

PAN AMERICAN ROUND TABLE OF MCALLEN
MCALLEN TABLE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
PARTT State Convention, MARCH 29—31, 2019

The McAllen Table has had an interesting two years with many reasons to celebrate. Our first meeting of the 2017-2019 Biennium was held in June 2017. We had a total of 46 members, 9 Associates and 14 Sustainers. For the June meeting we asked the membership to review the committees that they would be serving on and as the final meeting before the Summer break, they viewed the video on PARTS 100 Year Celebration and a PowerPoint presentation of our year in review where we showed highlights of our activities during the past year.

When we resumed after our Summer break in September, we decided to encourage members to become better acquainted with each other and we assigned seating. Many members traditionally sit at the same table with their friends. We wanted them to socialize with other members, especially with ladies who have just joined.

As an icebreaker, a Lipstick/Personality activity was enjoyed as members identified their strengths, roles and expectations in their assigned committee work. We needed to update our Standing Rules and Bylaws so an ad hoc committee was appointed to review and update the Standing Rules and Bylaws---they were voted on June 2018 by membership.

For our **Founder's Day Celebration** in 2017 Lilly Torrez presented a book review Pan American Woman: Florence Terry Griswold. The Founder's Day Celebration in 2018 included a very informative PowerPoint presentation by Raquel Oliva on Pan Americanism and the Pan American Round Table. Highlighted was the meaning of Pan American Day, its origin, place in history, how to celebrate this day, how it is tied to the OAS and how historically the establishment of Pan American Round Table is linked to Pan Americanism celebrated on this continent.

The Alliance Convention in Cochabamba, Bolivia in October 2018 was attended by Carmen Guerra, Alma de la Garza and myself. The McAllen Table submitted a nomination for Pan American Woman for Carmen Guerra. We also submitted a change to the Bylaws Article V, A Elections 5 to the Bylaws of the Alliance. We were overjoyed to have one of our own, Carmen Guerra, named "Pan American Woman 2018". Carmen continues to be a very active and valued member of PART McAllen since 1969. From McAllen Table Director she rose through the ranks of the state organization to become Director General of the Alliance. In December 2018 the McAllen PART hosted a lovely elegant Silver Tea to honor Carmen for her significant accomplishments. Member Irma Garza welcomed guests at her home. Table members from the upper and lower valley, members from Mexican border cities along with our State Director Dee Moore and Ann Beitel attended and lauded our new Pan American Woman with a scholarship in her name.

McAllen PART continues the tradition of the **December Mother/Daughter Luncheon**. For 2017 and 2018 the programs have been researched and presented by long-standing table member

Alma de la Garza. The 2017 program was The Legend of Our Lady of Guadalupe: Patroness of Mexico and of Indian People/Patron Saint of the Americas. The image of Guadalupe has become one of the most important patriotic symbols. In Mexico some people use the saying "*in Mexico even atheists are Guadalupanos*". This event was covered in Social Life with a two page spread of photos---over 120 members and guests attended. The 2018 program was The Story of the Pinata. Tracing its origins to China, Alma explained how the piñata has evolved and become a source of gaiety and joy, enhancing birthdays, festivals and other special celebrations in many countries, especially in Mexico and South America.

March 2018 I hosted **Alliance Director General Nhury Gutierrez Vilches** for four nights as she visited our table and the neighboring tables from Brownsville to Rio Grande City. It was a great experience having her in my home and learning in depth about PART in South America and her country Chili.

Observance Day is celebrated in April in conjunction with the upper valley tables of Alamo-San Juan-Pharr, Edinburg, and Rio Grande City-Roma. In 2018 about 200 members and guests of the four PART upper valley tables enjoyed meeting and greeting each other. The selected theme of "Passport to the Americas" was artfully carried out through the table decorations. Keynote speaker for the event, Esperanza Zendejas, Superintendent of Brownsville ISD, delighted the audience by sharing some of her personal experiences and great efforts in her quest to achieve her goals and some of her life's accomplishments. The 2019 Celebration is well underway with a selected theme "A Day at the Derby", promises to be a winner.

Our Foreign Relations Committee stays in touch with our Honorary Consulate Members from Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras. We invite the consuls and spouses to special meetings and to present programs when needed.

Our May meetings 2017 and 2018 revolve around the students that we award \$2,000 scholarships to attend South Texas College or the University of Texas RGV. We select a student from each of our 3 high schools and award a total of \$12,000 for the biennium. Participation by members and guests in the raffles on Founder's Day, December Mother/Daughter Program, and Observance Day help us raise the funds for the three \$2,000 scholarships.

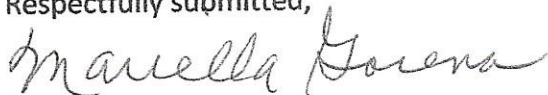
Throughout the biennium 10 new members were voted in, and 1 transitioned from another Table. The new member Orientation Committee did an excellent job of providing our new members with an insight into our organization. Inductions were held November 2017 and 2018 followed with warm welcomes from members. For the 2019 Yearbook we are going to add photos of each member so that all members can get to know each other better.

A special ad hoc committee was established to prepare the PART scrapbooks or *Biennial Archives* from 1934 to the present to be deposited at the UTSA Library Archives. We are fortunate that we have 3 retired librarians as members. Due to their age, many albums were deteriorating. The group organized each album and placed the pages into standard notebooks with acid free paper and plastic sleeves suitable for archiving documents. Each of the 28 books

have been scanned so that we have an electronic copy readily available for anyone to review. An electronic copy will be given to the UTRGV library so that the archives are available for local researchers. Next year the Archives Committee will be working on establishing a format for future albums so that there is some uniformity and important historical information is recorded. They are ready for the ride to their destination at the UTSA Library Archives. Working on these scrapbooks as been enlightening.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as Director for my Table. I have learned so much, and experienced wonderful friendships. Can only wish the same fulfillment for all.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mariella Gorena". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Mariella Gorena
PART McAllen