

WTHA 2026 Annual Meeting Overview

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| Thursday, April 9, 2026 | |
| 3:00 PM – WTHA Executive Board Meeting in the Heritage Room, MCM Eleganté | |
| 5:30 PM – Cocktail Hour at MCM Eleganté Bar | |
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| Friday, April 10, 2026 | |
| 8:00 AM – 5 PM – Registration in the Lobby, MCM Eleganté | |
| 9:00 AM – 5 PM – Exhibitors in the Cotton Room, MCM Eleganté | |
| 9:00 AM – 5 PM – Silent Auction benefiting the student scholarship in the Cotton Room, MCM Eleganté | |
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| Session I: 8:30-9:45 AM | |
| Heritage Room | <p>West Texas Archaeological Society (WTAS)</p> <p>Tom Ashmore, The Jumano Picture Story of “The Lady in Blue”: at Meyers Spring, Texas</p> |
| University Room | <p>Spotlight on El Paso Troy Ainsworth, Chair</p> <p>*Wes Sheffield, <i>Captain Leonard (Two Gun) Matlack, and the Heroic 1919 Horseback Rescue in Mexico of Two U.S. Army River Pilots Held Hostage</i></p> <p>*Jane Little Botkin, <i>“El Paso, You’re Looking Good!”: How the Marty Robbins’ Era (1959-1976) Influenced a Formerly Lawless West Texas City in a Time of Political and Social Turmoil</i></p> <p>*John N. Davis, Hardin-Simmons University, <i>A Shavetail at Fort Bliss in 1975</i></p> |
| Petroleum Room | <p>West Texas Aviation and Geography Robert Tidwell, Chair</p> <p>*Weston Marshall, <i>Civilian Innovation at Lubbock Army Air Field: How West Texans Robert P. Elam and William C. Edwards, Jr. Changed WWII</i></p> <p>*Paul Clark, <i>Mapping Early Aviation of the West Texas Panhandle, 1919-1929</i></p> <p>*Jeffrey Hicks, <i>Dallas to Lubbock: A Deep Map</i></p> |
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| Session II: 10:00-11:15 AM | |
| Heritage Room | <p>[session title TBA] Keith Owen, Chair</p> <p>*Joaquín Rivaya-Martínez, <i>Women on the Warpath: An Overlooked Aspect of Comanche History</i></p> <p>*Holle Humphries, <i>“Part 2: When the Legend Becomes Fact...”: Dispelling the Most Oft-Printed Legends and Alleged ‘Facts’ about Quanah Parker</i></p> |
| University Room | <p>Lubbock Themes Monte Monroe, Chair</p> <p>*Sally Abbe and Paul Carlson, <i>George W. Singer and the Early Days of Lubbock</i></p> <p>*Jack Becker, <i>The Isham Tubbs Family and the Automobile Industry in Lubbock</i></p> <p>*Austin Allison, <i>Early Maps of Lubbock and Lubbock County at the Southwest Collection</i></p> |

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| Petroleum Room | <p>A Horror Film and the Mural Movement Helen Cozart, Chair</p> <p>*Rob Weiner, <i>"The Texas Chainsaw Massacre:" The Texas Tech Connection</i> *Amy Von Lintel, <i>A West Texas Mural Movement</i></p> |
| 11:15 AM – 1:00 PM Lunch | |
| Petroleum Room | Women's History Lunch (Registration required) |
| Session III: 1:00-2:15 PM | |
| Heritage Room | <p>Demographic and Geographic Diversity in Southwest Sports John Davis, Chair</p> <p>*Troy Ainsworth, <i>False Starts: The Prehistory of the Border Conference</i> *Mark Dyreson and McClane Dyreson, <i>Once Upon a Time in the Old Border Conference: Sport, Race, and Identity in West Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona</i></p> |
| University Room | <p>Women's History Session Elissa Stroman, Chair</p> <p>*Rebecca Trammell, <i>Women of Wichita County, Texas</i> *Carroll Scogin-Brincefield, <i>A Unique Artist of Lubbock, Texas: Vivian Tamplin Cooke</i> *Jaydn Jeffries, Intern, <i>The Duality of Women: Dorothy Scarborough's The Wind</i></p> |
| Petroleum Room | <p>Untold Stories of the Matador Cattle Company Scott Collier, Chair</p> <p>*Marisue Potts, <i>Maneuvers of the Investors of the Original Matador Ranch</i> *Linda Whitten, <i>The Mysterious Life of Spotswood Lomax, One of The Five Investors</i> *David Murrah, <i>The Connection of the Collier Family to the Early Matador Ranch</i></p> |
| Session IV: 2:30-3:45 PM | |
| Heritage Room | <p>Legends, Icons and Culture Jason Pierce, Chair</p> <p>*Alex Hunt, <i>Charles Goodnight in Texas Fiction: Graves, McMurtry, Capps, and More</i> *Alexandra Dyreson and Jodella Kite Dyreson, <i>Rock, Liz, James Dean, and West Texas: A Re-examination of Giant (1956)</i> *Rose Lewis, <i>Sheridan and Clip Culture: The Environment and Petronostalgia in Landman</i></p> |
| University Room | <p>Cavalry, Reservation Struggle, and a Sand Storm Tribute Montie Guthrie, Chair</p> <p>*James T. Matthews, <i>For Gallantry in Action at Kickapoo Springs: Emanuel Stance and the Medal of Honor</i> *Casey Doherty, <i>The Last Battle: The Fight at the Brazos Reserve</i> *Sadie Ray, <i>Dust, Divinity, and Duality: Reimagining Earth in John McCarty's A Tribute to Our Sandstorms</i></p> |

