



PANAMERICANA TEXANA

The Pan American Round Tables of Texas

2020 Fall Edition Volume 41 No. 3

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dear Pan American Sisters,

As of today, my tenure as your State Director has been an exciting and very unusual one! I was happy to be working with such dedicated and enthusiastic women from the different Tables. Then, in the blink of an eye, everything stopped, not just for me, but for everyone of us. We had to come up with new and exciting ways to do the things that we had always done.

It hasn't been easy living in the time of COVID. But, when I look at what each of you has done and are doing to keep your Tables busy and active, I am amazed. We have all learned to come together in different ways with the use of technology. Our State Board Meeting, that had to be postponed because of the virus, was held on Zoom. I believe that this was a first! I know that many Tables are hosting Zoom meetings. One Table is using YouTube for meetings, some are using taped meetings and others are using email and texts for their meetings. And, there has also been a drive by meeting! Keep up the good work - YOU ARE DOING GREAT!

I know that what each of us would like is to go back to normal, especially me. I would like to have the good old days back where we could see each other in person, hug and share a meal. I hope and pray that by next summer this will be true.

“Tomorrow there’ll be sunshine, and all this darkness past.”

These words from one of Bruce Springsteen’s songs make me want to believe that tomorrow everything will be all right and that COVID will be gone and things will be back to normal. We need to give each other hope that tomorrow will be all right! Be well and most of all stay safe!

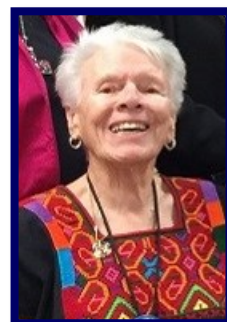
“One for All and All for One” “Una Para Todas y Todas Para Una”

Martha

IN MEMORIUM



Imogene Mecaskey
State Director 1991 - 1993
Jan. 11, 1930 - Oct. 17, 2020



Ann M. Beitel
2nd Associate Area B
Jun. 3, 1939 - Oct. 16, 2020

Area A - Austin

PART of Austin Director Amalia Rodriguez-Mendoza conducted the October 5, 2020 meeting via Zoom.



PART of Austin awarded three scholarships for 2020. Alejandra Zuniga attends the University of Texas. In addition to being an undergraduate student, Alejandra works as a community organizer with RAICES and American Gateways.



Blanca Azucena Pacheco is a doctoral student in medical anthropology and attending the University of Texas.

Jessica Vega is attending Texas State University and majoring in Therapeutic Recreation



Due to the pandemic, Carol Heyman and several Table members hand delivered Table Yearbooks throughout the city of Austin.

The Austin Table is selling hand-made masks from Mexico as a fundraising project. The Table is also hoping to help the mask makers who have lost tourist business due to the pandemic.



Being unable to meet in person, the Table met the challenge by using Zoom to continue to hold committee meetings and general meetings for its members.

The Table held a trial Zoom meeting in July, where they broke up into "grupitos" where members could chat about their pandemic lives.



Area A - Conroe

The Conroe Table held the installation of officers during the September meeting. Newly installed officers are Janet Emmons, Director; Becky Judah, Associate Director; Jean Heasley, Recording Secretary; Jo Chesney, Corresponding Secretary; Woody Hearn, Treasurer; Riki Dewey, Parliamentarian; Cheryl Jett, Historian; Marilyn Sommers, Custodian. Table meetings are held in a small Italian restaurant in a private dining room. The members decided to continue to meet in-person in September. The Table has 19 members and enjoy their friendships and informative meetings.



(L-R) Woody Hearn, Becky Judah, Jean Heasley, Mary Lou Sartore, Marilyn Sommers, (front) Jo Chesney, Director Janet Emmons, Cheryl Jett, and Paula Schoppe.



Jean Heasley gave an interesting presentation for Founder's Day during the October meeting. Members were given a short "quiz" on the history of the Conroe Table. As she went over each question, she explained in greater detail about how the Conroe Table was started and provided interesting facts that allowed members to enhance their knowledge and have a greater appreciation of their organization.



