

HISTORY

The first Pan American Round Table (PART) organized by Mrs. Florence Terry Griswold in San Antonio, Texas on October 16th, 1916 was modeled closely after the Pan American Union. At that time, the Union had 21 members, each representing one of the Pan American Countries. In 1945 the Pan American Union became the Organization of American States (OAS). In 2001, the Alliance of Pan American Round Tables became a recognized and registered civil society of the OAS.

The round table represents the medieval concepts of a circle with no beginning and no ending, symbolizing unity, perpetuity, equal representation and opportunity. The motto is " One for All and All for One; Una para Todas y Todas para Una" which was penned by Alexander Dumas.

During Mexico's turbulent political period of 1910 to 1916, Mrs. Griswold opened her home to women and children who were refugees. She became acutely aware of the need for better understanding among the peoples of the Americas.

The movement grew outward from San Antonio with Tables formed in Laredo and El Paso in 1921 and in Austin in 1922. The first Pan American Round Table outside of the United States formed in Mexico City in 1928 and outside of Texas in Las Cruces New Mexico in 1931. Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt and Ambassadors spoke at some of the early meetings.

Of all the Pan American organizations that formed during the early twentieth century, this organization is the only one still active. Today there are more that 200 Tables in 17 countries and Puerto Rico with a membership of over 6,000 women. There are 25 youth groups in five countries.

As a recognized and accredited civil society of the OAS, the Alliance may participate in hemispheric meetings on matters affecting women and children primarily in the areas of education and quality of life issues. Visit www.partt.org and www.alianzademrp.org for more information.

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