



**PAN AMERICAN ROUND TABLE  
OF  
AUSTIN**









## AUSTIN TABLE REPORT 2016 -2017

The last two years were extremely busy and rewarding for the PART of Austin. Besides the regular business of the Table, members were actively involved in the planning of the Alliance Convention held in San Antonio as well as finalizing "Pan American Woman" the biography of Florence Terry Griswold. Assisting with the video documentary ("One for All – Todas Para Una") of the first 100 years of PART was a worthwhile accomplishment of PART Austin.

Our bylaws were updated and sent through appropriate channels to secure approval. The Table also held a beautifully organized and successful fundraiser for scholarships. " Art for PART" was held at a lovely home of one of our newer members.

On April 4<sup>th</sup> a grand celebration was held to celebrate our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary at Fonda San Miguel in Austin. The restaurant is not normally open for lunch but our sister ,Amalia Rodriguez Mendoza was able to secure permission for a noontime event. The restaurant went above and beyond to make the luncheon a big success. State and Alliance officers, along with all past State Directors and current Table Directors, were invited as well as friends and family of our own members. Besides the Alliance and State Director we were honored to have Helena Richards from San Jose California in attendance. A good time was had by all!

The biography of Florence Terry Griswold was written by long time member of our Austin Table, Beatriz de la Garza, and was translated by long time member Patricia Torrey. Logistical complications arose and it appeared that the book might not be ready for sale in time for the Alliance Convention. A plea for help went out and Peggy Clark suggested a printer in Corpus Christi who did the Marchbanks book to submit a bid. The bid was approved. However since it was now being done by an independent printer instead of Texas A& M Press, it was necessary to secure additional funds to move forward with the book. The Austin Table ended up funding the book, since the author and translator were our members. The agreement provided that following repayment to the Table the remaining funds would go to the Austin Table Scholarship Fund. Members of our Table sold books at the Alliance Convention and will continue to do so at several different venues. Since it is printed in English and Spanish, many books were sold to Alliance members.

Besides interesting monthly meetings, PART Austin continues to have Spanish Coffees each month in members homes. The dates of the coffees were switched from the last Monday to the third Monday of each month from 10:30 until 12:00 noon. Only Spanish is spoken by members and the speaker. They continue to be well attended.

The Outreach Committee participation with Rodriguez Elementary School continues to be a source of pride for our Table. Members work in the library each Wednesday and host a Christmas celebration for teachers and staff each December. In May PART of Austin hosts "Career Week" for fifth grade students.

PART Austin has a \$100 club which supports special projects in the Austin community. A committee selects the recipients and presents them with contributions at the May meeting.

PART Austin has almost completed an updated website thanks to two members, Angie Robles and Maricarmen Nasr. It is more informative, and facilitates members to donate and pay their dues.

Membership continues to increase at the Austin Table. In 2016 six new members were introduced and more will be added in 2017.

Three scholarships of \$2,000 each are awarded each year. One goes to a graduate student for outstanding achievement in Latin American Studies at the University of Texas at Austin, another to an outstanding Latin American undergraduate at the University of Texas at Austin and the third one is awarded to an economically disadvantaged Hispanic woman residing in Austin for the purpose of completing her educational goals

At the first Austin PART meeting in October 2016, there was a special celebration. Two members turned 100 years old and both were present. They are Julia Mellenbruch and Maria Medina and both have daughters who are long time members of the Austin Table. A big cake, flowers and singing made for a very happy ending to the first meeting of the season.

Respectfully submitted  
Janet Roberts