

History

The first Pan American Round Table (PART), organized by Mrs. Florence Terry Griswold in San Antonio, Texas on October 16, 1916, was modeled closely after the Pan American Union. At that time the Union had 21 member nations. Thus, each new Table would have a minimum of 21 members, each representing one of the Pan American countries.

In 1945 the Pan American Union became the Organization of American States (OAS). In 2001, the Alliance of Pan American Round Tables became a recognized and registered civil society of the OAS.

The round table represents the medieval concepts of a circle with no beginning and no ending, symbolizing unit, perpetuity, equal representation and opportunity. The motto is “One for All and All for One; Una para Todas y Todas para Una,” penned by Alexander Dumas.

The purpose of Pan American Round Table is to promote mutual knowledge, understanding and friendship among the women and children of the Western Hemisphere.

During Mexico’s turbulent political period of 1910 to 1916, Mrs. Griswold opened her home to women and children who were refugees. She became acutely aware of the need for better understanding among the peoples of the Americas.

The movement grew outward from San Antonio with Tables formed in Laredo and El Paso in 1921 and in Austin in 1922. The first Pan American Round Table outside the United States formed in Mexico City in 1928 and outside of Texas in Las Cruces, New Mexico, in 1931.

Mrs. Griswold envisioned an international organization of women “united in a close and everlasting friendship.” Three years after her death, the first international convention of Pan American Round Tables took place in Mexico City in October, 1944, with representation from 18 Tables in five countries, the United States, Mexico, Costa Rica, Honduras, and Cuba. Now, there are over 200 Pan American Round Tables in 17 countries and Puerto Rico.

Legacy

Gladys Noble, a faithful member closely associated with the Founder, wrote our Legacy on the occasion of a commemorative program following Mrs. Griswold’s death.

I, Florence Terry Griswold, mindful that the day will come when I can no longer lead you along the path that we have chosen, do hereby give, devise and bequeath to you, members of the Pan American Round Tables, all my faith in the righteousness of our cause, all of my hope in the ultimate realization of our ideals, my love and devotion to the work, my courage in the face of disappointments, my vigilance and alertness to changing conditions, my steadfastness in my duty to my fellow man, my confidence in the cooperation of all peoples of the Western Hemisphere in our effort to bring about that perfect understanding and good will among the American Nations that will present to the World a united front under the unconquerable banner of a living Pan Americanism. Because of the great love and affection I bear you, all this I leave unto you and through you to all the women of the Americas.

For more information
about P.A.R.T.
www.partt.org and
www.alianzademrp.org

PAN AMERICAN ROUND TABLES OF TEXAS

www.partt.org



“One for All and All for One”
“Una Para Todas y Todas para Una”

Pan American Round Tables of Texas

Pan American Round Tables of Texas (PARTT), a member of the Alliance of Pan American Round Tables, is a volunteer organization that offers members the opportunity to become acquainted with the culture, customs, language, arts, history, literature and geography of our neighbors of the countries in the Western Hemisphere.

Pan American Round Tables is an organization designed to bring into closer union the women and children of the Western Hemisphere and to develop a higher civilization through mutual knowledge, understanding and friendship.

The first Table was founded in 1916 in San Antonio, Texas, and celebrates its 90th year in 2006. In Texas, there are 21-chartered Tables, representing 1100 active members. Each table is assigned to one of four geographical areas.

Area A

Austin, Conroe, Houston

Area B

San Antonio, Beeville, Corpus Christi, Del Rio, Eagle Pass, Laredo

Area C

Alamo-San Juan-Pharr, Brownsville I and II, Edinburg, McAllen, Rio Grande City-Roma, San Benito

Area D

Dallas, El Paso, Fort Worth I, Odessa

State Conventions are held every two years in the odd years. The last State Convention was held in March 2007, in Austin. The next convention will be in Brownsville in 2009.

The Panamericana Texana, a newsletter published by the Pan American Round Tables of Texas, is sent to each dues paying member.

Scholarships

The PARTT awards two scholarships every year in memory of its founder.

Florence Terry Griswold Scholarship I (at least \$2,500) is awarded to a female student who is a native citizen of one of the Pan American countries (other than the United States) defined as those countries that comprise the Organization of American States / Pan American Union. She must hold a bachelor's or equivalent degree, and be furthering her work on a graduate degree at a state-supported college or university in Texas. Preference is given to the student who will return to her native country and put her U.S. study and training to use there after completion of her graduate degree.

FTG Scholarship II (at least \$2,000) is awarded to a female graduate student or faculty member from Texas in pursuing her studies in another Pan American country. She must be a native citizen of the United States of America and a legal resident of the state of Texas. She must also be a graduate student or a college professor engaged in specialized study of any of the languages or cultures of the Pan American countries who use the scholarship monies for study or research in a Pan American country, excluding the United States. She must demonstrate her ability to put the results of her study to use upon her return to Texas.

As funds are available, a third scholarship, the **Melba Dawson Scholarship**, may be awarded to a student in either of the other two categories.

For more information, see "Florence Terry Griswold Scholarship Information" at www.partt.org.

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The Alliance of Pan American Round Tables

The Alliance was formed in 1944 in Mexico City. Today there are more than 200 Tables in 17 countries and Puerto Rico, with a membership of more than 5,000 women. There are 25 youth groups in five countries.

The Alliance is divided into eight zones.

Zone I

Washington D.C., Florida, Oklahoma and Texas

Zone II

New Mexico and California

Zones IIIA, IIIB, IIIC

Mexico

Zone IV

Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Dominica Republic and Puerto Rico

Zone V

Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela

Zone VI

Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay and Uruguay

Alliance conventions are held every two years in the even years. The 34th Biennial Convention was held in Lima Peru in October, 2014. The 35th will be held San Antonio TX in October, 2016.

As a recognized and accredited civil society of the OAS, the Alliance may participate in hemispheric meetings on matters affecting women and children primarily in the areas of education and quality of life issues.