

Around the Table



Pan American Round Table of San Antonio

October Meeting

Friday October 17, 2025 - 11:30 a.m.

Silo @ 1604 • 434 North Loop 1604 W



Dr. Gerald Poyo

Our first meeting of the year will feature the distinguished history professor, Dr. Gerald Poyo, speaking about the Hispanic origins of San Antonio in the 18th Century. Dr. Poyo has been a history professor at St. Mary's University since 1992, and most recently was O'Connor Chair for the History of Hispanic Texas and the Southwest. The author of several books, he draws upon his Cuban heritage, his growing-up years in South America and his academic journeys in the United States to guide his teaching and research. He holds a bachelor's degree from the University of South Carolina, master's degree from the

University of Texas at Austin, and PhD from the University of Florida.

Hostesses: Sandra Brown and Mary Lanoue

We'll be having our first "White Elephant" auction at this meeting, so please be prepared to bid on your favorite items to benefit the Scholarship Fund.

Please mail your \$32 check for the luncheon to Treasurer Sybil Howell, 12613 Hunters Chase 78230, or let her know if you plan to attend and pay at the door.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

From Sandra Brown, Director

We have lots of new things coming up this year! First, we are implementing an opportunity for our members to become familiar with the countries of the **Organization of American States**. Each member has been assigned a country that she is responsible to become familiar with. You will be asked to present a brief country report at one of our monthly meetings.

"The OAS is the premier regional forum for political discussion, policy analysis and decision-making in Western Hemisphere affairs. ... they (OAS) seek to build co-operation among states and advance a common regional agenda on democratic governance, human rights, multidimensional governance, and sustainable development."



Please research your country and be able to provide the following information: Geographic location, the capital, a major city, population, type of government, and a fun fact.

I encourage you to visit www.oas.org to learn more about this topic. Enjoy your travels!

Also, we will continue to raise money for our Scholarship Fund by having **White Elephant Silent Auctions** at each meeting. The price of the tickets will depend on the item. Most likely, tickets will range from \$3 - \$5. If you want to increase your chances of winning the item, you simply buy more tickets. We have some items already donated by our generous members. Please start looking around your home for donations to this worthwhile project. We will probably auction off anywhere from 5 to 10 items at each meeting.

Operation Warm Hug — Let's get them a jacket!



Pan American Round Table of San Antonio is excited to announce the launch of a meaningful new initiative, "Operation Warm Hug," led by our Community Projects Chair, Maida Perkins.

This project will provide much-needed jackets for underserved students at

Perales Elementary School in the Edgewood District, ensuring that children in our community are kept warm and comfortable during the colder months.

In the past, we have supported children through collections of socks and books. This year, we are shifting our focus to jackets—an essential item that will have a direct impact on students' well-being and confidence.

When asked what the children really need, a Perales faculty member replied: "Jackets." Pressed for details, she described basic, fleece-lined hoodie jackets with

zippers. All children's sizes, plus Small and Medium adult sizes, are needed.

How You Can Help:

- Purchase new or gently used navy or black jackets from Walmart, Target, Old Navy, or children's resale shop.
- Needed sizes include adult medium and small as well as youth small, medium, and large.

Your generous contributions will not only bring warmth but also show these children that they are cared for and supported. Through this project, we proudly carry out the mission of PARTT's "Women and Children, a Gift to the World" Projects.



Together, let's open our hearts, join hands, and make a difference—one jacket at a time. These jackets are not expensive. Please buy a jacket or two and bring to one of our meetings in October, November or December.

2026 CONVENTION UPDATE

Thank you Brownsville PART Sisters

We received our second donation to help defray expenses of the upcoming State Convention. A check for \$250 arrived this week! Thank you so much to our Brownsville PART Sisters for this generous contribution toward the success of our convention. I communicated with Bertha Elizondo, Brownsville Table Chair, and was delighted that their Table voted to approve this donation. We look forward to seeing them in April 2026.

Thank you Rio Grande City PART Sisters

We received another donation check for \$250 from Rio Grande City PART. Thanks to Table Director Zulma Sandoval and our PART Sisters! We are so grateful for their generous support.

Thank you Beeville PART Sisters

Our nearby Beeville PART Sisters have made a generous donation of \$250 toward the success of our convention. We are so grateful for their generous support. Thank you to Malinda Cowen, Beeville Table Director, for standing with us.

Checking out Convention Hotel



Traveling from Laredo, State Director Rosa Maria Vida and her colleague Ana Flores met with the Convention Steering Committee to review event spaces at Holiday Inn Riverwalk. From left are Mary Lanoue, Ana Flores, Sandra Brown, Dr. Vida, Sharon Gee and Jeanne Koplan.

A Busy Summer for PART-SA



BOARD MEETING. Semi-annual Board Meeting was held Sept. 10 in training room at the Big Brothers & Big Sisters of South Texas. At left, hard-working board members (l to r) Maida Perkins, Diana Durbin, Jeanne Koplan and Annie Flores. Above, Peggy Betts, Mary Lanoue, Bea Dracoulis, Sandra Brown and Sybil Howell.



LEADERSHIP SEMINAR. Two PART-SA members traveled to Eagle Pass Aug. 1 for the State Leadership Seminar. State Director Rosa Maria Vida planned the two-day event to prepare PART leaders across the state for the year ahead. At left, Sharon Gee and Peggy Betts stand with Dr. Vida at the seminar podium. On the second day, participants boarded a bus and headed for the birthplace of our founder, Florence Terry Griswold. The only thing remaining of her homeplace is a well, shown above, on a private ranch where hardy PART leaders braved the sun and brush to place a wreath and pay respects.

Building Unity, Growing Together, and Strengthening Our Table

As we begin a new season of fellowship and service, we are reminded of the importance of each member's contribution to the vitality of our Table. The Pan American Round Table has always thrived because of the dedication, enthusiasm, and active participation of its members. Each of us plays a part in keeping our Table strong, united, and forward-looking.



American Round Table firsthand. By extending an invitation, you help ensure that the spirit of our organization continues for generations to come.

Active Participation and Attendance

When we gather for meetings, we not only conduct the important business of our organization—we also nurture friendships, exchange ideas, and grow in our understanding of Pan American unity. Your presence matters! Attending meetings regularly helps us maintain momentum and ensures that every voice is heard. Let's challenge ourselves this year to be present, engaged, and supportive of one another.

Living Our Mission of Unity

Each of us contributes to unity in our own way—by extending a kind word, offering encouragement, or lending a helping hand. These small acts strengthen our sisterhood. Consider how you can share your talents and energy this year to build connections and support your fellow members.

Recruiting New Members

Our Table is strongest when we grow together. We encourage each of you to invite a friend to join us at a meeting. As a special welcome, we will provide a complimentary lunch for your guest so they can experience the warmth and fellowship of the Pan

Volunteering for the State Convention

The upcoming State Convention offers us an opportunity to shine as hosts and contributors. Volunteers are needed in many areas, and your participation—whether big or small—will make a meaningful difference. This is a chance not only to support our organization but also to deepen friendships as we work side by side toward a successful event.

Knowing Our History and Objectives

As members, we are part of a proud tradition that began with the vision of Florence Terry Griswold in 1916. The Pan American Round Table movement was founded to foster mutual knowledge, understanding, and friendship among the women of the Americas. Knowing our history and objectives helps us better appreciate our role today and inspires us to carry forward the legacy entrusted to us.

Together, let us renew our commitment to unity, growth, and service. By attending, participating, inviting, and volunteering, we strengthen our Table and ensure that the Pan American Round Table remains a vibrant, welcoming, and purposeful organization.

—Sandra Brown