



June, 2008  
Volume 35, Number 2

# *Panamericana Texana*

The Pan American Round Tables of Texas • Austin, Texas USA

## *State Director Sylvia Williams . . .*

What a marvelous whirlwind of a year! I visited 17 Tables, traveled 4,573 miles by car, and took several flights from Austin to the Rio Grande Valley. I am now a big fan of Southwest Airlines' Austin to Harlingen non-stop flight!

Sixteen days after becoming State Director, I was on my way to join Fort Worth I, II, and Dallas III in celebrating Pan American Day. Two days later I flew to McAllen for the "Bridging the Americas" Observance Day organized by the combined efforts of the Alamo/San Juan/Pharr, Edinburg, McAllen, and Rio Grande City/Roma Tables. The following week I was in San Antonio for Pan American Day. The celebrations and special speakers were all terrific. A standout speaker in San Antonio was John Phillip Santos--filmmaker, writer, journalist and the first Hispanic to attend Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar. Mr. Santos spoke on ethnic identity and shared family memoirs growing up Hispanic in San Antonio in the 1950's and 1960's.

In June, I traveled to historic Queretaro, Mexico, to participate in the Alliance Board meeting. I had the opportunity to visit charming neighboring towns, including San Miguel de Allende.

In August, 12 Table Directors gathered in San Antonio to participate in a Table Director Workshop. The workshop was held at the home of Louise Actkinson, Director of the San

Antonio Table. I was assisted by Louise, Geri Rice, and Sarah Jane Wise in leading the work session. Louise prepared a marvelous lunch. The Table Directors had a great time getting acquainted with each other and sharing ideas. The workshop was excellent and beneficial to all, especially the new State Director.

In September, I attended business meetings of the Brownsville I and San Benito Tables. In October I had the privilege of speaking at Founder's Day meetings in Conroe and Laredo. I returned to Brownsville I before Thanksgiving to attend their 75<sup>th</sup> Diamond Jubilee Celebration. December began with a trip to McAllen for the Mother/Daughter luncheon meeting. Then to Corpus Christi for the Guest Day luncheon and Costumes of the Americas review. My final visit in December was to Rio Grande City/Roma's Christmas Posada and program on the Virgin de Guadalupe. In January I attended a regular meeting of the Beeville Table. Member Jane Wicker gave an excellent program on Panama. In March I visited Brownsville II for a regular meeting and enjoyed an excellent program on the Dominican Republic. The following day I enjoyed attending the Golden Jubilee celebration of the Edinburg Table.

It is April once again. I attended Pan American Day



celebrations in Austin, Del Rio, Houston and El Paso. April was a glorious month of Pan American celebrations and merriment. In May I traveled to Eagle Pass to attend their final meeting of the year. It was a marvelous occasion that included the presence of several guests from neighboring Tables and city officials from Eagle Pass. I received the key to the City of Eagle Pass from Mayor Chad Foster. I expect to end the year with a visit to the Dallas III Table in mid June.

I am grateful to all of you for your efforts, dedication and the hard work that has helped make this year so successful. On my visits I witnessed the commitment and determination of members to keep PART alive and thriving. Let us continue to work together toward a cohesive, responsive, and committed state organization.



## State Board Awards Scholarships

The Florence Terry Griswold (FTG) Scholarship Committee awarded two scholarships at the Board of Trustees Meeting in Southlake, Texas, on April 5, 2008, during the State PARTT Board Meeting.

Sixteen qualified applications were received for the FTG Scholarship I. The \$4,000 scholarship was awarded to Elisa Morales from Mexico, a master's degree candidate at the University of Texas-El Paso in molecular cell biology with a minor in virology. She has a 3.7 grade point average. Elisa is doing biology research focusing on infectious diseases and hopes to work in a disease control center to eradicate disease. Her particular interest is in fighting AIDS contracted through sexual abuse.

Elisa wrote, "I am honored to be one of the recipients of the Florence Terry Griswold Scholarship. Thanks to your generous support I will be the first in my family to attend graduate school."

Three qualified applications were received for the FTG II scholarship. This \$2,500 scholarship was awarded to Silvia Patricia Solis, a



Pictured above is Elisa Morales, winner of the \$4,000 Florence Terry Griswold Scholarship I.  
\*\*\*\*\*

master's degree candidate at the University of Texas-Pan American in Edinburg. She has a 3.57 GPA in the field of inter-disciplinary studies with a major of anthropology. Silvia is returning to Guatemala for a third summer to do field research in Nahuala, a town in the department of Solola where she is gathering field data for her study on contemporary indigenous women's sexuality.

The committee members were Louise Actkinson (Chairman), Eunice Ingles, Diana Rodriguez, Sylvia Williams, Mary Alice Magana, Gloria Mata Pennington and Jean Hager.

