



FROM OUR STATE DIRECTOR

What a wonderful two years this has been! It has been such a privilege and honor to represent you. Thank you.

Following our Board Meeting in Brownsville last Spring, I attended the Lower Valley Pan American Day Celebration in Harlingen, The Pan American Day Celebration in Fort Worth, and the Upper Valley Celebration in McAllen. I installed the new officers for the Brownsville I Table at their luncheon meeting in June.

In September, I traveled to Reynosa to join their Table as they inaugurated their new officers. The Alliance Convention in Corpus Christi was the highlight of October. Because the Convention was in my home state, I was given very special treatment and the opportunity to welcome the delegates to the great state of Texas. It was a beautifully planned convention.

Edinburg's birthday celebration in October was a very festive occasion with many State and Alliance officers present as well as our Pan American Woman of the Year, Delia Perez de Plata. I attended the Dallas III Table's business meeting. It was good to meet the many members who attended that meeting.

San Benito's Annual Scholarship tea in December was well attended and helped get us all in the mood for the holidays. Later in December, on my trip to Austin I met with the hard working committee that is planning our State Convention. After a tour of the sites selected for our Convention and a review of their plans, Chairman Janet Roberts served luncheon at her home. This committee is certainly to be commended for their hard work and not a single detail that will make this a memorable Convention has been overlooked.

Brownsville I's Silver Tea was beautifully done in January and raised money for their scholarship fund. A major source of the income that day was from the many items that were donated for their silent auction.

Before the State Convention, I plan visits to the Conroe and McAllen Tables and to present a program for my own Brownsville II Table.

In my travels throughout our state I have met so many of my delightful Pan American sisters. It was apparent to me that the members of each Table do care and support one another. We have an organization of which we can all be truly proud.

Each Table works in its own way to award scholarships that make a difference in the lives of so many students. Each Table also works to



Jean Hager
PARTT State Director

further knowledge, understanding, and friendship among the peoples of the Western Hemisphere. It was so good to see almost all of our Texas Tables represented at the Alliance Convention in Corpus Christi last fall where there were opportunities to meet with members of the Pan American Tables from other states and other countries.

When I began my term, I talked of the need to increase our membership and I do hope that there has been some increase. As I went from Table to Table, I heard many reasons why increasing membership can be difficult. Several of our Tables maintain the full membership that is permitted in their Constitutions and have a list of those seeking membership in their Tables. Those Tables give "Membership" the priority that it should have.

My thought that I have shared with many Tables is that each member must actively seek new members and tell them about our Pan American Round Tables. Give a prospective member one of the new brochures that we have. If there are obstacles to increasing membership, these obstacles must be recognized and overcome. I believe that we all do want the Pan American Round Tables of Texas to continue to be a viable organization and to grow. This will require a significant effort on the part of each of our members.

I want to thank the State Board for their support and hard work these past two years. Our Committee Chairmen and Committee members have also made a significant contribution to PARTT and are to be commended.

Again, this has been a great two years. Following the installation of the new State Officers in Austin, I will continue on the State Board for two years the Immediate Past State Director.

Don't miss the State Convention in Austin. It will be one to remember. See you there.

"One for All and All for One"
Jean



EDNA TAMAYO

Edna Tamayo, First Associate Director for the San Benito Pan American Round Table, is well known here in the Rio Grande Valley for all the contributions that she has made to the community. She has served as a Cameron County Commissioner since January 1, 2003. When she took this post, she made history as the first woman ever to be elected to the Cameron County Commissioner's Court.

The Edna Tamayo house is a half way house in Harlingen where young men who have been in boot camp have an opportunity to demonstrate in counselors' sessions that they are able to assume a proper role in society and able to follow laws and rules. The Edna Tamayo House has achieved the best record in the state for youth not returning to criminal activity. Edna served on the State Board of the Texas Youth Commission for 9 years.

Her experiences are very impressive. She was a Classroom Teacher for 19 years and her honors include Los Fresnos CISD Teacher of the Year – 1962; Epsilon Sigma Alpha Outstanding 1st Year Member – 1966; Outstanding Educator, Valley Morning Star – 1990, Harlingen Zonta Club Woman of the Year – 1994; Hispanic Woman of the Year – 1995; Distinguished Leadership Award sponsored by National University Women, Outstanding Woman Award – 1999.

CONROE'S SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Judy Zavala, recipient of Conroe's scholarship, is a sophomore at Montgomery County College with a 2.5 GPA. She is married and has two children.

In her letters to the Table, she has written that her parents are both from Mexico and have always encouraged her to further her education so that she may have a better lifestyle than they did and may provide a better lifestyle for her children and on and on.

Her ambition is, after teaching a few years, to become a counselor for ESL students at the high school or college level. She assured the Conroe Table that "I will reach to the fullest of my educational potential and I will make you proud to have invested your time and money in my dreams."



*Seated second from left: Judy Zavala,
Conroe's Scholarship Recipient*



MRS. NORMA Z. BENAVIDES PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE RIO GRANDE

The Webb County Heritage Foundation announced the selection of Mrs. Norma Benavides as this year's President of the Republic of the Rio Grande, "a title reserved for persons who embody only the most outstanding commitment to history and education." Mrs. Benavides was born in Laredo, Texas in 1926, received a Bachelor of Arts degree in chemistry and mathematics from Incarnate Word College in San Antonio – graduating Summa Cum Laude, and was a teacher for over 27 years. She was married in 1949 and was the mother of four children.

