

## **Pan American Round Tables of the Valley Celebrate Observance Day**

The seven Tables from the Upper and Lower Valley of the Pan American Round Table banded together this year to celebrate the annual Pan American Observance Day. Upper Valley Tables from Alamo-San Juan-Pharr, Edinburg, McAllen and Rio Grande City-Roma joined forces with the Lower Valley Tables of Brownsville I, Brownsville II, and San Benito at the McAllen Country Club on April 2, 2016, for a memorable and very special event.

Pan American Day is a day set aside and established by governments of the Americas to pledge their sovereignty and union as one community in the Western Hemisphere. It is observed annually in the United States on April 14 by Presidential proclamation and is part of Pan American Week.

This year's theme was "A Tapestry of Cultures" which includes the language, geography, arts, cultures, and customs of the countries of the western hemisphere. Most of the members wore colorful regional attire to complement the theme.

McAllen Table Director, Sylvia Alanis, began the celebration by welcoming everyone. The invocation was given by Rev. Lesley Albert Gonzalez. Presentation of flags was coordinated by PART Edinburg Table Director Herminia Martinez, while Virginia Hale, Brownville I Table Director, presented dignitaries and guests present. Rio Grande City-Roma Table Director Bersave Salazar introduced all Tables present, including those representing Mexico from Miguel Aleman, Reynosa, and Valle Hermosa.

The Pan American Round Tables were honored with the presence of special guests: Alliance Director General, Maria Eva Manzarraga, Alliance Zone I, Criseyda Rios, and Alliance Ex Officio Director General, Elsie Perez. State officials present were Beatrice "Dolly" Flores, 2<sup>nd</sup> Associate Director C; Margot Arevalo Gonzalez, Treasurer; Norma Linda Castellano, Parliamentarian; Herminia Martinez, Scholarship Chair; and Lily Torrez, Electronics Communications Chair.

A proclamation to the Pan American Round Tables for its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary was done by Jim Darling, Mayor for the city of McAllen. Entertainment was provided by violinist, Dr. Diana Seitz, Assistant Professor in Violin at University of Texas Rio Grande Valley.

San Benito Director, Angie Gonzalez, introduced Harlingen CISD Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Art J. Cavazos, guest speaker. Dr. Cavazos is a nationally recognized leader with almost 30 years of experience in education. He spoke of his admiration for the women in this organization who have had the determination to work hard to keep its goals going for 100 years. He reminded us that we must continue to instill in our youth the fact that education is the best inheritance anyone could have and it must not stop in the first generation that finishes college.

Many in attendance enjoyed winning the door prizes and raffle. Raffle items were donated by the Upper and Lower Valley Tables. The winners were announced by Alamo-San Juan-Pharr Table Director, Gloria Cantu.

Members of Pan American Round Table of Texas are looking forward to another great celebration commemorating its 100 years in existence. This event will take place in San Antonio, Texas on October 26<sup>th</sup> through 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

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