



STATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT TO THE PARTT BOARD

Brownsville, Texas – March 25, 2006



*Jean Hager
PARTT State Director*

It has been an amazing and rewarding year for me. Thank you so much for the honor of representing you as State Director. I have visited 18 of our 21 Texas Pan American Round Tables and am scheduled to visit the last three – Dallas III, Fort Worth I, and Fort Worth II – on April 12th.

So much of my travel has been via Southwest Airlines. I found it less expensive than traveling by car even at the \$.30 a mile allotted for travel. There have been many flights out of Harlingen at 6:40 AM with return flights in the early evening. I traveled to Austin, San Antonio, and Houston in this manner. My trips to Odessa and El Paso were over night ones. The trips to Laredo, Eagle Pass, Del Rio, and Conroe were made with my husband Dick and Rowdy, our Border Collie. Bev Parker, State Corresponding Secretary accompanied me on my trips to Houston, McAllen, Beeville, Rio Grande City, Edinburg, Alamo/San Juan, Pharr, San Benito, Corpus Christi.

Margie Rogers, First Associate Director, represented me at the Alliance Board Meeting in Acapulco on July 4, 2005 because I had other commitments on that date. I appreciated Margie's willingness to do that and appreciated the very detailed report that she wrote of that meeting.

The officers and members of each Table were very gracious and welcoming – making my visits with them pleasant and informative ones. I installed the officers of the tables in Corpus Christi, San Benito, and Brownsville II and will install the officers of Brownsville I in June. I reviewed the Constitution and By-Laws of all but one of our Tables and found that they were in compliance with our State Constitution and By-Laws. I now have Financial Reports from all but two of our Tables and I continue to pursue those.

A special concern of mine has been the declining membership of our Tables. I talked about this with the membership of the Tables when I visited and left brochures

with them that the could share with prospective members or new members.

The brochures were developed by Margie Rodgers and her Long Range Committee and were included in the report to the Board in El Paso. I modified them slightly and brought them up to date. Although some of our Tables are doing very well with membership, others are not. Some are limited by the space in the places that they meet. Others have a cap on their membership and may have a waiting list. Some are content with the status quo and are quite selective in their inclusion of a few new members. The larger the membership, the more new members are included. The smaller the membership, the fewer new members are introduced. Once the membership of a Table declines, it becomes more of a challenge to rebuild the numbers. Although I have made an effort to solve some of these problems, I am not sure that I have made a difference. Perhaps time will tell.

On a positive note, although all of our Texas Tables are different, they do share the same objectives and ideals that make the Pan American Round Tables of Texas the great organization that it is. I have come to appreciate and enjoy these differences. And as I have talked with the individual tables, I have shared some of the activities that are successful in other Tables - with the hope of building bridges between the Tables and the adoption of new ideas.

I do plan to continue my travels and my efforts to increase our membership during the coming year. I appreciate the fine support of the members of our State Board and the good work being done by our Standing Committee Chairmen.

May we remain "One for All an All for One", "Una para Todas y Todas para Una".

PARTT BOARD MEETS

On March 24th and 25th the members of the Pan American Round Table of Texas' State Board and the Standing Committee Chairpersons met in Brownsville at the Sheraton Hotel. The meeting was hosted by Brownsville I.

The evening of the 24th, attendees were treated to a guided tour of the Costumes of the Americas Museum and a cocktail party and dinner at La Cantara. Fiesta was the evening's theme. Beautiful decorations, dancers, music, and special favors added to the festivities. On the morning of the 25th, the Scholarship Committee convened to make their decisions. That meeting was followed by an agenda that included reports by the officers and committee chairpersons and the transaction of other business. So much activity in a mere 24 hours!

All of the State Officers were present and all but two of the Standing Committee Chairmen attended. Also present were: Geri Rice, Immediate Past State Director. Other Past State Directors present were: Imogene Mecaskey, Peggy Clark, and Gladys Simpson, also Sylvia Williams, Zone I Alliance Director.

