

PLANO MULTICULTURAL OUTREACH ROUNDTABLE (MCOR)
January 8, 2019

MCOR Co-Chairs Present:

Mary Alice Garza

Shaheen Salam

Co-chair Garza convened the meeting to order at 7:00 pm, Tuesday, January 8, 2019 in Training Room A at Municipal Center, 1520 K Avenue. A quorum was present.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Co-chair Garza announced that the MLK Breakfast would take place on Saturday, January 19 at the Collin College Spring Creek Campus and all are welcome. It is free of charge.

Co-chair Salam announced that on Monday, January 21, 2019 the National Day of Service will take place. At this event hot meals are served to the economically disadvantaged in South Dallas. She asks that anyone interested in helping can contact her directly for more information.

Co-chair Garza reminded everyone that the warming stations at the Salvation Army on 14th Street in Plano would open anytime the temperature got down to freezing for anyone needing a place to stay overnight out of the freezing weather. To date they have served about 90+ individuals.

READING, AMENDMENT AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the November 13, 2018 meeting were reviewed. Co-chair Salam moved the minutes be approved and attendee Madan Goyal seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by all present.

CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Discussion of MCOR Speakers

Co-chair Garza spoke and announced that Marcus Freeman, Denton ISD Program Coordinator for Adult Education and Literacy, was interested in speaking at a future MCOR meeting regarding the program and what it offered. Attendees to the event indicated there is an interest in hearing this presentation and Mr. Freeman, who was present at the meeting, was offered the March meeting time and will return at that time to give details about the program.

GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE

Discussion of 2019 Citizenship Workshop

Co-chair Salam reminded everyone that this workshop will be on Saturday, February 9, 2019 from 2-4 pm at the Sockwell Center on Chapel Hill in Plano. The workshop is for the benefit of the immigrant population in Plano and is to assist them with navigating the path to citizenship. The workshop is free and all are welcome to attend. The first hour is for the speakers and presentations and the second hour is for the breakout sessions. Many people volunteer their time and skills, including attorneys who specialize in

immigration law. They will be playing a DVD of the citizenship process for those who want to watch. They will be serving refreshments donated by three different restaurants and are waiting to hear from another resource as well. If you know of anyone who could contribute in this area please contact Co-chair Salam. The keynote speaker for the workshop is from Nigeria and will speak about his citizenship experience. There will be about 12 attorneys and also other participants who provide services that may be of interest to the immigrant population. Co-chair Salam distributed posters and flyers to be displayed and handed out. She said that this year there will be a different kind of presentation about how to safeguard your green card.

Discussion of 2019 National Day of Prayer

Co-chair Garza announced that this year's event was going to be the first Thursday in May (May 2nd) at 7 pm at Plano City Hall. She will be scheduling a committee meeting to discuss details soon. Please contact her if you would like to be on the committee.

Youth Committee report

Nawaar Abdul-Salam reported that the youth committee is going to get back to writing and publishing the newsletter on a regular basis. She is working on three articles and is hoping for one more so she can submit it for this month. She further said that they are working on a "community circles-multicultural night" event and they have three teachers who are willing to partner with them for this event and they also have a PTSA approved budget from Plano West. They are looking for one more sponsor from Plano West. They hope to finalize and have a meeting to discuss details soon. Co-chair Garza asked about the smaller community circles group event that has been discussed in the past and Nawaar said that they are waiting for Co-chair Kater to discuss this with the school sponsor(s) before moving forward. This is a separate event from the larger "community circles-multicultural night" mentioned above

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Update on Friendship Circles

Denise Hamilton reported that she already has the three Friendship Circles dates for 2019. She will host the first event at her house on February 23; the second event will be on May 18 at Shambhavi Badi's home and the last event of the year will be on October 19 tentatively at Co-chair Garza's house. She is planning for the year so she can get it on the calendar. It is the third Saturday on each of those months and is usually from 2-5 pm. She tried to plan it where there is nothing else major on the calendar. She will also determine the topic of each event closer to the event dates and that information will go out in the invitation.

Update on MCOR website

Farnaz Nouri reported that she is working on the MCOR website. She has showed it to the MCOR Co-chairs and is taking their comments into consideration moving forward. She has updated many of the components of the site and continues to add information. The website contains information about MCOR, the committees and events including the Friendship Circles events, the National Day of Prayer, the Citizenship Workshop, Youth Events and the Plano International Festival among others. She asks that everyone send

pictures of themselves and events so she can add them the site. She will add a calendar to the site as well and plans to build on that. She is still determining from the group how they want to move forward. She would like to know if they want everyone to be able to add things to the site or just a few people. The basics are done and she offered those at the meeting a chance to view the website on her tablet. She welcomes all updates and will add items as she receives them. The website will be linked to the Facebook page.

Update on MCOR Facebook page changes

Denise Hamilton updates the MCOR Facebook page and suggested that perhaps they could highlight a "Person of the Month" where she could add a bio about the person. She is starting with those active in MCOR but also reaching out into the community. She asks that anyone interested please send her information and a picture and she will tweak it and add it to the page.

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Discussion/Report on Table Tennis Tournaments

Recreation Chair Jon Liu reported that the World Peace Table Tennis Tournament was held on December 1, 2018 at 8:30 am at the Tom Muehlenbeck Center. As in the past they had about 100 players and about 300-400 spectators. This is a very family-oriented event and all are welcome to attend free of charge. There is usually a tournament in the spring and in the winter every year.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

Discussion of Developing an annual MCOR calendar – Denise Hamilton

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:30 pm.

MCOR Co-Chair