



PANAMERICANA TEXANA

Fall 2025 Vol.43, No. 3

MESSAGE FROM THE STATE DIRECTOR



Dear Pan American Round Table Sisters,

Welcome to the second year of the PARTT 2024-2026 Biennium. I am still on a high from having been with so many of you in Eagle Pass, Texas. It was exciting to be at La Pendencia Ranch where our foundress grew up and on the land which impacted Florence Terry Griswold's development and helped form her ideals and attitudes. It was amazing to walk the same path that she may have used to go to get water from the well where we stood now some 140 years later. While the weather was unbelievably hot it was not hard to imagine a very similar environment during Mrs. Griswold's childhood years. It was hot, dusty and a bit uncomfortable, but we enjoyed our time there immensely even with all those challenges.

So, a million thanks to the Eagle Pass PART leadership who helped in making the arrangements, I truly appreciate all of your Table members supporting my vision of the possibility of visiting La Pendencia. We were able to locate the ranch and the well that was hand dug and used by the Terry Family thanks to Bryan Harper's research and his connections with the Maverick County Officials and to Lana Harper for making it his duty to carry out these tasks. And especially to all of you who braced the elements to be with us and to those of you who used your pickup trucks to transport our members, I am truly appreciative.

Now to this new Texana edition. It features the Leadership Seminar in Eagle Pass. We tried to capture all the important moments and all of you who left your busy schedules to come to Eagle Pass to participate. The seminar was designed, as all the previous seminars, to help prepare Table Directors and future Table Leaders to develop the tools that they will need to move our Tables forward. Ana Flores, Sara C. Saldana and Amalia Rodríguez Mendoza delivered informative and interesting presentations that expanded our knowledge and helped us understand our wonderful organization better.

It is my hope that you enjoy this 3rd issue of Texana and that by viewing the section on the ranch you will be able to envision the conditions which led Florence Terry Griswold to form some of her values and her outlook on life. ENJOY!

One for All and All for One,

Rosa Maria R. Vida



PARTT Leadership Seminar

August 1-August 2, 2025

Eagles Pass, Texas

The 2025 Summer Leadership Seminar was attended by State officers, State Committee members, Texas Table Directors, officers and members and guests from the Piedras Negras, Mexico Table.

On, Friday, **Dr. Rosa Maria Vida**, PARTT State Director welcomed all the attendees. The Biennium Theme established by the Director is *Women and Children Gift to the World*. Table projects were highlighted as examples of the creativity and generosity of each Table. She announced that as part of the activities for the upcoming State Convention in April, the outgoing and incoming State Directors will donate *“A Gift to the World Project”* to an agency who were recipients selected by one of the Texas Tables.



Rosa Maria Vida went over the Timeline for 2025-2026 which was included in the folder given to each attendee. Table members were encourage to conduct an event for the Alliance Education for Peace Activity and encouraged to submit photos to the Alliance.

In addition, members were encouraged to submit their information for:

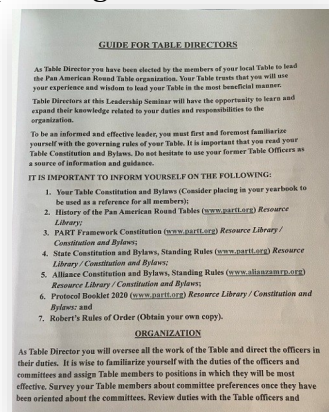
- The fall and winter editions of the **Panamericana Texana**,
- Make plans to attend the **State Convention** which will take place on April 9-12 in San Antonio, Texas at the Holiday Inn Riverwalk,
- Submit **nominations** for the State officers and State Standing Committees.

Rosa Maria Vida also presented to each attendee a **“Guide for Table Directors”**. The Guide details the purpose, procedures and protocol of the Pan American Round Tables. It also includes information available in the Resource library which is included in the State website, www.pardt.org.

Topics include:

- Organization
- Correspondence
- Meetings
- Minutes
- Programs
- Directors Notebook
- Pan American Countries
- Organization of American States
- Finance
- Filing the IRS 990

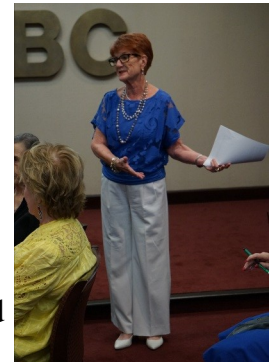
- PARTT State Conventions
- Table Officers
- Yearbooks
- State Nominating Committee
- State Scrapbook
- Archives
- Pan Americana Texana
- State Scholarships
- Table Autonomy
- Parliamentary Procedure





Ana P. Flores, State Parliamentarian, gave a presentation on Parliamentary Procedures. Topics included:

- Resource information available on the PARTT website,
- Description of Robert’s Rules of Order,
- A sample of a meeting agenda,
- Tips on formal rules in the Bylaws and
- Standing Rules and a glossary of terms.



