



PANAMERICANA TEXANA

Winter 2025 Vol.43, No. 2

MESSAGE FROM THE STATE DIRECTOR



Amazingly its 2025, how did we get here so quickly? Let me begin by wishing you a very Happy New Year. We are entering an exciting time, the second half of the first year of the biennium. I struggle to find the adequate words to express my heartfelt appreciation for the beautiful invitations to so many of your events, meetings and gatherings that have been held by the Texas Tables. I have been treated royally and have received lovely gifts that I will treasure always. All of you hold a special place in my heart. The memories that I have formed with all of you I will treasure always.

I want to also begin by expressing my warmest appreciation to all the Tables that have taken the theme that I chose for the 2024-26 biennium, **“Women and**

Children, a Gift to the World” to heart and have made donations to community agencies on behalf of your Tables and their members. Some of the donations have been to food banks, pregnancy and infant centers, others to women shelters or immigrant camps but the important feature is that the donations have benefitted women and children who are in distress just as our founder did in 1916 when the San Antonio Table was organized to assist the immigrants coming from Mexico.

I also would like to take this opportunity to point out that next year I will ask every member of all the Tables from across Texas to donate \$1 or whatever they desire. These funds will be collected and awarded to one of the community agencies that received funds from our Tables and whose name will be drawn at the first event of the 2026 92nd PARTT State Convention in San Antonio, Texas. Hopefully the incoming 2026-28 PARTT State Director and I will travel to that agency to make the presentation of the funds that were collected from our PART members from across the state. Please join me in making this event a most successful one.

The first PARTT Board meeting for the biennium will be hosted by the Corpus Christi Table on March 21st and 22nd. All Board members and state committee chairs are encouraged to make plans to attend this very important meeting. We are all anxious to hear about the activities that have taken place under your leadership. Marie Adams, PARTT 2nd Associate Director, is chair for the event and she will soon be sending out the registration form and the hotel information. I hope to see all of you there.

Please enjoy this beautiful 2nd edition of the 2024-26 Panamericana Texana. A big gratitude hug goes out to all the Table directors and publicity chairs who submitted photos with comments and to Raquel Oliva who put it all together making the 2nd edition a successful publication. I hope to visit you at your Table meetings soon.

One for All and All for One,
Rosa María R. Vida
State Director



Pan American Round Tables of Texas 2024-2026 Theme
“Women and Children, a Gift to the World”

State Standing Committees



Rosa Maria Vida, PhD

State Director

Laredo

Serves as chair of the:

- Board of Directors
- Executive Committee
- Board of Trustees of the PARTT Florence Terry Griswold Scholarship and Endowment Funds

The Board of Directors consists of the State Officers, the Chair of Standing Committees, and the Immediate Past State Director. They will conduct all affairs of the organization in the biennium between conventions.

The Executive Committee consists of the State Director, the First Associate Director, the State Treasurer and the FTG Scholarship Chair. The State Director serves as the Chair. This committee functions as a permanent secretariat between Conventions. The committee meets with the Chair in selecting the awardees of the Scholarship I, II and the Dawson Scholarship when awarded.

The Board of Trustees of the Pan American Round Tables of Texas Florence Terry Griswold Scholarship and Endowment Funds consists of the State Director who serves as the Chairman, the State Treasurer, who shall be the Treasurer, the First Associate Director, the Immediate Past State Director, and the Chairman of the Pan American Round Tables of Texas Florence Terry Griswold Scholarship Committee. The Board has the general power to administer the affairs of the Fund and to formulate and conduct the policies of the Pan American Round Tables of Texas Florence Terry Griswold Scholarship Committee. The board will meet once a year prior to the State Board meeting and submit reports to the State Board.



Extension Committee Sandra Maxwell, Chair

1st Associate Director
Area C
Brownsville 1

The Extension Committee consists of the four Associate Directors with the First Associate Director as Chair. The Associate Directors will provide information and publicity in their respective areas. They will visit all the Tables in their areas at least once during their term of office. This committee submits the names of experienced members from their respective Areas who will serve as a member and as an alternate to the Nomination Committee. The role of the Nominations Committee is to solicit nominations of members to elected for State Offices at the State Convention.



Electronic Communications Diana S. Peña, Chair

Webmaster,
Laredo

The Electronic Communications Committee maintains the electronic communication and information system for the Pan American Round Tables of Texas including the web site and email communication system.



