

**Pan American Round Table of San Antonio
Biennial Report
October 2017 – May 2019**

The San Antonio Table has had a busy and productive two years. It has been a joy and honor to serve as the Table Director during this time.

Meetings

With the exception of 2 field trips and our business meetings which were held at the homes of our members, Jeanne Koplan and Yvonne Kylstra, all regular meetings have been held at The Silo Elevated Cuisine Restaurant on Loop 1604. The food has been consistently delicious and the audiovisual support has been seamless. As per our bylaws, we meet on the third Friday of the month from October thru May.

We have had some very interesting speakers at our meetings. Topics have included “A Civilian’s Response to Active Shooters,” “Colombia, The FARC and Reconciliation,” “Día de los Muertos Celebrations in Mexico,” a short history of Panama and “The Christmas Traditions of Puerto Rico.”

We also managed to take two wonderful field trips to the San Antonio Museum of Art. In the April 2018, we toured the special exhibit, “San Antonio 1718: Art from Viceregal Mexico,” which was especially curated to celebrate San Antonio’s Tricentennial. In the March 2019, we toured the Museum’s Latin American Collection. Both tours were expertly led by Laura Uzdavines, our Immediate Past Director, who is a docent at the Museum

Membership

I take great pleasure in reporting that we have gained 5 new members in the past two years. We now have 39 active members, 5 sustaining members, and 2 life members.

Scholarships

February meetings are customarily reserved to honor our scholarship recipients. The Scholarship Committee, led by Ahia Shabaaz and working with new forms and updated policies that they formulated, has done a wonderful job.

Three recipients were awarded a total of \$7,000.00 for the 2017-18 term. Eva Rubio Arias who holds a medical degree from Mexico was awarded \$1,000 to study English at The University of Texas at San Antonio. She requires intensive and specialized English instruction in order to sit for her medical boards in the United States. She hopes to do a residency in the United States and upon completion, plans to return to Mexico where her family has established and continues to operate an orphanage. Marie Dingong, a wife and mother of young children, and an immigrant from West Africa, was awarded \$3,000 to study nursing at St. Phillip's College. Janzeth Trevino was awarded

\$3,000 to pursue a Doctor of Osteopathy at the University of Incarnate Word. Eva and Marie attended the February 2018 meeting and gave us updates on their studies and future plans in addition to expressing their deep gratitude for the scholarships.

Eva and Marie continued as the scholarship recipients for the 2018-19 term. They were awarded \$3,000.00 each. Eva was able to attend the February 2019 luncheon and her English has definitely improved. She is a delightful young woman and we wish her the best.

Projects

We reestablished the idea of a service project to benefit the local community. In the past, the Table had donated books to the San Antonio library, but the practice was dropped for various reasons.

In the Fall of 2017, the membership agreed to undertake a book drive to benefit SAReads, a non-profit organization that serves as a clearing house for collecting, cleaning, sorting and redistributing books to the San Antonio and Bexar County community and also provides tutoring for elementary students and professional development and coaching for teachers. The Table collected over 100 books and \$250 to benefit SAReads.

In the Fall of 2018, the Table committed to a sock drive for the homeless. Every year a tally is conducted on one single night in January of the number of people living on the streets and in shelters in San Antonio. In January 2018, that number was 3,066. Socks are the clothing item most needed by the homeless, but new socks are rarely donated. The Table collected socks at the November and December meetings. We donated over 300 pairs of socks to the Salvation Army for distribution in their homeless shelters.

Bylaws Change and Other Business

The Table voted to increase membership dues at the January 2018 meeting. Consequently, a change to the bylaws was necessary. The Table voted to change its bylaws at the May 2019 meeting. A letter was sent to the State Parliamentarian and the State Director notifying them of the change and asking for approval. Approval was granted.

We are very proud that one of our members, Frances Rodriguez, was elected to the position of Alliance Treasurer at the Alliance Convention held in October 2019. This past August, the Executive Committee acted on an emergency basis as provided by our Bylaws to nominate Frances to the position. We acted on this basis due to time constraints; calling a special meeting would not have given the membership adequate notice. Furthermore, the meeting would have been held outside of the regular meeting season prescribed by our bylaws. I advised the membership by email of the Committee's action. The table ratified the action of the Executive Committee to nominate Frances by unanimous vote at our first regular meeting in October.

Publicity

It has been a historic time in our city. On May 5, 2018, the San Antonio Tricentennial Commission commemorated the 300th anniversary of the founding of the Mission San Antonio de Valero, the Presidio San Antonio de Bejar and the City of San Antonio. On October 19, 2018, the *San Antonio Express-News* featured a full-page article about Florence Terry Griswold and our Table as part of its ongoing coverage of the Tricentennial. There was also an accompanying online article with more photographs. Special thanks go to Kathleen Beasley and Laura Uzdavines who were interviewed by the the reporter and who shared photographs and materials with him.

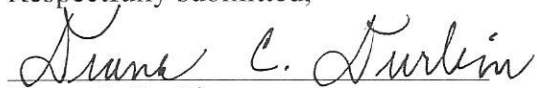
Future Events

We will observe Pan American Day at our April meeting. Members are encouraged to wear native costumes. We will also have a speaker who will talk about the Port of San Antonio.

Our final business meeting will be held in May. Our new Board will be installed at the meeting. Agatha Wade will serve as our new Director for 2019-2021.

As I said at the beginning of this report, it has been a busy and productive 2 years. I thank the Board and our members for their hard work and for making our accomplishments possible.

Respectfully submitted,



Diana C. Durbin

Table Director, Pan American Round Table of San Antonio