

**PANAMA CANAL SOCIETY, INC.  
MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
LATINOS Y MAS, OCALA, FLORIDA  
OCTOBER 22, 2011**

**President Tom Wilder** welcomed the 74 members in attendance to the General Membership Meeting held at Latinos Y Mas in Ocala, Florida and called the meeting to order at 11:45 a.m.

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

Tom Wilder recognized past presidents Pete Foster, Betty LeDoux-Morris, Bill McLaughlin and Bob Russell.

The president introduced to the membership the following board members in attendance including 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Mike Coffey; 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Shirley Avery; Directors Noreen Hanson, Kelly Parthenais and Chris Wilder; Treasurer Jim Parthenais; Sgt. At Arms Mike Young; Chaplain Cheryl Russell; Co-Chairpersons of Sunshine Albert and Aura Wilder and Office Manager/Secretary Nancy Van Siclen

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

Tom Wilder announced that prior to the commencement of the meeting copies of the Annual Business Meeting Minutes held on July 8, 2011 at the Orlando World Center Marriott, Orlando, Florida were distributed to the membership. Therefore, the membership was asked for a motion to accept the minutes as written. Brittney (Wilder) Garretson made the motion to accept the minutes; it was seconded by Beverly Wood. Motion carried.

The August 2011 Financial Statement was included in the packets and stands for audit.

The president announced that the Society had received word that Joan DeGrummund, a member of the Society and long time reporter for California and Frank Leves passed away yesterday, October 21, 2011. Also, that Betty Blanchette, who had planned on attending, was under going surgery today for a broken hip.

Tom reported that the December *Canal Record* was in the process of being put together and should be mailed in early December.

**President of the Panama Canal Museum Joe Wood** reported to the membership that the museum board and the University of Florida met yesterday and announced that by the end of March 2012 everything should be transferred to the University. The Museum will be at the reunion and will again have the silent auction and an exhibit on display. He also stated that the University has 27 part-time employees processing and conserving the artifacts. They have also taken 47 oral histories from former Canal Zone employees. Joe also reported that at this time we don't know what we will be called after the Museum closes down but some thought has been given to "Friends of the Panama Canal Museum at the University of Florida". Joe also reported that the 2013 Calendar will be on Canal Zone Restaurants and recipes.

**Mike Coffey, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President** reported that the Society is maintaining membership and that we now have a Governors Club membership for five years and many of the members have taken this approach.

**By-laws Chairperson Bill McLaughlin** reported that the October *Canal Record* has a proposed Amendment #37 Ballot for the members to vote on. The Executive Board is concerned with the working restriction with a board member only being able to hold any one position on the Executive Board for no more than two consecutive terms (Article IV, Sec. 3, B) and could cause problems in the future. The Board is also aware that the ever dwindling number of persons interested in serving as a member could possibly lead to vacancies within the Executive Board while current board members interested in continuing to serve being subject to removal after two terms. He encouraged all members to vote. Bill reported that the counting of the ballots will take place at the picnic in Titusville next month.

**Co-Reunion Coordinator Bill McLaughlin** reported that we are currently working on the "yellow pages" and that they will be published in the December *Canal Record*. Bill stated that we are again having the contest for those that register early will be eligible to win two free nights (King or Double) at the hotel during the reunion. The name of the winner will be drawn at Carnavalito in February 2012. The membership was also reminded that 2012 will be the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Panama Canal Society and we are working on having a few surprises during the year and at the reunion to celebrate.

**Nominating Committee Chairperson Jim Parthenais** reported to the membership that Bill McLaughlin and Chris Wilder were nominated and approved to serve on the committee. At this meeting we required two members from the membership to serve. Jim reported that Paul Bierman and Rebecca Pletcher have volunteered to serve on The Nominating Committee. Jim asked the membership to vote on accepting these two volunteers. The vote was unanimous to accept Paul Bierman and Rebecca Pletcher to serve. Jim announced that since the committee was complete a Slate of Officers will be presented at December meeting for the term of 2012-2014.

The president thanked Kathy Wilder for arranging and hosting the luncheon and presented her with a small token of appreciation from the Society.

The membership was reminded that the East Coast Picnic in Titusville will be held on November 5<sup>th</sup> and the Christmas Luncheon will be held at the Wine Cellar Restaurant on December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Door prizes were awarded and the grand prize of a silk arrangement donated by Margaret McLaughlin of Fabulous Flowers was won by Jean Egger.

Brittney (Wilder) Garretson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:20 p.m.; it was seconded by Bill McLaughlin. Motion carried.

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**NANCY VAN SICLEN**  
**OFFICE MANAGER/SECRETARY**

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**TOM WILDER**  
**PRESIDENT**