

**PANAMA CANAL SOCIETY, INC.
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
HOLIDAY INN, MELBOURNE, FLORIDA
FEBRUARY 7, 2009**

Present: Tom Wilder, Margaret McLaughlin, Tom Spence, Pam Reid, Bob Russell, Bill McLaughlin, Chris Wilder, Cheryl Russell, Jacque Vowell and Nancy Van Siclen.

Absent: Shirley Avery, Mike Coffey, Jim Parthenais, and Jim O'Donnell.

The president called the meeting to order at 4:11 p.m.

Because the board was waiting for Pam Reid to arrive in order to have a quorum, the president began discussing items out of order on the agenda.

President: Tom Wilder

New Business –

- 1. Pool Party Sponsorship** – Tom reported that we have found a sponsor for the pool party to be held on Saturday, July 4th. Rosen Shingle Creek will provide the DJ and Bob Medinger, of Panama Vacation Quarters, will donate \$500.00 for free beer to those attending the pool party. The Society will advertise Panama Vacation Quarters for a year in the *Canal Record*, free of charge. Armbands will be issued, to those of age that are attending the pool party. Chris Wilder will help out at the pool party, which will be from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The attendees will require their name badges to attend.

Pam Reid arrived at 4:20 which gave the board a quorum for the meeting.

Pam inquired whether we planned on having non-alcoholic beverages available for non-drinkers at the pool party. After further discussion Pam Reid made a motion to provide sodas for non-drinkers; Margaret McLaughlin seconded it. Motion carried. Bill McLaughlin will check with the hotel about providing sodas at the pool during the pool party.

Consent Agenda:

Approval of December Board Minutes - Bob Russell made a motion to accept the December Board Minutes as written; it was seconded by Margaret McLaughlin. Motion carried.

Approval of Expenditures – Bob Russell made a motion to approve the expenditures for the period of December 5, 2008 through February 3, 2009, in the amount of 25,984.31; it was seconded by Margaret McLaughlin. Motion carried.

Approval of New Applicants – Week of February 2, 2009 – List #1 – Bob Russell made a motion to approve the 14 new applicants for the week of February 2, 2009; it was seconded by Tom Spence. Motion carried.

On-Line Approval:

Approval of December New Applicants – List #2 and Approval of January New Applicants – List #1, #2, #3 and #4 – Margaret McLaughlin made a motion to approved December List #2 of 13; January List #1 of 28; January List #2 of 16 List #3 of 10 and January List #4 of 11 new applicants; it was seconded by Bob Russell. Motion carried.

Approval of Europe Reporter – Mary Lou Pascavage – Margaret McLaughlin made a motion to approve Mary Lou Pascavage as the reporter for Europe; it was seconded by Tom Spence. Motion carried.

Approval of Obits with pictures – Bob Russell made a motion to approve placing pictures with the obits in the *Canal Record*; Tom Spence seconded it. Motion carried.

Approval of CD Rollover – Tom Spence made a motion to accept the recommendation of Jim Parthenais to rollover CD; it was seconded by Bob Russell. Motion carried.

New Business:

2. **S. W. O. T.** - Tom reported that he would like to have another SWOT exercise at the Annual Meeting this year. He announced that at the April 18th board meeting we will have a board SWOT analysis exercise.
3. **Attrition Gateway** – Tom reported that we are at a point right now that our registrations for the reunion are slow and not at the numbers we thought we would have by now. At this time, we have the opportunity to release rooms back to the hotel. Tom feels that we should approve the gateway at this time. He explained that if we don't sell the rooms the Society would be responsible for those rooms per our contract. After discussion, Tom Spence made a motion to go with the 15% gateway; it was seconded by Margaret McLaughlin. Motion carried.
4. **COPA Request** – Tom reported that we have received a phone call and e-mails from COPA Airlines requesting a copy of our membership list. After discussion, it was decided that we would continue with our policy of not giving our membership list to anyone who is not a member. Tom will respond to COPA and advise them that we will stand by our policy. Tom will also inform them that the society will give them a free table at the reunion in the Vendor room and, if they want, they can change their ad asking if anyone wants to be added to their mailing list.

