



“One for All and All for One”

**Report of the 4th Associate Director, Area D, Kathy Ehmann-Clardy
to the Pan American Round Tables of Texas
58th Biennial State Convention, April 22, 2017, Houston, Texas**

It has been a great honor and privilege to serve the members of PART Area D this biennium which was full of historic events. Area D is comprised of four Tables, Dallas III, El Paso, Fort Worth I, and Odessa. The Area D Tables are geographically remote which makes visits a challenge, however the membership of all four Tables are very gracious and I was warmly welcomed at each Table visit. After I was installed at the Laredo convention in April 2015, I wrote to each Table Director to introduce myself but most of my activities occurred in the second year of my term, except for “visits” to my Fort Worth I Table, where I also served as Director this biennium.

I presented a report to the State Board meeting held March 5, 2016, in Del Rio, Texas and our Director, Isabel Vezzetti, encouraged the Tables to increase membership so that was the message I carried to the Area D Tables during my visits. On Saturday, March 19, 2016, I attended the Dallas III meeting and presented “A Moment In History,” the PowerPoint and narration written by Director Vezzetti on the rededication of the Pan American Tablet/Marker honoring the women of the Americas installed on International Bridge #1 between Laredo and Nuevo Laredo. The members were so moved by the presentation that they allocated funds for one of their members, Associate Director, Laura Sanchez, to attend this historic event. At that meeting the Dallas III members revised their scholarship applications and agreed to send delegates to the Alliance Convention celebrating our 100th Anniversary in October.

On Sunday, April 3, 2016, Laura Sanchez and I travelled to Laredo to attend the rededication of the Pan American Tablet/Marker ceremony and reception afterwards hosted by the Laredo Table. It was an awe inspiring event attended by many dignitaries including PART Alliance Director General, Maria Eva Munoz de Manzarraga. Several invited guests spoke about the importance and relevance of the Pan American movement and ideals promulgated by our visionary founder, Florence Terry Griswold.

My husband and I travelled to El Paso to attend their Pan American Day Celebration at Coronado Country Club on Saturday, April 16, 2016. It was a magnificent event presided over by Director, Leticia Aber, who invited many local dignitaries including the Mexican Consul as well as State and local politicians. The programs was “100 years of Fashion, 1916 to 2016” presented by current Director, Mary Jo Melby, The models were El Paso Table members and many of the upscale fashions were provided by Mary Jo from her family’s own collection of vintage clothing from 1916 to present. El Paso is the only Area D Table not struggling with membership issues as they have 134 active members and 48 sustaining members. They are the

only Table who limits the Director's term to one year. To encourage meeting attendance they have an "Excuse" committee to whom members who are absent from a meeting must submit a written excuse for her absence. Although they are geographically isolated, the El Paso Table's programs and members reflect the Pan American ideals.

Wednesday, May 11, 2016, State Director, Isabel Vezzetti, visited Fort Worth Table I and installed our officers using a "puzzle piece" program. Past State Director and Fort Worth I member, Imogene Mecaskey, and I met Isabel at the airport and presented her with a corsage of yellow roses. We were honored by her visit and to also have Alliance Treasurer, Martha Stumbo, in attendance at that meeting. On May 18, 2016, I travelled to Odessa to install their officers using a variation of the "puzzle piece" installation program. I was a guest of Table Director, Earlene Smith, in her beautiful home and was pleasantly surprised to see Del Rio Table member and fellow PARTT Nominating Committee member, Ann Beitel, was also a guest of Earlene's. The Odessa Table members held a dinner for us at the Odessa Country Club that evening and I was thrilled to see Betty Dale, a long standing Odessa PART member there. We reminisced about the late Gladys Simpson, who served as PARTT Director, Alliance Director General, and Pan American Woman, and was my Pan American mentor. The covered dish luncheon meeting was in the home of Sonya Hanie and Mary Alice Ramos was installed as Odessa's new Director. Gladys' son, David Simpson, attended the luncheon and helped present a scholarship in Gladys' name to a deserving student at UT Permian Basin.

On September 14, 2016, Director Vezzetti accompanied Alliance Director General Eva Manzarraga on her official visit to Fort Worth. I met them at the airport with Pan American-themed homecoming mums and they were both guests of Martha Stumbo during their visit. At that meeting we were honored to have Fort Worth City Councilman for District 2, Sal Espino, in attendance to welcome Isabel and Eva and present them with formal Letters of Recognition on behalf of Fort Worth Mayor Betsy Price and the City Council. Mr. Espino also presented a plaque to the Table from the Mayor and Council proclaiming October 16, 2016, as Pan American Day in Fort Worth. Friday, September 17, 2016, I accompanied Isabel and Eva on their visit to Dallas III for their meeting held at the Calle Doce Mexican Restaurant, owned by Associate Director, Laura Sanchez. The program was presented by Dallas III member, Anita N. Martinez, who started a non-profit Ballet Folklorico dance company named for her in Dallas in 1975. Her Ballet Folklorico II dance company, ages 7 to 12 years presented a magical performance of several traditional Mexican dances that was enjoyed by all.

October 26 through 29th I attended the Alliance of PART 35th Biennial Convention celebrating the 100th anniversary of the founding of our Pan American movement in San Antonio, Texas. I am pleased to report that all four Area D Tables sent delegates who like me, had a wonderful time attending the festivities and worked hard to fulfill their duties on behalf of their Tables. In honor of Director Vezzetti and the Texas Tables and at the request of Director General, Eva Manzarraga, I made two Pan American-themed homecoming mums with lettering in English and Spanish to decorate the doors to the meeting room.

At the end of February 2017 I received a message from Director Vezzetti that the Dallas III Table had notified State Treasurer, Margo Arevalo, that the Table planned to disband. This was shocking and distressing news and I immediately contacted Dallas III Director, Anna Marie Hodges, who confirmed that the Table does not have enough members who are willing to fill the slate of officers and that they had discussed disbanding. I attended their next meeting on March 18, 2017, and pleaded with the four members who attended not to disband and promised to invite friends and relatives I know in Dallas to join their Table. Since then I have personally written to each Dallas III member asking her to invite new members to join and suggesting a new meeting location and date to accommodate the schedules of working women. I have commitments from 5 prospective members who plan to attend the next meeting of Dallas III with me on May 6, 2017, where the PART documentary will be shown as the program to acquaint the prospective members with the Pan American history and to hopefully inspire the current Dallas III members to rededicate themselves to our Pan American movement. Even though I will be leaving this office I will not give up the mission of Area D Director and will work with the members of Dallas III to rebuild their Table. I hope that my successor will be able to report at the State Board meeting next spring that Dallas III is a viable Table willing to carry on the work of our Founder, Florence Terry Griswold.

The final historical event I was humbled to attend was the reception held by Texas State Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr., of the 27th Congressional District outside the Senate Chambers in Austin on Tuesday, April 18, 2017. The highlight of the day was watching State Director, Isabel Vezzetti, Past State Director and Past Alliance Director General, Peggy Clarke, Alliance Director General Nhury Gutierrez, who travelled from Santiago, Chile to be present, and Alliance Associate Director General, Sylvia Willams, as they appeared on the Senate floor to witness Senator Lucio read Senate Resolution No. 346, which officially recognized the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the Pan American Round Tables as a civil society for women to promote Knowledge, Understanding, and Friendship among the women of the Americas. “One for All and All for One,” “Una Para Todas y Todas Para Una.”

Respectfully submitted:

/s/ *Kathy Ehmman-Clardy*

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