

Judge Salinas Flores, Rep. Gonzales to address HWNT

Special to The Monitor

McALLEN — The Hispanic Women's Network of Texas, Rio Grande Chapter will have its first meeting of the year at noon on Friday, Feb. 17, at the Tower Club in McAllen. Guest speakers will be Judge Aida Salinas Flores and State Rep. Veronica Gonzales who will discuss the jury service committee in Hidalgo County.

Salinas Flores, Judge of the 398th District Court, was appointed as a member of the State Bar of Texas standing committee on jury service for a six-year term by Betsy Whitaker, State Bar president. Judge Salinas Flores organized a local Hidalgo County jury service committee that meets periodically to provide community information and allow members' input on how jury service can be improved in Hidalgo County.

During the first meeting, Judge Salinas Flores presented a PowerPoint presentation giving members an overview of the jury selection process. During a recent meeting of the committee, she hosted State Rep. Veronica Gonzales, who reported on legislation regarding jury compensation.

Prior to the start of the legislative session Rep. Gonzales met with Judge Salinas Flores, who expressed her concerns regarding the inadequate jury fees being paid to local jurors. Gonzales and her colleagues in Austin introduced legislation that now provides for grand jurors or petit jurors in a civil or criminal

case in a district court, criminal district court, county court, county court at law, or justice court to receive as reimbursement not less than \$6 for the first day or fraction of the first day served as a juror, and not less than \$40 for each day served as a juror after the first day. The legislation provides that the state shall reimburse Hidalgo County \$34 a day for the \$40 fee paid to a grand juror or petit juror for each day or fraction of each day served a juror after the first day.

The Hispanic Women's Network of Texas is a statewide organization of individuals from diverse backgrounds who are committed to promoting the participation of women in public, corporate and civic life. It seeks to advance the educational, cultural, social, legal and economic well being of women through a broader awareness of their role in society, business and the family.

The Hispanic Women's Network of Texas is a non-profit organization that welcomes into its membership anyone who is

supportive of its purposes and who will cooperate in carrying out its programs of education and activities. The affairs of the Network are managed by a board of directors consisting of representatives from eight chapters in Austin, Corpus Christi, Dallas, El Paso, Fort Worth, Laredo, San Antonio and McAllen.

For reservations or to join HWNT, call Alida S. Hernandez at 687-7766.