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| Petroleum Room | <p>100 Years of Route 66: People, Places, Progress Allison Kendrick, Chair</p> <p>*T. Lindsay Baker, <i>The People of Route 66</i> *Nick Gerlich, <i>The Places of Route 66</i> *Barabara Brannon, <i>Progress on Route 66</i></p> |
| Session V: 4:00-5:15 PM | |
| Heritage Room | <p>Lubbock County Historical Commission (LCHC): Glimpses of Lubbock Deborah Bigness, Chair</p> <p>*Sandy Fortenberry, <i>The Sunshine Ranch</i> *Cameron Saffell, <i>Tossing Out A Tradition at Texas Tech: The Origins of Tortilla Tossing at Tech Football Games</i> *Cindy Martin, <i>Duck and Cover: Cold War Civil Defense in Lubbock</i></p> |
| University Room | <p>Research in Texas Tech University Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library Jennifer Spurrier, Chair</p> <p>*Katelin Dixon, <i>Going North to get South: Senses of Place in the work of Terry and Jo Harvey Allen</i> *Emily Grover, <i>Echoes of Black Lubbock: The Ella Iles Era of African-American Education and Community in West Texas</i> *Rob E. King, <i>West Texas Text Examined Computationally</i></p> |
| Petroleum Room | <p>Literacy and Marketing – Ghost Towns Sylvia Mahoney, Chair</p> <p>* August Vinson, <i>A Fire Death and Its Lingering Ash: Regional Literacy Through the Death of Amarillo Fire Department’s Kenneth Caldwell</i> * Edith (Edie) Heuss, <i>Promoting the Panhandle-Plains: SPS Postwar Advertising Campaigns</i> *Helen Cozart, <i>Ghost Towns of Eastland County</i></p> |
| <p>5:30-6:30 PM – Presidential Reception at the Lubbock Women’s Club at 2020 Broadway Avenue.</p> <p>6:30-8:30 PM – Friday Night Banquet (Registration required for banquet meal). President Leland Turner presiding. Banquet speaker Scott Collier will present on “Throwing a Wide Loop on the Matadors.”</p> | |
| Saturday, April 11, 2026 | |
| 7:00-8:30 AM Breakfast | |
| Petroleum Room | <p>Breakfast Honoring the Edwards Plateau Historical Commission</p> <p>“Making History: An Inside Look at the Masked Rider Tradition” featuring Texas Tech Masked Riders Past and Present: Rose Rosas, 64th Masked Rider, and Stacy Stockard Caliva, 43rd Masked Rider and author of the book, <i>Long Live the Matadors: The Fearless History of Texas Tech’s Masked Rider</i>. (Registration required)</p> |

| Session VI: 8:30-9:45 AM | |
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| Heritage Room | <p>New Deal Symposium – New Deal in Texas: Entertainment, Recreation and Safety Lynn Burlbaw, Chair</p> <p>*William Scott, <i>San Angelo (Concho) Army Air Field: From WPA Municipal Airport Project to Bombardier School</i> *Lynn Burlbaw, <i>Federal Safety Projects: Roads and Railroads</i></p> |
| University Room | <p>Center for Big Bend Studies (CBBS): The Last Frontier Ranching Tour Retrospective, and Duane Hale and the Spanish Entrada Alex Hunt, Chair</p> <p>*Erika S. Blecha, <i>Understanding the Use of Space at San Esteban Rockshelter in Southwest Texas through Faunal Analysis</i> *John Hope, <i>A Look Back at Seven Years of “Texas’ Last Frontier Ranch Heritage Tours” - 2005-2011</i> *John Caraway, <i>Duane Hale Contributions to Documenting the Spanish Entrada and Teaching History Through the Oral History Narrative</i></p> |
| Petroleum Room | <p>West Texas History – An Archival Tour Tonia Wood, Chair</p> <p>*Tonia Wood, <i>Discovering the History of West Texas Communities at the Texas State Archives</i> *Robert Weaver *Shannon Sturm</p> |
| 10:00 AM – Silent Auction closes | |
| Session VII: 10:15-11:30 AM | |
| Heritage Room | <p>Joint Session with the Edwards Plateau Historical Association (EPA) – Building West Texas: Trails, Places, and People William V. Scott, Chair</p> <p>*Lisa Dennis Mahler, <i>The Ruffini Brothers: Ernst Frederick and Oscar</i> *Golda Foster, <i>The Mother County: Tom Green County, and those who came from it</i> *Tom Ashmore, <i>The Goodnight-Loving Trail across West Texas - The Real Lonesome Dove</i></p> |
| University Room | <p>Joint Session with the East Texas Historical Association (ETHA)</p> <p>*Brook Poston, <i>James Monroe and Texas</i> *Scott Sosebee, <i>The Gutierrez-Magee Expedition and East Texas</i></p> |
| Petroleum Room | <p>Texas Tech University History Students Explore Humor via Oral History Julie Willet, Chair</p> <p>*Amy Adams, <i>Humor As Heritage: Understanding the Simplicity of Everyday [Texas farm] Life</i> *Henry Carter, <i>I was Always the Instigator”: Humor, Gender, and Social Play in West Texas</i> *Carolina Mota, <i>The Serious and the Silly: What Generational Privilege Tells Us About Comedy</i></p> |

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM – WTHA Business Meeting and Luncheon in the Petroleum Room of the MCM Eleganté.
Presidential address by Leland Turner, “The Ranch in the History of West Texas: The Matador and More.”

