

PAN AMERICAN ROUND
TABLES OF TEXAS

1922 - 2015

Prelude

The history of the Pan American Round Tables of Texas would not be complete without reviewing one of the key factors that influenced its formation. This was the Pan American effort that was a direct result of the Monroe Doctrine. Even though Spanish dominance in the Americas had been defeated in 1826 by the leadership of such Generals as Simon Bolivar, Jose San Martin, and Guiseppie Garibaldi, Spain and the other European monarchies had remained a constant threat to the newly founded freedom. It was then that United States President James Monroe intervened to protect all the Western Hemisphere and issued the Monroe Doctrine, which intended to prevent any other foreign powers from ever seizing or invading any of the nations of the Americas. Pan Americanism was born. It was the joining of all the peoples in the Western Hemisphere for a common goal of freedom.

However in 1890, the role of Pan Americanism took on a different face. Instead of using conflict to insure freedom, more peaceful means to achieve the same goal were sought. This led to the first Pan American Conference in Washington, D. C. with the purpose of preserving peace among all the nations of the Americas.

Resulting from the conference was the establishment of the Pan American Union in 1910. Its goals were to promote friendship and cooperation among the nations of the Western Hemisphere. In 1948, President Roosevelt brought 21 nations of the Western Hemisphere together in what we call today the OAS (Organization of American States) to further these objectives. Today the OAS has grown to a membership of 35 active members from North, Central, and South America and the Caribbean. Nations from other parts of the world participate but only as permanent observers. The OAS continues to lead the charge in carrying out the pursuit of friendship and goodwill among the nations of the Western Hemisphere. Its motto of "Democracy, Justice, Peace, and Prosperity in the Americas" is the essence of Pan Americanism.

As Audreyjane Castro stated in her presentation of the meaning of Pan Americanism on April 14, 2000:

"It can be said that the lasting legacy of Pan Americanism is a peaceful solution to understanding one another whether we be from Canada, Mexico, the United States, Argentina, Peru, Brazil, or any of the other members of this Hemisphere. Pan Americanism is a vehicle through which we can speak to one another, where we can resolve differences and solidify strengths, and where we can promote friendship and goodwill for the next millennium."

THE BIRTH OF THE PAN AMERICAN ROUND TABLE MOVEMENT

Drawing on the philosophy and mission of Pan Americanism and her own life experiences, Florence Terry Griswold, created the Pan American Round Table Movement in 1916. It was as if she had been groomed her whole life to begin this great adventure. She was born on May 29, 1875 near Eagle Pass where she would spend her formative years. Thanks to a Spanish speaking maid, she learned to speak Spanish before she did English. Living so close to Mexico, she

learned to appreciate the Mexican culture and character. She was a fun loving and vivacious girl who made friends on both sides of the border and she learned quickly to value their loyalty and devotion.



Florence Terry
Age 18

In 1894, she married Felix Shaw. They had four children and lived on one of the three Shaw ranches near Carrizo Springs. Mr. Shaw died suddenly in 1908 and Florence was left to run the ranches and educate the children. She made the house in San Antonio, which Mr. Shaw had purchased before his death, her permanent residence. As time elapsed, Florence Terry Shaw became successful in business matters as well as a leader in community and social affairs. In 1914, she married John Case Griswold.

During the period between 1910 to 1916, politics in Mexico were in an upheaval which resulted in destruction, banditry, and the displacements of many Mexican citizens. Many women and children made their way across the Rio Grande to escape the perils of revolution, only to become helpless refugees in San Antonio. This deeply troubled Mrs. Griswold. She wanted to help in anyway she could, taking many of the women and children into her own home to feed and shelter them. Mrs. Griswold tried her best to make things pleasant for the families that came and started their new homes in San Antonio. She called on them, took them to points of interest in the city and even gave luncheons and evening parties in her home so that her many friends could meet them. In all of these efforts, Mrs. Griswold called on her friends and associates for help and assistance.

These experiences created an idea in the mind of Florence Terry Griswold, the creation of the Pan American Round Table which would be modeled after the Medieval Round Table, where everyone would be an equal. Each country in the Western Hemisphere, would be represented on the table. Adopted as an insignia was a circle that had no beginning and no end, symbolizing unity. At the base of this circle, she would have the flags from the different represented countries. Calling on twenty one of her friends to join her, they quickly responded and were eager to participate. As Mrs. J. Tom Williams stated in her 1941 tribute to our Founder:



“So this is what came to pass. On October the sixteenth, nineteen hundred and sixteen, in luncheon session at the Menger Hotel in San Antonio, Florence Griswold met with the women she had invited to be charter members of the proposed Pan American Round Table and we organized. For our guidon we selected of course, One for All, All for One. Mrs. Griswold proclaimed that our Pan American Round Table was strictly non-political and non-sectarian and that we had organized solely to help promote friendliness and understanding among the WOMEN of the Western Hemisphere. Once organized, we began by meeting twice a month in luncheon session at the hotel. At every luncheon we had some of the strangers within our gates to dine with us. And what charming women the strangers proved to be. We became friends.”



*Menger Hotel Circa 1916
The birth place of the Pan American Round Table Movement*

Florence Griswold was encouraged in her efforts to establish the Round Table by her friend Mr. John Barrett, first Director General of the Pan American Union, who helped in directing the organization of the Table so that it would coincide with the ideals of the Pan American Union in Washington, D. C. Mrs. Griswold felt that the Pan American Union Ideals could also be carried on by women. In 1967, Mrs. Clyde Trotter in delivering a talk on the Pan American Round Table Movement stated:

“She felt the ideals of the Pan American Union could be advanced by Women, these ideals being: (1) Achieving an order of peace and justice; (2) Promoting American solidarity; (3)



(3) Strengthening collaboration among member states; (4) Defending their sovereignty independence and international integrity. Mrs. Griswold felt women could, through knowledge and understanding, move toward close friendship. They could study the languages and the cultural heritage of the countries.

She believed the women of the Americas could join hands from Canada to the southern tip of South America, as she often said, “To forge an unbroken chain of friendship, reaching the length of the hemisphere.’”

