



# **PAN AMERICAN ROUND TABLE OF BEEVILLE**

**Established 1953**

**Official Handbook & Constitution**

**2025-2026**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

|  |    |
|--|----|
| TABLE OF CONTENTS                      | 2  |
| 1. INTRODUCTION                        | 3  |
| 2. ORIGINS OF PAN AMERICAN ROUND TABLE | 5  |
| 3. BEEVILLE CHAPTER HISTORY            | 8  |
| 4. CHARTER & HISTORICAL MEMBERS        | 10 |
| 5. CONSTITUTION                        | 12 |
| 6. BY-LAWS                             | 19 |
| 7. PART BEEVILLE MEMBER DIRECTORY      | 20 |
| 8. OFFICERS                            | 25 |
| 9. COUNTRIES                           | 27 |
| 10. ANNUAL PROGRAMS SCHEDULE           | 28 |



# 1. INTRODUCTION

Pan American Round Table of Beeville is a non-political and non-profit organization established in 1953. The primary objective is to build mutual knowledge, understanding, and friendship among women in the Pan American Alliance while supporting their work to advance civilization and improve the lives of women and children in their countries. The organization is exclusively charitable and educational, with all proceeds from dissolution designated for tax-exempt public purposes.

© Pan American Round Table of Beeville



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## 2. ORIGINS OF PAN AMERICAN ROUND TABLE

The first Pan American Round Table (PART) organized by Mrs. Florence Terry Griswold in San Antonio, Texas on October 16, 1916 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 the United States was formed in Mexico City in 1928 and outside of Texas in Las Cruces, New Mexico in 1931. Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt and U.S. 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 than 200 Tables in 17 countries and Puerto Rico with a membership of over 6,000 women. There are 25 youth groups in five countries.



PART of Beeville is 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](http://www.partt.org) & [www.alianzademrp.org](http://www.alianzademrp.org) for more info.



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# 3. BEEVILLE CHAPTER HISTORY

Pan American Round Table of Beeville is a non-political and non-profit organization established in 1953. Its primary objective is to foster mutual knowledge, understanding, and friendship among women throughout the Western Hemisphere, particularly emphasizing their role in advancing civilization and improving the lives of women and children in their respective countries. The organization is exclusively charitable and educational, with all proceeds from dissolution designated for tax-exempt public purposes.



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# **4. CHARTER & HISTORICAL MEMBERS**

**Pan American Round Table Of Beeville**

**Organized - December 1963**

**First Meeting - January 1964**

1. Genevieve Dougherty (d)
2. Monna Ray (d)
3. Ruby Lancaster\* (d)
4. Winnie Ramirez (d)
5. Jewel Millikin (d)
6. Pat Dougherty Uhr\* (d)
7. Mary Jane Turnbow (lftm) (d)
8. Burniece Harris (d)
9. Charlene Ramirez (d)
10. Gere Lucas (d)
11. Leona Grimsinger (res)
12. Shirley Hall (res)
13. Leigh Cartwright\* (d)
14. Frances Dilworth (assoc) (d)
15. Eleanor Grove\* (d)
16. Louise Hall\*
17. Jeanne Hause (d)
18. Cece Hollingsworth\* (lftm)
19. Eleanor Jones (d)
20. Joyce Latchan\* (d)
21. Margaret Moser\* (d)



- 22. Florence Pieratt (d)
- 23. Dorothy Hall (d)
- 24. Gertrude Jones (d)
- 25. Sally Morrill (s)

**Abbreviations:**

**(d)** = deceased

**(res)** = resigned

**(sus)** = sustaining member

**(assoc)** = associate member

**(lftm)** = lifetime member

\* = charter member or founding member

# 5. CONSTITUTION

## Constitution of the Pan American Round Table of Beeville

Revised September 2022

### ARTICLE I - NAME

Founded in 1963, the name of the organization shall be the Pan American Round Table of Beeville, Texas.

### ARTICLE II - OBJECT

**Section 1.** The object of the organization which is non-political, no-sectarian, non-federated and non-profit shall be:

- a.** To provide mutual knowledge, understanding, and friendship among the women of the Western Hemisphere.
- b.** To foster movements leading to a higher civilization, especially those affecting the women and children of these countries.

