

**PAMAMA CANAL SOCIETY, INC.**  
**MEMBERSHIP MEETING**  
**FORT DE SOTO PARK, ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA**  
**MARCH 24, 2012**

**President Tom Wilder** welcomed the 65 members and guests in attendance to the General Membership Meeting held at Fort De Soto Park in St. Petersburg, Florida and called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m.

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

The meeting adjourned for lunch and reconvened at 12: 55 p.m.

The president reported to the membership that our senior past president, Rob Roy passed away in Panama at the age of 102. The president introduced the board members that were in attendance including 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and Co-Reunion Coordinator Mike Coffey; 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Shirley Avery; Director Noreen Hanson; Director Kelly Parthenais; Sgt. at Arms Michael Young; Treasurer Jim Parthenais; Editor Jacque Vowell and Office Manager Nancy Van Siclén.

The president announced that prior to the commencement of the meeting copies of the Membership Meeting Minutes held on February 4, 2012 at the Hilton Hotel in Melbourne, Florida were distributed to the membership. Therefore, the membership was asked for a motion to accept the minutes as written. Shirley Avery made the motion to accept the minutes as written; it was seconded by Steve Nehring. Motion carried.

The February 2012 Financial Statement was also included in the packets and stands for audit.

**Mike Coffey 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and Co-Reunion Coordinator** reported that the Society is celebrating its 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and is getting very excited about celebrating with all our members. The Thursday night dance will be co-sponsored by BHS72 and BHS 77 this year. The Friday night Panazonian Dance and After Hours Night Club Dance will again be combined this year. The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Pool Party is planned again this year and the entertainment will be provided by Shorty&Slim and will start at 1:00 p.m. Remember, you must be a member in good standing and registered for the reunion to participate.

The Annual Luncheon will be on Saturday and this year our guest speaker will be Richard A. Wainio, Tampa Port Director and CEO to update us as to the project in Panama and how the expansion will affect the State of Florida. A joint effort with the Panama Canal Society and the Panama Canal Museum will have a Cultural Seminar titled “The Beginning of the American Era in Panama: The Railroad and the California Gold Rush” on Friday afternoon and Dr. Robert H. Hughes will be the presenter.

Mike also reminded the membership that volunteers are always needed to help out in registration, ticket sales, etc. If you would like to volunteer please call the Society office or Mike.

Mike Coffey reported that as of today we have 2,863 paid current members for 2012 and this is down from 2011 by 345 members. He reminded those in attendance that a membership in the Society is a great gift to give to your children if they are not members. Mike also reported that the Governors Club, which is a five year membership, is doing very well. In 2011 we had 104 members sign up and so far for 2012 85 members have joined the Governors Club.

**Kathy Egolf** representing the Panama Canal Museum reported that the museum will close to the public on March 29 but they will be at the museum location until July 31<sup>st</sup>, when their lease expires. During this time we will be working on the spring mailing to members, getting out eMusings to members and friends, packing items for UF, and preparing for the Reunion.

Kathy reported that the museum presence at the reunion will be the same as the past: some exhibits, activities, and the silent auction in the museum exhibit room, sale tables in the vendor room. UF will also be there working with us and conducting oral history interviews. Kathy also asked that if you have items you would like to donate to the silent auction or are available to volunteer some time at the reunion, they could use some help. Looking to the future UF has exciting plans for 2014-15 to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the canal. One activity will be a concert by the Symphony of the Americas conducted by Jimmy Brooks, a CHS 58 graduate. The museum is planning to have a Friends of the Panama Canal Museum Collection at the University of Florida group to support our collection there and related activities. The museum appreciates your past support and hope you will continue to support the Panama Canal Museum collection at the University of Florida.

Tom Wilder thanked Kelly Parthenais for organizing the picnic this year and presented her with a small token of appreciation from the Society. Kelly thanked several members who helped her today including Suzanne Nolan, Lynn Nehring, and Shelia Rose. She also thanked Michael Young and his friend Vito for doing all the cooking.

Tom asked if anyone had any new business or questions for the Society. There being none Tom reported that the next General Membership Meeting will take place at Troyer's in Sarasota, Florida on May 19, 2012 and this will be the last membership meeting before the reunion.

Mike Coffey made a motion to adjourn the meeting; it was seconded by Shirley Avery. Motion carried.

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

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**TOM WILDER**  
**PRESIDENT**

