



Volume 35,
Number 3
January, 2009

Panamericana Texana

The Pan American Round Tables of Texas • Austin, Texas USA

State Director Sylvia Williams . . .

I hope everyone had a happy holiday season and that 2009 is a prosperous and productive New Year for the Pan American Round Tables of Texas.

After my last activity report in May, I continued to travel the state. In June I attended meetings of the McAllen and Dallas III Tables. McAllen held an important business meeting at the McAllen Country Club. Dallas III held its meeting at the Meadows Museum on the SMU campus. For their program, the members enjoyed a guided tour of the exhibition: Fernando Gallego and His Workshop, the Altarpiece from Ciudad Rodrigo.

In August, eleven Table Directors and three Associate Directors traveled to San Antonio to attend the Table Director Workshop held once again at the home of San Antonio Table Director Louise Actkinson. Assisting at the workshop were Alliance Director General Peggy Clark, State Parliamentarian Elsie Perez, former State Director and Nominating Committee Chair Geri Rice, and Scholarship Chair Louise Actkinson.

In September I traveled to Costa Rica for the Alliance Convention. Three weeks later I attended a meeting of the Odessa Table. Members who had traveled to Costa Rica recalled the convention, their impressions, and reported on current events. Finally, in December I had a delightful time at the Alamo/San Juan/Pharr Table holiday luncheon. Elvia Linnard gave an informative program on Haiti.

I will continue to visit Tables through February. Certainly the most enjoyable activity as State Director is visiting Tables and meeting members of our organization. As I near the end of my term as Director, I find myself full of gratitude for the warm hospitality, friendship, and generosity of all of you who have come into my life. During my travels I have seen a heartening devotion

to Pan American Round Table and an attachment to its history.

At the beginning of my term I advocated taking advantage of technology and the web to help us communicate to achieve a better informed, cohesive, and responsive organization. The increasing level of participation and interest in electronic communication among the members is encouraging. Technology is an essential tool for emphasizing our interconnectedness, for moving a statewide organization forward, and for meeting the demands of busy women today.

Another way to strengthen and grow the organization is through participation at a convention. I encourage all of you to make plans to attend the 54th Pan American Round Tables of Texas Convention March 20-22, 2009, in Brownsville. The convention will commence with a reception on Friday, March 20th at 6 p.m. poolside at the Holiday Inn and will end with a closing luncheon at noon Sunday, March 22nd.

Convention attendance and participation affords a method to energize longtime members and introduce new members to the significance of the Pan American Round Table. The most important aspects of the convention are the business meetings and sharing information about the activities of Tables. We will introduce the new Director General of the Alliance Martha Ofelia Calderón of Mexico. We will recognize our accomplishments of the past two years and review our goals. I will give a full Director report. In addition to convention business, numerous events will give us opportunities to socialize and enjoy the company of women with similar interests. The two Brownsville Tables and the San Benito Table have planned an excellent program for us so register early.

This is my last Texana message as your Director. I look forward with



anticipation and excitement to the next two months, as my term ends and new leadership is elected at the Convention in March.

Finally, I want to express appreciation to the Board, Committee Chairmen, and Committee Members for their dedication and excellent work. Thank you to Board member Jessica Farrell and the members of the Fort Worth I and II Tables for welcoming us to Southlake and hosting the State Board meeting last April. Thank you also to Louise Actkinson who made it possible to have annual Table Director Workshops in San Antonio. I am grateful for the support and sound advice of the two previous State Directors, Geri Rice and Jean Hager.

And special thanks to the Table Directors for their cooperation, for graciously receiving my numerous emails and phone calls, and for meeting all the deadlines. All of us working together with good will and humor made the past two years a success and a rewarding experience for me. My deepest thanks and gratitude to all of you for trusting me to represent you. I will cherish my memories as your Director.

Alliance Convention Update

By Elsie Perez, Zone I Director

The 31st Alliance Convention was held in San Jose, Costa Rica, on September 17-20, 2008. Over 800 members and guests attended the convention, including 132 delegates and 25 board members. The second board meeting for the 2008-2010 board members will be held in Miami, Florida, on June 17-19, 2009.

Two bylaw changes were approved: 1) Article III--Committees: Item H. The "Pan American Woman" Committee: It is exclusively an Alliance privilege and no association or table can bestow the title of Pan American Woman. It is considered an honorary title for life given by the Alliance. 2) Article I--Duties of the Board of Directors: Item H. The Parliamentarian shall be a member of the Revisions and Resolutions Committee. In other business, the newly revised and updated Constitution and Bylaws Manual was handed out to all the delegates. Also approved was the Protocol Manual.

During the convention five charters were presented to tables in Pachuca, Hidalgo, Mexico; Elisa Rodríguez Parra de García Rosell, Chiclayo, Peru; La Plata, Argentina; Cobija, Bolivia. Seven charters were presented to youth groups in Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, Argentina and Bolivia.



