

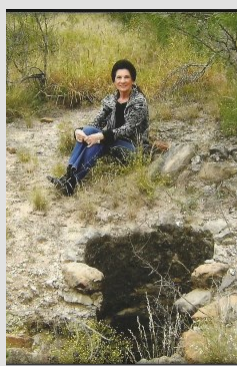


Pan Americana Texana

The Pan American Round Tables of Texas Newsletter

2015 Spring Edition Volume 38 no. 4

Message From State Director



Lana Harper by
the Griswold old
homestead well

Dear Pan American Sisters:

Thank you so much for having provided me this magnificent opportunity to serve as your State Director the past two years. Never would I have imagined that cold wintery day in November 2013, when I sat beside the well at the site of the "Old Terry home", I would be bestowed an honor such as this. During the past two years, I have had the great privilege of visiting with you, attending your meetings and special events. In doing so I discovered a common thread among all Tables, that of "knowledge, un-

derstanding, friendship" and sincere dedication to our Movement.

Please be reminded of our theme during my tenure, "Pan American Round Tables of Texas ... *Preparing for the Future with Purpose, Power, Passion, Persistence & Pride*". Maintaining our focus on intent and purpose, and working together made it possible for us to meet many of the expectations established. The challenges we have faced and overcome are amazing. For this, I thank you for your support and dedicated effort in meeting our 2013-2015 goals.

This unforgettable experience as State Director will forever be engraved in my mind. No doubt the formation of the Pan American Round Tables did not just happen, but was intentional. Our goal to unite the women and children of the Americas is day by day becoming a reality because of the effort of our Sisters today and the past *almost* 100 years.

As the stones have sustained the "Old Terry Well", the Pan American Round Table of Texas Women have sustained our Movement. It has been my distinct honor and pleasure to serve. Again, thank you very much.

Yours in Friendship,

Lana Harper
State Director

PARTT 57th Biennial Convention

"Laredo, Gateway to the Americas"



(Front row (l-r) Cruz Torres, Elvira Jackson, Angela Hachar, Lupita Ramírez, Alicia Cantú and Teresa Barker. (2nd row) Toni Ruiz, Raquel Santies, Rosa María de Llano, Marcia Jovel and Ana Flores. (3rd row) Lety Cantú, Maricela Cantú, Kristina Hale, Dr. Rosa Maria Vida, Irma Villarreal, Angeles Elizalde, Claudia Cabello and Sandra Harriger. (4th row) Diana Czar, Bettina Muñoz, Dr. Lola Norris, Olga Verduzco and Gloria Flores (5th row) Madeleine López Escoto, Azucena Andrade, Rebecca Gonzalez, Amelia Ramírez, Mary Ann García, Linda Araiza, Patricia Ramírez, Carol Berler, Cordelia Flores, Anna Haynes and Gigi Caballero.

Members of the Laredo Table joined Director Angela Hachar, Alicia Cantú - Convention Chairman and Irma Villarreal - Co Chair, on September 10th for their first meeting of the 2014-2015 year.

The gathering took place in the Phillip V Room of the historical La Posada Hotel, designated headquarters for the upcoming state convention of April 9-12, 2015.

Preparations for the convention will be the Table's main focus this year and it promises to be an exciting and well-executed event.

In addition to the usual convention functions, other exciting events will be available. Attendees will have a chance to learn more about Laredo through a choice of a historical tour, a city sight-seeing tour, or a shopping tour. Golfing will also be available for members and guests.

Registration fee for the convention is \$200 and hotel rooms are available for \$92 for a double, or \$149 for a suite. Don't miss the fun and camaraderie. It's going to be great!

Table Directors Meet in San Antonio



(1st Row: l to r) María Elena Corona, Angela Hachar, Lily Tórrez, Isabel Vezzetti, Sarah Jane Wise, Lana Harper, Elsie Pérez, Ina Pool, Louise Actkinson, Lupita Muñiz (back Row : l to r) Kathy Ehamann-Cardy, Ruth Kulesa, Gloria Cantú, Normalinda Castellano, Sylvia Alanis, Anita Williams, Gloria Salinas, Ann Beitel, Mandy Peña, Marcia Atwood, Susan Matthews, Frances Rodríguez, Maricarmen Nasr, Mary Catherine Miller, Emma, “Bambina” Roe, Dee Moore, Lisa Romero and Martha Stumbo.

State Director Lana Harper presided over a very inspiring Table Directors’ meeting on August 16, 2014 at the Holiday Inn Express Airport, in San Antonio. The purpose of the meeting was to review and update the 2013-2015 goals.