The November program was presented by Eduardo Riddle, husband of member Gloria Riddle.

Eduardo Riddle provided an informative visual presentation of his experiences hiking in Peru.



Area A - Houston

The Houston Table will be having virtual events until such time as they can meet at an in-person event.

Scholarship awards presentations were held via Zoom in August. The Houston Table awarded \$21,500.00 in scholarships to 16 bright and capable young women.



Scholarship Awards

The Houston Table continued to raise funds for their Scholarship Fund even though they were unable to meet due to restrictions placed by the COVID-19 virus and increased infections seen in the Houston area.

In the spring, the Table members sold masks made in Mexico. They sold the masks at an art gallery which displays beautiful artwork. The facemask sale was held on the Art Gallery patio where participants could keep a distance. Contributing to the festivities were a food truck, an opera singer, and other entertainment. It was a huge success. The Table kept selling out of Facemasks and had to send their contact in Mexico on the hunt for more.



Elva Alvarado and Belinda Kaylani relaxing inside the Art Gallery speaking with a guest.

Area A - Houston



L-R Julissa Alcantar-Martinez, Martha Innskeep, Belinda Kaylani, Carl Innskeep, Kaye Fraser and Yvonamor Palix.



In the fall, Table members started selling masks again. They invited two Tango dancers who entertained visitors.



The Houston Table board secretary, Cecilia Estrada, is a physical therapist at Houston Methodist in the Medical Center. During the first wave of the Covid virus in the spring, she was assigned to the ICU working with Covid patients. She spoke at a board meeting how dire the situation was and how exhausting it was for the staff. She and her husband had to self-isolate due to her employment. The board decided to do something special for Cecilia and her husband by donating funds to buy take out food so that they would not have to worry about cooking. What is so special about this is that Cecilia decided to pay it forward to her whole team at Methodist and bought food for everyone with the gifts from the PART Houston members.

Area B - Beeville

The Beeville Table has chosen to meet in person this year. The program during the September meeting was on “El Día de Los Muertos” traditions.



Beeville members attending the September meeting included (L-R) Jane Wicker, Louise Hall, Mary Margaret Campbell, Karen Kremmer, Johanna C. Quiñones, Shirley a Wyatt, Sara Jane Dunn, Lucy Williams, Roxane Casas, and Cecile O'Connor.



A traditional altar for the Día de los Muertos honored deceased members and founder Florence T. Griswold.



A calavera dressed up in honor of Mrs. Florence T. Griswold, founder of the Pan American Round Table was also featured.

Area B - Corpus Christi

Corpus Christi Table members were happy to see each other and visit before the February meeting.



L-R: Rachel Canales, Norma Alaniz, and Connie Munoz



Elenita Collins greets a good friend.



Corpus Christi Table share ideas



The Executive Board held a Zoom meeting in March. (L-R) Top Row: Rhonda Bosquez, Marie Adams, Cristina Garza; Bottom Row: Dalinda Avelar, Pamela Meyers and Yolanda Escobar.



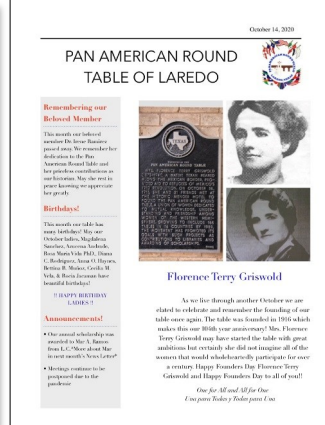
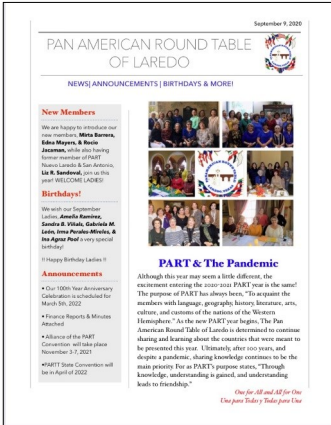
Corpus Christi Table members continued to meet via Zoom during the September meeting.



