

**PANAMA CANAL SOCIETY, INC.
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
TROYER'S DUTCH HERITAGE RESTAURANT
SARASOTA, FLORIDA
MAY 14, 2011**

President Tom Wilder welcomed the 53 members and guests in attendance to the General Membership Meeting held at Troyer's Dutch Heritage Restaurant, Sarasota, Florida and called the meeting to order at 11:45 a.m.

Chaplain Cheryl Russell gave the invocation and in the absence of **Michael Young, Sgt. at Arms, Bob Russell, Past President** led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Tom Wilder recognized past presidents Pete Foster, Faith Brundage, Bill McLaughlin and Bob Russell and also introduced the board members in attendance including 1st Vice President Tom Spence; Director Shirley Avery-Bentley; Immediate Past President Bob Russell; Bylaws Chairperson and Reunion Coordinator Bill McLaughlin; Chaplain Cheryl Russell; Record Editor Jacque Vowell and Office Manager Nancy Van Siclen.

The meeting adjourned for lunch and reconvened at 12:45.

The president thanked Bob and Cheryl Russell for hosting the luncheon and presented them a small token of appreciation from the Society.

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, copies of the General Membership Minutes held on March 19, 2011 at A. L. Anderson Park, Tarpon Springs, Florida were distributed to the membership, therefore, the president asked for a motion to accept the minutes as written. Barbara Peterson made a motion to accept the minutes; it was seconded by Ed Ohman. Motion carried.

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

Also included in the packets to the membership was the May Legislative Report (copy attached to minutes) which Tom Wilder highlighted for the members in the absence of Jim O'Donnell the Legislative Representative.

Jacque Vowell, Canal Record Editor reported that the June issue of the *Canal Record* would be mailed to the printer on Monday, May 16, 2011 and it should reach the membership by the middle of June. Tom reported that we are saving thousands of dollars on each *Canal Record* since we changed printers a few years ago.

Bill McLaughlin, Reunion Coordinator reported that we are only 53 days out from the reunion and encouraged everyone that if you have not submitted your paperwork for the reunion that you please get your papers into the office as soon as possible since the deadline for reunion registration is June 1st.

Bill also reported that the Annual Luncheon guest speaker will be Ken Fortner, a zonian and engineer of the Engineering and Construction Company CH2M HILL and he will be telling us all that is happening in Panama with the new set of locks and widening project at a cost of \$1.65 billion within the Panama Canal Expansion Program.

Bob Russell reported that the Cultural Seminar on Saturday afternoon will be on the topic of Mola Art and will focus on Edith (Barkowitz) Crouch's new book on mola art – the history the Kuna culture, the design references in molas, etc.

Bill reported that there will be a new activity at the reunion this year and it is Free Yoga Classes which is being offered by Society member Julian “Butch” Hall. Two classes will be held - one on Friday at 1:00 p.m. and the other one on Saturday at 9:30 a.m.

Bill suggested that everyone check their June issue of the *Canal Record* for more information and the schedule of events will be given out in the Reunion Flyer at registration for all events, times and days.

The president announced that for the second year in a row Ed Ohman, who attended all five membership meetings, has won the Membership Attendance Award. He will receive either two tickets to the Ball, two tickets to the Panazonian Dance or one of each.

On behalf of the Panama Canal Museum, Cheryl Russell reported that the Museum is working on the silent auction for the reunion; working on a new book of Town Sites which will be ready for sale at the reunion. Also, the Museum will be hosting Julie Greene, who will be speaking on her new book “*The Canal Builders*” on Thursday afternoon.

Pete Foster, Past President, thanked the Society Executive Board and all the members for their cards, letters and phone calls of condolences in the recent passing of his wife, Marje Foster.

The president asked the membership if they had any new business to be brought before the Executive Board. There was none.

Tom reminded the membership that the Annual Reunion at the Orlando World Center Marriott from July 6th through July 10th; the first General Membership Meeting after the reunion will take place in Ocala, Florida on October 22, 2011 at Latinos Y Mas and the information and reservation form will be in the June *Canal Record*; and on November 5, 2011 we will be heading to the Tom Statham Park, Titusville, Florida for the Space Coast Picnic.

Bob Russell made a motion to adjourn the meeting; it was seconded by Bill McLaughlin. Motion carried.

NANCY VAN SICLEN
OFFICE MANAGER/SECRETARY

TOM WILDER
PRESIDENT