

PLANO MULTICULTURAL OUTREACH ROUNDTABLE (MCOR)
February 12, 2019

MCOR Co-Chairs Present:

Mary Alice Garza

Shaheen Salam

Graciela Katzer

Co-chair Katzer convened the meeting to order at 7:01 pm, Tuesday, February 12, 2019 in Training Room A at Municipal Center, 1520 K Avenue. A quorum was present.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Co-chair Garza met with McKinney representatives as they are wanting to start a group similar to MCOR there. They are hopeful that McKinney will have success with this endeavor.

Co-chair Shaheen met with the Imam at the Plano Mosque. He is very interested in the mosque being involved with MCOR activities.

Co-chair Salam announced that she had tickets for the Plano Metro Rotary Club casino night event on February 23. The money raised goes toward Plano ISD scholarships for special needs students.

Co-chair Katzer announced that the Plano ISD and the Plano Council of PTA's are organizing a rally to Austin leaving February 25. Please contact Plano ISD or PTA if you are interested. Open to students also. You will be meeting with different legislators and it will be an excused absence from school if you attend.

Attendee Lekan Oguntoyinbo, an independent journalist and author spoke of his book called *I, Too am America: Stories of 50 Amazing American Muslims*. The book highlights achievements of members of the Muslim faith in many areas, including business, science, health, sports, arts, entertainment and public service. He attended the meeting at the invitation of Co-chair Salam and hopes to return to share more as a speaker at a future MCOR meeting.

READING, AMENDMENT AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the January 8, 2019 meeting were reviewed. Co-chair Garza moved the minutes be approved and Co-chair Salam seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by all present.

Discussion of developing an annual MCOR calendar

Denise Hamilton spoke and said that she would like to see a hard copy of a calendar created listing confirmed dates of annual MCOR events. Something that could be sent out or distributed so people would not necessarily have to check online when confirming dates. This would be for events and are consistent from year to year. She said that she will work on creating something to show at a future meeting.

CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Update on Plano author being a speaker at MCOR

Co-chair Salam reported that Lekan Oguntoyinbo, who spoke earlier in the Public Comments section, was interested in speaking at a future MCOR meeting and also in speaking at a public event sponsored by MCOR where a larger audience could be reached. It was determined that Mr. Oguntoyinbo would speak at the May 14th MCOR meeting and that Co-chair Salam would look into organizing and finalizing any further speaking opportunities involving MCOR as a sponsor.

GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE

Report on 2019 Citizenship Workshop

Co-chair Salam reported that the meeting went well and there were many positive comments. There were less attendees than in previous years but weather may have been a factor. There were 13 attorneys who provided their services for free and the keynote speaker was Dr. Taoreed Badmus. Additional speakers included Ann Badmus, (FBI's Name Check program and How to get qualified legal help), Kimberly Kinser (DACA, medical waivers and current trends in immigration) and Angela Lopez (Safeguarding your green card and citizenship). Jennifer Kuylen, (USCIS Community Outreach Officer) gave an overview of the citizenship process. The following groups had table displays: Light of Hope, Collin County Adult Literacy Council, Plano ISD Adult Literacy Center, Sent Church, Plano Public Libraries System and Denton ISD. Security was provided by the Plano Police Department. Poster and flier printing was provided by Plano Metro Rotary Club and Plano Rotary Club with Alpha graphics providing a discounted cost. Dr. Chris Parr created the name badges and table signs. Nawaar Abdus-Salam, MCOR Youth Committee, created the PowerPoint presentation. The Plano ISD Multilingual Department provided the translating equipment and Stella Landers and Deborah Gates acted as translators. Volunteers from Plano West Senior High, Plano Senior High, Renner Middle School, John Paul II High School Spanish Club, Good Tree Academy, IACC Sunday School, MCOR Youth Committee and MCOR helped in many ways. Media Relations Director Steve Stoler created and sent the press release, Jeff Smith at the City of Plano sent email invitations and kept up with RSVP's. All Events, Asia Times online newspaper, Plano ISD PTA Council newsletter, MCOR newsletter, Top Pick TV and Hispanic Media helped advertise the event and posters and fliers out displayed in Plano libraries, Plano recreation centers, restaurants, the Plano Mosque and other faith based organizations, beauty salons and super markets which helped announce the event. Refreshments and paper goods were provided by Crescent Moon Chinese Restaurant, Jimmy's Burgers, Mumtaz Indian Restaurant, Rose Food Services Plano, Bahai Center and the Plano International Festival. Next year's workshop is February 8, 2020. Co-chair Katzer said that she has spoken with several people who say that the Plano workshop is very unique and perhaps a new name would distinguish it from the many other citizenship endeavors that are held during the year. This can be discussed at a future planning meeting.

