

**PANAMA CANAL SOCIETY, INC.
GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING
HOLIDAY INN, MELBOURNE, FLORIDA
FEBRUARY 7, 2009**

President Tom Wilder welcomed the 124 members and guests in attendance at the General Business Meeting held at the Holiday Inn, Melbourne, Florida on February 7, 2009. The meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m.

Chaplain Cheryl Russell gave the invocation. **Sgt. at Arms Chris Wilder** led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Meeting was reconvened at 7:20 p.m.

Tom Wilder recognized past Presidents Pete Foster, Marje Foster, Bill McLaughlin and Bob Russell who were in attendance. Tom also introduced the following board members that were in attendance: Margaret McLaughlin, 1st Vice President; Tom Spence, 2nd Vice President; Pam Reid, Director, Jacque Vowell, Editor; Nancy Van Siclen, Office Manager; Cheryl Russell, Chaplain; Bill McLaughlin, Reunion Coordinator and Bylaws Chairperson; Bob Russell, Past President; Chris Wilder, Sgt. At Arms and Albert and Aura Wilder, Sunshine Committee.

Tom Wilder recognized the Carnavalito Committee that consisted of Randy and JoElla Deakins, Bob and Fran Morrissey and Donita McConaughy. He thanked them for organizing the event and presented each one a small token of appreciation from the Society.

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, copies of the General Membership meeting held on December 6, 2008 in North Redington Beach, Florida were distributed to the membership; therefore, the president asked for a motion to accept the minutes as written. Peter Foster made a motion to accept the minutes; Tom Spence seconded it. Motion carried.

The December Financial Statement was also distributed to the membership and stands for audit.

Editor Jacque Vowell reported that the March issue of the *Canal Record* would be at the printer the following week.

Reunion Coordinator Bill McLaughlin reported the following information regarding the reunion to the membership:

1. The reunion will be held on the Gatlin side of the convention center, same location as in 2007.

2. Tito Mouynes will return this year to perform at the Friday night PanaZonian Dance and Frankie Pretto will perform at the Annual Ball.
3. The Panama Folkloric dancers will perform at the Annual Luncheon. They will explain each dance performance and what each dance signifies.
4. There will be a pool side party with a D.J. on the 4th of July.
5. Anyone interested in helping out can sign up as a volunteer for registration, ticket sales, etc.

Bylaws Chairperson Bill McLaughlin reminded everyone in attendance to please remember to vote for the three bylaw amendments, which appeared in the December issue of the *Canal Record*.

The president thanked Bill McLaughlin for all his work on the reunion each year.

Tom Wilder reminded the membership of the March 21st West Coast Picnic at Anderson Park in Tarpon Springs; the April 4th Ditchdiggers meeting at the Golden Corral in Ocala; the May 2nd Spring Luncheon at Troyer's Dutch Heritage Restaurant in Sarasota, and the Annual Reunion in Orlando from July 1 – 5, 2009.

At this point in the meeting, Tom Wilder asked Fran Morrissey to pick the name of the winner for early registration. The winner was Sheryl Alberga and she will receive two free room nights for a regular room at Rosen Shingle Creek Resort at the reunion this year.

Throughout the evening several door prizes were awarded. The grand prize donated by Lori Snow of Condoroutfitters of a stay at Decameron was won by Albert and Aura Wilder.

Bill McLaughlin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m.; Ed Ohman seconded it. Motion carried.

NANCY VAN SICLEN
OFFICE MANAGER/SECRETARY

TOM WILDER
PRESIDENT