Elsie Pérez was on hand to thank everyone for their untiring support during her tenure as Alliance Director General, which concluded in October. We thank Elsie for the honor she brought to our State organization and for her outstanding leadership.

Other updates were reported by Board officers and exciting news on upcoming conventions were also given. Martha Stumbo, Zone I Director, confirmed plans for the Alliance convention in Lima, Peru in October and Convention Chairman Alicia Cantú and Co-Chair Irma Villarreal reported on the activities being planned for the 57th State Convention to be held in Laredo in April, 2015. Their reports were followed by Recording Secretary Louise Actkinson’s exciting update on the Alliance Convention to take place in San Antonio in 2016.

Members of the Board took time out from the Directors’ meeting for a special presentation by Janet Roberts, shown here on the right, who is Chairman of the newly appointed Historical Committee. Janet, a member of the Austin Table, introduced Richard Kidd, on the left, whose wife, Margie, is also an Austin Table member. Mr. Kidd, a profes-



sional in the field of documentary production, has agreed to produce a 20-25 minute documentary for PARTT, in time for our 100th jubilee, for the purpose of celebrating our roots and how we have evolved over the past 100 years. It will serve as our legacy and as an educational tool. The Board voted to move forward with the project, provided the necessary budgeted funds of \$30,000 is met.

Representing their Tables at the Directors’ meeting are, (left) Lupita Muñiz from San Benito, Lily Tórrez from McAllen. (Right) Ruth Kulesa from Brownsville II, Bambina Roe from El Paso, Maria Elena Corona and Gloria Cantú from ASJP, Marcia Atwood and Minnie Martínez from Edinburg, & Maricarmen Nasr and Mary Catherine Miller from Austin. Numerous other attendees are not shown.



XXXIV Alliance Convention—Lima, Peru Oct. 7-12, 2014



The Edinburg Table presented outgoing Director General Elsie Pérez, with a bouquet of yellow roses at the convention.



The Texas Delegation attended the Memorial Service at the Convention. Shown, front and center, are Alliance Director General Elsie Pérez, with Zone I Director Martha Stumbo and State Director Lana Harper.



Above, are Ciara Pérez (Edinburg) on the left, next to three unnamed attendees, Mandy Peña (McAllen) with Elsie Pérez, Josie Cappadona (Edinburg) and Sylvia Alanis (McAllen) at the conference.



Attendees from Zone I dressed in 50s outfits

Alliance Officers for 2014-2016

Director General: Maria Eva Muñoz de Manzárraga, Mexico City, Mexico

Associate Director General: Nhury Gutierrez Vilches, Santiago, Chile

Recording Secretary: Guadalupe Ochoa de García, Puebla, Mexico

Treasurer: Martha Stumbo, El Paso, TX

Historian: Silvia Callejas Aduna, Nogales, Veracruz

Official Translator: Ina Agraz Pool, Laredo, TX



Woman of the Year, 2014: Fabiola García de Estefanoni from Puebla, Mexico.



New Director General, Maria Eva M. de Manzárraga

Alamo-San Juan-Pharr Table Celebrates 65th Anniversary



Standing (l to r) are: Raquel García, Blanca Garza, Joy Welch, Estela Cásares, Estela Villegas, Yolanda Martínez, Yolanda Anders, Yamilet Villanueva, Delia Soza, Ida Lazo, Angelita Cantú, Yolanda Ramírez, Anna Sandoval, Gloria Cantuú and Corrine Conquest. Seated are: (l to r) Mary Hickman, María Elena Corona, Director; Elsie Pérez, Alliance Director General; Elvia Linnard (93yrs) and Magdalena Sandoval (95yrs). Attending the meeting, but not shown, are: Minerval Salazar, Hilda Adame, Mary Talboys and Mary Bard.

On the right, front row (l-r) are: Margot A. González, Alliance Corresponding Secretary with present Director María Elena Corona, Director General Elsie Pérez and Past Director Elvia Linnard (1997-1999). (Back row) Past Directors Ana Sandoval (2011-2013), Joy Welch (2001-2003) and Estela Villegas (2009-2011). Mary Talboys (1999-2001) was not available for the photo.



Members of the ASJP Table celebrated their 65th anniversary on September 11, 2014. Past Table Directors were recognized and honored and Elsie Pérez, Alliance Director General, was on hand to present the Table with an honorary certificate commemorating the occasion.

The first ASJP organizational meeting was held on September 27, 1949 with Mrs. I.S. Roe, serving as the first Director.