In 1930, Florence Shaw Griswold best described the formation, goals, and

activities of the Pan American Round Tables in a letter she sent Miss Josephine Lee Meek, a doctoral student working on her thesis.

(The entire document is in the PARTT archives).

“The Pan American Round Table of San Antonio, Texas, was organized October 16, 1916, having for its object the bringing together of the women of the Western Hemisphere in a mutual understanding, believing that when women understand each other man can no longer misunderstand.

“We appreciate that the women of the Latin Republics have as much to offer in cultural gifts and responsibilities as we have. We believe that the solidarity so longed for will come through the cooperation of both the men and the women....

“The organization is composed of twenty-four members, twenty-two women representing twenty-one American Republics and Canada. A large associate membership is enjoyed, many of them being Mexican women. The organization has followed the plan used by the Pan American Union. In its incipiency, Hon. John Barrett, former Director General, proved most sympathetic and helpful in working out our problems. Today we enjoy the friendship of Dr. Leo S. Rowe, who at all times cooperates with our organization.

“From the parent organization four Round Tables have been organized, until today the State Pan American Round Tables of Texas are functioning. A former member of the San Antonio branch moved to the City of Mexico and she has organized a splendid Round table in the City of Mexico, and enjoys having among its members many prominent Mexican women. It is the privilege of this Table (in the city of Mexico) to entertain the Ministers and Ambassadors of the South America Republics and have them serve on the program.

“The Pan American Round Tables meet twice a month in luncheon session and discuss the problems of the Latin Republics, that is questions pertaining mostly to women, children and education. As an organization we are non-political and non-sectarian.

“In the beginning of our organization - 1916-1917 – it was our privilege to entertain many outstanding Mexican women, who were political refugees within our boundaries, as this was our opportunity to prove to our sister republic that we had cultural, artistic and musical organizations. In this manner we could offset the propaganda and the bad manners so often displayed by the tourist class who went to Mexico in the early days.

“We are non-political, for we have not found that politics have accomplished much in creating understanding between the United States and the Latin Republics, and we have observed that it is necessary to be non-sectarian, as we prefer to be known as “humanitarian”. It has further been our observation that when too much church enters into a question often times religions become too much “churchanity” and not enough “christianity”. I wish to call your attention that the first meeting of the Pan American Round Table in October, 1916, Father Quinn of the Catholic Church blessed our organization and we took this means of showing our Latin sisters that we recognized their religion as most of us were protestants.

“We try to imbue our children with toleration, love, and respect for the other Americas, and appreciation of our common heritage of geographical neighborlines, together with such influence as must inevitably inhere in the unparalleled territorial grandeur of the Western Hemisphere. We feel that future peace is assured through treaties; these treaties to be based upon truth and justice with respect for others. Long ago we found that the countries to the south of us have ideals and ambitions, just as we have ideals and ambitions. They may be different ideals and ambitions, but at least they belong to them, and should be encouraged. (I am enclosing copy of letter addressed to me by President Obregon, which will prove that he accepted the plan for creating a Mexicanization Board to conform with our Americanization Board). I am attaching press notice in Spanish that will bear me out in this. Please return this notice to me.

“It was the privilege of the Pan American Round Table of San Antonio in 1923 to visit the Republic of Mexico at the invitation of the Federated Chambers of Commerce of the Republic. One afternoon was set aside for our Organization to present a program, this being the first instance of women participating in such conference. It was my privilege as Director General of the organization to be seated on the rostrum with the President of the Republic, Alvarro Obregon, and members of the cabinet, and the courtesy to speak was accorded me the morning the conference opened. This is the first time an American woman ever addressed a Mexican group of officials. This was under the auspices of the Federated Chambers of Commerce, in June 1921.

“It was the privilege of the Pan American Round Table to secure representation for the Pan American Conference held under the auspices of the National League of Women Voters in Baltimore, April 1922. President Obregon immediately upon receiving the request from the Pan American Round Table for delegates from the Republic of Mexico to the Pan American Conference referred the matter to the Minister of Education, Vasconcellos, who appointed five delegates to represent the Republic. We considered this a “feather in our cap”, as Mexico and the United States were not recognizing each other at the time and Secretary Hughes invited the women of South America to the Conference but could not invite or did not invite the women of Mexico, therefore it was our good fortune not only to invite them but to accompany them from the border to Baltimore.

“The Pan American Round Table during the same year received from Mrs. Obregon a beautiful Mexican flag, valued at \$600.00, to be presented to the women of Philadelphia and to be placed in Independence Hall. The delegation who attended the Pan American Conference in Baltimore went to Philadelphia, accompanied by Mrs. S. E. Leonard of Laredo, Mrs Roy Campbell of San Antonio, and Mrs. J. C. Griswold of San Antonio, Director General, and were received by Mrs. John B. Roberts, President of the New Century Club at that time and other prominent women. The flag was received by these women, who in turn presented an American flag to the Mexican delegation to be carried back to Mexico. It was a beautiful picture and one long to be remembered. Today the Mexican flag rest in the archives of Independence Hall and will be displayed on state occasions.

“The first Pan American Conference ever called between the women of the United States and Mexico was held in San Antonio December 3, to December 6, 1919. A most worthy program was prepared and presented. I am enclosing clipping I ask you to return, as it is the only one I have. It will give you in detail the things we strive for. It is true it was but a beginning.

“I am trusting you with other clippings and letters so that you will understand truly how real we are.

“Three members of the Pan American Round Table were invited by President Obregon and transportation provided by the Republic, to attend the first Feminist Congress ever assembled in the Republic. It was the privilege of Mrs. Eli Hertzberg, member of the Pan American Round Table, representing Mexico, to write their rules and regulations to be used by the Feminist Congress at their first meeting.”

She continued in her letter to Miss Meek:

“The Pan American Round Table of San Antonio was invited to send delegates to the women’s Auxillary Committee of the United States of the Second Pan American Scientific Congress. Mention this to show that we have received recognition from this august body.