Protocol Committee

Sara C. Saldaña, Chair
Edinburg

The Protocol Committee maintains an up-to-date protocol manual. The Protocol Committee informs the Tables of requirements, as stated in the Protocol Manual, of forthcoming visits by officials from the Alliance or State. During the State Convention, the Committee Chair outlines the procedure for voting and the correct placement for seating assignments for the Board and delegates. The Protocol Committee Chair informs the delegates on the process for voting which will be used during the convention.



Archives Committee Ceci M. Mulvihill, Chair

El Paso

The Archives Committee is responsible for collecting and submitting the State organizations' archives to the John Peace Library of the University of Texas at San Antonio, Texas

State Standing Committees



Publications Committee
Raquel Oliva, Chair
TEXANA - Editor
McAllen

The Publications Committee publishes the PANAMERICANA TEXANA. The Chairperson acts as Chief Editor of the bulletin. Committee members assist in collecting information and photos of Table activities. The committee also shares news of Texas Table activities with the Alliance of Pan American Round Tables.



Resolution Committee
Kathy Ehmann-Clardy, Chair
Ft. Worth

The Resolution Committee receives and prepares all resolutions that the committee presents before the delegates and attendees during the State Convention. The Committee distributes the resolutions to the Tables, one month prior to the Convention. The committee presents the Courtesy Resolutions from the floor at the State convention at the request of the State Director.



Long Range Planning
Susan Mayorga Huston, Chair
Houston

The Long-Range Planning Committee reviews the structure and goals of all the Tables and makes recommendations that will strengthen the organization at the State and local level.



Finance Committee
Bert Bas Blackburn
Treasurer
El Paso

The Finance Committee assists the Treasurer when requested and presents a budget to the State Board immediately preceding the State



**Board Advisory Committee ,
Grievance Resolution
Committee**
Margot S. Arévalo González
Immediate Past State Director
Edinburg

The Advisory Committee consists of all Past State Directors who will serve as non-voting members of the Board of Directors. The Advisory Committee renders advice and counsel on issues referred to them when the Board is unable to reach a decision or refers issues that involve operational standards that the organization has based its policies on. The committee assists in composing the Grievance Resolution Committee.

The Grievance Resolution Committee is comprised of the Advisory Committee and the Executive Committee. Grievance Resolution addresses unresolved disputes submitted in writing by a Table member or a member of the State Board. The Immediate Past State Director serves as Chair.



Revisions Committee
Ana P. Flores, Chair
Laredo

The Revisions Committee prepares all revisions to the Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules of the State organization.



Scholarship Committee
Carmen Guerra, Chair
Austin

The Scholarship Committee is responsible for screening and selecting candidates for three (3) categories of Scholarships. The Board of Trustees of the Pan American Round Tables of Texas approves the selection of the candidates during the State Board Meetings.

Ad-Hoc Committees



Membership Committee
Kimberly Alexander, Chair
Laredo

The **Membership Committee** assists Table Directors in the development of a new member recruitment plan when a Table is interested in recruiting new members. This committee is crucial in aiding Tables who have lost enrollment and are interested in attracting new members.



Environmental Committee
Alicia Charles, Chair
Eagle Pass

The **Environmental Committee** is responsible for bringing environmental issues to the attention of Tables affected by conditions that could impact their local communities and are of interest to members.

PARTT Board Meeting, March 21-22

The Board of Directors and Committee Chairs are invited to attend PARTT Board Meeting on March 21-22, 2025, in Corpus Christi, Texas. Reports are to be emailed by March 17th to PARTT State Recording Secretary Letty Ramon. Please bring 3 copies of the report and be prepared to give a 3 minute presentation.

- Friday Reception and Board Dinner, 7 pm, 215 Louisiana Ave.
- Saturday State Board Meeting, 9 am - 2 pm, 3700 Ocean Drive



Alliance of Pan American Round Tables Documentary



For the past two years, Austin Table Members Rose Ann Reeser, Chair of Alliance Archives Committee, Sylvia Williams, Immediate past Alliance Director General and Janet Roberts, Board member of the Nettie Lee Benson Latin American Collection at the University of Texas Austin, have been working on the documentary “**La Alianza: A history of the Alliance of Pan American Roundtables told by its long time Members**”. In 2024, the Alliance of Pan American Round Tables celebrated 80 years of working for peace through education and friendship in the countries of the Americas. The Alliance serves as the umbrella organization that unites 180 Tables across the Western Hemisphere. The documentary provides a brief overview of the Alliance of Pan American Round Tables, its history and its contributions in promoting education, understanding of neighboring countries and cultures, and environmental concerns.

