

**PANAMA CANAL SOCIETY, INC.  
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MINUTES  
LATINOS Y MAS, OCALA, FLORIDA  
OCTOBER 5, 2013**

**President Tom Wilder** welcomed the 49 members and guests 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 Brittney Wilder**, led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Tom welcomed past presidents Bill McLaughlin and Bob Russell who were in attendance. He also introduced board members 2<sup>st</sup> Vice President Shirley Avery; Director Noreen Hanson; Director Kelly Parthenais; Director Mike Young; Treasurer Bill McLaughlin; Past President Bob Russell; By-Law Chairperson Kathy Malin; Sgt. at Arms Brittney Wilder; Chaplain Cheryl Russell; Record Editor Jacque Vowell and Office Manager Nancy Van Sicen.

Meeting adjourned for lunch and reconvened at 12:30.

Prior to the commencement of the meeting copies of the minutes from the Annual Meeting held at the Orlando World Center Marriott in Orlando, Florida on July 5, 2013 were distributed to the membership, and therefore, the membership was asked for a motion to accept the minutes as written. Grace Shadeck made the motion to accept the minutes; it was seconded by Shirley Avery. Motion carried.

The August Financial Statement was distributed and stands for audit.

**Editor Jacque Vowell** reported that the October issue of the *Canal Record* is at the mailers and should be delivered to the Post Office one day next week for mailing.

**Reunion Coordinator Bill McLaughlin** reported that the 2014 Annual Reunion will be held at Rosen Shingle Creek Resort from July 2, 2014 – July 6, 2014 and the theme this year will be the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Panama Canal and our Zonian Heritage. All reunion information and details as well as the registration form will be in the December *Canal Record* yellow pages.

**Chairperson, Nominating Committee Bill McLaughlin** reported that it is time again to propose a new slate of officers for the Panama Canal Society Executive Board for the term of 2014-2016. Bill announced that Tom Wilder appointed him as Chairperson and we require two members of the current board and two members from the membership to serve on the committee. The two board members that have been approved by the board at the September board meeting are Bob Russell and Bliss (Morris) Connerton. Two members in good standing have come forward and volunteered to serve on the committee. According to the bylaws, these appointments must be approved by the members at this meeting. At this time I would like to ask for a motion to elect Rae Donaldson and Thomas Ellis, Jr. to serve on the Nominating Committee. Bob

Russell made the motion to approve Rae Donaldson and Thomas Ellis, Jr. to serve on the committee; it was seconded by Noreen Hanson. Motion carried.

Tom Wilder reported to the membership that the office hours for the Society will be changing effective November 1, 2013. The Society office will be closed on Friday afternoon and closed all day on Monday. He also announced that the October issue of the *Canal Record* has an ad looking for part-time help in the office and if you are interested and live in the Seminole area please submit a resume to the Society office.

The president introduced Rachel Shipper from the University of Florida who is the liaison between the University and the Friends of the Panama Canal Museum. Rachel reported that the University is very appreciative of all the donations they have been receiving and it is keeping them very busy processing them all. She also said that the Museum is a really fine collection of artifacts and they are trying to get everything organized. The University is working on plans for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the opening of the Panama Canal and the weekend of August 15, 2014 there are several events at the University in Gainesville. Rachel also reported that are also in the process of digitizing more material to be posted on the University website.

Frank Townsend a member of the Society is also working with the University and developing information about art with molasses and he also said that he is looking for aerial photos of the different views of the Canal Zone.

Tom announced that we have received confirmation back from the Panama Canal Authority that Mr. Jorge L. Quijano who is the CEO of the Panama Canal Authority will be our guest speaker at the Annual Luncheon during the 2014 Reunion.

The president announced that the next General Membership Meeting would be held on Saturday, November 2, 2013 at Tom Statham Park near Titusville, Florida. The Annual Christmas Luncheon will be held on December 7, 2013 at Carne ChopHouse in Ybor City, Florida and Carnavalito is scheduled for the weekend of January 31, 2014 and will be held at the Royal crown Plaza Hotel in Melbourne, Florida and all information and reservation form will be in the December issue of the *Canal Record*.

Door prizes were awarded and a grand prize of a two-night stay along with a round of golf for a foursome was won by Bob Russell.

Bill McLaughlin made a motion at 1:15 p.m. to adjourn the meeting; it was seconded by Mickler Bentley. Motion carried.

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

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**TOM WILDER**  
**PRESIDENT**