Area B - Laredo



The Laredo Table has come up with innovative ways to conduct their meetings and to allow members to stay in touch. They used *Survey Monkey* to vote for new members and the app *WhatsApp Messenger* to keep in touch.



In addition, Table Director Mary Ann B. García has been sending an informative monthly newsletter to members. It includes announcements, birthdays, memorials and pertinent information for Table members.



The March meeting of the Laredo Table was the last in-person meeting due to the pandemic. Celebrating March Birthdays were Mary Ann B. García, Gabriela M. García, Diana L. Czar, Nimia Bornman and Eva Porras.

During the past two years, the Table has been having presentations on Table activities that occurred during different decades since the Table was founded on June 1921. A presentation on the *Laredo Table in Review: June, 1960 to May 31, 1970* was given by Cecilia M. Vela, Ina Agraz Pool and Carol Berler.



Cecilia M. Vela



Ina Agraz Pool



Carol Berler

Area B - Laredo



Attending the January Meeting are: Front Row (L-R): Sandra B. Viñals, Rocío Jacaman, Margarita Costilla, Rosa Ma. C. De Llano. Back row (L-R): Kimberley J. Alexander, Gabriela Mendoza García, PhD, Sara Alicia Mendoza.



Front row left to right: Azucena Andrade, Edna de Anda Peña, Gabriela M. Leon, Amelia Ramirez, Maria de la Luz Górecki.



We welcomed new members Rocío Jacaman, Mirta Barrera and Liz Sandoval from the San Antonio Table and previously from the Nuevo Laredo Table.



Left to right Magdalena Sanchez, Nimia Bornman and Julia M Bird.

Area B - San Antonio

The San Antonio Table has cancelled all membership meetings from March to October due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



The annual Scholarship Luncheon was held on February 21, 2020 to recognize those receiving scholarships. This year's recipient, Eva Rubio Arias, was attending Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico to improve her English to further her medical studies. Eva has now returned to Mexico and is awaiting a visa so she may come back to San Antonio to continue her studies.

Left to Right: Jeanne Koplan, Kathleen Beasley, Scholarship Recipient Eva Rubio Arias and Endelia "Annie" Flores



February Luncheon Participants: Standing is Laura Uzdevines, Education and Scholarship Chair; Seated from Left to Right: Sharon Gee, Frances Rodriguez, Molly Walden and Vilma Howel



Other February Luncheon Participants included: Seated from left to right Milagros "Millie" Mayoral; Millie's daughter and guest Elena Mayoral; Sybil Howell and standing Jeanne Koplan.

Area B - San Antonio

The San Antonio Table Executive Committee met on May 14, 2020 and again in October during which the Committee reviewed membership survey results on conditions deemed necessary for in-person meetings. The October membership meeting was held on October 16, 2020 via conference call .. with some business conducted but more importantly offered members an opportunity to catch up with one another.



Executive Committee meeting of October 9, 2020: First row from Left to Right: Sandra Brown, Secretary; Jamie Bloodsworth, Associate Director and Program Chair; Katie Williams, Associate Director and Membership Chair; and Laura Uzdevines, Chair Education and Scholarship. Back row from Left to Right: Sybil Howell, Treasurer Elect; Cheryl Carson-Rich, Electronic Communications Chair; Sharon Gee, Outgoing Treasurer, and Agatha Wade, Director.

Plans for the November PART-San Antonio is to have an in-person meeting on November 20, 2020 with patio dining overlooking the San Antonio Botanical Garden. The December meeting will be a Holiday Sunday Brunch at Oak Hills Country Club. Not only will the food be delicious, but hopefully those attending will be serenaded by live musicians with a Latin flair.

February 2021, is the Table's first planned Zoom meeting. Our speaker will be Doug Perkins, veteran business writer, entrepreneur, and brother to our members Beverly Mauer and George-Ann Whitehurst. Mr. Perkins will be discussing his recent book, ***Journey's Reward***. We will hear details of the Rio Grande adventures of Robert Runyon, self-taught photographer and botanist, and Prentice Alexander Newman, the Southwest's first aviator. Both men arrived in the Valley in early 1909. Since this is a Zoom meeting, other PART-Texas members are welcome to participate.

