

**PLANO MULTICULTURAL OUTREACH ROUNDTABLE (MCOR)**  
**March 12, 2019**

**MCOR Co-Chairs Present:**

Mary Alice Garza

Co-chair Garza convened the meeting to order at 7 pm, Tuesday, March 12, 2019 in Training Room A at Municipal Center, 1520 K Avenue. A quorum was present.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

It was announced that the Chabad of Plano is hosting an event with speaker Eva Schloss, a Holocaust survivor and who is Anne Frank's 89 year old stepsister. The event is on March 27, 2019 at 7:30 pm at the Eisemann Center in Richardson.

Kristin Linscott from the Plano Public Library System spoke and said that "Money Smart" week is the end of March and there are several events going on in the libraries including "Building Wealth" on March 30 at Haggard Library. It is very educational and explains this country's financial system.

**READING, AMENDMENT AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes from the February 12, 2019 meeting were reviewed. Denise Hamilton moved that the minutes be approved and Mona Joseph seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by all present.

**CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**Business Leadership Reception**

Co-Chair Garza reported that the reception is scheduled for August 20, 2019 at the Center for American and International Law. The first planning meeting is on March 20, 2019 at Schimelpfenig Library.

**Plano International Festival**

No report at this time.

**GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE**

**Report on 2019 Citizenship Workshop**

No report at this time

**Discussion of 2019 National Day of Prayer**

Co-Chair Garza reported that this event will take place, as always, on the first Thursday in May, which this year is May 2, 2019. She will be distributing posters soon and is willing to meet up if you want to collect some from her. Invitations are sent to the different faith groups in the area and she has had one group confirmed to attend.

**Youth Committee report**

Co-Chair Garza reported that Plano West held the Community Circles event and it was very successful. They discussed questions about education and the availability of

equitable education based on your background. She said it was very interesting and she said that she was a table with student who had experienced being treated differently with regards to their education. She thought that about 80 people attended.

She further said that the Plano East Senior High School volunteers are wanting to work on another project and they need a teacher to sponsor them. Garza asked if anyone knows someone at Plano East to let Graciela know so she can contact them. Right now they are having some challenges in starting up clubs at the Senior High Schools but currently there is a Vines High School student who is interested and once she goes to Plano Senior High in the fall she will look to get a club started there.

## **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

### **Update on Friendship Circles**

Denise Hamilton announced that there had been a meeting last month that went really well. The topic of discussion was “What am I doing now to make a difference?” She reminded everyone that these events are fun and casual and if you come to bring a dish to share. The next event is May 18 and after that is October 19 so watch for email invitations because once the maximum capacity for the host house is reached the invitation closes.

## **RECREATION COMMITTEE**

### **Discussion/Report on Table Tennis Tournaments**

No report at this time.

## **Denton ISD Adult Education & Literacy Program within Collin County – presentation by Marcus Freeman from Denton ISD**

Mr. Freeman spoke and showed a presentation about the services that are offered by his program. Adult Education and Literacy is a Texas Workforce Commission funded program that resides as a department of Denton ISD. They serve the counties of Denton, Collin, Johnson, Erath, and Somervell by providing English as a Second Language (ESL), high school equivalence and further education classes. They are an ongoing program that runs classes year round to prepare adults for further academic instruction or skills training that leads to employment and self-sufficiency. Their partners include the Texas Workforce Commission, the East Plano Islamic Center, Plano ISD, and Plano Public Libraries (where classes are offered at two of the city’s libraries) among others. They are looking for additional space to offer classes and typically need a classroom type setting with room for 15-20 (25 max) students (adults). Everything needed by the teachers is supplied by the program. Mr. Freeman explained that the term “GED” is now trademarked and in fact only completing the “GED” requirements may or may not make you eligible to receive your high school diploma. The more accurate term is the **Texas Certificate High School Equivalency (TxCHSE)** and while **GED** is one path towards your diploma, the other two are **HiSET** or High School Equivalency Text and the **TASC** or Test Assessing Secondary Completion. Some of the reasons to partner with the Denton Program are:

- State approved training provided to staff
- Instructors paid at a competitive rate

- In most cases classes can remain at the current location(s)
- Students have an opportunity to receive additional services
- Additional advertisement for our partners
- All of the above mentioned items are at no cost to students nor Denton ISD's AEL partners

**ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA**

Speaker Lekan Ogunoyinbo tentatively scheduled for May meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:45 pm.

---

MCOR Co-Chair