

PART 2000

Gathering data and ideas/ Planning for the future

January 18, 1995

Dear Pan American sisters,

The new year is well underway, and we have much work to do before convention March 24-26 in McAllen. Enclosed you will find copies of the questionnaires from your area. All the tables in Area A returned questionnaires. We are missing responses from Area B, Del Rio and Eagle Pass; Area C, McAllen and San Benito, and Area D, Dallas and Ft. Worth I. I will call the directors of those five tables and try to get a response.

In the meantime, if the committee members from each area would compile the data from their area. Enclosed is the latest committee membership list. Please call each other and decide how you will divide up the questionnaires and questions.

Send the results to me by the February 15. Then, I will have time to compile the four areas and send the results to you. Look for trends and for strengths and weaknesses.

Plan on meeting at convention on Friday, March 24, at three p.m.

If you have any questions, please call me. Thank you for your help.

*One for all, and all for one.
Una para todas y todas para una.*



Peggy Clark
Chairman PART 2000
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Final Report of PART 2000

Gathering data and ideas/ Planning for the future

March 25, 1995

State Director Audrey Jane Castro and the Board of PART of Texas appointed an ad hoc committee PART 2000 to begin strategic planning for the 21st century. The committee represents all the Tables in Texas. From Area A are Janet Roberts, Austin, and Ruth Weber, Houston; from Area B: Ruby Macias, San Antonio; Melita Gonzalez, Laredo, and CeCe Hollingsworth, Beeville; from Area C: PeeWee Guerra, Rio Grande City-Roma, and Kaye Kimberling, Brownsville I; from Area D: Vera Johnson, Fort Worth I, and MariCarmen M. de Casavantes, El Paso. Ex-officio members are Ajay Castro, Melba Dawson and Geri Rice.

Questionnaires were sent to all Table Directors in late August, 1994. Most Tables responded by Thanksgiving. By March, 1995, 23 of our 24 Tables had replied.

I sent copies of the Table responses in each area to the committee members representing that area. They in turn compiled the responses from their area and returned those to me to compile into our summary report to the Board.

The responses confirmed what we can see when we look at the members in our Tables—that we are an older group of women. Most of us are in our 50's and 60's; some of us are over 70, and a very few of us are in our 20's, 30's and even 40's. Many members are consciously trying to include and invite to membership women who are not within their own circle of friends and who are often much younger than themselves.

The questionnaires showed that in the area of membership there is no consistency in types of membership, dues requirements and voting privileges and in how we become members. Therefore,

The PART 2000 Committee recommends the following to the Board and the membership:

Summary of PART 2000 Questionnaire

23 of 24 Tables in Texas responded. Eagle Pass did not respond.

Membership statistics:

1. What is the total membership of your table?
How many active members?
How many associate and/or other category members?

Most Tables have an average total membership of 24-67. El Paso has 247 members and Brownsville I has 97. Area C's membership ranges from 20 to 46 active members. Even though Brownsville has a large dues paying membership, its active membership is 26; many members are associate, sustaining (47), on leave (10), non resident, honorary (no dues but can vote), and senior active (pay less dues). El Paso in Area D has 148 active members and 99 sustaining members.

2. Please describe your criteria/ definition for the associate and/or other categories.

All Tables have other categories of membership, however, there seems to be no consistency in types of membership, dues requirements and voting privileges. After a certain term of service, varying from seven to 20 years, a member may request, usually to the Board/Executive Committee, for a sustaining-type of membership.

Honorary memberships are often given to special persons in the community, usually diplomats or military commanding officers. Sometimes that is the title given to long-time members.

3. What percentage of your total membership do you consider involved, participating members?

Tables in Area A claimed 30 percent participation; Area B, 68 %; Area C, from 50% to 100 %; Area D, 50 %.

4. What is the age distribution of members—
under 40?
40 something?
50 something?
over 60?

As we suspected, our membership is primarily made up of women in 50 and over and 60 + categories. Area A claims 1% are under 40 and 6% are 40 something and Area B claims 5 members per Table under 40.

5. List the countries of origin represented by the members.

We are a diverse group. While many, maybe the majority, were born in the United States, members come from Canada, Mexico, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Cuba, Colombia, Panama, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Chile, Bolivia, Argentina, Venezuela, Peru, Honduras, Brazil, Ecuador, Puerto Rico, Philippines, England, India, Poland, Russia, Sweden, Holand, Portugal and Spain.

We should use this diversity to further the goal of friendship among the women and children of the Western Hemisphere.

Process for becoming a PART member:

6. What is looked for in a prospective member?

There was agreement here among the Tables. All are looking for women who believe in the objectives of PART and show an interest in the customs and culture of countries of the Americas. Tables hope that these members will take the time to be active, to do research, and to be an enthusiastic worker in the Table.

7. How does one become a member? (Please attach that portion of your bylaws that defines membership criteria and procedure.)

Membership is by invitation. There was no uniformity here although each Table spells out the procedure in its bylaws. In Area A, four out of five tables submitted bylaws directing a membership committee to review applications followed by an election by the general membership. There are many variations as to the time of year and other procedures.

Many have prospects come as invited guests before being considered. Some vote by secret ballot; some, by "black ball" method—two "no" votes constitutes a denial of membership.

Ft. Worth I has its board not its membership vote on submitted names.

8. Does your Table have a membership size limit?

All Tables have a size limit. Often it is the 150 members allowed by the bylaws of PART of Texas.

If yes, why?

If the size limit is something other than the range stated in the PART of Texas bylaws, it is usually because of physical limitations of the Table's meeting place.

9. Does your Table already have a program to recruit and retain younger members? If yes, please share that with the committee.

No Table claimed having a program to recruit and retain younger members. Some like Corpus Christi are asking daughters of members and are trying to ask 40 year olds. Some Tables are changing meeting times—with a mix of noon meetings and evening meetings and even some Saturday meetings—in order to accommodate working women. Del Rio is taking the model of Rotary and other men's clubs and having its meeting, program, and lunch in one hour at noon. Socializing is done before the noon hour and at other Table functions.