Area C - Alamo/San Juan/Pharr



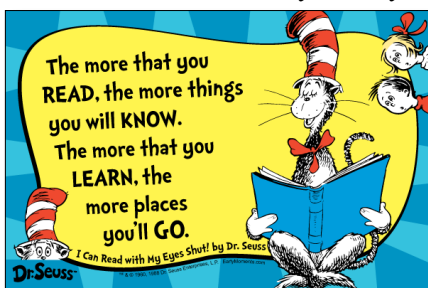
During the February meeting, Aida Lazo, Director presented a red rose to members in honor of Valentine's day. Seated L-R: Gloria Cantu, Blanca Garza, Jane García, Angelita Cantú, Corinne Conquest, Aida Lazo, Elva De La Garza. Back Row L-R: Elena Mycue, Talma Benavides, Imelda Garza, Maria Elena Corona, Alice De León, Nelda Cantú, and Estela Casares.



ASJP- The February Program was on the Bahamas. Imelda Garza, First Associate Director, introduced Gloria Cantu, Past Director as the Presenter for the Program. L-R: Gloria Cantu and Imelda Garza.



The ASJP Table celebrated Dr. Seuss Day. Members donated children's books to Arnoldo Cantu Elementary School of San Juan, Texas. This school is named after the husband of PART - ASJP member, Angelita Cantu. Seated L-R: Elena Mycue, Elva De La Garza, Angelita Cantú, Myra Zamora, librarian, Aida Lazo, Nelda Cantu, Imelda Garza, Ma. Elena Corona. Back Row L-R: Jane García, Gloria Cantu, Corinne Conquest, Minerva Salazar, Alice De León, Talma Benavides, Estela Casares, Blanca Garza, Mary Talboys.



Area C - Alamo/San Juan/Pharr

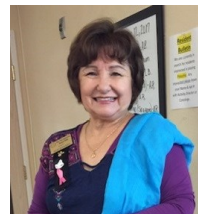


ASJP Table celebrates Saint Patrick's Day during our March meeting.



Aida Lazo, Director of ASJP Table gave a presentation on COVID-19 during the March meeting. She talked about the symptoms and the everyday preventive actions members can take to keep everyone safe and healthy.

Due to Covid pandemic, we are unable to have in-person meetings. Our monthly meetings will be held via telephone conferences, emails, and group texts.



The program for September was on Guatemala; Presented by Talma Benavides

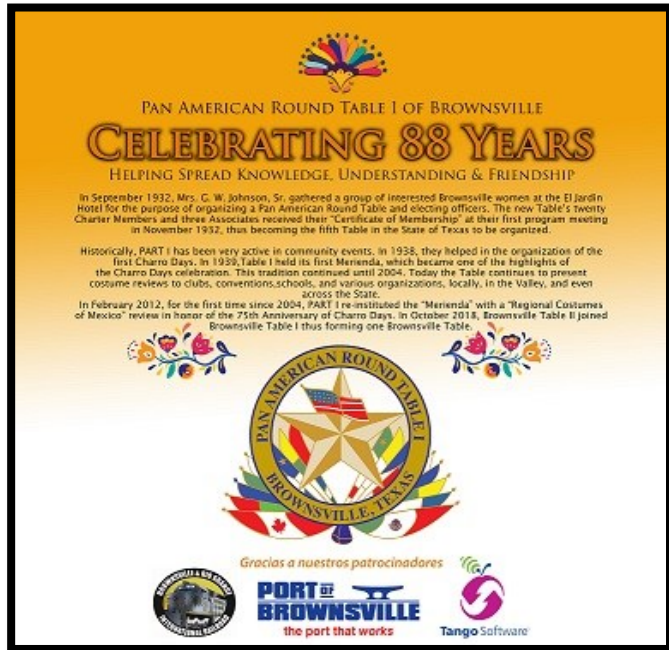
ASJP celebrated Founders Day during the October meeting. Members of the Alamo-San Juan-Pharr Table were recognized for their dedicated service to the Table: 29 years- Angelita Cantu and Mary Talboys; 24 years- Minerva Salazar and Blanca Garza; 17 years- Yolanda Anders and 15 years, Gloria Cantu. The October program was on Nicaragua given by Elena Mycue.



