and those that presented papers; and the Officers, Directors, and Councilors who serve the Society.

APPROVED AND SO RESOLVED this 28th day of April, 2019.
This page features a brief listing of events that many of our members attend; consider how you can support these “affiliated” organizations by attending them or taking part in future activities, such as giving a paper at a TFS-focused session or volunteering to tell others about the Texas Folklore Society and what we do. You can go to the Upcoming Events page on the TFS website to find out more information about what’s happening at these and other events, and you can also contact the main office to see how you can get involved with your fellow TFS members.

- **Texas Heritage Music Day** Kerrville, September 26 and September 27; there will be a concert featuring Terri Hendrix and Lloyd Maines, and Kathleen Hudson says she will be happy to set up a table for TFS members share information with visitors; contact Kathleen at Texasheritage@schreiner.edu by August 1st if you plan to be there and want to be involved. This event is held on the campus of Schreiner University, and it’s attended by hundreds of students and teachers.

- **National Cowboy Symposium** Lubbock, September 6-8: Sara and Wallace McKee are looking for folks who can lend a hand sharing information at the TFS booth. Thousands of people attend this event, and there are many activities that celebrate the American West and, of course, folklore. Contact us in the main office if you want to be involved, and we’ll pass along the information to Sara and Wallace.

- **East Texas Historical Association** Nacogdoches, October 10-12: The fall ETHA meeting will be at the Fredonia Hotel in Nacogdoches again this year. Darrell McDonald will be chairing the session, and he and Perky Beisel and Karol Chandler-Ezell are giving papers; all three are new TFS members, and they are all faculty at SFA.

- **Texas Book Festival** Austin, October 26-27: We need folks who are interested in attending this event and would be willing to volunteer to distribute information on the TFS. This is another big event—filled with lots of “bookies” who love reading books such as our PTFS series and TFS Extra Books, so this is a great recruiting opportunity. Holler at us soon if you’re interested (so that we can reserve a table), and visit their website to learn more about this event (http://www.texasbookfestival.org).

- **George West Storyfest** George West, November 1-3: Many fellow TFS members take part in this celebration, held in honor of one of our own, J. Frank Dobie. We plan to continue our sponsorship of this wonderful event, which includes plenty of storytelling, a chili cook-off, and many other fun activities. Visit their Facebook page or check out their website (http://www.georgeweststoryfest.org) to learn more.

- **Texas State Historical Association** Corpus Christi, February 27-29: Carol Hanson is chairing the regular TFS session, and Jean Schnitz, Kay Arnold, and Linda Spetter will be giving papers. The TSHA devotes an entire session just for TFS members, and the sessions are always well attended and very popular. If you’re planning to go to the TSHA meeting, be sure to go to our session and support your fellow TFS members.
This month’s member spotlight is on Charles Williams. You’ve been entertained by his stories and recitations of cowboy poetry at many of the hootenannies, and he’s served on the Board and had papers published in a few of our recent publications. Read more to learn about how his unlikely folklore journey led him to the TFS.

Charles was born on a small dairy farm in upstate New York just before World War II broke out (but he says he had nothing to do with that). As a child, he dreamed of being a cowboy, like his heroes on the silver screen, but he was saddled with chores like feeding and caring for cows, pigs, chickens, sheep, and dogs and various other seemingly endless tasks which interfered with learning how to be a cowboy. He recalls that he never saw Gene or Hoppy or Roy shoveling manure. Charles went off to Alfred University in Alfred, New York. He says they taught him how to play in the mud but gave it a fancy name: “Ceramic Engineering.” In 1961, they gave him an even fancier piece of paper that said he was a fully accreted one and sent him forth to conquer the world. He first went off to Dow Chemical Rocky Flats Plant in Boulder, Colorado, knowing he would win a Nobel Prize, probably within the first couple of years. His first task disabused him of that notion—he was handed a burned-out furnace, told the platinum wire the heating element was made of was worth more than he was, and told that his job was to reclaim it. From there, he moved on to various other institutions scattered widely across the fruited plane (well, from Colorado to California to Texas) and across the profit spectrum. He finally ended up at Texas Instruments, where he spent an enjoyable 26 years helping to bring the benefits of modern electronic technology to our world.

Charles joined the folkie movement of the ’60s with great enthusiasm—but not with any success as a singer. (He claims he sang in the key of “L”—at least, people said it sounded like “L”...)

Instead, he drew on his family tradition and became a storyteller. Then, one year at a storytelling festival in 1991, one of the local tellers told him of a Cowboy Poetry Gathering. For Charles, it was like coming home. He wrote his first two cowboy poems there, met some of the greatest people in the world, and launched off into what he considers his real career—Cowboy Poetry. Along with writing and performing, he began to get involved with other aspects of Cowboy Poetry, including the formation of the Academy of Western Artists, where he headed up the Poetry Section until retiring in 2009. He also helped establish the Will Rogers Medallion Awards, to honor Western Media. After the WRMA split off from AWA in 2009, Charles stayed on as the Executive Director, a position he still holds.

Charles followed a lifetime of interest in folklore by joining the Texas Folklife Society. The Society has reciprocated his interest by electing him to the Board, first as a Councilor and even as President in 2016. He has presented several papers, some of which have appeared in TFS annual publications. He has represented the TFS at other organizations’ meetings, and he has participated regularly in TFS Hoots since joining—even though he says he has been told he still sings in the key of “L.”
The TFS will be in San Antonio next Easter.

The Annual Meeting is switching back to Easter weekend next year. That’s right—the 104th Annual Meeting will be on April 9-11, 2020. We haven’t been to San Antonio since 2007, so it’s time to return. See inside for more information about the hotel, how to submit a paper, and other ways you can be involved. If you’d like to help with Local Arrangements, contact us to learn how.

The TFS main office is also moving.

In 1971, the TFS headquarters moved from UT in Austin to the SFA campus in Nacogdoches. After 49 years, the main office will again be moving to a new home. That location has not yet been undetermined, but members of the TFS Board are working out the details of the “transition.”

Until next year’s meeting, please don’t hesitate to holler at us in the main office if you have questions about your membership or receiving books, or if you need to change an address or other contact information. As soon as we know more, we’ll provide updates.