**Section 2.** The purpose of this organization is exclusively charitable and educational within the meaning of Section 501c3 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law. Upon the final dissolution or liquidation of this organization and after discharge or satisfaction of all outstanding obligations and liabilities, the remain assets of this organization shall be distributed to organizations exempt from the Federal Income Tax under the 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code or to any Federal, State, or local government for public purpose.

## ARTICLE III - INSIGNIA

**Section 1.** The insignia shall consist of a circle, symbolizing the unity and common destiny of the Americas, on which is inscribed the characteristic of the locality, as a distinguishing feature; for example, the Lone Star for Texas, the Aztec calendar for Mexico, etc., and below the circle shall be emblazoned the flags of all the American Republics.

**Section 2.** The insignia when reproduced in color shall be restricted to the use of gold for the circle and royal blue for the lettering, with the flags in true colors.

## ARTICLE IV - AFFILIATIONS

Affiliations with organizations of Pan American Round Tables National or International, is authorized provided local autonomy is reserved. (c)

## ARTICLE V - MEMBERSHIP

**Section 1.** The membership shall consist of Active, Sustaining, Associate (Non-Resident), Honorary and Life members.

**Section 2.** From the active membership shall be elected Associate Directors, a Recording Secretary, and a Treasurer.

(a) Each of the American Republics and Canada shall be represented by a member or members, following the pattern of the Organization of American States.

(b) Other active members shall be assigned as assistants to the Representatives of the Countries if the membership is larger than the number of member states.

**Section 3.** The title, Honorary Member, may be conferred for distinguished service upon the Consuls during residence in the locality of the table.

**Section 4.** The over-all membership shall not exceed 150.

**Section 5.** Membership shall be gained by invitation only and upon satisfaction of the following conditions:

(a) Nominations for membership shall be presented in writing by any member and signed by two other members and given to the Chairman of the

(b) Membership Committee (Second Associate Director).

The membership committee shall consist of three members. Two members appointed by the First Director and not to be known to other club members shall serve of this committee.

The membership Committee shall present for membership qualified women interested in the Pan American work..

(d) The membership Committee shall present for membership the same number of names as existing vacancies.

(e) New members shall be elected by simple majority, (half members present plus one).

(f) If the proposed name stays on the membership list for two years with no vacancy occurring, it will be dropped but can be resubmitted.

**Section 6.** Only active members shall have the privilege of voting and of serving as chairman of standing committees.

**Section 7.** Active membership shall be limited to 30.

**Section 8.** Sustaining members shall consist of:

(a) Members, who after ten years of Active classification, wish to enjoy the privileges of membership without assuming duties associated with Active membership. They are not required to serve as hostess or program chairman unless they so desire.

(b) Members wishing to qualify for the "sustaining" classification must make application to the Membership Committee for consideration. After being considered by the committee, the request is submitted to the Table for a vote. The request may be approved by a simple majority. No more than two members may go on Sustaining membership during a club year. If there are more requests than openings, priority will be given to those Active members who have been in the Table the longest. If members have equal years of service, individual consideration such as age, health, and/or other reasons may be considered.

(c) Sustaining members shall pay the same dues as Active members, shall not vote, and shall keep the privilege of attending all functions of the Table, bringing guests if they choose for the program portion of the meeting.

(d) Total number of sustaining members shall be limited to ten.

**Section 9.** Life Membership shall consist of those members of long standing who have rendered outstanding service to the Beeville Round Table, and shall be elected to "Life Membership" in the Table by simple majority.

**Section 10.** Associate Membership shall consist of those persons in surrounding counties who would be interested in the work of the Pan American Round Table of Beeville. Nominations for Associate Membership shall be presented in writing by an Active member, endorsed by two other Active members, and shall be elected by a simple majority at the same meeting as presented. An Associate Member will pay half the dues of an Active member and may not vote. Associate Members may present a program or act as hostess if they so desire. Vacancies in Active Membership may be filled from Associate Membership whenever possible.

**Section 11.** All Active Members must attend three meetings a year. If this is not possible, a written request may be submitted to the executive board for a leave of absence not to exceed one year.

