

PARTT Convention
March 30, 2001 Odessa, Texas
State Director's Annual Report

The State Board meeting in Houston, April 9-10, 2000 at the Doubletree Hotel, hosted by the Houston Table, began with a catered dinner in the lovely home and garden of Louisa Triullo. A very productive meeting was held the next morning even with the absence of the Parliamentarian, Resolutions, Revisions and Long-range Planning Chairmen.

My advice to any incoming State Director is have your board meeting at your convenience and when 90% of your board members and Standing Committee members can attend. Therefore select your host Table accordingly.

I am very proud to state at this Board Meeting we had the funds to award another \$6500 in scholarships to three students, one from Belize and two women that are Ph.D. candidates at the University of Texas at Austin.

The Archives Committee, composed of two very talented ladies and their resources, know to all of us as Mitty Guerra and Mary Ann Palka of Austin, have put the Pan American Round Tables of Texas on the web with our own site called: partt.org with a link to the Alliance. We have a page for each Texas Table and a Webmaster. This information source should help promote our movement and increase our membership with like-minded women.

The Washington DC Table held a symposium April 14th, which I attended with Gladys Simpson and our Alliance Director Carmen Guerra. The first meeting was held in the home of Charles and Fabiola Chiribioga. In San Jose, California, a seminar was hosted by the Tables of Los Gatos-Saratoga, San Francisco and Contra-Cost-Alameda. Most of the information that was presented at this seminar will be shared with us at this convention. I am pleased that Helena Richards translated my presentation on membership into Spanish, so this information can be shared with the Alliance Tables.

I attended the Alliance convention in San Juan, Puerto Rico in September 2000 and fell for their hospitality. This is where a corresponding secretary comes in handy, especially if she is also a registered nurse. A compassionate Past State Director for a flight companion on the return flight to DFW airport is a tremendous blessing.

The Fort Worth I Table promoted funding for their scholarships with a booth at the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the City of Richland Hills in September. This opportunity forced my mind into overdrive to create a short information and concise one page sheet stating the object and goals of the Pan American Round Tables of Texas movement in order to attract new members. This tri-folded sheet has been perfected by the members of the Odessa Table and is presented to all of you in your convention packet. This pamphlet is inexpensive to duplicate and should be posted in public places at every opportunity.

The September meeting with the Rio Grand City-Roma Table was most impressive with their three scholarship recipients in attendance at the evening meeting. Josephine Williams, the Director, is a true dynamo with many accomplishments.

On November 17th Paula Levi and I were guests of Dallas III Table at a regular meeting in the home of a long time member Mary Christie. A classical guitarist entertained us with South American folk songs.

My dear friend and corresponding secretary, Paula, buried her mother on December 1st, the day I had to leave for my visit to Laredo. The Laredo Table has an abundance of musically talented members, who entertained us with Christmas songs and folk Christmas melodies. A

local dance studio presented a dance program with many members' children and grandchildren being among the performers. Afterwards Olga Verdusco treated us to a gourmet buffet.

You haven't celebrated a birthday until you have one in Odessa, so on January 11th; I was a guest of the Odessa Table at their regular meeting in the home of Sonja Haynie. The meeting was concluded with two different birthday cakes and a gift of a hand-crafted silver star charm by Sonja. I concluded with this visit that the Odessa members had the plan for the 50th State 2001 Convention well in control.

I spent the day of February 5th with the Austin Table Director, Sylvia Williams, and Austin members in the renowned historical building now the Austin Women's Club. I visited with the founder of the Odessa Table, Nancy Blythe and a long time member of the Laredo Table, Connie Kazen who was present. I was graciously entertained and tolerated by my many real estate interruptions back home. It was embarrassing. Thank goodness for the economical senior fares of Southwest Airlines to most any city in Texas. This mode of transportation has allowed me to visit all of the Texas Tables at least once and several two and three times in the past two years.

At the last minute I talked my husband, Charlie, into accompanying me on March 3rd to Eagle Pass for a last visit as State Director. Elma Rodriguez and her husband hosted us to dinner in Piedres Negres. The next day was their regular meeting in the home of Lana Harper where I presented them with their 48th Anniversary Certificate.

In closing, these past two years have given me the opportunity for a rare and rewarding experience of my lifetime. Meeting with members that are sincerely devoted to the ideals and goals of the Pan American Round Tables of Texas is rewarding and inspiring. I cannot thank each and every one of you enough for giving me this wonderful opportunity of representing the Pan American Round Tables of Texas these past two years. I will continue to help us increase our monies for scholarships and new viable members as I hope I will never live to hear these following lines –

An anonymous farewell to an expiring organization speaks for themselves:

“When they rake over the ashes and dying embers
The significant fact everyone remembers
Is the steady decline of viable members.”

Members make this your personal goal. Wear your Pan American Round Table pin as often as possible, so other will ask, “What does that pin signify?” Then you can reply “I'm so glad you asked...”

We need women with energy, enthusiasm, involvement and endurance.

I am indebted to the many PART State Directors for their advice and support.

One for All and All for One

Imogene Mecaskey
State Director 1999-2001