The committee conducted virtual interviews with past Directors General of the Alliance, the current Director General and Committee Chairs. The Committee collaborated with professional filmmakers from Veracruz, Mexico. The documentary, raw footage of the interviews and additional written submissions by the interviewees will be housed with the Alliance archives in the Benson Latin American collection. All PARTT members will have access to the electronic video documentary and the additional materials will be available to the public from the library upon request. A links to the documentary will be made available soon.



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PARTT.org



Austin-A

January 7, 2025 (L-R) Table Director Marian Barber, Mary Margaret Coyle, and Treasurer Mary Catherine Miller get our first meeting of the year off to a good start.



December 19, 2024 (L-R) Nancy Bowles and Esther Díaz wrapped books at Rodriguez Elementary for the Gift Away Books Program.



December 3, 2024 (L-R) Joni Ragle and Martha Chavez led us in The Collect, Joni in English and Martha in Spanish.



December 3, 2024 (back row) Deloise Vasquez and Edna Santos - (seated L-R) Joni Ragle, Mary Gawron, and Irma Gutiérrez had a blast belting out Spanish Christmas carols.



December 3, 2024 (L-R) Marianne McKim, Kathy Sowash, Rosie Reyna in hat behind Maria Zuniga, Rachel Ruiz, Deborah Chavez, and Loren Schragger-Paeglis with a Christmas tree backdrop.

Conroe-A

The October 2024 luncheon hosted by Jewel Manders. Members Gloria Riddle and Riki Dewey at the October luncheon.



Members Woody Hearn and Jo Chesney at the October luncheon.



October, 2024 birthday celebrants, Riki Dewey and Mary Lou Sartore.

November 2024 meeting. Sue Pilgrim our door prize winner.

December 2024 meeting. Members with gifts collected for foster children.



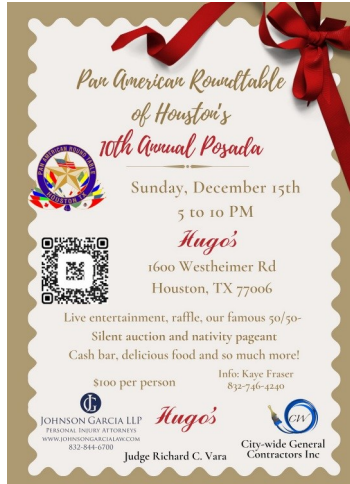
Group photo of members present.



January 2025 meeting at Saltgrass Restaurant. Riki Dewey, Annette Ferrell, Vickie Stewart and Jean Heasley.

Houston-A

The December meeting of the Houston Table was held at Hugo's restaurant. Volunteers reenacted "Las Posadas". It is a celebration and a traditional Latin American observance that reenacts the search that Mary and Joseph experienced trying to find shelter as they traveled from Nazareth to Bethlehem before Christ was born.



Judge Essie, PART-HOUSTON Director and Hugo Ortega, executive chef/co-owner of five of Houston's top restaurants are surrounded by Posada actors who joined in to make our Table's 2024 Posada a success in many ways.

Beeville-B

The Beeville Table assigns each member with a country for two years and when the roll is called the member presents a brief report on news about the country they represent.



Christmas Luncheon: More than 24 women were in attendance.



The Beeville Table's traditional Christmas luncheon featured a beautiful Nativity set that were part of the Christmas decorations.

Pan American Day

Pan American Day is celebrated on April 14th to commemorate the First International Conference of American States, which met in Washington DC between October 2, 1889, to April 14, 1890. It later gave way to the Pan American Union which became the current Organization of American States (OAS).

The OAS was founded on April 30, 1948, with the goal to strengthen peace and security, prevent possible causes of difficulties, seek solutions to any political, judicial and economic problems, limit conventional weapons, promote economic, cultural and social development. The USA observes Pan American Day by Presidential proclamation.