“On June 8, 1926 I was empowered to name delegate to the Inter-American Congress of Women, which met in Panama, of which Mrs. Esther de Calvo of Panama City was Chairman. Of course this delegate was to represent the Pan American Round Table.

“We instituted in San Antonio public schools a Pan American Essay Contest on the subject of Pan-Americanism, offering two prizes. This feature has been widely copied in the public schools of the border states.

“It has been the privilege of the Pan American Round Table to entertain many flyers from the Republics to the south of us, at one time seating six representatives of six Republics.

“In recognition of the aims of the Pan American Round Table, the Gunter Hotel of San Antonio, has decorated for our special use a Pan American room. This room was dedicated November 15, 1927, with fitting ceremony. The twenty-two women who represent the Republics of South America had the privilege of reading at the dedication a message from the Minister or Ambassador from the Republic that each represented.

“The President of the Republic of Mexico was represented by Mrs. A. P. Carrillo, who presented a beautiful flag from her country for use in the room. Three border states of the Republic of Mexico were represented by women, their expenses being paid by the Governors of the respective states. They were quite impressed by our Mexican sisters. They are rapidly overcoming their timidity and each brought a greeting to the dedcation and seemed unafraid when called upon to speak.

“We feel that we have played a rather important part in bringing together the United States and Mexico in friendly relations for we have embraced every opportunity to create sentiment for a better feeling, for we appreciate that Mexico’s progress and success means our progress and success.”



Mrs. Griswold (on the left) and Mrs. Nolte during the early years of organization.

She continues: “It was our privilege to entertain the Secretary of State, Aaron Saenz, when he passed through San Antonio enroute from Cuba to the City of Mexico. For the first time in the history of the State the flag of Mexico and the flag of the United States hung side by side from our municipal hall. This does not seem much, but the Secretary was greatly pleased at the courtesy, and of course as we are blessed with the largest fort in the United States we can always count upon the cooperation of our leading generals to add dignity and formality to these occasions.

“During the slight disagreement that existed between Bolivar and Paraguay, it was our duty and pleasure to telegraph the Presidents of these republics at the glad Christmastime, requesting that they, in the spirit of Him Who said “Learn to love thy neighbor as thyself”, try to settle their differences without bloodshed. It is pleasing to state that the President of Paraguay replied in a most gracious manner.



Mrs. Griswold in April, 1931 for the reading of President Hoover's proclamation dedicating April 14 as Pan American Observance Day.



Mrs. Griswold presenting a banner incorporating all flags of the western Hemisphere to the San Antonio schools.



Mrs. Griswold (left) at a merienda given by PART of San Antonio in 1934. Pictured with her are Mrs. Dorey, Mrs. Nolte, and Mrs. Henry Guerra .

“I wish to state that Charles W. Alexander of Philadelphia was the instigator of the thought of sending a flag from Mexico to Philadelphia, believing that it was time for the politician to know that the Republic of Mexico enjoys a flag, that the United States ends at the Rio Grande and Mexico begins directly on the other side.

“In March, 1930, a conference of the State organization was called and we organized into the Pan American Round Tables, and this means that we will try to carry the work throughout the Western Hemisphere. I repeat that we are non-sectarian and non-political. It is useless as yet to introduce suffrage for women into the Latin Republics. This will come in time. We do believe that the women of the Western Hemisphere have much in common and we will earnestly strive to create a Court of Justice for the Western Hemisphere.

“It was the privilege of the Pan American Round Table when we attended the Conference of the Federated Chambers of Commerce of Mexico in a body, as mentioned herein previously, to be provided with two special cars and two diners and five servants for our comfort enroute to the city from the port of Nuevo Laredo. We spent ten days in the City of Mexico, returning home with no other thought than of working more faithfully and diligently for friendship and understanding with the women to the South.

“This Hemisphere is but a melting pot where a distinct nationality will be developed and the next generation, by the help of informed Christian women, will be a dynamic force behind civilization.”

“The time is propitious for the women of the United States of America to make themselves felt in affairs of the Nation more directly and purposefully than ever before, for never in its history has the country so needed the guiding hand of intelligence and devotion of every citizen in every task of public service. We need women who appreciate and understand that the youth of today is the man of tomorrow, and to make Nations we must begin by making men, men who are willing to include within “the scope of International laws men as subjects and not as objects of these laws.”

As Mrs. Griswold stated in her letter to Miss Meek, the Pan American Round Table Movement began to flourish from its beginnings in San Antonio. Texas’ cities followed and organized their own Round Tables, Laredo and El Paso in 1921, Austin in 1922. The 1930’s and 1940’s saw more growth and more enthusiasm for the Pan American Movement. Today there are 20 Pan American Round Tables in Texas.

There are also tables in Florida(2), Washington D.C.(1), Oklahoma(1), New Mexico(6), and California(3). The movement has also spread to the rest of the Western Hemisphere with 65 tables in Mexico, 21 tables in Central America and the Caribbean, and 50 tables in South America. Florence Terry Griswold had a dream and that dream became a reality.

The PART Movement continued to grow even after the death of its founder in 1941. She entrusted to us a legacy to follow. As Mrs. Claude R. Nobles stated in her 1966 tribute to Mrs. Griswold and featured in the Panamericana Texana:

“The word that best sums up her character is HEART, a heart full of sympathy, compassion and Christian charity; a heart tender enough to be moved with pity at a neighbor’s plight; a heart resolute enough to plan a crusade in that neighbor’s behalf; a heart strong enough to lay well the foundation for a structure which even in her time gained wide recognition, and which, if we-you and I are faithful to our trust, will live to bring reverence, honor, and respect to her name as long as freedom and democracy- and the very Hemisphere itself- shall endure.

“ What is this trust, this heritage left by our Founder to you and to me? FAITH is the is righteousness of our cause; HOPE is the ultimate realization of our ideals; LOVE and DEVOTION to the work; COURAGE in the face of disappointment; VIGILANCE and ALERTNESS to changing conditions; STEADFASTNESS in duty to fellowmen; CONFIDENCE in



Mrs. Florence Terry Griswold

cooperation of all peoples of the Western Hemisphere in our efforts to bring about that perfect understanding and good-will among the American nations that will present to the world a united front under the unconquerable manner of a living Pan Americanism! We will succeed: for we build on knowledge, understanding and friendship.”

