

Pan American Round Tables of the Valley Celebrate Observance Day

The seven Tables from the Upper and Lower Valley of the Pan American Round Table banded together this year to celebrate the annual Pan American Observance Day. Upper Valley Tables from Alamo-San Juan-Pharr, Edinburg, McAllen and Rio Grande City-Roma joined forces with the Lower Valley Tables of Brownsville I, Brownsville II, and San Benito at the McAllen Country Club on April 2, 2016, for a memorable and very special event.

Pan American Day is a day set aside and established by governments of the Americas to pledge their sovereignty and union as one community in the Western Hemisphere. It is observed annually in the United States on April 14 by Presidential proclamation and is part of Pan American Week.

This year's theme was "A Tapestry of Cultures" which includes the language, geography, arts, cultures, and customs of the countries of the western hemisphere. Most of the members wore colorful regional attire to go with the theme.

McAllen Table Director, Sylvia Alanis began the celebration by welcoming Ana Bulnes, Consul from Honduras; Allan Perez Hernandez, Consul from Guatemala; and Ena Ursula Perez, Consul for El Salvador. The invocation was given by Rev. Lesley Albert Gonzalez. Presentation of the flags was by PART Edinburg Table under the direction of Herminia Martinez, Table Director

Brownsville I Table Director, Virginia Hale recognized honored guests. They were; Alliance Director General, Maria Eva Manzarraga; Alliance Zone I, Criseyda Rios; Alliance Ex Officio Director General, Elsie Perez; Past Director General, Peggy Clark; Alliance Finance Committee Chairman, Sylvia Williams and Alliance Assistant Treasurer, Maly Tamez. State officials present were State Director, Isabel Vezzeti; Beatrice "Dolly" Flores, 2nd Associate Director (Area C); Margot Arevalo Gonzalez, Treasurer; Norma Linda Castellano, Parliamentarian; Herminia Martinez, Scholarship Chairman and Lily Torrez, Electronics Communications Chair. Rio Grande City-Roma Table Director, Bersave Salazar, introduced all tables present including those representing Mexico from Miguel Aleman, Reynosa, and Valle Hermosa.

A proclamation to the Pan American Round Tables for its 100th anniversary was done by Jim Darling, Mayor for the city of McAllen. Pan American Round Table was founded on October 16, 1916 in San Antonio, Texas by Florence Terry Griswold.

Entertainment was provided by violinist, Dr. Diana Seitz, Assistant Professor in Violin at University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. Dr. Seitz was introduced by Brownsville II Table Director Raquel Perez.

San Benito Table Director, Angie Gonzalez, introduced Harlingen CISD Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Art J. Cavazos-- guest speaker. Dr. Cavazos is a nationally recognized leader with almost 30 years of experience in education. He spoke of his admiration for the women in this organization who have had the determination to work hard to keep its goals going for 100 years. He reminded us that we must continue to instill in our youth the fact that education is the best inheritance anyone could have and it must not stop in the first generation that finishes college.

Many in attendance enjoyed winning the door prizes and raffle. Raffle items were donated by the Upper and Lower Valley Tables. The winners were announced by Alamo-San Juan-Pharr Table Director, Gloria Cantu.

Members of Pan American Round Table of Texas are looking forward to another great celebration commemorating its 100 years in existence. This event will take place in San Antonio, Texas on October 26th through 29th, 2016.

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