Donation of Toys For Tots

The ASJP Table donated toys for tots at the Pharr Migrant Council Headquarters during the Christmas Holiday. The Council is a licensed child care program that has been in existence for about five years in Las Milpas.



Pictured (l-r) are Daniel Iturrubiate, family service advocate at Texas Migrant Council Head Start; María Elena Corona, Table Director; member Rachel Garcia and Janie Coreno, child development Advocate; and members Yolanda Ramirez and Delia Soza.

Laredo



November Meeting

Table Director Manni Hachar with State Director Lana Harper.



Cecilia Vela, guest, by Cecilia Mona Mendoza, Shelia Glassford, Olga Verduzco and Ana Flores

Del Rio Table Events



New Table members (l-r): Cynthia Wainer, Maria Ramírez, Christine Foley and Yoly Ramon.

The Del Rio Table inducted four new members this year, shown here on the left.

In May, 2014 scholarships were awarded to two deserving scholars, while the Christmas season brought an opportunity to hold a “Holiday Home Tour” as a fund-raiser to support the scholarship fund.



Two deserving young ladies who were awarded scholarships in May,



Shown above are the daughters of Donna Weston, whose home was featured in the Christmas “Holiday Home Tour”

Upper Rio Grande Valley Tables Prepare for Observance Day

Officers from the four Upper Valley Tables met throughout the past few months, to prepare for a Pan American Observance Day celebration to take place on March 28th at the McAllen Country Club. The theme selected was “A Sweet Fragrance of Friendship”

Edinburg Table Director Marcia Atwood, whose Table hosted the event, led the meetings.

The RGC/Roma Table sent out the invitations and also handled the raffle, while ASJP performed the presentation of flags.

Felipe T. Alanis, PhD and Senior Partner of Waterford School Services, whose topic on “Friendship was, appropriately, chosen, graciously accepted the McAllen Table’s invitation to address the group. His talk was followed by lively entertainment provided by a Folkloric Dance Team from the Parks and Recreation Department of Edinburg.

Numerous Tables from throughout the State were on hand to help make the celebration a great success.

Pan American Observance Day Planning Committee



Standing (l-r): Herminia Martínez-Edinburg, Anna Ramos-RGC-Roma, Raquel García-ASJP, Zoila Pérez and Yolanda Gonzalez-RGC-Roma, Deanna L. Ramírez and Sylvia Alanis-McAllen. Seated (l-r): Edinburg Director Marcia Atwood, ASJP Director Maria Elena Corona, Immediate past Director General Elsie Pérez, RGC-Roma Director Bersabé Salazar and McAllen Table Director Mandy Peña

Conroe Calendar of Events

New Members Welcomed at September Meeting



At the first meeting of the year, in September, Conroe distributed their new yearbooks and introduced and welcomed six new members. They are: Front, l-r: Jo Chesney, Nita Phytian, Marcia Reagan, and Cheryl Jett. Back row: Paula Alexander and Mary Margaret Coyle.

Members Instructed on English Tutoring at January Meeting



Laura Davis (standing) Program Manager from Literacy Volunteers of America, instructs members on how to tutor and help limited English speakers in the community.

Recognition of Service



Conroe PART Director Nancy Smith (L) presented a Years-of-Service certificate to Jeanette De Fee on behalf of State Director Lana Harper at their March 10th meeting. Jeanette was recognized for her 29 years of service of the Conroe Table.

For current events, Mary Margaret Coyle gave a report on Haiti's presidential election and Jean Heasley reported on the political crisis/murder mystery in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Conroe Celebrates 65th Anniversary in October



Table members paused to take a group picture at the October 14th meeting, as they celebrated their 65th anniversary. Past Directors, shown below, were recognized. L-R: Nancy Smith, Dorothy Walker, Margaret Yocom, Olene Heasley, Jean Heasley, Janet Emmons, Bettye Wakefield, Joan Purdom and Jeannette DeFee.



Eagle Pass

"Hasta La Vista"



These ladies gather for a photo during the final meeting of the Eagle Pass Pan American Round Table held May 3, 2014. From left to right are: Lydia Lerma, Lucy Mancha, Sandra R. Pérez, and Ruth Foster. Lydia Lerma (r), presented a very interesting program on the country of Paraguay.

