



2016-2018

ALIANZA DE MESAS REDONDAS PANAMERICANAS

ALLIANCE OF PAN AMERICAN ROUND TABLES

Sociedad Registrada por la OEA/Registered Civil Society by The O A S

Nhury Gutiérrez Vilches

ALLIANCE DIRECTOR GENERAL

Pirque, 17 de Julio 2017

C I R C U L A R N° 5

Distinguished Presidium

Dear Pan American friends:

It is a great honor for me to address you and present my First Report of my term as Director General. I remind you that the theme selected for the two years is "United in Training for the Formation of New Leaders".

My first activity was the Celebration of Friendship Day, organized by the Viña del Mar Table, which had the attendance of members of the Tables of Chile. It was a beautiful day of friendship and sisterhood, a perfect excuse to greet the Director General.

On January 2017, I attended the III Board and Advisory Council Meeting of the Republic of México. I arrived at the airport in the wee hours of the morning, and surprise, the Chairman of the Protocol Committee Miriam Hurtado was waiting for me. Thank you, friend, for your efforts. On Mexican soil, I experimented for the first time what would be a constant during the two years in the Alliance: to see my flag fluttering to the chords of the National Anthem. It was very moving the first time, thank you Mexican friends.

I was able to verify how the Tables have increased their membership, the amount of scholarships, money collected, much more than previous totals.

I would like to thank the Organizing Committee of the Puebla de los Angeles Table, to Claudia Torres Pages, for the courtesies and correct organization of the event, beginning with the Opening Ceremony which had the participation of the Magisterial Choir that interpreted beautiful arias and international repertoire. Even now I can hear the melody of "how far I am of the land where I was born...."

The business sessions were well conducted by its President Nora Iris Cantú de Valdes with very interesting results obtained. Great harmony and camaraderie was shared among those present.

We shared lunches, dinners; all excellent.

Thanks to Fabiola García de Steffanoni for her courtesies. She offered us a nice lunch. Those little coffees with conversations in her home were very pleasant.

Second stopover. February, 2017. Managua, Nicaragua. Congratulations to the hostesses, the Managua Table and members María Elena Caldera de Arana, Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the 75th Anniversary of the Managua Table, assisted by Carmen Mayorga de Corrales, the other fundamental mainstay of this Table. A moving ceremony with the presence of the son of Mrs. Esperanza Bermudez de Morales, ex Alliance Director

General and the daughter of Mrs. Carmen Recalde, ex Director General and Pan American Woman. Pleasant memories of the beginnings and tributes to outstanding members. Prior to the Ceremony, a Training Session was held. My subject was "The Importance of Belonging to the Pan American Movement". Mrs. Hazel Silva, Zone IV Director, expanded her theme with experiences of some members. It is important to point out that close to 30 Members from Costa Rica, from Honduras, the Dominican Republic and Members of all the Tables of Nicaragua. Congratulations, friends, we are on our way to 100.

The following day, all those in attendance went in a bus to León, with each group singing songs from their countries. León is an important city, birthplace of Rubén Darío. The members of the León Table took great pains to offer us a program in the City Theatre, attended by the Hon. Mayor and a delicious feast ending with a native lunch to visit the home of Rubén Darío, a cathedral and historical places. My gratitude to the León Table for their courtesies.

Third Stopover. April, 2017, Austin – Houston. To attend the grand Ceremony in the Austin Senate and listen from the lips of Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr., the Declaration that gives tribute to the Pan American Round Tables on their 100th Anniversary the past October 2016. It was a great honor and privilege to preside over the Delegation that was allowed to be in the Senate Hall of Honor, while the members in attendance, wearing colorful native outfits, observed from the gallery. Prior to the ceremony, Senator Lucio Jr., offered a reception for all those in attendance one of the Senate Halls where he highlighted the importance of the Pan American Round Tables throughout the 100 years history. I thanked him on behalf of the Alliance and told him "You can be sure that in the next 100 years there will be another group of Pan American women who will work with the same enthusiasm, love and commitment as we have done up to now, and will make the Pan American Movement even greater".

An important facilitator for this Ceremony was Isabel Vezzetti, who, in her role as Texas State Director made all the contacts with Senator Lucio, Jr., to bring about the tribute. Thank you, Isabel, and congratulations for the great achievement obtained which crowned your excellent term.

With me were Sylvia Williams, Peggy Clark, Zone I Director Lana Harper and Isabel Vezzetti, State Director at that time, whose term finalized with honors by achieving the realization of this Ceremony, after many meetings and delivery of material to Senator Lucio, a Brownsville Representative.

The Texas State Convention held in Houston, was an important occasion to know the work of the State of Texas Board, its Committees and the work of their 20 Tables. I was impressed by the generosity, youth of the Houston members and I was very pleased to see many mothers who took their daughters to the Tables, a beautiful example, worthy of imitation by all. During the Convention, Lana Harper, Zone I Director, presented an interesting work on Leadership, very motivating and pleasant. Congratulations to Susan Huston, Organizing Committee Chairman and her committee, Karen Peña and Nelly Praga excellent friends, and better companions.

