



PAN AMERICAN ROUND TABLES OF TEXAS

58TH BIENNIAL TEXAS STATE CONVENTION

HOUSTON, TEXAS

APRIL 20-23, 2017

Revisions Chair Person

Normalinda Castellano

Committee Members

Woody Hearn

Frances Rodriguez

The Revisions Committee started working on changes that we felt ought to be made to our State Constitution and By-Laws in October of 2015. Although we started with the premise that we would look at the entire Constitution and By-Laws, it quickly became apparent that we would have to choose the most important to recommend changes/clarification to. Please note that there are other areas in our State Constitution and By-Laws that we felt needed clarification, however, after consultation with our State Director, Mrs. Isabel Vezzetti, it was noted that we should try to limit our recommendations to the top three that needed to be clarified/changed. These three are as follows:

PAN AMERICAN ROUND TABLES OF TEXAS-CONSTITUION AND BYLAWS

Article VI-Officers-Section 5-CONSTITUTION. READS AS FOLLOWS:

Section 5-The officers shall be elected by secret ballot biennially at the regular convention of the Pan American Round Tables of Texas. If there are no nominations from the floor, the secret ballot shall be dispensed with, and the Recording Secretary will cast a written ballot for the entire voting body, thus electing by acclamation. The newly elected officers shall assume their duties immediately following the convention.

WILL READ AS FOLLOWS:

Section 5-The officers shall be elected by secret ballot biennially at the regular convention of the Pan American Round Tables of Texas. If there is no nomination from the floor, the secret ballot shall be dispensed with, and the Recording Secretary will cast a written ballot for the entire body, thus electing by acclamation. There will be a 30 day transition period following the election of the new officers. This period will culminate with a joint meeting of the old and new board for the purpose of transferring information and procedures.

RATIONALE: Please note that some items may need to be taken care of by the previous Executive Board, especially the State Director and the State Treasurer as situations may occur during the months of March and April right before the State Convention. It would be prudent to allow the previous Board Members to finish their responsibilities and then giving the completed folders to the incoming officers after completion of all events. EXAMPLE: When I was State Treasurer, we had several bills to pay up until the convention. At the convention, I gave the books to the new treasurer and she had to go back to finish off transactions that had occurred during the last month that I was in office. The 30 day transition period would have allowed for an orderly transition of the books.

BYLAWS OF THE PAN AMERICAN ROUND TABLES OF TEXAS

Article I-Duties of Officers—SECTION 8: READS AS FOLLOWS:

The Scholarship Chairman shall contact all state-supported Texas universities and colleges for scholarship applicants. She shall send all received applications to her committee members and the Florence Terry Griswold Board of Trustees. She shall notify the scholarship recipients and the State Treasurer, who will make the scholarship payments to the recipient's educational institution. REST OF THIS SECTION 8 IS OK.

WILL READ AS FOLLOWS:

The Scholarship Chairman shall contact all state supported Texas universities and colleges for scholarship applicants. She shall send all received applications to the committee members and the Florence Terry Griswold Board of Trustees. She shall notify the scholarship recipients and the State Treasurer, who will make the scholarship payments to the recipient's educational institution OR TO THE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT AS DETERMINED BY THE STATE DIRECTOR, THE SCHOLARSHIP CHAIRPERSON AND THE STATE TREASURER. REST OF THIS SECTION 8 WILL REMAIN AS WRITTEN.

RATIONALE: We are currently in violation of Article 1, Section 8 by-law when the Scholarship Committee is told by the State Director and State Treasurer that there are enough monies to award two (2) OR three (3) scholarships. Under Article VIII Scholarships, the second scholarship-Section D:Scholarship II—item C—indicates that the student will use the scholarship monies for study or research in a Pan American country, excluding the United States. Under this direction, we have been issuing checks to the student herself for travel and research expenses to the Pan American Country in direct violation of Article I, Section 8 (if there are monies available for a second or third scholarship). The scholarship committee can use either the requirements for candidates under Scholarship I, Item C OR Scholarship II, Item D. Should it occur that we use requirements for Scholarship II for the 2nd and 3rd scholarships, then it might occur that we would conceivably give the checks to TWO candidates and one to the university. Since we have already established a precedent in giving a scholarship check to a student who is leaving the country for research in another Pan American country, then it would be prudent to clarify Article 1 Section 8 of the By-laws allowing the State Director, State Scholarship Chairperson and Treasurer to make the decision of giving the scholarship checks for Scholarship II and III either to the university of the student herself. (NOTE: Requirements for all three (3) require payment to the institution only, not to the individual.)