Mrs. Griswold's Rules

1. Try to remember that a Pan American Round Table is not a club in the ordinary sense of the word. Your purpose will not be to have a grand big time among yourselves, but to work for understanding among the women of the Americas, North, South, and Central.
2. First, there is the necessity of overcoming ignorance, especially your own. Study, think, discuss, learn. Don't wait for somebody to come and tell you. Find out for yourselves.
3. Never neglect the Round Table concept, which is a coming together to discuss, to share the things you have learned, to ask questions. Never let your Round Table come to depend on speakers who may only entertain you. If you study and watch and learn about all the countries of our Americas, you will become authorities yourselves. Think what it means to know the geography, history, and culture of a Hemisphere.
4. Be careful what you do with your money. Use it only for the stated purposes of the Pan American Round Tables. Never, never, NEVER, let your Round Table become just a tail to some other kite. If you don't stick to one purpose, you will lose your way.
5. Don't try to be too big. Be busy. Check on yourselves to see if you are accomplishing what the Round Tables are intended to do.
6. Try to think about the other Americas as if they were as precious as your own country. If you will work on this you will find that Argentina and Peru, and Mexico will seem as important to you as Louisiana and Arkansas – neighbors, parts of a whole.
7. Now, one thing more, a little delicate. If you find yourselves with a member who is forgetful of the purposes of the Round Tables and seeks and struggles for her own glory – make her the custodian of the flags. There is enough glory in these American flags for anybody.

Panamericana Texana, November, 1964

Our Legacy

The will of Florence Terry Griswold

“I, Florence Terry Griswold, mindful that the day will come when I can no longer lead you along the path we have chosen, do hereby GIVE, DEVISE, and BEQUEATH to you, Members of the Pan American Round Table, all of my faith in the righteousness of our cause, all of my hope in the ultimate realization of our ideals, my love and devotion to the work, my courage in the face of disappointments, my vigilance and alertness to changing conditions, my steadfastness in my duty to my fellowmen, my confidence in the cooperation of all peoples of the Western Hemisphere in our efforts to bring about that perfect understanding and good will among the American nations that will present to the world a united front under the unconquerable banner of a living Pan Americanism. Because of the great love and devotion I bear you, all this I leave unto you, and through you to all the Women of the Americas.”

Panamericana Texana, June, 1985

**PAN AMERICAN ROUND TABLES
OF TEXAS**

On January 16, 1922, at the regular business meeting of the Pan American Round Table of San Antonio, Mrs. A. C. Pancoast read a report from the newly formed Pan American Round Table of El Paso describing its formation. It was then moved and seconded that PART of San Antonio call for the three other round tables (Laredo, El Paso, and Austin) to send delegates to a conference for the intention of forming a Texas association of PART. First, they would invite each table to send two delegates to the next regular meeting of the San Antonio Round Table on February 22, 1922. A committee was quickly formed to work on details of this meeting and to think of a suitable name for the state association. The ladies that served on this committee were J. B. Lewright, J. K. Baretta, and Anna Hertzberg. The committee suggested that the new state organization be called "The Pan American Round Tables of Texas." By laws and a Constitution were submitted and sent to be approved at the first State meeting held in Austin on March 22, 1922 though our earliest history tells us that they were ratified at the El Paso Convention in 1927. From this Covention came the first recorded minutes.

The State Association continued to meet annually until 1945. The 1945 PARTT State Covention to be held in El Paso was cancelled due to the restrictions of the War Committee on Conventions and the housing and transportation problems during World War II. The 21st State Convention was moved to 1946 and was to be held in El Paso. It was at the Executive Board Meeting on April 30, 1946 that Mrs. Robinson of Dallas moved that state conferences be held biennially in alternate years with the Alliance Conference, preferably during election years, with executive board meetings held annually. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Guerra of San Antonio. The motion failed to carry by the general assembly with 8 votes in favor and 13 votes against.

It was not until the following year at the 23rd Annual Convention of PARTT that a revision in the Constitution and By Laws, Article V Section 1- Meetings, was made. Mrs. Cashin motioned and it was seconded by Mrs. Randall of San Antonio to change the regular meetings to biennial meetings in the Spring of odd years. The motion carried and thus began the tradition we hold today for PARTT State Convention.

Today there are 20 Tables in the State of Texas. Many of these Tables have held State Conventions in their cities. Some of their members have served as State Directors and State Officers. Many long hours are spent in staging a State Convention but the rewards have been overflowing. Each Convention results with a new slate of State Officers and many issues are resolved and changed. But the most important outcome of all is the renewal of the Pan American Spirit and the renewal of friendships, thus helping us to continue the building of our traditions and ideals, so that we truly will become "one for all and all for one - una para todas and todas para una".

Pan American Round Table of Texas Conventions Sites

1922	1st PART State Meeting held in Austin
1924	Austin
1925	Laredo
1926	San Antonio
1927	El Paso (first recorded minutes)
1930	San Antonio
1931	Laredo
1932	Austin
1933	El Paso
1934	Brownsville
1935	Laredo
1936	San Antonio
1937	Austin
1938	San Antonio
1939	McAllen
1940	Dallas
1941	Beaumont
1942	San Antonio
1943	Houston
1944	Austin
1945	El Paso Cancelled
1946	El Paso
1947	Laredo
1949	Brownsville
1951	Fort Worth
1953	Beaumont
1955	Austin
1957	San Antonio
1959	Brownsville

1961	Corpus Christi
1963	Houston
1965	El Paso
1967	Dallas
1969	McAllen
1971	Forth Worth
1973	Laredo
1975	Austin
1977	Dallas
1979	San Antonio
1981	Waco
1983	Brownsville
1985	Corpus Christi
1987	Dallas
1989	Laredo
1991	El Paso
1993	Austin
1995	McAllen
1997	Corpus Christi
1999	Fort Worth
2001	Odessa
2003	Laredo
2005	El Paso
2007	Austin
2009	Brownsville
2011	McAllen
2013	Eagle Pass
2015	Laredo

**PAN AMERICAN ROUND TABLES
OF TEXAS**

**STATE DIRECTORS
1922-2015**



Florence Terry Griswold
PARTT State Director (1922-1929)
PART of San Antonio
Conventions Sites: San Antonio(1922),
Austin (1924), Laredo (1925), San Antonio
(1926), and El Paso (1927a).