### 2007-2009 PARTT Nominating Committee

**Chairman, Geri Rice, Corpus Christi**

**Area A: Bettye Wakefield, Conroe**

**Alternate, Margie Kidd, Austin**

**Area B: Laura Rodriguez, Eagle Pass**

**Alternate, Diana Czar, Laredo**

**Area C: Lydia Chavana, Edinburg**

**Alternate, Gloria Moore, Brownsville I**

**Area D: Mary Carmen Saucedo, El Paso**

**Alternate, Linda Flores Deaton, Ft. Worth II**

### Director Pins

**Members interested in ordering Director pins should contact Mary Alice Magana, PARTT State Treasurer, 1415 Highland Avenue, McAllen TX 78501, or [mamagana@myctsonline.com](mailto:mamagana@myctsonline.com)**

## PARTT BOARD MEETING

### 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 I Table. Five former State Directors, Frances Metcalf, Imogene Mecaskey, Berta Garcia, Geri Rice, and Director General Peggy Clark attended the meeting. Also attending was Margie Gillette, the Zone I 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 I, and II Tables, and treated to a special "Cowtown Cuisine" dinner at the home of Jessica Farrell, 4<sup>th</sup> Associate Area Director.

Pictured, front row, l-r: B.B. Crane, Sylvia Williams, Ruth Kulesa and Imogene Mecaskey. Second row: Geri Rice, Berta Garcia, Mary Alice Magana, Peggy Clark, Jessica Farrell, Mary Ann Palka, Esther Read and Elsie Perez. Back row: Yoli Calley, Frances Metcalf, Ina Pool, Laura Gutiérrez-Witt, Louise Actkinson, Margie Gillette and Gloria Mata Pennington.



## Texas Tables Celebrate Anniversaries



**McAllen PART, Founder's Day, October 2, 2007. Pictured are former Table Directors: front, l-r, Aida Torres, Dardanella Cardenas, Yolanda Barrera, Eunice Ingles, Alice Tavaréz; back, l-r, present Director Lily Torrez, Mary Lou Treviño, Baudelia BB Crane and Zone I Alliance Director Margie Rodgers Gillette.**

**Right: Brownsville I PART 75th anniversary. Pictured are l-r, Table Director Susana Schwarm and anniversary committee members, Maria V. Garza, Millie Essers, Bertita Elizondo, Joan McNeil, Mary Staves and Isabel Vezzetti.**

**Below: Edinburg PART 50th anniversary. Pictured are: l-r, State Parliamentarian Elsie Perez, Area C Associate Director Baudelia BB Crane, State Director Sylvia Williams, Alliance Director General Peggy Clark, Table Director Margo Arevalo-Gonzalez, First Associate Director /anniversary chairman Lydia Chavana and Pan American Woman Delia Perez de Plata.**





## Texas Tables Gather . . .

**Eagle Pass PART gathered at their first meeting of the year in September, 2007, at the IBC building. Because many of the members are educators, the Table usually meets on Saturday. Table Director Lana Harper is seated front row, third from the right.**



**Long-time members of Ft. Worth II Table, standing, Elvira Harris Rogers, immediate past Table Director and seated, Becky Kolar, Table Director, reunite at a recent meeting of the table. Table Historian Alicia Clark (and Elvira's daughter) submitted the photo of the two friends.**

**The annual Laredo Christmas tea was held on December 1, 2007, at the Sanchez-Neiman Room, IBC Bank.**

**Seated front row, l-r: Patricia Bocanegra, Elia Norma G. Barrera, Rebecca G. Gonzalez, Table Director Diana Czar, Manni Hachar, Marcia Jovel, Leticia Menchaca, Lilia de la Miyar de Torres. Second row: Marianne Volkmer, former Table Director Norma Benavides, Aurora Ramirez, former Table Director and State Director Gloria Zuñiga, Honorary member Lula Lacey (relative of Florence Terry Griswold), Angeles Elizaldi, former Table Director Sheila Glassford. Third row: former Table Director Melita Gonzalez, Carmen Ruiz, Eva Porras, Luz Treviño, Gloria Guajardo, Raquel Senties, Dora Wolfe, Cata Marulanda, Mary Helen Cantu, Hercilia Camina, Lola Norris, Bettina Muñoz, Angie Ruiz, Ana Flores.**





# Long Range Planning Committee Report to the State Board

By Ina Pool

After almost a year of polling the Texas Tables, the Long Range Planning Committee presented its findings to the State Board. The Committee, composed of Rita Thacker (El Paso), Teresa Pérez (Rio Grande/Roma), and Ina A. Pool (Laredo), chairman, was entrusted with reviewing the structure and goals of all the Tables to make recommendations to strengthen the organization at both the individual Table and State levels. The Committee contacted the 21 Texas Tables who provided frank and interesting suggestions and opened a window into their Tables beneficial for the future of PARTT.