**Section 12.** Any member of the Table who fails to comply with the By-Laws regarding attendance and dues will be dropped from membership. Written notification from the Secretary will be sent to the delinquent members after review of records by the Treasurer, Secretary and Director.

**Section 13.** Any member in good standing with no unpaid dues who wishes to resign from the Round Table shall submit a written resignation to the Membership Chairman. Resignations are accepted by simple majority vote.

## **ARTICLE VI - DUES**

**Section 1.** Membership dues shall be paid annually in September. Any member failing to pay dues by January will be dropped from membership. Written notifications From the

Treasurer will be sent to the delinquent member after review of the records by the Treasurer and the Director.

**Section 2.** Yearbooks with meeting schedules and duties are distributed every two years. Yearbooks are given out when dues are paid.

## **ARTICLE VII - OFFICERS ELECTIONS**

**Section 1.** The officers of the Pan American Round Table of Beeville shall be a Director, three Associate Directors, a Recording Secretary and a Treasurer.

**Section 2.** Officers shall be elected for two years and may be reelected consecutively for the same office.

**Section 3.** Election of officers shall be by secret ballot, a majority vote constituting an election. Votes are counted by the Recording Secretary. Where there is only one nominee for an office the election may be by acclamation.

**Section 4.** Nominations shall be made by a nominations committee, appointed by the Director every other year in January and reporting in February, at which meeting a vote on officers will be taken.

**Section 5.** In the event of an elected officer having to resign or being unable to complete her term of office, a new officer shall be appointed by the Director for the remaining of the term. Such appointments subject to approval of the table at a regular or called meeting by majority vote.

**Section 6.** Representatives of Countries shall serve for two years and be chosen by lot.

## **ARTICLE VIII- DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

**Section 1.** The Director shall be the presiding officer, calling for a motion if needed, asking for second to motions, calling for a vote and announcing the outcome of all votes. The Director calls the meetings to order, makes all appointments outlined in the By-Laws, calls any executive meetings, announces the hostesses, program chairman and country

report for upcoming meetings. Following the Order of Business, she shall call for the reports of the Associate Directors as well as calling for reports from standing committee chairs. She closes the meeting with the reciting of the club motto.

**Section 2.** In the absence of the Director, the Associate Directors, in their order, shall preside.

**Section 3.** The first Associate Director shall assign the programs for the two-year calendar and notify those chosen to do programs, country reports and hostess duties. She is responsible for printing the two-year yearbook. She shall confer with the Chairman prior to each meeting.

**Section 4.** The second Associate Director shall be Membership Chairman. She shall receive all applications for membership submitted by members, and shall present for membership representative, qualified women, interested in Pan American work, who have been approved by the membership committee. She shall receive all requests for leave of absence and she and her committee shall eluate and rule on them. The second Associate Director notifies the Director and the requesting member of the status of the application. She introduces all new members to the Table.

**Section 5.** The Third Associate Director shall be Chairman of the Courtesy Committee. The committee shall ascertain the names of and extend courtesy to visitors from other tables and from other countries. She shall be familiar with protocol and instruct the table members if needed. She extends courtesy correspondence to members as needed. Publicity for the Table is also her responsibility.

**Section 6.** The Recording Secretary shall keep the minutes of each meeting and call the roll. She shall file the minutes in the form of a journal. She will also keep a copy of the invitation as well as any article that appears in the newspaper. She shall record the activities of the Table for the city, state National and international publications when necessary. These records are sent to archives of the state organization.

**Section 7.** The Treasurer shall collect all dues and fees, make all disbursements approved by the Executive Board, keep account of the same and present a full report at regular meetings. In November, the Treasurer will send written notification to those

members who have not yet paid their dues. She is responsible for maintaining the IRS 501 (c) (3) non-profit status of the Table by sending the proper data to the state for filing.

## ARTICLE IX

Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the table in all cases not covered by the constitution and by-law, providing it does not conflict with the rules of the country.

Amendments to this Constitution are to be submitted at one meeting and voted on at the following meeting or any subsequent meeting. Amendments require a two-thirds vote of Active Members present. Voting may be by written ballot or show of hand. Call meetings with an amendment on the agenda require a 10-day notice for a vote by Active Members.