AUSTIN WILL HOST STATE CONVENTION

The Pan American Round Table of Austin is looking forward to hosting the 53rd State Convention March 22-25, 2007. Over 200 members from Texas and the Mexican border cities are expected to attend. Tables from New Mexico and Oklahoma have also been invited.

Austin hosted a State Convention in 1993. Those attendees remember that Austin is at its loveliest in the early spring.

The meeting will be held at the Hyatt Austin Hotel - located near the city center and overlooking beautiful Town

Lake. Room rates are as follows: Singles, \$139, Doubles \$149, Triples \$159, and Quadruples, \$169. Self-parking is \$5.00 a day. Information regarding registration and fee is forthcoming.

The opening ceremonies on Friday evening will be held at the Texas State History Museum followed by a dinner. The other meetings will be held at the Hyatt Hotel.

The convention theme is AUSTIN EN VIVO! Please do plan on attending the convention in Austin in March 2007. The Austin Table looks forward to welcoming you.

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO THREE STUDENTS!

There are three outstanding recipients of the Pan American Round Tables of Texas' scholarships for 2006-2007! The members of the Scholarship Committee are: Chairman Dorothy Schatzman, Kay Leech, Gladys Cummins, Jean Hager, Elsie Perez, Margie Rodgers, Geri Rice. Scholarship packets were mailed last August to all the Texas institutions of higher learning - sixty in number. Our website proved to be an invaluable aid for the applicants.

By the January 31, 2006 deadline, ten applications qualified for the scholarship money: Each Scholarship Committee member received copies of the applications of the applicants and ranking forms for voting which were returned to the Chairman who compiled the results.

Maria Teresa Vera Rojas from Venezuela was awarded the Florence Terry Griswold Scholarship I of \$3,000.00. Maria received an undergraduate degree in Literature in 1999 and a Master's Degree in Latin American Literature in 2003 from two universities in Caracas. She entered the doctoral program in US Latino Literature at the University of Houston. Maria Teresa plans to return to Venezuela and open a new field of study of US Latino Literature and

Culture. She recognizes the relevance of this study in the context of increased economic associations between countries.

The Florence Terry Griswold Scholarship II was awarded to Debra Ann Cordona. Debra is studying Comparative Politics at Texas A & M University. She will be conducting research in Chile for her dissertation titled "An Analysis of Institutional Interactions in Latin America". She plans to examine judicial authority developments in processes of democratization. The scholarship money of \$2500.00 will help her meet the costs of traveling, living, and working on her project in Chile.

The Melba Dawson Scholarship of \$2,000.00 was awarded to Euraline Williams from Dominica. Euraline attends the University of Dallas and is studying Speech Pathology and Audiology. She plans to return to her native country where there are no speech therapists or audiologists.

All three are most impressive in their accomplishments to date and for those they plan for the future. It will be interesting to hear from the recipients how their studies are progressing. The Pan American Round Tables of Texas has made a significant contribution to the education of these young women.

BROCHURES AVAILABLE FOR THE ASKING!

At the PARTT Board meeting in March, Peggy Clark and Jean Hager were given the task of rewriting and updating a brochure for use by the Tables. That task has been completed. The brochure contains information about the Pan American Round Tables of Texas, Scholarships, the Alliance of Pan American Round Tables and our History and Legacy.

They should be very useful for sharing information about our organization with prospective or new members. Please send your requests for brochures to Jean Hager, State Director, PARTT. Please specify the number of brochures that you would like.



McALLEN HONORS PAST TABLE DIRECTORS

The McAllen Table honored past Table Directors at the Founders' Day luncheon in October. The table recalled the founding of McAllen in 1904, the founding of PART in 1916, and the founding of their Table in 1934. It was an enjoyable event focused on history, memories of times past, and fellowship. Past Directors who were honored were: L. to R. Kay Moffitt, Aida B. Torres, Darda Cardenas, Frances Metcalf, Alice Tavarez, Bernice Burkhart, Carmen Guerra, Yolanda Barrera, Mary Lou Trevino, and Baudelia Crane.