Table Members Donate Gifts to 200 Nursing Home Residents in December



Members participating in the presentation were: (l-r) Rosa Castillo, Maria Moncada, Marge Munt, Cynthia Esparza, Romelia Guajardo, Alejandra De La Garza, Lydia Lerma and Elva Benavides

Scholarship Presentation in May



Scholarships were awarded to three outstanding Eagle Pass High School Seniors (Ctr. l-r): Clarissa Valdez, Jesse Sánchez, and Celeste Sandoval. Presenting the Awards were, (back: l-r): Lana Harper - PARTT State Director; Anita Williams - PART of Eagle Pass Director and PARTT Corresponding Secretary; Member Diane Treviño; Past Director Lucia Mancha and Members Rosella Even and Amparo García. The Awards Ceremony was held at the EPISD Fine Arts Auditorium on Thursday, May 22nd. Scholarships were also presented to three outstanding students from C.C. Winn High School.

Scholarship Fund-Raiser "Holiday Parade of Homes."



Enjoying the event were: (l-r) Mary Lou Betancourt Hostess, Anita Williams Table Director, Irma Torralba, Guest Carolina Barrera, Gichi Becker=Pérez, Alicia Charles, and Lucy Mancha.

McAllen



Seated l-r: Mary Lou Treviño (26 yrs.), Alice Tavares (49 yrs.), Dardanella Cárdenas (49 yrs), Kay Moffitt (27 yrs). Standing: Joyce Smith (26 yrs.), Pam Friend (29 yrs.), Kathe Tavares (30 yrs.), Yolanda Barrera (30 yrs.). Not present: Berta Guerra (43 yrs.), Carmen Guerra (44 yrs.) and Maria

McAllen Recalls 80 Years of History-

The McAllen Table congregated at the McAllen Country Club, on October 8th, to pay tribute to Founder Florence Terry Griswold and to celebrate the Table's 80th anniversary.

A special birthday cake, decorated in the organization's blue and gold colors, was presented in commemoration of the occasion.

Speaker was Isabel Vezzetti, a member of Brownsville's Table I. and Director of Area C. In her talk, Isabel recalled the events that helped shape the formation of this exciting and successful Table. She also highlighted the PARTT web page where the history of the organization is archived and available to all.

Eleven long-standing members, of more than 25 years, were individually recognized and honored with a yellow rose and an inscribed gold certificate, issued by the State organization and signed by State Director Lana Harper. Dardanella Cárdenas and Alice Tavares hold the Table's

Annual Mother/Daughter Luncheon in December



The annual Mother/Daughter luncheon was held, with numerous members' daughters and other guests being present. Speakers for the occasion were Attys. Kin Leo and Kristen Rees, shown here, who gave a very informative and interesting revelation on "Immigration & Human Traf-

ficking and its Effects on Women and Children involved". The Sweet Adelines were again on hand to prepare for the coming Christmas season, with their very enjoyable Christmas Carol renditions.



"The Sweet Adelines"

New Members inducted in November



Alicia Martínez and Emma Salinas, to the left of Table Director Mandy Peña and Graciela Cobo to her right, were inducted as new members at the November meeting. Also shown are Sylvia Alanis, 1st Assoc. Director and Alma De La Garza, Parliamentarian, who helped with the induction.

Brownsville Table I

Costa Rica is Featured Country for January



Brownsville Table I met for their regular monthly meeting on January 9th. All enjoyed the camaraderie and a program on Costa Rica, presented by Rachel Ayala, shown on the left.



Bertha Garza models a Chiapaneca from the State of Chiapas



María Enriqueta Yzaguirre models a black Jarocha - State of Veracruz.

Pan American Round Table I “Merienda”, 2015

Pan American Round Table I of Brownsville has been giving costume revues since 1936. The revues were held at a large auditorium and became known as “The Pan American Round Table I Merienda.” This presentation continued until 2004 .

It was at that time that the costume collection was turned over to the Costumes of the Americas Corporation. Mrs. Jonson's original collection and the Table's collection are now housed at the Costume of the Americas Museum in Brownsville. In 2012, the Table brought back the “Merienda” to help Charro Days celebrate 75 years. It was very well received by the community. This year, the Table again decided to hold a “Merienda” and it was a tremendous success. Pan American Sisters came from Corpus Christi, Edinburg, McAllen, Pharr, and San Benito to attend this beautiful event. All monies raised benefitted the Table Scholarship Fund.



Delma Tercero, Lilliana Elizondo and Esther Grantland modeled the Jarocha from, the State of Veracruz

Corpus Christi



Guest Day Event Held In January

The January meeting was held on the 20th at the Corpus Christi Town Club; a Guest Day event. The program was on "Foklorico Designs" and the dresses were borrowed from the collection of member Jeanne Adams.

Nature Conservancy is Topic for February.

The February PART Meeting was held at the Corpus Christi Town Club on February 17, 2015. Speaker for the occasion was Justin Rice, son of member, Geri Rice. He spoke about Nature Conservancy.



