

PANAMA CANAL SOCIETY, INC.
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES
DER DUTCHMAN RESTAURANT, SARASOTA, FLORIDA
MAY 17, 2014

President **Tom Wilder** welcomed the 33 members and guests in attendance to the General Membership Meeting at the Der Dutchman Restaurant in Sarasota, Florida and called the meeting to order at 12:00 noon.

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

The president introduced the past presidents in attendance including Pete Foster and Bill McLaughlin. He also introduced the board members in attendance including 1st Vice President Mike Coffey; Treasurer Bill McLaughlin; Bylaws Chairperson Kathy Malin; Sgt. at Arms Brittney Wilder; Chaplin Cheryl Russell and Office Manager Nancy Van Siclen.

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

Prior to the commencement of the meeting copies of the minutes from the general membership meeting held at Philippe Park in Safety Harbor, Florida on March 22, 2014 were distributed, and therefore, the membership was asked for a motion to accept the minutes as written. Pete Foster made the motion to accept the minutes; it was seconded by Bobbie Egolf. Motion carried.

The February Financial Statement was distributed and stands for audit.

Reunion Coordinator **Bill McLaughlin** reminded everyone that it was only 45 more days until the 2014 Reunion begins and that June 1st is the deadline for anyone needing to register or purchase tickets.

Friends of the Panama Canal Museum **Kathy Egolf** reported that they would be having the silent auction at the reunion this year; the University of Florida will have exhibits in the Museum room; the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the opening of the Panama Canal will take place in Gainesville the weekend of August 15th; and they are planning on a cruise from Tampa in 2015 during the week of March 7th and it will leave from Tampa.

1st Vice President **Mike Coffey** reported that in April our membership is down 37% from last year and encouraged the members to get their family and friends to join and to continue their membership. He stated that a great way to do this would be to join the Governors Club which was stated in 2010 and your dues are paid for five full years.

The president reported that the winners of the Membership Attendance Award are Jim and Linda DesLondes who has attended each of the General Membership Meetings during 2013-2014. They will receive two free tickets to either the Friday night dance or the Saturday Ball.

Tom also announced that Cheryl Williams will be the new Secretary starting on August 1, 2014 since Nancy Van Siclen will be retiring.

He also stated that the Annual Meeting will be held on Friday, July 4th at 10:00 a.m. and the election of the new officers will be announced and on Saturday, July 5th the Annual Luncheon we will have Mr. Jorge L. Quijano the CEO of the Panama Canal Authority as the guest speaker.

The first general membership meeting following the Annual Reunion will be October 25th in Ocala, Florida at the Latinos Y Mas Restaurant and the reservation form will be in the June issue of the *Canal Record*.

Meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

NANCY VAN SICLEN
OFFICE MANAGER/SECRETARY

TOM WILDER
PRESIDENT