On the subject of finding Directors, the majority of the Tables suggested that the Directors serve one year terms. Limiting the term of office to one year may make finding a Director easier. Many large and small organizations have taken the one-year path very successfully.

One of the State Director's concerns was the lack of interest by some members in PARTT. Among the Tables' recommendations were careful recruiting, attracting young professionals, scheduling orientations, keeping meetings and programs short, encouraging open discussions and a higher community profile. Also emphasized were orientation programs on the Alliance and the Organization of American States and what they stand for.

Since technology has become an important part of everyday life, one suggestion was that Tables create a Web page to post minutes, newsletter and planned events, and encourage members to use the PARTT and Alliance web pages. Workshops on the use of the Internet and electronic mail should be encouraged. Also suggested was the use of periodic newsletters from the Director to give updates on activities, meetings, conventions and other information.

Another concern posed was on how to prepare future leaders. The Tables suggested that high school girls be invited to meetings and also be used as aides for Pan American functions. Members should be urged to invite their daughters and granddaughters to the meetings to expose them to the Pan American Movement. New members should be encouraged to participate in Table activities, and if necessary, mentors be assigned to them.

The Committee will continue contacting the Tables who were unable to respond to ensure that a complete report is submitted at the State Board Meeting during the State Convention in Brownsville, Texas, March 20-22, 2009. All Tables are encouraged to continue providing the Committee with innovative ideas developed during the coming year. Committee members may be contacted at Teperez44@msn.com, ritathacker@sbcglobal.net and inapool@gmail.com.

## *News from the El Paso and Juarez Tables*

*Luncheon, January 16, 2007, Woman's Club of El Paso in honor of the Founder, past Directors and in remembrance of Josefina "Pupina" Salas Porras.*



*El Paso PART Installation Luncheon, El Paso Country Club, May 15, 2007.*

*Above right: l-r, incoming Director Rita Thacker Gomez, outgoing Director Amelia Krohn, past Director and Archives chairman Mary Carmen Saucedo*



*El Paso and Juarez PART members celebrated Pan American Day on April 15, 2007, at the Centro de Convenciones Cubiles, Cd. Juarez.*

*Right: l-r, Director Rita Thacker Gomez and Ana Maria Garcia, past Director.*





## ***Convention News . . .***

The XXXI Biennial Convention of the Alliance of Pan American Round Tables will be held at the Hotel Palacio Barcelo in San Jose, Costa Rica September 17-20, 2008. The Alliance Board of Directors is invited to dinner on September 16, and the Board will meet all day on September 17. Opening ceremonies will be held the night of Wednesday, September 17, 2008. The registration cost is \$270.00 US dollars. The package includes Welcome gift, Program, Opening Ceremony, Pan American Night dinner, Costa Rican Night dinner, Closing Ceremony Golden Night Gala dinner, and transportation to all events. The last day to register is August 16, 2008. Late registrations will incur an additional \$50.00 fee. All registration documents are available on the Alliance website at [www.alianzamp.org](http://www.alianzamp.org). Make your hotel reservations with Maria Elena Chacon at [vacacionesbarcelo6@barcelocr.com](mailto:vacacionesbarcelo6@barcelocr.com) or Jose Luis Fernandez at [vacacionesbarcelo@barcelocr.com](mailto:vacacionesbarcelo@barcelocr.com) or by Fax at 011-506-2-520-2050. Their telephone number is 011-506-2-291-1027, extension 258-283-738. Contact Alliance Zone I Director Margie Rodgers Gillette at [margie8732@sbcgloba.net](mailto:margie8732@sbcgloba.net) if you have questions and for additional information. See you in Costa Rica!

### ***A Land of Contrasts***

The 54<sup>th</sup> PARTT State Convention will be held in Brownsville, Texas, March 20-22, 2009, at the Holiday Inn (formerly the Sheraton) hosted by the Brownsville I, Brownsville II, and San Benito Tables. The State Board dinner is scheduled for Thursday, March 19th, followed by the Board Meeting and luncheon on Friday, March 20th. A Border Buttermilk Reception and Opening Ceremony will take place Friday evening. Saturday's program includes the General Meeting, a luncheon to honor past State Directors and a special gala with dinner and entertainment. The Hour of Memory will be held Sunday morning and will be followed by the conclusion of the General Meeting, the election and installation of the new State officers, and a special luncheon featuring door prizes and other surprises. Registration information will be forthcoming in October.



**PANAMERICANA  
TEXANA**

**Laura Gutiérrez-Witt,  
Editor**

**2602 Forest Bend Drive  
Austin, Texas 78704  
USA**

**512-442-1028**

**[lauragw@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:lauragw@mail.utexas.edu)**