

PAN AMERICAN ROUND TABLE OF McALLEN

TABLE DIRECTOR REPORT

MARCH 21 – 24, 2013

Beginning my term as Table Director for McAllen PART, I decided to emphasize and give credit to remarkable women in our area for performing beyond expectations. The Rio Grande Valley has certainly had its share of “trail blazers” and pioneer women. In 2008 Lily Torres and I drew up a list of “First Women” doctors, architects, attorneys, judges, county officials, politicians etc. This list included picture, a brief biography, and current status of the honoree which were presented at our 2008 Founders Day Program. This was met with much awe and commendation. In continuation of that goal I felt it was important to recognize women several times a year at various programs.

In October 2011 Jan Seale was honored for being selected 2012 Texas Poet Laureate. Jan was a UTPA professor and wrote several books with her poetry. Her honors included belonging to the National Endowment for The Arts Fellowship in Poetry, The Poetry Society of Texas and the New York Poetry Forum.

At our annual Mother-Daughter luncheon in December 2011, one of our own members was acknowledged. Berry Fritz is an active member and a nationally acclaimed artist of still life, portraits, and character studies. Her work was displayed at the luncheon as it has been exhibited throughout Texas and the U.S.A. The 2011 Fall Edition of the Panamericana Texana featured our Berry Fritz.

Observance Day of 2012 was celebrated in conjunction with the tables of Alamo-San Juan-Pharr, Edinburg, and Rio Grande City-Roma. On this occasion the keynote speaker was a young attorney who had recently been elected District Judge. Judge Ana Lisa Garza spoke to approximately 100 ladies and gave tribute to mothers, teachers and women who impressed her throughout her life. Ana Lisa was my bright fifth grade student in Rio Grande City.

Our May programs revolve around the students that we honor with \$2,000 scholarships to our local South Texas College or the University of Texas-Pan American. One student is chosen from each of our three high schools.

The Alliance Convention in Buenos Aires, Argentina in October 2012 was attended by several members from our table. Together with other Texas tables we presented a “Take Me Out To The Ball Game” skit with a lot of hoopla. We were overjoyed to have one of our own, Elsie Perez, elected as Alliance Director General. Carmen Guerra from our table was appointed Parliamentarian. We loved Argentina, drank their Malbec and danced the Tango!

December 2012 Mother-Daughter Luncheon honored our new Alliance Director General Elsie Perez, Alliance Zone I Director Martha Stumbo, Alliance Corresponding Secretary Margo A. Gonzalez, and Alliance Parliamentarian Carmen Guerra. We can only imagine the hard work and dedication it takes for

these ladies to get to this position. Our keynote speaker at our luncheon was UTPA Vice President Veronica Gonzalez and former Texas State Representative, and UTPA supporter, activist, and International Women's Board ambassador Josie Cappadona.

In February 2013 PART McAllen and PART Edinburg hosted a lovely reception for Elsie Perez to commemorate her significant accomplishment. Table members from the upper and lower valley attended and lauded our new Alliance Director General with a scholarship in her name.

May 2013 should be my final meeting as Table Director. At that time tree more students will be awarded scholarships. In the future we hope to increase the number of scholarship recipients for we have many with the ability and ambition to pursue their dreams.

It has been an honor to serve my sisters and friends as their Table Director. I have learned and experienced so much and can only wish the same fulfillment for all.

Alma L. de la Garza

McAllen PART Table Director

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