Discussion of 2019 National Day of Prayer

This event will be held at Plano Municipal Center on Thursday, May 2, 2019 starting at 7 pm. Co-chair Garza reported the committee had their first planning meeting and have

decided to try something new in order to keep the event within the allotted timeline. They will gather information on the specifics of each church that is represented and will put those details on the MCOR website and in an insert in the program that is handed out the night of the event. It is hoped that by doing this it will keep each participant from having to announce the information during their time at the podium. Denise Hamilton is looking for someone to do the prelude and Mona Joseph is looking for someone for the interlude.

Youth Committee report

The group reported that they published three articles in the youth newsletter and are busy scheduling meetings with teachers and also with youth committee officers at Plano West to spread the word and publicize the group and its activities. They recently had a MCOR booth at Plano West High School's "Moving Out West" event which is where they give presentations to their feeder schools about clubs, organizations and activities available at PWHS. They are also getting ready to hold their Community Circles event at PWHS on February 19 and invited everyone to attend. They are promoting the organization at Vines High School and hope to get more interest.

Discussion of Plano West Senior High Community Circles event

Co-chair Katzer reported that MCOR is partnering with the Plano West PTSA to be able to use the cafeteria as a meeting place, since recent policy changes prevents that. She also encouraged all of the MCOR participants to attend the Community Circles event to show support. She has met with the moderator Adrian Rodriguez and they are finalizing the program. She has contacted the principals of Jasper, Shepton, Clark and Vines in order to get students and teachers participating in the club and the events.

Co-chair Garza asked about the youth committee members from Plano East who used to attend the MCOR meetings since they had not attended in some time. Co-chair Katzer responded that the key member of the group had become very involved in a refugee care initiative and she has been unable to attend the MCOR meetings. Plano East has also lost its original teacher/sponsor and they are working to build interest back up.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Update on Friendship Circles

Denise Hamilton announced that the next meeting would be at her house on February 23 with the topic being "The Power to Make a Difference". The 2019 dates have been decided and will be May 18 and October 19 with more details to come regarding each meeting as the dates draw near.

Update on MCOR Website

Farnaz Nouri showed and explained her work on the PlanoMCOR.org website. She has transitioned everything to WordPress and asks that all co-chairs and committee chairs please send her their picture for inclusion on the site. She showed how she has organized the page and the dropdown menus. Eventually she will add the school MCOR clubs and their activities. She will continue working on the site and add more content and menu and pictures. She is open to suggestions and is always looking into improving the site.

Update on MCOR Facebook Page Changes

Denise Hamilton has been keeping up with the MCOR Facebook pages and keeping it current. She would like to add a feature on the page where she could highlight someone from MCOR and tell a little bit about them. Currently MCOR participant Sant Virmani is working with Denise and has provided his resume so that she can feature him on the page soon. She is looking to familiarize the community with MCOR and show how involved the participants are. If you are interested in being involved in this please send her your information or contact her to see how you can help.

RECREATION COMMITTEE**Discussion/Report on Table Tennis Tournaments**

No report at this time.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

Marcus Freeman with Denton ISD is scheduled to be the MCOR speaker at the March meeting

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:50 pm.

MCOR Co-Chair