The Alliance of Pan American Round Tables became officially registered as a Civil Society with the Organization of American States (OAS) in 2001



Corpus Christi-B

October 2024: Presentation on the History of the Pan American Round Tables-Celebrating the First 100 Years.



November Meeting: Amado M. Pena's South Texas Legacy.



December Christmas Party- Costumes of the Americas



Eagle Pass - B

September 2024
Pan American Round Table of Eagle Pass Members attending the September 2024 business meeting.



Founder's Day 2024 (October)

Pan American Round Table members and guests gather for a photo after celebrating our Founder, Florence Griswold.



Day of the Dead 2024

PART Eagle Pass members celebrate Day of the Dead. Members from Left to Right: Lourdes Oviedo, Joan Garcia, Lana Harper, Past State Director and Dora Libson.



November 2024

Members of the Pan American Round Table presented a certificate of appreciation to the City of Eagle Pass represented by Aide Castano.

PART member, Lucy Mancha presented her program on the history of the Mexican Mariachi with a special performance by the Mariachi Relampago.



Holiday Home Tour 2024 (December)

Pan American Round Table Members gather to celebrate a successful Holiday Home Tour Scholarship Fundraiser and Christmas Posada. Holiday Home tour Members Belinda Benavidez, Lana Harper, Past State Director and Ysela Valderama greet guests at one of the homes on the Holiday Home Tour.



Laredo-B



The October's business meeting roared with excitement. The theme was animal print attire. We celebrated Founders Day, honoring our organization's roots with an inspiring presentation. Participants were also treated to a fascinating presentation on Panama.



The 2024 December business meeting was a festive extravaganza! It kicked off with a Jingle and Mingle holiday celebration, where laughter and holiday cheer filled the air. Members got into the spirit with a fun Christmas trivia game, testing their holiday knowledge, and then unleashed their creativity by decorating gingerbread houses that were as sweet as



they were impressive. But the magic didn't end there, the Table made a heartwarming donation to Casa La Esperanza, honoring the incredible impact of our State Director, Dr. Rosa Maria Vida. It was an event filled with joy, generosity, and the true spirit of the season!



January 2025 kicked off with a Game Day themed business meeting that was packed with excitement



and energy! Everyone showed up in their best Game Day attire, ready to play! The meeting was filled with a thrilling Peru presentation that dove into the fascinating role of hats in Peruvian culture, exploring the history, symbolism, and vibrant styles that make hats such an important part of their heritage. But the real action came when members split into teams for a high-speed challenge: each team was given a 100-piece puzzle to complete in just 20 minutes! The competition was fierce, the clock was ticking, and the teamwork was unstoppable. It was a kickoff to the year that no one will forget!

San Antonio-B



The San Antonio Table Delegates to Alliance of Pan American Roundtables International Convention in Cancun, México. October 16-19, 2024. (L-R) Maida Perkins-Projects Chair Jeanne Koplant-Nominating Chair, Sandra Brown - Table Director.



NOVEMBER 2024 Meeting
Speaker: Cappy Lawton, restaurateur and cookbook author
Topic: Curating an Enchilada Cookbook

Mr. Lawton co-authored with Mr. Chris Dunn, a cookbook entitled: Enchiladas: Aztec to Tex-Mex. Mr. Lawton is a well-known restaurant owner in San Antonio with several different venues. His restaurant, La Fonda on Main is well known for excellent Mexican cuisine. (L-R) Left Cappy Lawton, restaurateur and cookbook author, Mary Lanoue, Custodian, Sandra Brown-Director, Diana Durbin- Immediate past president.



SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATION- December 5, 2024 at the San Antonio College Empowerment Center. Members met with Dr. Helen Vera, center, to present a check for \$3,000 to cover a year's tuition for three non-traditional students at San Antonio College. Two of the recipients are Bertha Garcia of San Antonio (4th from the right) and Mehreen Ali, a native of Pakistan, (2nd from the right) with their advisors. The third recipient, not pictured, is Vanessa Benavides from San Antonio. Dr. Vera heads the SAC Empowerment Center, which helps non-traditional students overcome obstacles to continue their education. From left are PART-SA board members Mary Lanoue, Sybil Howell, Sylvia Bologo and Director Sandra Brown.