Her honors are many – the first woman to hold an elective office in Webb County and President of the Laredo Area Catholic School Board. She was a member of the Webb County Heritage Foundation and was granted honorary membership in 1989. She is a charter member of the Texican Cattlewomen and has been recognized for her contributions to the ranching industry. Mrs. Benavides is a past Director of the Laredo Pan American Round Table and is an honorary member of that Table.

53RD PARTT STATE CONVENTION AUSTIN, TEXAS – MARCH 23-25 SCHEDULE



TIME FOR SOME REPAIR

On April 14, 1935 the Pan American marker was installed in the center of International Bridge between Laredo, TX and Nuevo Laredo. Important representatives from fifteen countries were in attendance. Florence Terry Griswold made the arrangements to build and install the marker because she believed that friendship should be expressed with more than words and deeds.

Now, 72 years later, the Pan American Marker shows evidence of serious deterioration. It is very important that the marker should be uninstalled, shipped to someone who can restore it, and reinstalled. It is hoped that this can be a joint effort between the Pan American Round Tables of Texas and those of the Mexican National Association.



Several McAllen Pan American Round Table members attended a brunch honoring Delia Perez de Plata, as Pan American Woman of the Year.

ALLIANCE WORKSHOP

If you have ever wondered what to do with Alliance officers visiting your Table, now is the time to get those answers. Margie Rodgers Gillette, Alliance Zone 1 Director, and Peggy Clark, Alliance Director General, will present a workshop on Alliance protocol on Saturday, March 24th at 4 o'clock.. A question and answer session will follow the presentation.

Thursday, March 22, 2007

2 p.m. – 5 p.m. Registration (Lobby by the escalator)
6 p.m. Dinner honoring State Board, Laguna Gloria Museum

Friday, March 23, 2007

9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Registration (Lobby by the escalator)
9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Hospitality Room #
8:30 a.m. Florence Terry Griswold Scholarship Board - Big Thicket Room
9 – 12:00 a.m. State Board Meeting -- Foothills II
12 – 1:30 p.m. State Board Luncheon -- Foothills II
1:30 p.m. Cont. of Board Meeting until finished.
6 p.m. Buses begin departing hotel for Bob Bullock State History Museum
6:15 – 9:30 p.m. Opening Ceremony - Reception and Dinner Bob Bullock State History Museum
9:15 p.m. Buses depart for hotel

Saturday, March 24, 2007

9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Hospitality Room #
9 a.m. – 12 p.m. First Business Session - Hill Country Ballroom
Call to order: Jean Hager
Collect
Introduction of State Board
Adoption of Convention Program
Roll Call and Quorum
Report of Credentials Committee
Minutes of March 6, 2005
Reports of State Officers
Reports of Committee Chairpersons
Reports of Tables
12 p.m. Luncheon honoring Past State Directors - Foothills II
Style Show
1 p.m. Group photo
1:30 – 4 p.m. Continuation of First Business Session
Continuation of Reports
Old business
New business
4 – 4:30 p.m. Alliance Workshop Foothills II
6 p.m. Reception and Dinner - Texas I Ballroom
Address by Jane Greig, Columnist
Austin American-Statesman

Sunday, March 25, 2007

9 a.m. – 12 p.m. Hospitality Room #
9 – 9:30 a.m. Hour of Memory - Hill Country Ballroom
9:30 – 12 a.m. Second Business Session - Hill Country Ballroom
Call to order
Roll Call and Quorum
Report of Credentials Committee
Report of Revisions Committee
Report of Nominating Committee
Election of Officers for 2007-2009
Report of Resolutions Committee
Invitation for 2009 Convention
Invitation for 2008 State Board Meeting
Installation of New Officers
12 p.m. Closing Luncheon - Foothills II
Passing of the Gavel: Jean Hager
Greeting: New State Director
Convention Adjournment

AUSTIN EN VIVO AWAITS YOU!

Register now for the PARTT State Convention! The dates are March 23-25. The setting is the scenic Hyatt Regency Hotel on Town Lake – close to vibrant downtown Austin with its many shops. Austin will be in full spring bloom, and the hiking trail by the hotel will entice you to admire the red buds and the flowering peach trees.

The Hyatt Hotel is holding a block of rooms for PARTT at a special rate until February 28th. After that date, the hotel cannot guarantee either room availability or the special room rate. Make your reservations as soon as possible.

The opening ceremony and seated dinner on Friday night will take place at the fascinating Bob Bullock State History Museum. There will be music and exhibits. The museum

shop will be open. Transportation to and from the hotel will be provided.

The general meetings and other events will take place at the Hyatt Hotel. A very special guest speaker and other surprises are planned for the formal Saturday evening banquet. There will be entertainment at the luncheons, a style show, and lots of door prizes.

The Hospitality Suite will be open throughout the conference. Drinks and snacks will available there.

Please check with your Table Director for more complete information about the Convention. Send those registration forms in! The Austin Table members eagerly await your arrival in their beautiful fun-filled city.



PANAMERICANA TEXANA

Newsletter published by
Pan American Round Tables of Texas
Lourdes Deytz, Editor
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Brownsville, Texas 78521

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

PARTT State Convention

Hyatt - Austin
March 23-25, 2007

Alliance Convention

Costa Rica
September 24-27, 2008

