

## **PLANO MULTICULTURAL OUTREACH ROUNDTABLE (MCOR)**

**October 8, 2019**

### **MCOR Co-Chairs Present:**

Shaheen Salam      Graciela Katzer

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

### **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Samuel Hsu, a local photographer, announced that he will be representing the North Texas Asian Photographer's Association at the Plano International Festival this year.

Madan Goyal announced that the Indian Festival "Diwali" falls on October 27, 2019 and is one of the biggest festivals in Indian culture. There are many celebrations going on around the area including over 50,000 people expected at the celebration in Fair Park in Dallas.

Co-chair Katzer announced that this year's LULAC awards banquet would be held at Collin College on Thursday, October 17, 2019 at 6:30 pm. She announced that there would be awards handed out including the "Civic Award" which will be given to MCOR Staff Liaison Dee Dee Falls. She encouraged everyone to purchase a ticket and attend.

Sant Virmani announced that on November 12, 2019 the Sikh religion will celebrate its 550<sup>th</sup> anniversary. There will be many celebrations as this is one of the largest and most sacred festivals in Sikhism.

### **READING, AMENDMENT AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes from the September 10, 2019 meeting were reviewed. Shaheen Salam moved that the minutes be approved and Denise Hamilton seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by all present.

### **CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

#### **Discussion of Plano International Festival**

Co-chair Katzer said that they have been working extremely hard and the weather is expected to be good. One highlight this year is that the Plano Police Department is going to hold an "Active Shooter Training" session on 10/09/19 for those involved in the festival. There has always been a safety plan in place and it can be viewed on the festival website [www.planointernationalfestival.org](http://www.planointernationalfestival.org). She brought Spanish posters for those who may need to hand them out and had many information flyers for people to also take to hand out. For the last month they have gone out in the backpacks of all Plano ISD students with over 100,000 being printed. The Wellness and Fitness Fair also goes on in conjunction with the festival and there are free screenings, flu shots and mammograms. The spaces for booths/vendors are sold out. This year there is a focus on the STEAM program (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) with participants promoting their services and programs and offering a free educational activity to attendees that is related to their particular specialty. There are over 20 participants. The Perot Museum is provide 3D printers for the activities. There will also be a chef who will be teaching the kids how to cook. The naturalization candidates are ready. She thanked the sponsors, especially a new sponsor, Baylor Scott & White, who will be manning the first-aid tent in place of a sponsor who had to drop out last minute. Mona Joseph is coordinating the volunteers for the festival and is signing up volunteers for the MCOR table. Katzer thanked Samuel Hsu and the North Texas Asian Photographer's Association for the 8 photographers he has gotten involved in helping photograph the festival. For \$15 you can get a ticket to the Plano Symphony Orchestra performance of a quintet who will be playing along with a ballet performance. Folklorico 2000, a Mexican

group of dancers and also an Indian dance group will be performing. This required the music to be rewritten from the traditional Indian style to western style to allow the music to be played for the Indian dancers. The money collected for the performance, which starts as the festival is ending, goes to scholarships for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who cannot afford lessons but who are recommended and recognized as talented by their band, orchestra and choir teachers.

## **GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE**

### **Youth Committee report**

Co-chair Katzer reported that the Youth Committee met for the first time at Plano West Senior High School last week and Jacqueline and Alejandra Bernal reported there were 20 students at the meeting. The teacher/sponsor Mr. Sands was very excited and looks forward to a successful year. The 20 students that were at the meeting will also be volunteering at the festival this year.

### **Discussion of 2020 Citizen Workshop**

Co-chair Salam said all is on track for the workshop and that it will be on Saturday, February 8, 2020 from 2-4 pm at the Sockwell Center at 6301 Chapel Hill Blvd. in Plano. She will be scheduling a planning meeting soon. They will be checking with the volunteer presenters and attorneys to see who can help. Council Member Maria Tu will be the keynote speaker.

## **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

### **Update on Friendship Circles**

Denise Hamilton reported that the next event is at Mary Alice Garza's house on October 26, 2019. Invitations will be sent out soon. Friendship Circles is an informal event where you bring a dish and visit and meet with people in a relaxed setting to get to know each other.

### **Discussion of 2019 MCOR Holiday Party**

Alyssia Ocasio with Sent Church announced that she had booked a meeting room and the kitchen at her church at 3701 W. Spring Creek Parkway in Plano for the MCOR Holiday Party on the evening of Tuesday, December 10, 2019. She said it is a very modern design with a stage area, a roundtable setup and a "café area" with a taller counter you can serve from. There is access to sound and the room holds about 80 people. The party will take the place of the regular MCOR meeting. More details to be sent out soon.

## **RECREATION COMMITTEE**

### **Update on World Peace Table Tennis Tournament**

The tournament will take place at the Tom Muehlenbeck Recreation Center on Saturday, December 7, 2019 from 9 am to 4 pm. Admission is free and all are welcome

## **ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA**

None at this time

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:36 pm.