The Alliance currently has 211 Tables and 24 youth groups in 16 countries and Puerto Rico with a total of over 7,210 members in tables and youth groups. This past biennium the amount of \$889,168.00 dollars was given as scholarships, donations of books and library construction.

The following members were elected to office:

Director General: Martha Ofelia M. de Calderón, Mexico

Associate Director General: Lourdes Calderón de Ojeda, Peru

Recording Secretary: Eva Muñoz de Manzarraga, Mexico

Treasurer: Susan Matthews, USA

Historian: María del Valle Vázquez de Pioget, Venezuela

Parliamentarian: Norma Rios de Flores, Peru

Assistant Recording Secretary: Beatriz Sepe de González, Costa Rica

Official Translator: Ina Pool, USA
Corresponding Secretary: Guadalupe Ochoa de Garcia Faura, Mexico
Ex Officio Director General: Peggy Lasater Clark, USA
Pan American Woman: Nicolasa Samillán de Mendoza, Peru
Zone I Director: Elsie Perez, USA

Several Zone I members are serving on committees:

- Extension Committee: Elsie Perez (TX)
- Editorial Committee: Rosa Ryan (OK)
- Resolutions Committee: Sylvia Williams (TX)
- Electronic Communications Committee: Margie Gillette (TX)
- Finance Committee: Sarah Jane Wise (TX), Eunice Ingles (TX) (Auditor), Peggy Lasater Clark (TX)
- Pan American Woman: Geri Rice (TX)
- Archives Committee: Gloria Mata Pennington ((TX), Ann Hartness (TX)
- Directory Committee: Criselda Rios (FL)
- Revisions Committee: Gladys Simpson (TX)
- Protocol Committee: Gloria Riddle (TX)
- Youth Groups: Omnis Bastos Acebo (FL)
- OAS Committee: Louise Actkinson (TX), Mary Ann Palka (DC)
- Organizing Committee of the Board of Directors 2nd Meeting, Miami, Florida: Angela Harper (FL)

Conroe Table at Alliance Convention

The Conroe Table had three members and one guest in attendance at the Alliance Convention in Costa Rica in September.

Pictured right are Jeannette DeFee and Jean Heasley, Co-Director, beside the entrance marquee. Shelley Nelson and Sue Stewart also attended.



Central American Tour Enjoyed by PART Group

Members and guests of the McAllen, Edinburg and Rio Grande City Pan American Round Tables enjoyed an extended tour of Costa Rica and Guatemala following the 31st Alliance of Pan American Round Tables Convention in San Jose, Costa Rica, September 17-20.

The McAllen and Edinburg tables were represented on the Board of Directors by two members. McAllen's Carmen Guerra, who previously served as Director General, handled the difficult task of keeping order during the business meetings in her present role of Parliamentarian. Edinburg's Elsie Perez carried out the duties of Treasurer, and also serves as State Parliamentarian. Elsie was elected Zone 1 Director for the coming biennium.

The post convention tour began with a comfortable bus ride from San Jose to the Arenal Zone and Cataratas de la Paz. After reaching their destination, the group of 31 men and women was treated to a typical *costarricense* dinner with musical entertainment by an *estudiantina* from a nearby high school. True to the organization's objective of awarding student scholarships, the members made a donation to the school.

An amazing view of the Arenal Volcano greeted the visitors the following morning, setting the mood for the adventure of the day ahead. A relaxing safari float on rubber rafts down the serene White Cliffs River was first on the agenda, followed by lunch at Don Pedro's Farm, a wildlife refuge filled with numerous exotic animals, flowers, and the thunderous waterfall at La Fortuna River. In the late afternoon all enjoyed soaking in the hot springs at Tabacón and a scrumptious dinner in beautiful surroundings. At the end of the day the Arenal Volcano provided the perfect closure with a spectacular display of fiery lava eruptions in total darkness.

A morning visit to a botanical garden the next day with lunch and shopping at the *Restaurante tipico Las Carretas* in Sarchi preceded the trip back to San Jose where the group spent the last night in Costa Rica.

The next three days in Guatemala consisted of more sightseeing and shopping with a visit to Chichicastenango, the most colorful and picturesque outdoor market in the country; an overnight stay at Lake Atitlan in Panajachel with yet another spectacular volcano view; and a stop in colonial Antigua.

Everyone came away enchanted with both countries and look forward to the next Alliance convention in Mérida, Yucatán, in September of 2010. bridge among the members of the Alliance and for her, a labor of love for Pan Americanism.