Alamo/San Juan/Pharr - C



P.A.R.T. of Alamo-San Juan-Pharr attended the Edinburg Table, "Christmas Scholarship Luncheon" on December 11th. (L-R) Gela Garcia. Table director, Maria Elena Corona and Alice De Leon. Attending the San Benito Scholarship Luncheon held on December 14 are (L-R) are A.S.J.P Table members, Maria Elena Corona, Gloria Cantu and Bertha Garza Elizondo from the Brownsville Table.



Members from the Alamo-San Juan-Pharr Table attend the McAllen Table's "Mother & Daughter Luncheon" on December 17th. Standing is Maria Elena Corona, (L-R seated) Alice de

Leon, guest Corina Murillo, and Mary Villarreal, McAllen Table member.

Table members held their monthly meeting on January 9th, 2025. They enjoyed an interesting program on Venezuela presented by Victoria Lored.



Brownsville I - C



PART 1
Brownsville members attended the XXXVII Convención bienal de la Alianza de las mesas Redondas in Cancún, Q. Roo on

Oct 16-19, 2024. (L-R) Bertha Garza Elizondo, Director, Isabel Vezzetti, Sandra Maxwell, First Assoc. Dir.-Area C, and Amelia Yznaga.

November: Guest speaker the Honorable Judith Arrieta Munguia, Consul of Mexico in Brownsville presented a study program "Mexicana Emprede" designed to help immigrant women become business entrepreneurs.



November: In commemoration of "Day of the Dead", photos of deceased Brownsville Table Directors, were displayed on a Day of the Dead altar.

New Member Installation: Bertha Garza Elizondo, Director, welcomed new member Corina Caballero on December 6, 2024, at La Escondida..



December Christmas Celebration: The Brownsville Table donated diapers and wipes to teenage mothers and their babies attending Brownsville ISD Lincoln Park Alternative High School for Pregnant teens and teen parents.

Edinburg - C

The Pan American Round Table of Edinburg held a "Potluck Luncheon" in November where members were encouraged to bring a dish to share with each other along with a recipe swap. They also met their goal of collecting an abundant amount of canned goods for the RGV Food Bank.



PART-Edinburg celebrated their Christmas Scholarship luncheon in December by highlighting a tribute to Dr Seuss' "How The Grinch Stole Christmas". Members of Nikki Rowe High Schools' RazzMatazz Dance Group entertained guests with lively performances of classic holiday songs. Sara C. Saldana, Table Director and Josie C. Cappadona captivated the attendees with their amusing rendition of Dr. Seuss' renown children's book. "The sounds of how the Grinch stole Christmas".



Students from the Nikkie Rowe High School RazzMa Tazz group provided an outstanding performance during the Christmas Scholarship Luncheon.

'Tis the season to be Merry! Edinburg members along with state officers participated in the long awaited Rio Grande City/Roma Table's Christmas Posadas held in Roma.



McAllen - C

In December, the McAllen Table held its annual Christmas Mother and Daughter Luncheon. The theme was "The Three Maji". Annette Franz, Table Director introduced Angie Ochoa, who spoke on behalf of State Director, Dr. Rosa María Vida. Kathy Ehmann-Clardy, Alliance Zone 1 Director, Fort Worth Table addressed the group on behalf of the Alliance. Among the honored guests was Bertha Alicia Hinojosa de Rodríguez, Alliance Junta Tesorera, from the Miguel Alemán Table. The event held at McAllen Country Club and was attended by 162 Table Members, State Officers and guests from the Rio Grande Valley, Laredo and Mexico Tables.



Congratulations to the Fundraising Committee who raised \$5,800 during the December Scholarship raffle. (L-R) Ava Gutierrez, Laura Gutierrez and Committee Chairpersons Sony Rego and Laura Warren.



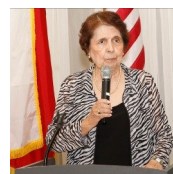
Attending was Honored guest Kathy Ehmann-Clardy, Alliance Zone 1 Director, from the Fort Worth Table. McAllen Table members enjoying the luncheon and a photo op with Santa Claus.



Country Programs

In November 2024 Ofelia Estevis and Dalinda González Alcantar presented on the country of Uruguay.

At the January 2025 meeting, Yliana Esparza and Evelyn Cano presented on the country of Venezuela.



