



PANAMA CANAL SOCIETY  
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
Saturday, August 7, 2021 – 9:30 a.m.  
Panama Canal Society Office, Lutz, FL

The Board Meeting was called to order at 9:40 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 Siclen (Director), Patti Revello (Director), Tom Wilder, P.P. (Director–At-Large), Elaine Lewis, P.P. (Past President), Christine Tirpak (Sergeant-at-Arms), Bob Russell, P.P. (Legislature Representative), Jacque Vowell (Editor), and Kathy Malin (Office Manager)

**Attendees by Telephone:** Laura Kosik (Director), Carl Orvis (Chaplain), and Ray Husum (ByLaws)

**Absent:** Brittney Wilder (1<sup>st</sup> Vice President),

Bill welcomed all and asked if everyone had read the June 12, 2021, minutes. Tom Wilder made a motion to approve the June Executive Board meeting minutes, Elaine Lewis seconded, and the motion carried.

Bill announced that Noreen Hanson resigned from the appointed position of Treasurer and read Noreen's letter of resignation, which is attached to these minutes. Tom Wilder asked if we should have an audit performed. Bill stated that it was not a financial matter, however, Tom insisted on knowing exact why Noreen resigned. Kathy Malin and Bill explained that it was because of some past decisions made by the Board. Bill stated that the participants were not present, thus further discussion would be tabled. It has been determined that no further discussion is required. Whenever an issue arises any Society matters that require action by the board all facts should be presented with proof. The Society has lost a valuable board member who has served many years on the Executive Board. When in doubt, I ask that you come to the board with any concerns in the future.

The Board reviewed the P&L which looked good and indicated that we made a profit of \$8K from the Reunion. Check Detail Report was business as usual. Tom motioned to approve paying the bills, Elaine seconded, and the motion carried. Kathy explained why 2 golfers requested refunds of \$90 each. Tom motioned to approve Ed Egger and Judy Nelson for the golf refunds. Nancy Van Siclen seconded, and the motion carried.

**Reunion Reports:**

The After-Action Reports (AAR) were discussed:

- Chairpersons did not understand their duties.
- Website - There needs to be a box stating "The Membership & Registration charges are not automatic. You will receive a receipt in 1-2 weeks. Hotel Confirmations will be emailed in 2-3 months."
- Hours of Operation – To be discussed at the October board meeting.
- Registration – small room, not enough food for volunteers, breakfast tickets not explained to Chairpersons, some Honorary members not in GC section, members confused on which line to pick up name badges. Chairpersons should refrain from using profanity and indulgence of alcohol while on duty.

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- Dances – Chairpersons did not show up to work at the door until called. Suggestion to eliminate wristbands and use tickets as before. Wristbands slow down the entrance to the room. Signs with dress code should be posted with at the door where security collects the money. If we are paying for security at the door, why do the board members need to work? Board should decide on a dress code or not have one; possibly conduct a survey. Chairperson should do a security brief prior to the dance. Possible re-naming of the dance from Ball to something else. Persons under the allowable age were allowed to enter the dance.
- Cultural Seminar – Think about changing the name. Members felt like they didn't know about it.
- Vendors – Incorporate the set-up of WiFi into the PCS master account, then charge the vendors a set amount for each day – i.e. \$25.
- Luncheon – If any member has a problem or wants into the event, Board members and volunteers should not assist; send them to the Chairpersons to assist. Kathy Wilder needs the RC report to refer too.
- Bingo – Nancy would like different type of gifts, possibly gift cards to the hotel restaurants.
- Despedida Lottery Ticket Sales – Only needs 2 volunteers per shift. Who sets out the Coloring Books? [Ray volunteer in the future.]
- Reporter Luncheon – no attendees.
- Emails to the Office:
  - The music needs to have rhythm or change. A lot of younger members did not grow up with the organ music.
  - Stranger, John Marshall aka Juan Mariscal, was walking around poolside and frightened a few members with his actions. He was also seen in the vendor room taking pictures and purchasing items.
- Reunion Coordinator – Elaine suggested we need a backup for Bill and they should start learning the Reunion Coordinator duties.

### **Nominating Committee:**

Bob Russell discussed the Nominating Committee (NC) and reported that because of Noreen's recent resignation that another member from the Board is needed on the NC. Elaine Lewis nominated herself, the motion was seconded by Nancy Van Siclen, and approved by the Board. Society members expressing an interest in being on the Committee were discussed. Bob reported that Betty LeDoux was nominated by Dennis Gilbert at the annual business meeting and that Barbara (Whitman)Lancaster had volunteered to serve on the committee at the conclusion of the meeting. Other members reported to be interested were Sue Nolan and Lynn Nehring. The election of the members from the general membership will take place at the September luncheon.

Bob then asked who on the Board was interested in running for an elective office in the next term. After some discussion, two board members expressed interest. They are Laura Kosik and Carl Orvis. Tom Wilder informed the Board that they don't have to decide until the December luncheon. Tom also mentioned that the NC will not be formed until after the September luncheon at Der Dutchman. Bob concurred in Tom's remarks.

Bob reported that he already had received nominations for Executive Board positions from Board members and a past president. The nominations were Mike Young, Bosco Hoyte, and Christy Sacco. Ted Kaufer is interested in being the Sgt-at-Arms. Each of these candidates will be verified by a member of the NC to confirm their willingness to serve as an elected officer before being added to the slate of proposed officers. Bill reiterated that the nominations for the NC

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needed to be voted on at the September luncheon. Bob stated that a NC Report will be published in the October Canal Record giving the membership the details on how to submit nominations and the deadlines for receipt of nominations.

**New Business:**

CHS 72 has sent emails requesting to host the Friday night dance. Tom motioned to approve CHS 72 to host and sponsor the dance, Elaine seconded, and the motion carried.

Kathy asked to purchase a desk and a bookshelf to store the old, bounded Canal Records. Elaine motioned to approve \$1,000 for new office furniture, James Beattie seconded, and the motion carried. Kathy gave the Board three quotes on movers and stated only one mover showed up to give an actual estimate which were The College Hunks. Elaine motioned to approve The College Hunks to move the office, Tom seconded, and motion carried.

Bill introduced Bruce Homa who might be interested in the Treasurer position. Bruce thanked all for letting him attend and he now understands the complexity and problems the Board faces, especially with the Reunion. He will now be volunteering at the Reunions but will decline the Treasurer's position. He feels he is not qualified, especially since he does not work with QuickBooks. His brother, Dean, is familiar with QuickBooks. Bill will contact Dean.

Margaret McLaughlin spoke about the Christmas luncheon decorations and suggested they should artificial instead of real because the date is too far away from Christmas. She estimated about \$25.00 per table and there are 15 tables. Nancy motioned to approve \$375.00 for Christmas decorations, Tom seconded, and stated not to exceed \$400.00 and the motion was carried.

Sheila Tucker, the NC reporter, requested the Society be a sponsor for their picnic on October 9th so she can post on our FaceBook page. The cost of the picnic shelter is \$25.00 which she provided a receipt for. Tom motioned for PCS to sponsor and pay for the shelter, James seconded, and the motion carried.

Bill mentioned that the Chairpersons were given a job description for their responsibilities at during the August 2020 board meeting. However, he feels that board members needed a refresh briefing at the reunion.

Bob thought the Reunion was a great success.

**Upcoming Events:**

- Sarasota Luncheon is on September 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Next Board meeting is October 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Space Coast picnic is November 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Christmas Luncheon is December 4<sup>th</sup>.



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Bill McLaughlin, President



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Kathy Malin, Office Manager