Anna Goodman Hertzberg
PARTT State Director 1929-1930
PART of San Antonio
Convention Site: San Antonio (1930)



Carolyn H. Smith
PARTT State Director 1930-1932
PART of Laredo
Convention Site: Laredo (1931)



Elizabeth N. Mather
PARTT State Director 1932-1933
PART of Austin
Convention Site: Austin (1932)



Alexina Falls Chase
PARTT State Director 1933-1934
PART of El Paso
Convention Site: Brownsville(1934)



Agnes Martin
PARTT State Director 1934-1936
PART of Laredo
Convention Site Laredo (1935)



Olivia D. Nolte
PARTT State Director 1936-1938
PART of San Antonio
Convention Sites: San Antonio (1936),
Austin (1937), and San Antonio (1938).



Bernice Loomis Worthington
PARTT State Director 1938 (April-August)
PART of Brownsville I



Elsie L. Dees
PARTT State Director 1938-1940
PART of McAllen
Convention Sites: McAllen(1939),
and Dallas (1940)



Katherine S. Robinson
PARTT State Director 1940-1944
PART of El Paso
Convention Sites: Beaumont (1941),
San Antonio (1942), and Houston (1943).



Maude Rogers Cashin
PARTT State Director 1944-1946
PART of Houston
Convention Site : El Paso (1946)



Miss Pearle Burr
PARTT State Director 1946-1947
PART of Beaumont
Convention Site: Laredo (1947)



Dixie Waltrip

PARTT State Director 1947-1949
PART of Dallas
Convention Site: Brownsville (1949)



Clara Ely

PARTT State Director 1949-1951
PART of Brownsville I
Convention Site: Fort Worth (1951)



Lucile Hooper

PARTT State Director 1951-1953
PART of Houston
Convention Site: Beaumont (1953)



Mrs. A. B. Pumphrey

PARTT State Director 1953-1955
PART of Fort Worth
Convention Site: Austin (1955)



Elizabeth Davis
PARTT State Director 1955-1957
PART of Austin
Convention Site: San Antonio (1957)



Viva McComb
PARTT State Director 1957-1959
PART of Conroe
Convention Site: Brownsville (1959)



Gladys Hawkins
PARTT State Director 1959-1961
PART of El Paso
Convention Site: Corpus Christi (1961)



Eura Wylie
PARTT State Director 1961-1963
PART of Fort Worth
Convention Site: Houston (1963)



Cloma Hanson Trotter
PARTT State Director 1963-1965
PART of Laredo
Convention Site: El Paso (1965)



Betty Brown
PARTT State Director 1965-1967
PART of Houston
Convention Site: Dallas (1967)



Eleanor R. Fernandez
PARTT State Director 1967-1969
PART of Brownsville
Convention Site: McAllen (1969)



Nita Ott Harmon
PARTT State Director 1967-1971
PART of Dallas
Convention Site: Fort Worth (1971)



Emily Reigle
PARTT State Director 1971-1973
PART of Fort Worth
Convention Site: Laredo (1973)



Louise Rosser Kemp
PART State Director 1973-1975
PART of El Paso
Convention Site: Austin (1975)



Mrs. Cleo Seelinger
PARTT State Director 1975-1977
PART of Austin
Convention Site: Dallas



Linda Hillis
PARTT State Director 1977-1979
PART of Beaumont
Convention Site: San Antonio (1979)



Mrs. Sadele D. Oakes
PARTT State Director 1979-1981
PART I of Brownsville
Convention Site: Waco (1981)



Mrs. Elva Kalb Dumas
PARTT State Director 1981-1983
PART of Houston
Convention Site: Brownsville (1983)



Mrs. Maxine Guerra
PARTT State Director 1983-1985
PART of Rio Grande City/Roma
Convention Site: Corpus Christi (1985)



Dee Cole
PARTT State Director 1985-1987
PART of Dallas
Convention Site: Dallas (1987)



Frances Metcalf
PARTT State Director 1987-1989
PART of McAllen
Convention Site: Laredo (1989)



Gloria Zuniga
PARTT State Director 1989-1991
PART of Laredo
Convention Site: El Paso (1991)



Gladys Simpson
PARTT State Director 1991-1993
PART of Odessa
Convention Site: Austin (1993)



Audreyjane 'Ajay' Castro
PARTT State Director 1993-1995
PART of San Antonio
Convention Site: McAllen (1995)



Charlotte Hanley
PARTT State Director 1995-1997
PART of Edinburg
Convention Site: Corpus Christi (1997)



Peggy Lasater Clark
PARTT State Director 1997-1999
PART of Corpus Christi
Convention Site: Fort Worth (1999)



Imogene Mecaskey
PARTT State Director 1999-2001
PART of Fort Worth I
Convention Site: Odessa (2001)



Berta Garcia
PARTT State Director 2001-2003
PART of Del Rio
Convention Site: Laredo (2003)



Geri N. Rice

PARTT State Director 2003-2005
PART of Corpus Christi
Convention Site: El Paso (2005)



Jean Hager

PARTT State Director 2005-2007
PART of Brownsville II
Convention Site: Austin (2007)



Sylvia Williams

PARTT State Director 2007-2009
PART of Austin
Convention Site: Brownsville (2009)



Elsie Perez
PARTT State Director 2009-2011
PART of Edinburg
Convention Site: McAllen (2011)



Sarah Jane Wise
PARTT State Director 2011-2013
PART of Corpus Christi
Convention Site: Eagle Pass (2013)



Lana Harper
PARTT State Director 2013-2015
PART of Eagle Pass
Convention Site: Laredo (2015)

MEMORIES OF PAST STATE BOARDS & PAST STATE BOARDS

Pan-American Round

Table Dedication Today

LAREDO, TEXAS, SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 1935



Mrs. Albert Martin, state Director General and honorary member of the Laredo Pan American Round Table.