Denise Cantu and Hanna Garcia were awarded \$1,000 scholarships and certificates from PART-ASJP. Both students are attending UT-RGV. Denise is majoring in Business Management while Hanna is majoring in Pre-Medicine and plans to become a Pulmonologist.

Area C - Brownsville I

PART I celebrated its 88th Birthday with an ad in its local paper and a ***“Grab a Cupcake”*** Drive thru on Sunday, November 15, 2020. A newspaper announcement appeared in the local newspaper, the Brownsville Herald.



In September 1932, Mrs. G. W. Johnson, Jr. gathered a group of interested Brownsville women at the El Jardin Hotel for the purpose of organizing a Pan American Round Table and electing officers. The first program meeting was held in November 1932 making the Pan American Round Table of Brownsville the fifth Table established in Texas.



When Bessie Kirkland Johnson organized PART I of Brownsville, she introduced the ladies to the indigenous and regional clothing of the women of the Americas. She challenged each member to wear the regional dress of the country they represented. And so, the beautiful PART I costume collection was born. Throughout the 88 years, the Table has displayed its collection to the general public and tourists in costume revues, continuing to educate and carry out our mission of “Knowledge, Understanding, and Friendship”



PART I members wore their costumes to greet a Pan American Flight into Brownsville. Photo was featured in National Geographic Magazine. Circa 1940

Area C - Brownsville I

“Grab a Cupcake” Drive



(L to R) Lourdes Deytz Gomez, Amelia Yznaga, and Sandra Maxwell, Brownsville PART I Director

(L to R) Isabel Vezzetti, Virginia Wood, Amelia Tyndal



88th Anniversary



(L to R) Susan Cowen, Amelia Tyndal

Area C - McAllen



Due to meeting restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic the last in-person meeting of the McAllen Table was held in March. The Program on Chile was given by Becky Strong and Noelia Pena. Their guest speaker was Melissa Guerra, a well-known South Texas culinary expert and food historian.



Melissa Guerra



Noelia Pena



Becky Strong

The current events report on Paraguay was provided by Ana María Moon.

Gracie Cobo informed members of the annual reconstruction of the

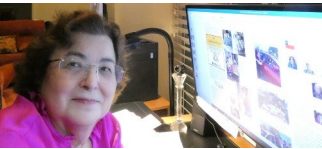


Ana María Moon



Gracie Cobo

ancient Inca rope bridge in Peru called the Q'eswachaka which spans the Apurímac River.



In April, when it became apparent that the Table could not meet again,

Director Raquel Oliva started sending members monthly emails that included updates, birthday greetings, videos and plenty of cartoons and jokes submitted by members to lighten everyone's spirits. A socially distant Executive Board planning meeting was held in mid – September. Among items discussed were the options available to conduct meetings for the remainder of the year. The board passed a motion to allow the Table to meet and conduct business by email, phone and/or video conferencing. The Standing Rules were adapted for the pandemic in November.

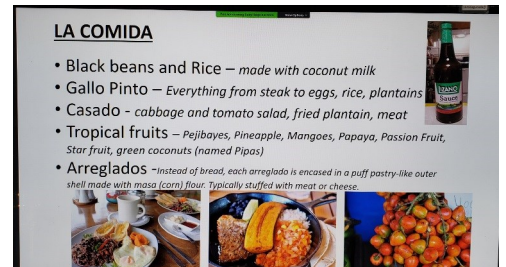


The Table had good participation on the Zoom meetings with 35 attending both the October and November meetings. A social gathering is open 30 minutes before the meeting. A Zoom Christmas party is planned for December.

