

**PLANO MULTICULTURAL OUTREACH ROUNDTABLE (MCOR)
February 11, 2020**

MCOR Co-Chairs Present:

Mary Alice Garza Graciela Katzer

Co-Chair Garza convened the meeting to order at 7 pm, Tuesday, February 11, 2020 in Training Room A at Municipal Center, 1520 K Avenue. A quorum was present.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Co-Chair Katzer announced the following:

There will be a reception for incoming Plano Police Chief Ed Drain on February 24 at 3:30 pm at the Courtyard Theater.

The Council of PTA's will be hosting "Straight Talk" hosted by the Texas PTA in collaboration with the American Heart Association. This will be on February 25 at 12 pm at PISD Administration Building on 15th Street. They will talk about the dangers of vaping and why laws were enacted pushing the legal age to 21.

Co-Chair Garza announced the following:

Dr. Myrtle Hightower received a key to the City at the City Council meeting on February 10 and it was very well-attended.

March – April, 2020 – Don't forget to reply via web for the U.S. 2020 Census.

March 3 – Reminder to vote in the primaries. She did not know the date of any potential runoffs.

March 28 at 11 am – League of Women Voters will have a luncheon at Stonebridge Country Club in McKinney celebrating 100th anniversary of women gaining the right to vote.

May 2 – Reminder of local elections.

CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Discussion of 2020 Business Leadership Reception

Co-Chair Katzer reported that the reception has been confirmed for Tuesday, August 25, 2020 and will once again be at the Center for American and International Law. There will be a planning meeting called in a few weeks.

GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE

Youth Committee report

MCOR Youth Committee Member (and also Co-President of the PWSH MCOR Youth Committee) Alejandra Bernal reported that the MCOR Youth Committee meetings have been going very well. Their last meeting included discussion of issues facing the LGBTQ+ community and it was a very informative meeting. She said that the upcoming Community Circles event that they are hosting at Plano West will have a bit of a difference feel and set-up. The theme is "Open Dialogue" which is a very broad topic on purpose to allow the attendees to discuss a wide range of issues. The topics will be divided into activities along with having the traditional roundtable discussions. The activities will involve having taped lines on the floor of the cafeteria and everyone starting out on the middle or "neutral" line. The topics will be opinion-based and as they are announced participants will move to the different lines that correspond with their feelings on each topic, such as "agree", "disagree", "strongly agree", etc. Then there will be discussions between the participants about how their backgrounds and education have helped them to form the opinions that they have. As they shift into the roundtable discussions they will talk at each table about the biggest issue they feel our community is facing and brainstorm about ways to address each issue. The Plano ISD Board of Trustees will be invited to this event along with City Council and staff. Co-Chair Katzer spoke with Superintendent Sara Bonser and was told that the principals and teachers would be encouraged to promote this event.

Discussion of 2020 Citizen Workshop (CWS)

In Co-Chair Salam's absence Co-chair Katzer reported on this event. This was the 13th annual workshop and was held on February 8, 2020 at the PISD Sockwell Center from 2-4 pm. Attendees were in excess of 136 and 8 attorneys were present: Kimberly Kinser, Karen Pollak, Angela Lopez, Michelle Alonzo, Robert Armstrong, Ann Badmus, Celsa Rodriguez, Mahesh Patel. The Keynote Speaker was the Honorable Council Member Maria Tu and she spoke about her journey to Citizenship and beyond was very inspiring. Additional participants included the Collin County Adult Literacy Council, Plano Library System, Light of Hope Immigration Center, Sent Church Immigrant Connection and Census 2020. Officer Marcus Halpin was there in uniform for the entire duration. The posters and fliers were printed and sponsored by Plano Rotary, Plano Metro Rotary and Alphagraphics. Dr. Chris Parr printed the name badges and table signs. Nawaar Abdus-Salam created the PowerPoint Presentation. Translation Equipment was provided by PISD. Translators included Rosa Maria Crocker and Deborah Gates. There were youth volunteers from the MCOR Youth Committee, IACC Sunday School, Good Tree Academy, John Paul II High School Interact Club, Refugee Initiative, UTD, PWHS and Boy Scout Troop 2060. Adult Volunteers Amitha Kotagoda and Shard also assisted from International Women's Club. Publicity on Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram, email blasts, Community Impact newspaper, Fun Asia, Radio Caravan, IAsiaNews, Toppick Media, Allevents, Epoch Times Chinese Newspaper (translation done by Shirley Hsu from Plano Metro Rotary) PISD Council of PTAs, Plano International Festival along with Mosques, supermarkets, salons and PISD ESL departments helped get the word out. Co-Chair Katzer gave an interview on Univision as well and received many phone calls inquiring about the event. Steve Stoler sent out a press release on January 31, 2020 and Co-Chair Katzer translated the press release into Spanish. Farnaz Nouri kept the MCOR website Calendar updated and Pam Whitehead with the City of Plano sent out Reminder emails via Constant Contact. Refreshments were provided by Crescent Moon, Jimmy's, Rose Catering, Bahai Temple and Gloria's Latin Cuisine, Coffee & Tea and disposables by PIF. Technical support provided by Sockwell Center.

Discussion of Aga Khan Foundation Religious Pluralism Event

After the most recent meeting this event has been moved to June 18, 2020 and will tentatively be called Religious Unity Dialogue. More information to be shared after the next meeting.

Discussion of National Day of Prayer

First planning meeting will be on February 13, 2020 at 6:30 pm at Haggard Library. The posters and fliers are ready and were distributed for display, including to the Plano Libraries and Recreation Centers.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Update on Friendship Circles

Denise Hamilton said she will be looking to March since there are so many activities going on in February. She will have a report soon.

RECREATION COMMITTEE

No report at this time.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

None at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:28 pm.