BROWNSVILLE II'S SPECIAL PROGRAM

Leonore Baldwin, a Trini-Togbagonian, was guest speaker for Brownsville II PART's March program. Leonore's mother is from Tobago and her father is from Trinidad. She was assisted by her special friend, Linda Roundtree. Dressed in Native costume and captivating everyone, Leonore gave an informative power-point presentation about life in her beautiful islands. She displayed many arts and crafts from Trinidad and Tobago along with regional music including the steel drum "pan" and calypso.

Leonore is a teacher at the Montessori School. Her husband is also a teacher. They have authored and illustrated a children's book about a young boy in Trinidad.

SAN BENITO TABLE CONTRIBUTES TO THE COMMUNITY

Following Hurricane Katrina in November, the San Benito Table presented \$300 to Pat Graham, President of the Valley Baptist Missions Education Center to help defray the expenses of remodeling dormitories for hurricane evacuees.

The San Benito Table, also, assisted the South Texas Chorale, a community group, at their performances in Harlingen by selling CDs and tickets.

The PanAmericana Texana would like to include information from all of our Texas PART Tables. Please send pictures or news of any special program or happening to Lourdes Deytz, Publications Chairman.

2006-2007 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The members of the 2006-2007 Nominating Committee are:
Chairman, Dorothy Schatzman, El Paso

Area A

Member: Laura Gutierrez-Witt, Austin
Alternate: Janie Wall, Austin

Area B

Member: Judith Howard, San Antonio
Alternate: Rosalinda de la Garza, San Antonio

Area C

Member: Eunice Ingles, McAllen
Alternate: Linda Economedes, Edinburg

Area D

Member: Jeanne Boatman, Fort Worth I
Alternate: Cheryl McCown, El Paso



(l. to r.) Leonore and Linda

2006 ALLIANCE UPDATE FROM CORPUS CHRISTI

The Pan American Round Table of Corpus Christi will be hosting the 30th Alliance Convention beginning October 11 and ending October 15, 2006. The Alliance Committee Chairmen have been working diligently for eighteen months to plan a wonderful convention for you. Tentative plans include an Opening Ceremony and Cocktail Party at the Texas A&M Performing Arts Center, Pan American Night at the Omni Bayfront Hotel, Texas Night at the Solomon Ortiz Center, and the Closing Ceremony and Gala Banquet at the American Bank Center. An optional trip to San Antonio is planned. The Business Meetings will be held at the Omni Bayfront Hotel. Your registration fee of \$260 includes food and beverages for all the evening events. The deadline for registration is September 10, 2006.

The convention site hotel is the Omni Bayfront and the sub-site is the Omni Marina. Both hotels can be reached at 1-361-887-1600 and a special rate is available for the PARTT but that must be mentioned at the time your registration is made.

If you have questions about registration, you may contact the chairman, Gloria Riddle at part2006cc@yahoo.com and you can also retrieve information from your Table Director, who has been sent a registration packet.

The Corpus Christi Table has nominated Peggy Clark for the 2006-2008 Alliance Director General position and hopes to have an overwhelming response and support for her by way of your attendance.

The Corpus Christi Table sincerely thanks all the Texas Tables who are contributing to the convention and making it the success it will be. Without that help, it would not be a truly, totally Texas experience. They look forward to seeing all of you in October so that they can demonstrate their Corpus Christi hospitality, showcase their lovely city, and actively affirm our founder's motto: "One for All and All for One."

Do come to enjoy the Sun, Fun, and a new Alliance Experience.



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IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER!

PARTT Alliance Convention
Corpus Christi
October 11 - 15, 2006

PARTT State Convention
Hyatt - Austin
March 22-25, 2007