Area C - McAllen

The new member induction ceremony was held during the November Zoom meeting. Myrna Rodriguez Chairperson of the Membership Committee welcomed the new members. Alma de la Garza conducted the induction ceremony. The Table welcomed Cecilia A. Johnson, Myrthala Villareal-Balderas, Debra Flores, Sony Rego and Marla Guerra. The McAllen Table has 74 members.

The November program was on Costa Rica presented by Irma Garza and Sony Rego. Irma and Sony gave an outstanding PowerPoint presentation during the Zoom meeting that included a video.



Irma Garza



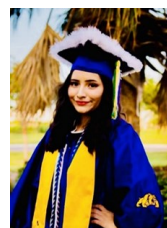
Sony Rego

Members were ready to start planning a trip to Costa Rica after the travel ban and pandemic is over. Yolanda Chapa gave the current event report on the United States. The November meeting was held on the first Tuesday of November, Election Day.

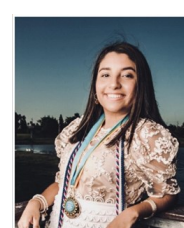


Yolanda Chapa

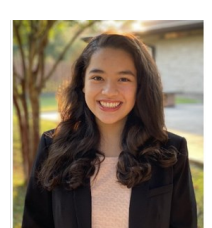
In May, the Pan American Round Table of McAllen awarded four, \$2000 scholarships to graduating seniors. Scholarship recipients are Hannah B. Ramirez, McAllen High School; Jessalyn Guerra, Memorial High School; Anthony G. Prado (*not shown*), Nikki Rowe High School and Lisa Cantu, Sharyland High School who received the scholarship in memory of Laura Rodriguez, daughter of Table member Myrna Rodriguez.



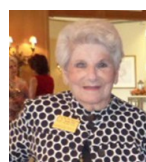
Hannah B. Ramirez



Jessalyn Guerra



Lisa Cantu



Charlene S. Hertz, Table Director, 2009-2002, passed away in June at the age of 91. Her vivaciousness and upbeat outlook on life will be greatly missed!

Area C - Rio Grande City - Roma



The Rio Grande City-Roma Table adapted to the Starr County *Stay at Home* order due to the pandemic by pre-recording their virtual meeting and distributing it to their members using *WhatsApp*. During the September meeting,

Director Dalinda Pena prepared for the meeting by contacting the officers and committee chairpersons and requesting the minutes, treasurers report, corresponding secretary report and committee reports in order to send it with the Agenda to the members prior to the meeting date.

Ramonsita Guerra was taped giving the Program for Brazil. She made a wreath representing the country of Brazil.



A raffle was held as an incentive for members to view the video at its scheduled time.

Director Dalinda Pena created a wreath and hat representing the United States and donated it as a prize for the raffle which was held at the end of the meeting.

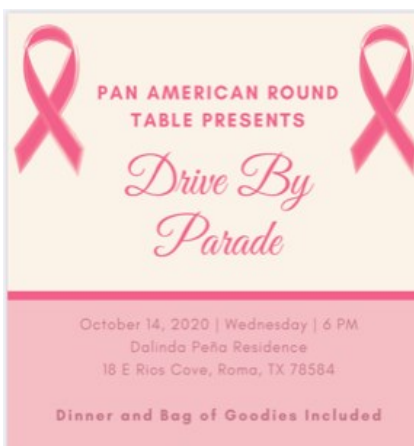


Table Director, Dalinda Pena, hosted a Drive by Parade meeting that recognized breast cancer awareness.

Area C - Rio Grande City - Roma

Drive by Cancer Awareness Parade



Members standing with the PART Rio Grande City-Roma Table banner and Breast Cancer banner.



Those who participated in the drive by were served a delicious salad plate, a themed cupcake, and a bag of goodies in a pink bag.

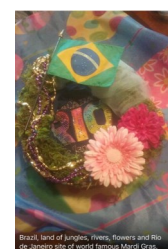
Assisting with the parade were Yolanda González, Associate Director and Dee Cavazos, Parliamentarian, who also served as Parade Marshal. (R-L) Dee Cavazos, Yolanda González and Dalinda Peña.



Members enjoyed seeing each other even though it was from their cars.