Above: Enjoying the Rain Forest in Costa Rica. Left to right: Lily Torrez, Margarita Salinas, Rosario Pope, Mandy Pena, Eunice Ingles, Sandra Brown, Yolanda McCarty, Mary Pena, Baudelia Crane

Below: Pan American Night at Convention: Seated from left: Ana Maria Moon, Lily Torrez, Sandra Brown, Violette Metz, Standing: Eunice Ingles and Mary Lou Trevino



Texas Tables Honored

Banner of Peace Flags were awarded to the Laredo and Edinburg Pan American Round Tables at a ceremony held in Mexico City on October 25, 2008. The presentation took place during the 80th Anniversary Celebration of the founding of the Mexico City Pan American Round Table, the first Table established in the Republic of Mexico.

Proudly accepting the flags from Dra. Alicia Rodriguez, President of the Peace Flag Committee, was Ina Pool, member of the Laredo Table and Elsie Perez, member of the Edinburg Table (pictured right).

The flag was created on April 15, 1935, after the signing of the Roerich Pact at the White House by all the American countries. The Pact was later ratified in 1937 by the League of Nations, a precursor to the United Nations. The Alliance has established that the flag be used at public and institutional events of the Pan American Round Tables.



Austin Table Celebrates 10th Anniversary of Rodriguez Elementary School

The Pan American Round Table of Austin has worked in partnership with the Rodriguez Elementary School since the school broke ground in 1998. Every year PART members have committed time and financial resources to make a difference in the lives of the 922 students of the school, and to honor the work of our departed PART sister, Hermelinda Rodriguez, for whom the school is named.

For the past 10 years, PART members have mentored and helped the students improve their reading skills; purchased bilingual books on Latin American literature for the parent-children's book club; cataloged donated books for the school library; provided much needed clothes and school supplies; awarded scholarships for educational and cultural field trips; and sponsored recreational activities at the school.

On November 22, PART members joined the school to celebrate its 10th anniversary, a milestone for Rodriguez Elementary and for education in Austin!



Pictured above: (left to right) Principal of Zavala Elementary School Rosa Peña, Principal of Rodriguez Elementary School Suzie Cunningham, U.S. Congressman Lloyd Doggett, Austin Table Director Nidia Salamanca-Speers, PARTT State Director Sylvia Williams, and Janet Roberts.

Brownsville I Events ...



The Brownsville I Table celebrated its 76th Birthday at a luncheon on November 8, 2008.

The 76th Birthday committee included, left to right, Sabrina Brashear, Isabel Vezzetti, Associate Director, Millie Esser, Joan McNeil, Marta Gonzalez, Nancy Hodgson and Brenda Goodrich.

The Brownsville I Table held its installation luncheon meeting on December 5, 2008. Pictured left to right are Gabriela Rios, Maria Enriqueta Yzaguirre, Table Director, Benilde Olvera and Birdie Walker, installed as associate members.



Alliance Translator

Laredo Table member Ina Pool is serving a third term as the official translator of the Alliance of Pan American Round Tables. This interesting and rewarding experience has allowed Ina to meet wonderful women from various Latin American countries and to form lasting friendships. Ina describes this office as a virtual bridge among the members of the Alliance and for her, a labor of love for Pan Americanism.

In addition to her duties as Alliance translator, Ina also serves as the 2007-2009 PARTT Long Range Planning Chairman and works as a judicial interpreter at the Federal Court, Laredo Division. Ina will be happy to help you with required translations for the Alliance. Contact her at INAPPOOL@gmail.com.

IT'S ALMOST STATE CONVENTION TIME!

By Jean Hager, State Convention Chair

It hardly seems possible that the 54th Pan American Round Tables of Texas Convention will begin in just a few short weeks. The dates to remember are **March 20~22, 2009**.

We've already received a number of registrations. If you haven't filled out and mailed your form, plan to do it soon. The deadline for registration is **February 28, 2009**.

The Brownsville I, Brownsville II, and San Benito PART Tables are planning an exciting time for you in Brownsville. The convention will begin with a Border Buttermilk Reception poolside at the Holiday Inn on Friday evening.

Many exciting events are scheduled for the three days, including a dinner with a narrative of the history of Brownsville as clothes borrowed from the Brownsville Museum are modeled for each era described. The Hospitality Room will await you at eight each morning with catered food from the hotel.

Saturday is an important day for conducting the business of PARTT, but between sessions you will enjoy a Mexican luncheon with models from the Costumes of the Americas Museum. The luncheon also honors Past State Directors. Following the afternoon business meeting, the Alliance will conduct a short workshop. We will then board buses for a tour of Brownsville ending at a beautiful restaurant for the Noche de Gala.

The Hour of Memory will begin Sunday's activities. The business meeting with the election and installation of new officers will conclude the business portion of the convention. Don't leave too early though, or you will miss the closing luncheon that celebrates our proximity to South Padre Island.

The Committee looks forward to welcoming you to Brownsville
and a very special **54th PARTT State Convention**.



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