Discussion:

Canal Record deadlines – Tom reported that our members received the last two issues (October and December) in the latter part of the month. Tom is hoping to try to get it out earlier in the month. He would like to change the date for the reporter's deadline. After discussion, it was decided that we would move the reporter's deadline up one week. Jacque will send the reporters an e-mail that the deadline for the June issue has been changed to a week earlier and would announced same in the *Canal Record*.

Building Fund – Tom discussed with the board, and acquired their thoughts on establishing a building fund and possibly announcing at the Annual Meeting that we have established a Building Fund. At this time, we are paying rent. If we establish a fund it would give future boards an opportunity to establish a Panama Canal Society building of their own. Tom thought that when we have CD's that rollover; we take the interest and put it in a separate interest bearing account earmarked for the building fund. We could also do this when members send in a donation with their dues, which could also be placed in the account for the building fund instead of going into the general operations.

Tom reported that this is not a negative but a positive idea. Some of the discussion included doing a cost analysis. Tom is not proposing that we buy a building but to just establish a fund. Tom reported that, ultimately, his idea about the building fund is for a positive future and not that the Society is fading away. Tom also plans on announcing in his presidents message about the S.W.O.T. exercise at the Annual Meeting.

Pending Issues –

Employee review – It was the board's decision to automatically review the hired employees' performance with each new President. Tom will review the existing contract, which would allow the board to discuss their concerns regarding these employees. With the cost cutting measures that the society has put in place, it was decided not to give an increase in salary this year.

Past President: Bob Russell

Seminars – Bob reported that he has heard from Joe Wood of the Panama Canal Museum and they are still looking into what the subject matter will be at the seminar, but he will get back to Bob as soon as possible. Bob also reported that as of this meeting he has not heard back from Hard Rock. He reported that he has heard from Lori Snow of Condoroutfitters and she has the COPA airline tickets for the Annual Meeting and the Christmas luncheon.

Editor: Jacque Vowell

Jacque reported that the March *Canal Record* is in the final stages. Tom asked Jacque to give a report at the meeting tonight on when to expect the March issue to be mailed.

Office Manager/Secretary: Nancy Van Siclen

Membership Numbers – Nancy reported that as of February 5, 2009 we have 2,854 current members. This is 689 less than what we had on December 31, 2008.

Bylaws Chairperson/Reunion Coordinator: Bill McLaughlin

Bylaws – Bill reported that the ballots for the bylaw changes are coming in very slow and that as of today we have received only 88 ballots. He encouraged the board if some had not voted to please send in your ballots. Bill will give a report at the general membership meeting tonight reminding the members in attendance to vote.

Reunion – Bill reported that he plans on going to the printer and wants to know what should be printed on the dance tickets as far as the dress code is concerned. After discussion it was decided that the Friday PanaZonian Dance tickets would say “Dress – Casual” and the Saturday Annual Ball tickets would say “Dress – Smart Casual – No Jeans or Shorts”. Tom suggested that we give security at the door our guidelines, but if someone gets in with shorts or jeans, we will not make them leave. After further discussion Pam Reid made a motion that on Saturday night we just put “smart casual” on the ticket for the Annual Ball but don’t enforce it at the door. The motion did not pass since it wasn’t seconded. The original wording for the dance tickets will stand.

Name Badges – Bill suggested that we return to our standard name badges. The board was in agreement with going back to standard name badges.

Volunteer Gifts & Give Away – Tom said that if anyone could come up with a suggestion for the volunteer gift and give away for members attending the reunion to keep in mind that we need to keep the cost down. This will be discussed at the next board meeting.

Sgt at Arms: Chris Wilder

Update on website – Chris reported that the new website is up and running and he knows of no issues at this time.

Good of the Order:

Tom reminded everyone of the March 21, 2009 General Membership Meeting at Anderson Park in Tarpon Springs and the next board meeting would be held at the Society office on April 18th.

Bob Russell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 p.m.; it was seconded by Bill McLaughlin. Motion carried.

**NANCY VAN SICLEN
OFFICE MANAGER/SECRETARY**

**TOM WILDER
PRESIDENT**