Sara Saldana, Edinburg Table Director, described PARTT Protocol for visits to Tables by the State Director.

There is a separate protocol guideline for visits from the Alliance director and Alliance dignitaries.

Table members were encouraged to review the *Protocol Manual which* can be found on the PARTT website.

Dr. Vida presented on the *Responsibilities of Table Members*. They included being familiar with:

- The history of the local Table, State and Alliance,
- Governing documents and
- Table Yearbook.

She also stated that members should participate in:

- Meetings and Table activities
- Pay dues and fees,
- Mentor new members,
- Share responsibilities of leadership and
- support each other.



Kimberly Alexander, Past Laredo Table Director spoke on **Building Membership**. She presented a Membership Survey and discussed how every Table has their own unique way of growing and retaining membership. She described strategies and techniques that Tables may use in keeping members who are active and involved. .

Amalia Rodriguez-Mendoza immediate Past Alliance Zone 1 Director gave on presentation on *“The Vision, The Dream: A Reality”*. She provided a brief history of the Alliance, it’s structure, Mission for 2025 and the Alliance’s goal to emphasize unity, leadership and support.



Dr. Vida also distributed the Directory that includes contact information for State Officers, Committee members and Table Directors.

Bert Bas Blackburn, State Treasurer provided reminders for financial reporting responsibilities for Tables.

Raquel Oliva, Publications Committee Chairperson described procedures for submitting information and photos for the Panamericana Texana.



Dinner was held at the "Benjamin" event center that evening where Seminar participants and community leaders listened to a presentation by the Fort Duncan Museum. A special recognition was given to individuals who assisted in organizing the logistics for the seminar and visit to the Pendencia ranch the birthplace Mrs. Griswold: Lana Harper, Bryan Harper, Elva Benevides, Ana Laura Castillon, Alicia Charles and Gichi Perez (Eagle Pass Table).





La Pendencia Ranch, the birthplace of Florence T. Terry Griswold

A highlight of the Leadership Conference was a visit to **La Pendencia Ranch**, the birthplace of Florence Terry who was born on May 28, 1875, to Louisa James (née Lamkin) and Judge William Theodore Terry. **La Pendencia** ranch is located between Eagle Pass and Carrizo Springs, Texas. Participants rode on a chartered bus and private vehicles to the ranch which was over 30 miles from Eagle Pass. Interestingly, the bus and car caravan passed the entrance to the ranch and it took a while for all the participants to arrive at the ranch. A floral wreath was placed at the hand dug well which is the only structure still standing at the ranch from when Florence and her family lived at the ranch..



In Memoriam
Frances Vannoy Metcalf
(1928-2025)



Past State Director **Frances Vannoy Metcalf** passed away on May 9, 2025. As a member of the Pan American Round Table she served in many capacities. She was the State Director from 1987-1989, State Treasurer, Alliance Treasurer and McAllen Table Director from 1981-1983. Her mother, Kaleta Lyons Vannoy was one of the founding members of the McAllen Table in 1934. In recent years, Mrs. Metcalf retired to the Army Residence Community of San Antonio. She transferred her membership to PART San Antonio and was named an honorary member of PART McAllen.



On July 21st., funeral services were held at the Rio Grande Valley State Veterans Cemetery where she was buried alongside her husband. State Director Rosa Maria Vida, Ana Flores, State Parliamentarian, Myrna Rodriguez, PART McAllen Director and Raquel Oliva, McAllen Table Past Director attended the funeral services. Rosa Maria Vida presented the family with a sympathy card expressing condolences on behalf of the PARTT and informing them that a donation would be made to the State scholarship fund in their Mother's memory. She thanked them for their mother's service for all the years she lent her leadership skills to move our organization forward. Myrna Rodriguez spoke about how Mrs. Metcalf had left a lasting impact on the members of the McAllen Table and displayed her photo in the current Table Yearbook where

Mrs. Metcalf is listed as an honorary member. Raquel Oliva spoke on how there are countless news stories and photos in the Table's archives that highlighted Mrs. Metcalf involvement and leadership. She stated that she was a woman who had made an impact in her life and had many friends who had not forgotten her.

The family provided generous donations in memory of Mrs. Metcalf to the State and the McAllen Table.