The brilliant term of Isabel Vezzetti ended and in a particular Ceremony led by Elsie Perez, with my participation, and that of Peggy Clark and Carmen Guerra, Dee Moore of the Del Rio Table assumed her role as State Director 2017-2019. Much success, Dee in your Pan American work.

I thank fondly the courtesies from Isabel Vezzetti, Carmen Guerra, Elsie Perez and the generosity of Lupita García de Sarabia and Maly Tamez de Santos and their spouses who offered me a great welcome in McAllen.

Chile, May, 2017. The Eighth Forum of Zone V, was attended by Members from Colombia, Brazil, Perú and Chile and a member from Bolivia. A considerable program included training and tours throughout Santiago and Valparaíso. Everything was initiated in the Chile National Congress, located in Valparaíso, thanks to the efforts of the Organizing Committee of the Viña del Mar Table, presided by Mirta Alvarez and sponsored by Senator Antonio Horwath, Chairman of the Culture Department of Congress. The Solemn Ceremony of Inauguration and the Celebration of the Day of the Americas were held there. As part of the program, I presented a Talk entitled "The importance of the Civil Society in the OAS". The Chile Youth Groups offered us a really marvelous folkloric performance with dances from Zone V. The invited students shone by wearing their best attire to the delight of those in attendance.

The next day, Training Day, Zone V Director Ada Rozas, Gabriela Cárdenas de Sánchez, chairman of the Alliance Pan American Woman Committee, Rosa Silva, President of the National Association, Mirta Cavieres Alvarez, Nora Hernández, Chairman of the Educating for Peace and I presented Pan American subjects of interest in a motivating and agreeable manner. Regina Batista of the Goiania Table, delighted us with two very appropriate group dynamics.

I presented a subject "You don't do it; you don't say it". This is a summary of suggestions and situations that should not happen in a Table.

June, 2017. OAS General Assembly. Elba Bruno de Nogueira and I attended the 46th OAS General Assembly in Cancun, México. The work methodology demanded that the Civil Societies meet in coalitions. We quickly need to contact some that offered us their help. We selected COLIBRI, a Mexican civil society whose objectives were similar to ours. We talked with Catherine Pognat, in charge of the OAS Civil Society, to inform her that our Organization has more than 200 Tables throughout the Continent and which causes us to believe that we are a Coalition in itself. We hope that in the future events, the modality of work will be another and that we can have a more active presence, such as was the case at the Panamá Summit.

Our sincere gratitude to the friends of the Cancun Table mainly Ana Beatriz Lutzow, who accompanied us at all times, taking us to all the meetings. Upon finishing the General session, the Cancun Table offered us a breakfast and we were able to know and exchange ideas with their Director and members of that beautiful Table. Beatriz saw us off at the airport by driving by the coast and enjoying the only sunny day that we had during our stay there. We are grateful for the regional products they delivered to the Hotel to make our stay most enjoyable.

The 15th Costa Rica National Convention was held in Cartago, organized by the youngest Table, that of Los Molinos. I was welcomed at the airport by Lidiette, Eliette Salazar of the Alliance Protocol Committee and Norma, Pan American Woman 2016. My very sincere gratitude to Eliette for her courtesies, who took care of me and was in attendance those days. Excellent organization, the Hotel was reserved only for us. Marielos, the Chairman of the Organizing Committee and the Los Molinos Table Director did an excellent job, very attentive details, the decoration, the waits in the coffee breaks and very likeable lunches, in an outstanding tribute to their authors, the childhood games of yesteryear and folkloric traditions, next to a stand that represented how the "pulperías" were with their typical products, generated a very beautiful atmosphere in addition to the music and dance. An important detail was they had the collaboration of the youth of the Cartago University College. A reporter interviewed me and there were handsome young students very able to help us at all times.

We had an afternoon of Training with the members, approximately 80 in attendance. I gave them two themes "The Importance of being a Pan American Member" and "Don't say it, don't do it", reflecting on what not to do as a member.

Another of the notable aspects is that a young member was present from the new Table in Formation: the Guapiles Table. Much success to the new Table.

The Table reports were very interesting, and I want to highlight the work of a Table whose activity is to collect hair to make wigs for cancer survivors. They had made 400 wigs.

Lidiette Porras de Mohs' term ended successfully and the cycle for Deyanira Castillo Serrano begins, who we will support in anything that is necessary.

My gratitude to Martha Ofelia for her wise advice in the preparation of the Agenda for this II Meeting, and to Ina for her patience in sending my report to her past the deadline, but it would not have been fair to leave out the last two grand events in my tour throughout America.

I want to express to all my sincere gratitude for all the courtesies received, and my great wish that we continue working with the objectives and principles that we inherited from our Founder Florence Terry Griswold and that the Light of Friendship continue burning throughout the American Continent as a symbol of Unity and Friendship so we may continue being today and always,

“One for All and All for One”

“Una para Todas y Todas para Una”

Nhury Gutiérrez Vilches

Director General