Other officers are: Mrs. John Case Griswold, assistant Director General and also national Director General, who is of San Antonio and the originator of the Pan American Round Tables.

Mrs. Roger Roberdeau, state assistant director General, member of Austin Pan American Round Table.

Mrs. A. P. Coles, assistant state Director General and member of the El Paso Pan American Round Table.

Mrs. G. W. Johnson, assistant Director General, member of

She will preside at unveiling of the marker ceremonies Sunday and the state convention which will take place at Plaza hotel Monday.

Brownsville Pan American Round Table.

Miss Aminta Gonzalez, state foreign secretary and member of Laredo Pan American Round Table.

Mrs. C. C. Chase, chairman of extension of state Pan American Round Table and former state Director General. She is of the El Paso Round Table.

Mrs. H. A. Guerra, state chairman of extension and prominent member of San Antonio Pan American Round Table.



MRS. JOE C. MARTIN

Mrs. Joe C. Martin, treasurer of state Pan American Round Table and member of Laredo Pan American Round Table.



Mrs. Robert L. Robbitt, corresponding secretary of state Pan American Round Table and prominent member of Laredo Pan American Round Table.



Mrs. C. S. McKinney, state historian of Pan American Round Table and the organizer and first Director General of Laredo Pan American Round Table.



Mrs. W. T. Neblett Jr., recording secretary of state Pan American Round Table and past Director General of the Laredo Pan American Round Table.

Officers

Agnes Martin (State Director 1934-1936) with members of the State Board 1935 as they gathered for the State Convention in Laredo.

Below are the women, state officers of the Pan-American Round Table group of Mexico who were honored at a seated tea Monday afternoon at the Casa de Palmas Hotel which about 125 women from the Upper Valley attended. Standing left, Mrs. L. E. Wood, state treasurer; right, Mrs. W. H. Moss, state parliamentarian.

Seated, left to right, Mrs. A. F. Vannoy, state recording secretary; Mrs. W. W. Dees, state director general and director of the local group and Mrs. John Cogswell, state corresponding secretary. The tea recalled all the romance of old Mexico in its atmosphere.



State Director Elsie Dees (1938-1940) with some of her State Officers
(Copy courtesy of Frances Metcalf and PART of McAllen)

THINK FOR ALL.
 ALL FOR ONE.

ORGANIZED BY THE

State
 Conference

ST. ANTHONY
 HOTEL

APRIL 1944
 1944

SAN ANTONIO,
 TEXAS



PROMPTING PAN-AMERICAN GOOD WILL—State and national officers and directors, and visitors from Mexico City were in attendance Monday as the Pan-American Round Table opened its two-day state convention here. In photo at left are directors of Texas Tables. From left to right are Miss Pearl Berry of Brownwood; Mrs. Walter Neils, associate director of San Antonio; Mrs. Bruce J. Robinson, director-general, of Dallas; Miss Ruth Ciel, San Antonio director; Mrs. Herman Prescher, Austin, and Mrs. Ben Freudenstein, Brownsville. In picture at right, left to right, are Mrs. Norma Hancock, San Antonio, United States representative of the Round Table; Mrs. W. L. Brown, national director of the group, El Paso, and Mrs. Ethel Christie, Mrs. H. L. Gale, and Mrs. Walter Purple, all delegates from Mexico.

1942 State State Convention held in San Antonio



OFFICERS FOR STATE CONVENTION. State officers of Pan-American young ladies were honored at a dinner here last night on the eve of the state convention to be held here today and tomorrow. Some 80 delegates from Texas and Mexico are expected for the convention which will include two banquet sessions with nationally known speakers. Officers shown are: left to right:
FRONT row—Mrs. Frank W. Howell of San Antonio, state treasurer; Mrs. W. M. Howzer of Beaumont, state director, and Mrs. W. W. Ely of Brownsville, past director and member of the state board.
BACK row—Mrs. Edna Stewart of Corpus, secretary pro-tem, Mrs. Frank Slater of Dallas, parliamentarian; Mrs. Michael Cunningham of Beaumont, second associate director; Mrs. Earl B. Hurley of Houston, state corresponding secretary.
 Not present for the picture were Mrs. A. R. Hall of Laredo, first associate director; Mrs. A. B. Pumphrey of Fort Worth, second associate director; Mrs. Calvert Tucker of El Paso, fourth associate director; Mrs. Claude H. Nicks of San Antonio, recording secretary; Mrs. J. Lloyd Medburn of Austin, treasurer; and Mrs. Corliee Kewee of Comstock, historian.

State Officers on the eve of the 26th State Convention held in Beaumont



Preparing for the 29th State Convention in Brownsville



ART officers

Pan American Round Tables of Texas concluded a three-day convention in Brownsville Thursday, with an installation ceremony as the final event. Pictured there are the new officers: (Seated left to right) Mrs. Julian J. Wylie, Fort Worth, first associate director; Mrs. W. W. Hawkins, El Paso, state director; Mrs. M. David Mulloy Beaumont, second associate director; standing are Miss Caroline Curtis, Eagle Pass, corresponding secretary; Mrs. F. W. Goffelmann, Brownsville, parliamentarian; Mrs. J. B. Pomphrey, Fort Worth, installing officer and past director; Mrs. E. W. Heathcote, El Paso, corresponding secretary; and Mrs. Deville I. Cox, McAllen, historian. New officers not pictured are Mrs. Richard Sledge of San Antonio, third associate director; Mrs. C. H. Engelhart of Conroe, fourth associate director, and Mrs. Clyde Trotter of Laredo, treasurer. (World Photo)

PARTT State Convention (1959) in Brownsville elected Gladys Hawkins State Director for the term 1959-1961. Pictured here with the newly installed State Board.



The 31st State Convention held in Houston elected Cloma Hanson Trotter State Director. The above picture was taken after a "Texas branding iron" was presented to her after the State Board Meeting.



