

HISTORY

The Pan American Round Table celebrates its 93rd Anniversary this year. Florence Terry Griswold founded the first Pan American Round Table in San Antonio in 1916. Mrs. Griswold pictured an organization that would be a dynamic force in promoting knowledge, friendship, and understanding among the women of the Americas. She chose the medieval round table, a circle signifying unity, perpetuity, equal representation and opportunity, to symbolize the organization. As women communicating without boundaries, our motto is "One for all, and all for one."

PART Houston was established in 1940 by Hallie Barlow Olcott. Early members included Maude Cashin, Ima Hogg, Mary Fuller, and 16 others. Over these 68 years, the Houston membership has included a wide spectrum of professional and accomplished women who are interested in furthering knowledge of the cultures, customs, and history of the Americas. Programs include speakers from the academic, business, and government fields, as well as the arts and sciences. Education continues to be a mission for the Houston Table, which sponsors and provides support through college scholarships to state and local students. Last year, the Houston Table awarded nine \$1,000 scholarships.

The Houston Table is one of 21 Pan American Round Tables of Texas. We also belong to the Alliance of Pan American Round Tables, which includes more than 6,000 members in 174 Tables in 17 countries throughout the Western Hemisphere. The first international convention of the Alliance was held in Mexico City in 1944, and Alliance members continue to meet biannually. The 31st Biennial Convention was held September 17-20 of 2008 in Costa Rica. The Pan American Round Table is recognized by the Organization of American States (OAS).

The PART State Convention was held in March, 2009 in Brownsville.

The Project Visit committee keeps in touch with members who are unable to participate in activities due to health or other reasons. If you would like to participate, or know of a member who would benefit, please contact committee Chair Irma Díaz-González. Many of these members contributed a great deal to our Table and we want them to know they are not forgotten.

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