



PANAMA CANAL SOCIETY  
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
Saturday, March 13, 2021 – 9:30 a.m.  
ZOOM Meeting

Before Board meeting, Carl Orvis announced some health issues and told the Board to have a back-up plan in case he cannot attend the Reunion due to surgery or at least from lifting duties.

The ZOOM Board Meeting was called to order at 9:41 a.m. by Bill McLaughlin, P.P., President.

**Attendees:**

Bill McLaughlin, P.P. (President & Reunion Coordinator), Brittney Wilder (1<sup>st</sup> Vice President), James Beattie (2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President), Laura Kosik (Director), Nancy Van Siclen (Director), Patti Revello (Director), Tom Wilder, P.P. (Director-at-Large), Noreen Hanson (Treasurer), Elaine Lewis, P.P. (Past President), Carl Orvis (Chaplain), Ray Husum (ByLaws Chairperson), Bob Russell, P.P. (Legislature Representative), Betty LeDoux, P.P. (Reunion Hotel Coordinator), and Kathy Malin (Office Manager).

**Absent:** Christine K. Tirpak (Sergeant-at-Arms) and Jacque Vowell (Editor)

Bill welcomed the Board members. He asked if a committee was formed to review ways to save from increasing dues; packaging Reunion tickets; raising Reunion registration; etc. that was mentioned discussed in the January 2021 Board meeting. The committee was Betty LeDoux, Noreen Hanson, Ray Husum, Kathy Malin and then Betty announced she will be recruiting several members Dennis Gilbert, Jim Duffus & Neil Patton. Committee findings will be reported at the April board meeting.

Bill then asked if all reviewed the January Board minutes. Nancy Van Siclen motioned to approve the minutes as written, James Beattie seconded, and the motion carried.

Kathy explained that Scott Burns paid his Governor's Club membership on December 2, 2020 and passed away on January 19, 2021. His sister, Laura Burns Redemann, is his only beneficiary but she renewed her Governor's Club on December 9, 2020. So, if we transferred the GC over to Laura that would put her membership to 2030. Laura asked if she could get reimbursed for Scott's GC membership. Nancy motioned to reimburse Laura Redemann \$200 for Scott's GC membership, Tom Wilder seconded, and the motion carried.

Nancy motioned to approve the new members, Brittney Wilder seconded, and the motion carried.

**Financials:**

Noreen Hanson stated the Check Detail was business as usual. Noreen motioned to pay the bills, Nancy seconded, and the motion carried. Noreen reviewed the P&L. Currently, there is a decrease of memberships from last year.

**President Reports and Remarks:**

Bill reported that the Ministry of Panama Tourism has been in contact with him. They would like to attend the Reunion to promote Panama and Bill has agreed to let them speak for 15 minutes at the Annual meeting.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
March 13, 2021

The 2020 Sponsors funds have been moved over to 2021 Reunion except for Howler Monkey who requested a refund last year. Bill will be contacting them for additional sponsorship for 2021. If they do not sign up again for sponsorship, they will not have advertisements in our Canal Records from October 2021 through June 2022 unless they pay for the ads. There is a fee that the Society must pay to the U.S.P.S. for advertising in the Canal Records.

Noreen will have the 2021 Budget ready for the Board to review in the next week then will incorporate into QuickBooks. Based on last year's numbers, we need to focus on growing memberships and decreasing Canal Record costs.

On Facebook, Bill had Tom post a letter with Orlando COVID information encouraging people to attend the Reunion. There was one negative comment and Tom stated it has died down. Betty suggested only Tom should be on responding from the Board on Facebook. Tom will deflect people to call the office with any questions. Laura Kosik says she like to post reminders and Carl agreed that Laura should keep posting. But the first initial post of an event should come from Tom with Bill's approval.

Carnavalito has 38 members signed up which is 67% of our pickup. Our responsibility if cancelled is \$7,814.00 minus the \$2,500 deposit which is \$5,314, the Society would owe. Betty can try to see if Rosen Shingle Creek can reschedule Carnavalito to 2022 but we would still have a cancellation fee. Betty told us that Rosen Shingle Creek is accredited for GBAC, which is a clean COVID policy, i.e. masks in public space & while walking around, thermometer at the door when you enter the hotel then the guest receives a wristband, etc. There are only 40 accredited hotels in the state of Florida and 3 of them being Rosen properties. The hotel rooms cutoff date has been extended to April 1<sup>st</sup>. Other cost saving suggestions is to move the dance to a smaller ball room; no hors d'oeuvres; move to 2022. The Board decided to move the final cancellation decision to April 1<sup>st</sup>. Kathy will send out another email blast next week. Board meeting will be at 10:00 am in the Wekiwa room.

Bill has been revising the floor plans for the Reunion. Luncheon will seat 5-6 guests, the tables in the ball room will be spread out with less chairs at table, Annual meeting will have rows blocked off or spread out, Registration tables will have only family/friends seated at the same table plus check-in tables will be spread out in the hallway, etc. Bill suggested purchasing masks and face shields for the volunteers working at the registration tables. Laura disagreed about having face shields, only masks. No further discussion ensued.

Golf bus transportation deposit of \$406.00 needs to be paid by June 8<sup>th</sup>.

U-Haul needs to be packed on Monday, July 5<sup>th</sup> which is a holiday plus Senior Resources should be closed. Kathy will check. James mentioned he will not arrive from vacation until later that night. Kathy suggested to ask Mike Coffey. Kathy said she spoke to Mike to get the trailer and load in exchange for more hotel room nights. Betty suggested that we pay for the not comp. half of his villa that he reserved. Bill liked the idea, but no further discussion ensued.

Father Pretto got his vaccination and will be coming to the Reunion but not sure if his band members coming from Panama will make it. Bill will ask the Los Legionarios if Fr. Pretto's band members can't make it out of Panama.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
March 13, 2021

Laura reported on the Volunteer status. Since she opened the Sign-up website, she has 84 out of 152 slots filled. Need Despedidia volunteers but Ray Husum said no worries, he will find his volunteers. Still need to find a computer person for Thursday since James is golfing. Noreen suggested Priscilla & Howard Reed.

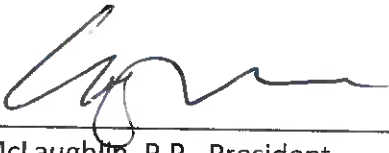
Bill wants to reduce the number of Beer Kegs at the Pool Party to save money. Bill did get Caribe to reduce the keg prices from \$300 to \$150.00 ++. Board suggested to hold off until closer to the Reunion to have a better count of attendees. David Smith signed the DJ contract for the Pool Party for \$300 plus 1 hotel night.

Bill discussed the Security for the dances and Noreen is collecting the money after the Ball but not the DJ. That chair will need to meet her the next morning to turn over the money collected. No further discussion ensued.

Betty stated we have until May 5<sup>th</sup> to drop the attrition by 10%. Then on June 4<sup>th</sup>, another 10% can be dropped. Betty will call Stacy Parker on Scott's Celebration of Life moving from the Antiqua room to inside the hotel main building.

We have 12 Vendors so the Chairs need to call the Vendors or Kathy can send an email to them.

Tom made a motion to adjourn at 11:13 a.m., Nancy seconded, and motion carried.



---

Bill McLaughlin, P.P., President



---

Kathy Malin, Office Manager