



PANAMA CANAL SOCIETY  
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
Saturday, April 17, 2021 – 10:00 a.m.  
Rosen Shingle Creek, Orlando, FL

The Board Meeting was called to order at 10:06 a.m. by Bill McLaughlin, P.P. (President).

**Attendees:**

Bill McLaughlin, P.P. (President & Reunion Coordinator), James Beattie (2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President), Nancy Van Sicen (Director), Laura Kosik (Director), Patti Revello (Director), Tom Wilder, P.P. (Director–At-Large), Noreen Hanson (Treasurer), Carl Orvis (Chaplain), Jacque Vowell (Editor), Betty LeDoux, P.P. (Reunion Hotel Coordinator), and Kathy Malin (Office Manager)

**Attendees by Telephone:** Elaine Lewis (Past President) and Ray Husum (ByLaws)

**Absent:** Brittney Wilder (1<sup>st</sup> Vice President), Christine Tirpak (Sergeant-at-Arms), and Bob Russell, P.P. (Legislature Representative)

Bill welcome all and stated this was the first ‘in person’ meeting since last August. Elaine made a motion to approve the March Executive Board meeting minutes, Nancy seconded, and the motion carried.

Tom motioned to reinstate Joanie (Ridge) McCoy as the North California Reporter, Noreen seconded, and the motion carried. Bill welcome Jim Duffus, the Northwest Reporter. Tom motioned to approve the 3 new members, Elaine seconded, and the motion carried.

Noreen stated the Check Detail Report was business as usual. Tom motioned to approve paying the bills, Elaine seconded, and the motion carried. Bill announced the P&L will be given out tonight at the General Membership meeting. Noreen stated that the income looks high, but the Reunion bills have not been paid. This is normal at this time of year with about 1,000 registered. Tom asked Bill to write up a letter or notes so Tom can update FaceBook about the number of Reunion attendees. Betty stated the sequence number is at 564 which is under pace, which it is usually slower in March/April and picks back up in May.

**President Report and Remarks:**

Bill has contacted the 2020 Reunion sponsors to see if they want to sponsor again even though the sponsorship was moved from 2020 to 2021 except for Howler Monkey who received their refund. Only B&C Financials, Tom Ellis, offered up \$1500 again to sponsor the Pool Party. We have a new \$200 sponsor from the Episcopal Cathedral of St. Luke, Ancon, Panama. The Minister of Tourism in Panama would like to speak at this year’s Reunion. Bill told them; we already have our venues set but he could have 15 minutes at the Annual Meeting. Bill has spoken to them and mailed them 2 Canal Records along with sponsorship forms. Ricardo March has retired from Ron Abuelo, but Bill has his replacement name, and they are very much interested in sponsoring. Bill is still waiting for their forms and will contact him again next week.

A discussion ensued about Sponsors and Vendor becoming members first. It was discussed the Sponsors should be members and Vendors must be members. The Board discussed adding a complimentary membership for Sponsors but need to determine which level of sponsorship. Right now, it will be case by case

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 17, 2021

with the Board voting on Complimentary or not. If we can get the Ministry of Tourism involved, we could possibly solicit the Panama Canal Authority.

Bill brought up the FaceBook. The Board discussed Joanne Simonsson's post. When Joanne called the office on Tuesday after her post, Kathy explained the Vendor procedures and mailed her copies of Vendor Information which is also on-line. Joanne seemed happy with the results. The Board then discussed Dennis Gilbert's questions on non-mask wearing and other Reunion protocols. Bill stated the Caribe is opening and being more flexible. The Board talked about the Reunion atmosphere, safest, and personal decisions for all. We need to support the County and Hotel regulations but there will not be enforced in our own spaces. It will be a personal decision if you want to wear your mask or not. Jim indicated when they flew to Florida, when you boarded the plane, it was mandatory to wear a mask but if you were drinking or eating, you could take off your mask. COVID protocols is govern by property and county and not by PCS.

Carnavalito is going strong with Bloody Mary's in the Hospitality Suite after the meeting.

Bill brought up loading the U-Haul for the Reunion. It needs to be done on Monday, July 5<sup>th</sup> and driven over on Tuesday, July 6<sup>th</sup>. James returns from vacation on the evening of July 5<sup>th</sup> so he will be able to drive U-Haul over but someone else needs to pick it up and load it. Elaine offered Tom Hanna to deliver the U-Haul, Laura offered Randy Rios and Jim suggested a POD. Betty will ask some younger guys (Alan Eckel) up in North Tampa area so they can help load the U-Haul.

Betty reminded the Board members who have Villas that they will only be reimbursed for equal to a hotel room and only the number of days that was sent to each Board member.

Frankie Pretto and his band has decided to play for the Annual Ball. The production person is trying to find all the equipment that is needed. One company he has used closed.

Bill has written Green pages for the June Canal Record to inform attendees of Reunion & COVID protocol updates. Tom suggested one sentence for FaceBook is needed. A Security discussion resulted in hiring Security for the Ball and Vendor only at \$30 an hour vice \$19. Carl asked for some help with the DJ dance because he would like to go the BHS 76 dance. Betty and Nancy volunteered to work the 10pm to midnight shift then Brittney and/or Carl will work midnight to 2am.

Laura stated the 120 volunteers have signed up for 198 slots. Noreen suggested to Laura that Governor's Club will need more volunteers and she could possibly move volunteers around. Once the registration closes, we can determine how many GC members are vice Annual members then work the table floor plan accordingly.

The Board must determine by June 1<sup>st</sup>, the number of kegs to order for the Pool Party. It was suggested 5 kegs at \$150. each.

Betty will drop the Reunion hotel rooms by 10% now for the attrition clause and we will relook at it by June to see if we need to drop it again by 10%.

Only 20 vendors have signed up. An email was sent to all the vendors from the last 2 years.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 17, 2021

Nancy motioned to give a Governors Club membership to Charlie Morris for speaking at the Reunion, Tom seconded, and the motioned carried.

On GC Memberships, Carl asked where the incentive was for being a GC member. Tom explained the ByLaws pertaining to changing the pricing of GC or even annual membership. Noreen explained that giving away our revenue is not a good business decision and Reunion is not our revenue maker, it is the membership dues. Membership pays for Canal Record, payroll, and a few office supplies. It was suggested to give Frankie Pretto a Honorary Membership. Jacque will write up something for the June Canal Record and send to Bill. Then it will need to be voted on in the Annual Meeting at the Reunion.

Golf has only 35 golfers and 6 luncheon guests. The contract is for 72, it was suggested for Betty to reduce number of golfers. Katie Beattie needs to start calling golfers. [Kathy sent an email to all golfers that played in 2019 & signed up for 2020 on April 20.] Bus transportation was discussed, and Kathy is to send out a survey to the current golfers on if they are using transportation or not. [Email sent on April 20.]

**Upcoming Events:**

Bill will not be able to make the May PCS Spring picnic due to knee surgery on May 10<sup>th</sup>. Brittney or James will have to run the meeting. Bill will write up something. All other future events have been sent out.

A motion to adjourn was made to end the meeting at 11:40 am.



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Bill McLaughlin, President



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Kathy Malin, Office Manager