Justin Rice, Speaker



Standing (L_R) Martha Spear, Monica Mejha and Yolie Callie (seated)

Road Trip To Brownsville



Standing (L_R) Peggy Clark-Past State Director with her guest Janie Cone, and Carolyn Motes 4th Assoc. Director. Seated: Gloria Riddle-Table Director, Yolanda Villarreal-3rd Associate Director and B.J. Kershaw

On February 24, 2015 18 members and one guest of the Corpus Christi Chapter took a road trip to Brownsville to attend the Brownsville chapter's Marienda. The theme was "The Cultural Heritage of the Mexican Province Through Their Clothing". Lunch was served on the bus and all those attending had a great time.

Lana Harper
State Director
and Peggy
Clark, Past
Director Gen-
eral.



In Memoriam



Elvia Leona Linnard

Elvia Leona Linnard, 93, died on October 29, 2014. She was preceded in death by Leslie, her husband of 53 years and is survived by her four daughters, five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Elvia graduated from West Texas State Teachers College with a B.S. degree in Education. She also earned a B.B.A degree

from Sul Ross and held an MBA from the University of Denver. During World War II she served in the WAVES.

In late 1949, Elvia moved to the Rio Grande Valley to teach in the PSJA school district and later worked in the McAllen School District for 28 years, as elementary school teacher and later as a librarian.

Mrs. Linnard was a member of the Pharr United Methodist Church for 63 years; 20 years as Treasurer and 35 as organist. She was also active in the ASJP Pan American Round Table, having served a term as director and often lent her musical talents at various special Table functions. She was also involved with her Music and Friendship Clubs.



Gloria Zuniga

Gloria Zuniga, 88, passed away on October 30, 2014 from heart-related complications. She was preceded in death by her husband, Captain Guillermo Zuniga, of 55 years and is survived by her ten children, 14 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren and one sister.

Gloria was born in Laredo in 1926. As an adult, she earned a B.A. degree in Education at Southwest Texas State College and taught Mathematics in the Laredo Independent School District for over 20 years.

Gloria was very active in many Laredo organizations, including the Rotary Club, the Laredo Art League, and the Pan American Round Table, serving as State Director from 1984-1986.

In 2009, Gloria moved to Austin to be closer to her children, where she continued to live a very active and healthy life.



Gladys Nidia Simpson

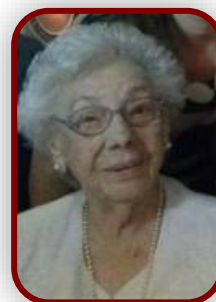
Gladys Nidia Gerschenson Simpson, 74, passed away on Nov. 7, 2014.

She was born in Argentina in 1939 and graduated from the National University in Argentina with degrees in Biochemistry and Physics. She also attended UT at Austin, taking a Masters

in Biochemistry. After returning to Argentina she taught at the American School for City Services International, where she met her husband James Earl Simpson. They were married in 1965 and eventually settled in Odessa, Texas.

While her husband continued to work overseas, Gladys remained in Odessa as Chief Petroleum Chemist for Continental Products and later, she and Jim opened "Jim's Tall and Big Man's Shop" in Odessa.

Gladys was very active in her community, serving in numerous organizations, but her favorite was the Pan American Round Table, where she served at the highest State, National and International levels. She was honored by the Alliance as Pan American Woman of the Year in 2010.



Magdalena Sandoval

Magdalena C. Sandoval, 95, died on December 7, 2014.

Born to a Pharr pioneer family she had lived in Pharr all of her life. At the 2009 Pharr Centennial, she was recognized as the longest living resident born and raised in Pharr, TX. She was a member

of St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church, a lifelong member of the DAV Auxiliary, Alamo-San Juan-Pharr Pan American Round Table since 1949 and the Pharr Garden Club, where she served as President from 1992-93. She is preceded in death by her husband, Jose Artemio Sandoval and is survived by one son, Monty Lee Bradley of Houston and two daughters, Anna Luz Sandoval of McAllen and Alma Sandoval Evans of San Antonio, TX, both members of their local Pan American Round Table. Others who survive her are three grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and sister, Maria Luisa Sanchez of Pharr.

Important Dates To Remember

**PARTT 57th State Convention
"Laredo, Gateway to the Americas"**

**Laredo, Texas
April 9-12, 2015**

**Alliance Convention
Celebrating the first 100 years
Of the Pan American Round Tables of Texas
& Founder Florence Terry Griswold
San Antonio, Texas
Spring, 2016**



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