Ofelia Estevez



Evelyn Cano, Annette Franz and Yliana Esparza

Rio Grande City-Roma -C

Student guests attended the October meeting to share their high school involvement and post secondary goals.



(L-R) Melissa Muñis from Grulla High School, Priscilla Peña from Rio Grande City High School, and K'Lee López from ECHS.



(L-R) Students Ruben Gomez, Isabella Rios, and Cesar López from Roma High School



During December, the Rio Grande City-Roma Table celebrated the Christmas posada "A Gift to the World". State Director Rosa Maia Vida, PhD was the keynote speaker at 2025 Rio Grande City-Roma Christmas Posada.

Table Officers (L-R) María D. Cavazos, Parliamentarian, Zulma Sandoval, Historian, Nydia Benítez, Treasurer, Soila Pérez, Associate Director, Nereyda Guerra, Director, Leida Reyes, Corresponding Secretary, not pictured, Idani Salinas, Recording Secretary and Ana Ramos, Custodian.



**Rio Grande City-Roma Table members
2025 Christmas Posada "Gift to the World"**



Past State Director, Margot Arevalo González, RGC-R Table Director, Nereyda Guerra, RGC-R Member, Dalinda Peña, RGC-R Associate Director, Soila Perez at McAllen Mother-Daughter Christmas Luncheon.

Past State Director, Margot Arevalo González, RGC-R Table Director, Nereyda Guerra, RGC-R Member, Dalinda Peña, RGC-R Associate Director, Soila Perez at McAllen Mother-Daughter Christmas Luncheon.

San Benito - C



The San Benito Table Christmas Luncheon was held on December 14, 2024. Several tables from the Rio Grande Valley were in attendance. The Honorable Mayor Norma Sepulveda of Harlingen was our guest speaker. Opening prayer delivered by Rev Dr. Leslie Gonzales.

Dr. Rosa Maria Vida, State Director was the keynote speaker at the San Benito Christmas Luncheon.



Table members attended the Christmas luncheon and Posada of the Rio Grande City /Roma Table. (L-R) Director Angie Gonzales, Elvia Sanchez, Sandra Maxwell, Area C Assoc. Director, Noelia Davila and Rachel Gomez.



Angie Gonzalez, Table Director attended the McAllen Table's Christmas Luncheon. (L-R) BB Crane, Kathy Ehmann-Clardy, Alliance Zone I Director, Mariella Gorena and Angie Gonzalez.

January: The first meeting of the year was held at the Harlingen Country Club. San Benito and the Brownsville 1 Tables started planning for the Lower Valley Observance Day.



El Paso - D



In November the Table held the Scholarship Recipients luncheon Mariana Balsiger, Zarina Lyle, Marisa Rogers and Nicole Schiff.

Also attending the luncheon were (L-R) Dolores Amador, Armida Stevens, Susan Elias – Assi, Giles Weisenberger, and Katy McIntyre, Rosa González, Susana Rodarte, Margarita González, and Irene Fierro.



Scholarship Recipients luncheon Dr. Stephen Crites, dean of UTEP Graduate School at our scholarship recipients luncheon.



Attending the Pan-American holiday scholarship tea were Nicole Schiff and Sherrita Garland, Olivia Calderon Hashim and Sydney Burton.

Ft. Worth - D



Christmas meeting front row L-R: Anna O'Day, Kathy Ehmann-Clardy, Yaneth Arteaga, Leticia Clay, Grace Villanueva; back L-R: Egleйда Perez, FW Table Director Laura Escobedo, Guest Elvia, Beth Dorcas, Magda Portillo, Rosa Paulson, Cheryl Ehmann, Kris Clay, and JoAnn Jensen.



Fort Worth I members and guests at the January meeting. (Front row L-R): Rosa Paulson, Kathy Ehmann-Clardy, Director Laura Escobedo, and guests Dianna Cabello, and Celia De Gogeochea* (Back row L-R): Anelia Banda, Beth Dorcas, Grace Villanueva, Judge Bob McCoy, JoAnn Jensen, Melida Isern, Rosa Paulson, and guest Emilia Jensen. * (*Guests visiting from Argentina)

Laura Escobedo was recently selected as the new Fort Worth Table Director.



At the January meeting Fort Worth Table Director Laura Escobedo presenting a gift to guest speaker Judge Bob McCoy who gave a presentation on Fort Worth history.