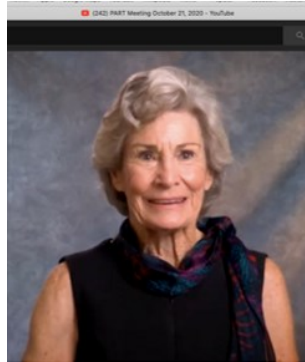
As part of the November program, members made wreaths that represented a country. The wreath for Brazil was made by Elia Ramos, Argentina, Nelda Laurel and Alma Gloria Gonzalez and the USA, Nereyda Guerra



The November meeting was prerecorded via WhatsApp. The Xmas raffle was held at the end of the meeting for members who viewed the video.

Area D - El Paso

The El Paso Table has been busy during the COVID pandemic despite not being able to meet in person. The Table has had socially distanced, masked and solitary passing of the Director's Gavel and a Zoom board meeting.



The Table welcomed 15 new members at an outdoor, socially distanced orientation meeting where new members were excited to meet seasoned members.

The new members are incredibly experienced community volunteers who

are ready and eager to join the El Paso Table that is focusing on *"Building the Community of Tomorrow"*, which is the theme for the year. Since children are the future, the director plans on providing information about programs which engage, enrich and empower children.



New member Orientation

Area D - El Paso

New members have been asked to choose a project that would give them an opportunity to get to know each other and to meet many of our Table members. The new members of the El Paso Table are hosting drive-by events to collect donations for the organizations they have chosen to support. These are held in place of the in-person monthly meetings. The October event was a blanket drive for the Braden Aboud Foundation who will be distributing them to needy families.



New PARTEP members showing off new blankets collected for the drive-by blanket donation event.



The November drive-by event will support the Lee and Beulah Moore Children's Home. Members have been asked to bring Covid-19 Personal Protective Equipment for the home's staff and children. The Table is seeking to help the community in this special way. Our goal is to introduce the new members to the rest of the membership and encourage members to keep in touch with each other.

Since members are unable to meet due to Covid-19 restrictions, the Table will be having virtual events. The October program speaker included Tony Tomashevski, CEO of the Boys and Girls Club in a Q and A session hosted on a private YouTube channel. A Pan American Understanding presentation was also given by Carol Johnson, 1st Associate Director, during the same YouTube event.



Area C - Edinburg

The Edinburg Table kicked off the 2020-2021 year by hosting a "Drive Thru" General Meeting. The tremendous turnout yielded new members being approved via CDC guidelines for social distancing.



Edinburg Table Director Margot Arevalo-Gonzalez greets Esperanza Torres during the event.



The Executive Board participated by providing snacks, ballots, and roses to the members as they drove through. L-R: Tula González, Isabelle Champion, Geena Peralez, and Letty A. Ramon.



L-R: Maruca Longoria, Geena Peralez and Josie Cappadona.

Area D - Dallas III



Dallas III Director, Jacque Resendez reports that the Table has not been meeting.

Area B - Del Rio



Director Scarlett Elkins reported that the Table has not been meeting. They held a board meeting in March and have been keeping in contact with members through emails and phone calls. They are all very sad at the passing of their long time member Ann Beitel, PARTT 2nd Associate, Area B.

Area B - Eagle Pass

Alicia Charles has been named as the new Director of the Eagle Pass Table. The Eagles Pass Table has not met recently. Members are saddened by the passing of long time Table member, Anita Williams.



Anita Williams

Area D - Fort Worth I



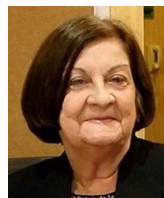
The Fort Worth Table has not met in recent months.

Area D - Odessa



The Odessa Table met in March but has been unable to meet due to the pandemic. Director Mary Alice Ramos reports that the Table plans to meet in person in December pending any meeting restrictions set by the county due to the Covid virus.

Area C - San Benito - Harlingen



The San Benito Table has not been meeting. The traditional Christmas Tea was canceled. Table members are planning a virtual fundraiser and will begin meeting either virtually or in-person in December.

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