BY_LAWS—Article I-Duties of Officers—Section 7 READS AS FOLLOWS:

The Parliamentarian shall see that the proceedings of all State meetings shall be conducted according to the Constitution and Bylaws and Robert's Rules of Order, Revised Version. Parliamentarian shall serve as Chairman of the Revisions Committee and shall furnish each Officer, the Chairmen of each Standing Committee and each Director of member Tables with a corrected copy of the Constitution and Bylaws of the State Organization. Any revision to the Constitution and Bylaws of any Texas Table shall be presented to the Texas Parliamentarian for affirmation. Then the Texas Parliamentarian shall submit the revisions to the Alliance Parliamentarian.

WILL READ”.

The Parliamentarian shall see that the proceedings of all State meetings shall be conducted according to the Constitution and Bylaws and Robert's Rules of Order, Revised Version. The Parliamentarian shall serve as Chairman of the Revisions Committee and shall furnish each Officer, the Chairmen of each Standing Committee and each Director of member Tables with a corrected copy of the Constitution and Bylaws of the State Organization. Any revision to the Constitution and Bylaws of any Texas Table shall be presented to the Texas Parliamentarian for approval. Should questions arise as to the legality of any revision submitted by the member table; the State Parliamentarian will consult with the appropriate State Area Associate Director and the State Director for guidance before approving the change. If the change is not approved it will be returned to the member Table for further review and revision. If the change is approved, then the Texas Parliamentarian shall submit the revision (s) to the Alliance Parliamentarian.

RATIONALE; Under Pan American Round Tables of Texas Standing Rules-revised PARTT Board meeting of April of 2011—Number 17-the item is stated as follows: THE STATE PARLIAMENTARIAN SHALL AFFIRM REVISIONS TO THE TABLE CONSTITUTIONS AND BYLAWS AFTER 45 DAYS IF NO AFFIRMATIVE RESPONSE HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM THE ALLIANCE PARLIAMENTARIAN. This means that if we do not get approval from the Alliance Parliamentarian, on the 46th day after the change has been sent to the Alliance Parliamentarian, the change will be accepted by the Texas Parliamentarian. There is no requirement found in the Alliance Constitution that mandates the Alliance Parliamentarian's approval of changes made by Texas member Tables. Our State Bylaws clearly state that any changes made by Texas member tables shall be affirmed—APPROVED—by the State

Parliamentarian. I do not know the date when changes were made to our Constitution indicating that Texas member tables had to have any changes made to their Constitution's/ By-Laws had to be approved by the Alliance Parliamentarian because our State Constitution and By-Laws do not reflect this change in policy. However, the change made to the standing rules clearly was made (during the Alliance Convention held In Argentina) indicating that this change was made because the Alliance Parliamentarians were taking too much time to approve changes made by the Texas Tables. (And this tends to continue with changes today) Meaning no disrespect to the Alliance Board or Constitution, this clarification merely will solidify the fact that any changes made by Texas Member Tables will be approved by the Texas State Parliamentarian and then the change will be sent to the Alliance Parliamentarian so that they can update the change in their files.

NOTE: The Alliance Constitution—on file—clearly states; G. Parliamentarian shall.... #2. MAINTAIN AN UP-TO-DATE FILE OF ANY CHANGES IN THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF ALL THE AFFILIATED TABLES AND ORGANIZATIONS. #'s 1, 3, 4 and 5, do not state that these changes must go to the Alliance Parliamentarian for approval.

Respectfully submitted for consideration,

Normalinda Castellano, State Revisions Chairperson

Woody Hearn-Committee member

Frances Rodriguez-Committee member