OUR NEW STATE OFFICERS

Seated, left to right: Mrs. Robert H. Dooley, Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. Sherrill B. Oakes, Treasurer; Mrs. Frank G. Harmon, Director; Mrs. Dolphin von Briesen, Recording Secretary; Mrs. Jack A. Trigg, Parliamentarian.

Standing, left to right: Mrs. Cecil Robinson, Fourth Associate Director; Mrs. Cordie J. Newby, Third Associate Director; Mrs. Fred Beasley, Second Associate Director; Mrs. Harold E. Reigh, First Associate Director, and Mrs. A. B. Hunt, Historian.

The 34th Convention held in McAllen (1969) elected Nita Ott Harmon as the new State Director for the term 1969-1971. She is shown above with members of the State Board.



Left to right—Front row: Mrs. Sherrill B. Oakes, State Director, Brownsville; Mrs. Edna Kath Damas, First Associate Director, Houston; Mrs. L. D. Glendon, Second Associate Director, Corsicana; Mrs. A. F. Pena, Third Associate Director, Laredo; Mrs. G. J. Pena, Corresponding Secretary, Brownsville; Mrs. Charlyn Gastrell, Treasurer, Austin Table. Back row: Mrs. John K. Thompson, Fourth Associate Director, San Benito Table; Mrs. Herman Gottman, Parliamentarian, San Antonio.

Not shown: Mrs. John J. Thacker, Recording Secretary, El Paso, and Mrs. A. J. Kalar, Historian, Ft. Worth II.

Sadele D. Oakes PARTT State Director (1979-1981) and the State Board. They were re-elected at the 39th State Convention held in San Antonio.



Standing (l-r) are Dee Cole, Charlotte Hardey, Nancy Smith, Thirza Gutman, Ruth Weber, Frances Metcalf, Nelly Rocha, Patty Mueller, Olga Verdusco, and Lillian Noyes. Seated (l-r) are Jeanne Boatman, Gladys Simpson, State Director Gloria Zuniga, and Cleo Seelinger.



Standing (l-r) are Genae Lake, Betty Goad, Hilda Aguirre, and Juarena Urdarizeta. Sitting (l-r) are Gladys Simpson, Anna Garza, State Director Gloria Zuniga, and Lillian Noyes.

The 1989-1991 State Board was elected at the 44th State Convention held in Laredo. Gloria Zuniga was chosen State Director.

The 53rd Convention held in Austin elected Sylvia Williams. She is pictured below with her State Board, five former State Directors and the Alliance Director General, Peggy Clark. Picture was taken at the PARTT Board meeting held in Southlake.



Fourteen members of the State Board of the Pan American Round Tables of Texas met on Saturday, April 5, 2008 at the Hilton Hotel, Southlake, Texas. The meeting was hosted by the Fort Worth 1 Table. Five former State Directors, Frances Metcalf, Inesopora Maccubey, Bertha Garcia, Geri Rice, and Director General Peggy Clark attended the meeting. Also attending was Margie Gilmore, the Zone 1 Alliance Director. The agenda included reports of activities by officers and committee chairs.

On Friday evening preceding the meeting, the Board members were welcomed by the members of the Fort Worth 1, and 11 Tables, and treated to a special "Cowtown Cuisine" dinner at the home of Jessica Farrell, 4th Associate Area Director.

Pictured, front row, l-r: B.B. Cross, Sylvia Williams, Ruth Kolassa and Inesopora Maccubey. Second row: Geri Rice, Bertha Garcia, Mary Alice Magana, Peggy Clark, Jessica Farrell, Mary Ann Polka, Esther Beal and Elaine Pansa. Back row: Yell Colley, Frances Metcalf, Ina Pool, Laura Gutierrez-Witt, Louise Acklison, Margie Gilmore and Gloria Mae Pansino.

55th PARTT State Convention held in McAllen, TX



(l to r) Maria Enriqueta Yzaguirre, Brownsville PART I Director, Elsie Perez, State Director, Carmen Guerra, Past Alliance Director General, and Ana Flores, PART State Historian, enjoy a moment together at the reception held in honor of Elsie



PART I and II of Brownsville enjoying the Museum of South Texas History tour. (l to r) Maria Garza, Mary Ann Boehl, and Ruth Kulesssa



At the "hour of Memory" Gloria Pennington, Austin PART, Shirley O'Neil Beeville PART, Maria Yzaguirre

56th PARTT Convention in Eagle Pass



Past PARTT State Directors enjoying camaraderie and lunch



(l to r) Lucy Mancha, Eagle Pass PART Director, and members of San Antonio PART, Millie Mayoral, Deena Bird, Katie Williams and Sandra Paine, Director



(l to r) Berta Garcia, Past PARTT State Director (2001-2003), Linda de Hoyos, San Antonio PART, Peggy Clark, Past PARTT State Director, (1998-1999) and Past Alliance Director General, Pee Wee Guerra, Rio Grande City/Roma PART member, Charlene Hertz, Past McAllen PART Director, and Lucy Mancha, Eagle Pass PART Director

57th PARTT State Convention in Laredo



(l to r) Ahia Shabaaz, Louise Actkinson, Jessica Ferrell, Crisey Rios, Omnis Acet



The Laredo PART were the perfect hostess. Seated (l to r): Elia Norma Barrea, Angela Manni Hachar, Table Director, Elvira Jackson, Lupita Ramirez, Angie R. Standing: (l to r) Nora Pena, Thelma Nance



PARTT State Director (2023-2015) joined in the cake cutting ceremony.



