

PANAMA CANAL SOCIETY, INC.
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES
HILTON OCEANFRONT HOTEL – MELBOURNE, FLORIDA
FEBRUARY 2, 2013

President Tom Wilder welcomed the 87 members and guests in attendance to the General Membership Meeting held during Carnivalito at the Hilton Oceanfront Hotel in Melbourne, Florida and called the meeting to order at 6:25 p.m.

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

The president welcomed past presidents Pete Foster, Bill McLaughlin and Bob Russell who were in attendance. The president also introduced the board members that were in attendance including 2nd Vice President Shirley Avery; Director Mike Young; Treasurer Bill McLaughlin; Immediate Past President Bob Russell; Bylaws Chairperson Kathy Malin-McInturff; Sgt. at Arms Brittney Wilder, Chaplain Cheryl Russell; Editor Jacque Vowell and Office Manager Nancy Van Siclen.

The president announced that prior to the commencement of the meeting, copies of the minutes from the General Membership Meeting held on December 1, 2012 at the Wine Cellar Restaurant in Redington Beach, Florida were distributed to the membership, and therefore, the membership was asked for a motion to accept the minutes as written. Skeeter Camby made a motion to accept the minutes; it was seconded by Pete Foster. Motion carried.

The December 2012 Profit and Loss Comparison stands for audit.

Bill McLaughlin reported that as of today we have 151 days before the start of the 2013 Reunion. Bill reported that the committees are working hard with planning and it looks like we will have another great reunion. Remember you have to be a current member of the Society to register for the reunion.

Bill also reported that we will have two Cultural Seminars this year and asked Bob Russell to report on them. Bob reported that the first seminar will have Dr. Bruce MacFadden who is the Curator and Professor at the Florida Museum of Natural History at the University of Florida since 1977. His topic will be “Collecting fossils along the Panama Canal”. The second seminar will feature Brian Allen author of “My Paradise Lost, Misadventures to Manhood in the Panama Canal Zone”. Brian is a graduate of CHS/72.

Bill announced that the Friday night dances will not be combined this year. Because of many requests from members, the entertainment this year on Friday Night will be the "Blue Stone Circle". They are the House Band for Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville at Universal Studios City Walk in Orlando. They will be playing music from the 60's, 70's, 80's and 90's.

Tom Wilder reported that he had received confirmation this past week that William "Bill" Huff will be the guest speaker at the Annual Luncheon on Saturday during the reunion. He will be talking about the "Pilots Perspective on the New Locks". Bill is a graduate of CHS/63.

Bill McLaughlin reported that on Saturday afternoon the 5th Annual Pool Party will take place at the Marriott's Spa Pool and reminded the members that name badges are required to participate. Saturday night we plan on having the Murga again prior to the Annual Ball which will again feature Frankie Pretto and the Parranda Band.

He also asked that volunteers are needed to help during the reunion and if anyone would like to volunteer please contact one of the chairpersons listed in the Yellow Pages or call the Society office.

Bill reminded the members that we are looking for photos to create posters to display in the Clubhouse, Vendor Room, Registration, etc. Our theme this year is "Zonian Days" remembering the good old days from the Canal Zone. We are looking for a variety of old photos of family life, landmarks, activities, sports, etc. All photos will be returned after they are scanned.

Tom Wilder asked Frances Morrissey to draw the name for the early reunion registration contest. The winner was Sherri Kimball who will receive two free nights at the Orlando World Center Marriott during the 2013 reunion.

The president thanked Randy and JoElla Deakins and Bob and Frances Morrissey for arranging the festivities for the weekend and presented them with a small token of appreciation from the Society.

Door prizes were awarded and the grand prize of a silk floral arrangements made and donated by Margaret McLaughlin was won by Sean and Angelica Morrissey.

Tom reminded everyone that the next General Membership Meeting will be a picnic held on March 9, 2013 at Fort DeSoto Park in Pinellas County.

Bob Russell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m.; it was seconded by Bill McLaughlin. Motion passed.

NANCY VAN SICLEN
OFFICE MANAGER/SECRETARY

TOM WILDER
PRESIDENT