

PANAMA CANAL SOCIETY, INC.
MEMBERSHIP MEETING
TROYER'S RESTAURANT, SARASOTA, FLORIDA
MAY 19, 2012

President Tom Wilder welcomed the 36 members and guests in attendance to the General Membership Meeting held at Troyer's Restaurant in Sarasota, 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.

The president welcomed past presidents in attendance including Pete Foster, Bill McLaughlin and Bob Russell. The president also introduced the board members that were in attendance including Director Noreen Hanson; Immediate Past President Bob Russell; Sgt. at Arms Michael Young; By-Laws Chairperson and Co-Reunion Coordinator Bill McLaughlin; Chaplain Cheryl Russell; Editor Jacque Vowell and Office Manager Nancy Van Siclen.

The meeting adjourned for lunch and reconvened at 12: 37 p.m.

Tom also introduced an ex-officio member of our board his wife Kathy.

The president announced that prior to the commencement of the meeting copies of the Membership Meeting Minutes held on March 24, 2012 at Fort DeSoto Park in St. Petersburg, Florida were distributed to the membership. Therefore, the membership was asked for a motion to accept the minutes as written. Kathy Malin-McInturff made the motion to accept the minutes as written; it was seconded by Pete Foster. Motion carried.

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

The president reported that the Society membership seems to be stabilizing and we have almost 200 members that have joined the Governors Club for five years.

Record Editor Jacque Vowell reported that the June issue is at the office this weekend for proofing and should be sent to the printer towards the end of next week. She also asked the membership that if they see one of the reporters at the reunion to thank them for submitting articles to keep the membership informed of what is going on with other members in different parts of the country. She also reminded everyone to vote for the election of officers this year.

Reunion Coordinator Bill McLaughlin reported that we are only 38 days away from the first day of the 2012 Reunion. The 2012 Reunion Committee is working hard with final preparations and it looks like we are going to have another great reunion.

He reported that the deadline for hotel registration was May 15th but we have been given an extension so if you haven't gotten your hotel reservations in, do it as soon as possible.

Bill reported on some highlights for this reunion:

2012 Cultural Seminar which is cosponsored by the Panama Canal Society and Panama Canal Museum will be held on Friday afternoon from 2:00 p.m. and Dr. Robert H. Hughes will be the guest speaker. The topic will be "The Beginning of the American Era in Panama: The Railroad and the California Gold Rush". Dr. Hughes is a Zonian and this will be a very informative seminar for all those attending.

Following the Seminar a special video presentation on the American Experience (PBS) The Panama Canal will be shown in the same room. If you haven't seen this excellent documentary, please plan to attend.

We are very fortunate this year to have Richard A. Wainio, Tampa Port Director and CEO at the Annual Luncheon and he will give us an update as to the project in Panama and how the expansion will affect the State of Florida. Richard is a Zonian and was employed by the Panama Canal for 23 years. Preregistration will close on June 1st but if you decide at the reunion that you want to attend the Annual Luncheon please check with Nancy at the grand Ballroom Registration Desk for possible cancellation tickets that may be available.

The 4th Annual Pool Party on Saturday will feature Shorty&Slim providing the entertainment. This should be a great time and hope you can attend. Please remember, you must be a member in good standing and registered for the reunion to participate.

Tom Wilder reported that we will once again have the Murga on Saturday night before the Annual Ball and if you attend the Annual Meeting and since this is the 80th anniversary of the Panama Canal Society we will have a special guest attending the meeting.

Kathy Egolf representing the Panama Canal Museum reported that much of the Museum's collection has been moved to the University of Florida. The exhibit area at the Museum office is still intact and should be so for another month. If you plan to visit the museum, please call to make an appointment as the hours they are open are limited and varied. The final part of the move will take place in July; their lease in Seminole goes through July 31.

Kathy reported that they continue to pack for the move, work on the spring/summer mailing to members, and prepare for the Reunion. The museum presence at the reunion will include some exhibits, the silent auction, and other activities, including a despedida for the museum at 3:30 p.m. on Saturday in the museum exhibit room; sale tables in the vendor room; and a cultural seminar Friday afternoon with Dr. Bob Hughes speaking. UF will also be there with exhibits on health in the Canal Zone and the Canal Zone Police.

If you have items you'd like to donate to the silent auction or are available to volunteer some time at the Reunion, please contact the museum.

Kathy reported that the University of Florida has exciting plans for 2014-15 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the opening of the canal. One activity will be a concert by Symphony of the Americas musicians conducted by Jimmy Brooks, a CHS 1958 graduate. We are hoping people at this time will make contributions that will enable UF to do an oral history of Jimmy and transcribe it to help in getting out word about the concert. We are also 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.

One of our first major Friends activities will be at the end of January, when we plan to have an NCL cruise out of Miami that will go to the southern and eastern Caribbean.

Kathy thanked all of those who have been so supportive of the Panama Canal Museum in the past 14 years and we look forward to having you as Friends in the future.

Under New Business the president announced that Joan and Ed Ohman again won the Annual Attendance Award for 2011-2012 by attending five out of six of the General Membership Meetings. They will receive either two tickets to the ball, two tickets to the panazonian dance or one of each.

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

Tom reported that he was in Panama a few weeks ago and was over on the Atlantic side for a visit and was very impressed with the development of the new set of locks.

It was announced that Olga Disharoon was celebrating her 92nd birthday.

Tom reported that the reunion is June 27, 2012 through July 1, 2012 at the Orlando World Center Marriott in Orlando and the first general membership meeting following the reunion will be on October 6, 2012 at Latinos Y Mas in Ocala, Florida.

Bob Russell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:15 p.m.; seconded by Bill McLaughlin. Motion carried.

NANCY VAN SICLEN
OFFICE MANAGER/SECRETARY

TOM WILDER
PRESIDENT