(L to r) Jane Wicker, Louise Hall, Shirley O'Neil, Josephine Miller

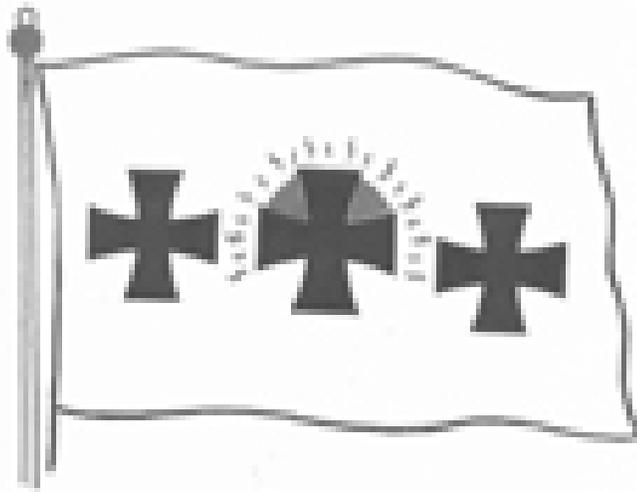


Seated (l to r): Sarah Jane Wise(2011-2013), Elsie Perez (2009-2011), Sylvia Williams, (2007-2009), Carmen Guerra, Past Alliance Director General, Omnis Acebo, Table Director PART Miami
Standing (l to r): Criseyda Rios, Alliance Zone I Director, Angelica Villarreal de Pinto (Cachito) from the Nuevo Laredo Table, Peggy Clark (1997-1999) and Elena Sanchez, PART Nuevo Laredo,

**“LINKING THE WOMEN OF THE AMERICAS
IN
KNOWLEDGE, UNDERSTANDING, AND FRIENDSHIP”**



PAN AMERICAN ROUND TABLE OF LAREDO



*Dedicated
to the Womanhood of the
Western Hemisphere*

*"May we go forth with a prayer
on our lips and an unswerving
yearning in our hearts until we are
one for all and all for one."*

*The above is from a booklet that was published on the origin, aim, and purposes of the
Pan American Round Table on the occasion of its twenty first birthday.*

This flag, known as the Flag of the Americas was adopted as a "symbol of the Americas" on December 23, 1933 at the Seventh International Conference of American States held in Montevideo, Uruguay. It was designed by a Uruguayan Captain, Angel Cambor. It was adopted as a "symbol of the Americas" in order that it might help develop the spirit of unity among the peoples of the Americas.

The Pan American Union describes the flag as: "The flag is white, symbolizing peace; it bears three purple crosses, in remembrance of the three caravels of Columbus, and of the same curved shape (Pattee) that these carried on their sails; behind the central cross, which is larger than the other two in honor of Columbus, there is a bronze Sun of the Incas, commemorating all the native races of the American continent. The legend, which for heraldic reasons does not appear on the flag itself, comprises the four words: Justice, Peace, Union and Brotherhood. (Justicia, Paz, Union y Fraternidad).

In Conclusion

Since its formation in 1916, the Pan American Round Table Movement has continued to grow and flourish due to the hard work and dedication of many women who came before us. These women gave unselfishly of their time never expecting praise and monetary rewards. They were dedicated to the ideals of Pan Americanism. As our founder stated:

“The members of the Pan-American Round Table hope to cement a close and everlasting friendship with the women of the Western Hemisphere, who stand ready to extend friendly hands and sincere welcome to those who are willing to understand them.

“We appreciate that this hemisphere is but a melting pot, where a distinct nationality is being formed which, by the help of informed Christian women, will be a dynamic force behind civilization.

“We should lead a movement to offer humble apology to the great spirit of Bolivar, who so earnestly sought to shed the shackles of European influence and through his inspiration, rededicate ourselves to American ideals. By this movement, we can strengthen and revive a union of thought and action that will instill a burning desire to establish a distinct American nationality and by persistence, create true Pan-Americanism.

“We desire the help of women who realize that there can be no solidarity of the republics of the Western Hemisphere without the cooperation both of the men and women. Thus, we need women unafraid to demand for these Americas the continuance of those ideals that inspired San Martin, Bolivar, Hidalgo, and Washington in their firm belief in that profound principle, “FOR OTHER FOUNDATION CAN NO MAN LAY THAT THAT IS LAID, WHICH IS JESUS CHRIST.”

“The picture of amity will be complete when the women of Canada join hands with the women of the United States who, in turn, will reach across the border and touch the hands of the women of Mexico. So on, ever southward, until there will be forged, link by link, an unbroken chain, binding together the womanhood of all the Americas in a spirit of understanding. “Who can resist an America united in heart, submissive to law and guided by the torch of liberty?” May the woman of the Americas seek to improve themselves through the influence of understanding and be truly inspired to not only accept the words of Woodrow Wilson to “Rewrite the Monroe Doctrine with a Pan-American Doctrine,” but assist in every possible way, to hold fast to the great ideal of the Americas dedicated to eternal peace.”

The Pan American Round Tables of Texas have carried on these ideals and have reached out to other Tables in our Western Hemisphere. All Tables in Texas are now members of the Alliance of Pan American Round Tables and share in the carrying of the torch of Pan Americanism. The Texas Tables will carry on the ideals of our Founder to the very best of our ability “to fulfill its objective, knowledge, understanding and friendship until we ‘ONE FOR ALL AND ALL FOR ONE.’”

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The information and pictures that are included in this booklet could not have been possible without the wonderful records that are part of the Pan American Round Tables of Texas Archives. To all the wonderful ladies, especially Mary Ann Palka who gave of their valuable time to set up the web site and all the data contained in the archives. A “congratulations” and a big “thank you” for all your hard work in preserving the Pan American Round Tables’ history and of giving us an insight into the life and work of Florence Terry Griswold.

This booklet is a brief history of the Pan American Round Tables of Texas and I encourage the readers to seek further information on the web site (www.PARTT.org.) For it is in studying our history that we will understand our present and plan our future.

A Special “thanks” goes to all the wonderful ladies that helped in obtaining photographs and information contained in this booklet. Thanks goes to Frances Metcalf and Lily Torrez of the McAllen Table, Josephine ‘Fifi’ Heller-Kaim of the El Paso Table, Diana Czar of the Laredo Table, Susana Schwarm and Maria Enriqueta Yzaguirre from the Brownsville I Table. May their enthusiasm and work be passed on to all of us and be a source of encouragement as we continue to carry on the work and ideals of Florence Terry Griswold until we are all

“One for all and all for one – Una para todas y todas para una.”