# 6. BY-LAWS

- 1.** The dues shall be \$45 annually for all Active and Sustaining Members.
- 2.** The meetings will be held at the Beeville Country Club on the First Thursday of the month September through May. The December meeting is a party. There is a meeting of the officers in January and members may attend. State reports are due in January.
- 3.** The Hostesses are responsible for paying for their guests and the Club is responsible for paying for guests visiting from other tables.
- 4.** Members pay for their meals.
- 5.** A basket is passed at meeting to collect money for Scholarships.
- 6.** Library books paid for by the Table on subjects important to our mission are placed every year in the local library.

By laws can be changed at any meeting following a motion and a second with a majority vote of Active members present.



# 7. PART BEEVILLE MEMBER DIRECTORY

## Active Members

**Alice Louise Box**

PO 1043, Beeville, TX 78104

361-319-7746

[alicebox@att.net](mailto:alicebox@att.net)

**Eveline Gnabasik Bethune**

361-350-0630

[Eveline.gnabasik@gmail.com](mailto:Eveline.gnabasik@gmail.com)

**Ana Casas**

361-318-5863

[anaclairecasas@gmail.com](mailto:anaclairecasas@gmail.com)

**Roxane Marie Casas**

171 Fairway Ridge, Beeville, TX 78102

361-392-5863

[casascattle@hotmail.com](mailto:casascattle@hotmail.com)

**Malinda Cowen**

2959 Carr Road, Beeville, TX 78102

361-362-9157

[malindacowen@gmail.com](mailto:malindacowen@gmail.com)

**Susan Crumine**

1011 N. Avenue C, Beeville, TX 78102

361-319-2745

[scandjc@stx.rr.com](mailto:scandjc@stx.rr.com)

**Anne Dehnisch**

210 E. Cleveland Street, Beeville, TX 78102

361-362-4513

[Amckdehnisch5@hotmail.com](mailto:Amckdehnisch5@hotmail.com)

**Louise Hall**

PO D, Beeville, TX 78104

361-358-2529

[hennenberg@hotmail.com](mailto:hennenberg@hotmail.com)

**Karen Kremers**

PO 2062, Beeville, TX 78104

361-542-9186

[K\\_Kremers@hotmail.com](mailto:K_Kremers@hotmail.com)

**Lou Adele May**

301 E. Huntington Street, Beeville, TX 78102

361-312-3389

[Louadele2577@gmail.com](mailto:Louadele2577@gmail.com)

**Madeline Madden**

117 N. Washington Street, Beeville, TX 78102

402-718-3857

[bellevuemmm@gmail.com](mailto:bellevuemmm@gmail.com)

**Josephine Miller**

801 N. Adams Street, Beeville, TX 78102

361-816-1911

[Josephinemiller1@me.com](mailto:Josephinemiller1@me.com)

**Barbara McCullen**

184 Fairway Ridge, Beeville, TX 78102

361-318-7096

[barbaramccullen@hotmail.com](mailto:barbaramccullen@hotmail.com)

**Cecile O'Connor**

172 Dial Drive, Beeville, TX 78102

361-319-9250

[cecile.rochardoconnor@gmail.com](mailto:cecile.rochardoconnor@gmail.com)

**Jessica Batch Smith**

2629 Oak Grove Road, Beeville, TX 78102

361-542-9566

[jessicabatch86@gmail.com](mailto:jessicabatch86@gmail.com)

**Diane Staudt**

124 Dial Drive, Beeville, TX 78102

361-362-3608

[staudtdiane1946@gmail.com](mailto:staudtdiane1946@gmail.com)

**Paula Welder**

PO 1720, Beeville, TX 78104

201-379-6259

[pmwelder@att.net](mailto:pmwelder@att.net)

**Jane Wicker**

PO 880, Beeville, TX 78104

361-542-1597

[Jane.wicker@yahoo.com](mailto:Jane.wicker@yahoo.com)

**Shirley O'Neil Wyatt**

6014 Hwy. 59 W. Beeville, TX 78102

361-343-3119

[Shirleyoneil512@hotmail.com](mailto:Shirleyoneil512@hotmail.com)

# ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

**Mary Margaret Campbell**

505 Crockett, George West, TX 78022  
361-319-3067

**Sara Casas**

1306 Belmont Court, #7833, San Antonio, TX 78258  
361-319-5863  
[scamillecasas@gmail.com](mailto:scamillecasas@gmail.com)

**Sam Garza**

109 Blackhawk Trail, San Antonio, TX 78232  
214-232-8941  
[sambornc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sambornc@sbcglobal.net)

**Bridget Gayle**

POB 1310, Goliad, TX 77963  
361-645-8181

**Jessica Morrill**

14 Scarborough Square, San Antonio, TX 78218  
361-318-9680  
[jmorrill24@gmail.com](mailto:jmorrill24@gmail.com)

**Meredith Morrill**

401 Harrison Ave., San Antonio, TX 78209  
361-563-5554  
[mkmor9913@yahoo.com](mailto:mkmor9913@yahoo.com)

**Judy Newton**

4100 Jackson Apt. 9, Austin, TX 78713  
[newtongantt@gmail.com](mailto:newtongantt@gmail.com)

# SUSTAINING MEMBERS

**Sara Dunn**

1310 N. Adams St., Beeville, TX 78102  
361-362-3766 / 361-358-4916

**Laura Fischer**

13 Shady Lane, Beeville, TX 78102  
361-462-3442 / 361-358-0270  
[fischers@utexas.edu](mailto:fischers@utexas.edu)

**Cheryl Whitworth**

POB 4026, Beeville, TX 78104  
361-358-2918  
[cbwbw@aol.com](mailto:cbwbw@aol.com)

**Heather Welder**

680 E. Basse Rd, San Antonio, TX 78209  
210-854-9905  
[hwwelder@yahoo.com](mailto:hwwelder@yahoo.com)

**Lucy Williams**

PO Drawer 250, Beeville, TX 78104  
361-358-8986 / 361-362-4545  
[vinotinto47@hotmail.com](mailto:vinotinto47@hotmail.com)

**Diana Turnbow**

POB 580, Beeville, TX 78104  
361-362-520

## 8. OFFICERS



**Director:** Malinda Cowen

**First Associate Director:** Madeline Madden

**Second Associate Director:** Eveline Gnabasik Bethune

**Third Associate Director:** Diane Staudt

**Treasurer:** Jane Wicker

**Recording Secretary:** Jessica Batch Smith

### COMMITTEES

**Director's Advisory Committee:** Anne Dehnisch

**Yearbook:** Madeline Madden

**Library:** Josephine Miller

**Scholarship:** Lou Adele May

**Historian:** Cecile O'Connor

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## 9. COUNTRIES

Alice: **Uruguay**

Eveline: **Nicaragua**

Ana: **Dominica - Sep. Island**

Roxane:: **Panama**

Malinda: **Trinidad & Tobago**

Susan: **Canada**

Anne: **Belize**

Louise: **Dominican Republic**

Karen: **Bolivia**

Lou: **Guatamala**

Madeline: **Chile**

Josephine: **El Salvador**

Barbara: **Paraguay**

Cecile: **Puerto Rico**

Jessica: **Peru**

Diane: **Columbia**

Paula: **Venezuela**

Jane: **Costa Rica**

Shirley: **Honduras**

# 10. ANNUAL PROGRAMS SCHEDULE

## September

**Program:** NAFTA: An Explanation

**Presenter:** Eveline Gnabasik Bethune

**Hostess:** Anne Dehnisch

## October

**Program:** Peru Adventure

**Presenter:** Jessica Smith

**Hostess:** Cecile O'Connor

## November

**Program:** Pan American Flags

**Presenter:** Dixie Flags

**Hostess:** Alice Box

## December

**Program:** Christmas in Chile

**Event:** Christmas Party

**Hostess:** Madeline Madden

## January

**Event:** Officers Meeting

## February

**Program:** Religion: History of Mundo Nuevo

**Presenter:** John Blackburn

**Hostess:** Jessica Smith

## March

**Program:** Missions in San Antonio Tour

**Presenter:** Malinda Cowen

## April

**Program:** History of Texas Cultures

**Presenter:** Paula Welder

**Status:** TBD

## May

**Program:** Pan American Native Plants and Conference Information

**Presenter:** Gwen DeWitt

**Hostess:** Roxane Casas

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