



PANAMA CANAL SOCIETY
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES
Der Dutchman Restaurant, 3713 Bahia Vista St, Sarasota, FL 34232
September 11, 2021

Meeting was called to order at 11:47 a.m. by Bill McLaughlin (President). Bill welcomed all to the meeting and a quorum was present.

Carl Orvis was called to lead the Invocation but before that, Carl read a letter he wrote about 9/11 and ended with "We will Never Forget". He then asked for a moment of silence before saying a prayer.

Bill asked all to stand while Christine Tirpak, Sergeant-at-Arms, lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Bill stated that the Der Dutchman has gone to great lengths to make our luncheon as safe as possible and thanked Bob and Cheryl Russell for chairing this event. He then asked the 47 guests to look over the flyer that had all our upcoming events, list of Executive Board members and thanked the Reunion sponsors. He also said that the PCS office had to move due to Aging Solutions are expanding and needed our rooms. Kathy Malin and the College Hunks moved our offices to 15131 Ogden Loop in Odessa, Fl. Please use the new address for future payments. Bill told everyone it is always nice to see fellow Zonians and friends.

The meeting broke for lunch and resumed at 12:37 p.m.

Bill introduced the Past Presidents in attendance: Betty LeDoux, Elaine Lewis, Bob Russell and himself. He announced the Board members present: Brittney Wilder, 1st Vice President, James Beattie, 2nd Vice President; Carl Orvis, Chaplain; Christine Tirpak, Sergeant-at-Arms; Jacque Vowell, Editor and Kathy Malin, Office Manager.

Bill stated that, we have the Profit & Loss Report on your tables for review. If you have any questions, please raise your hand. Otherwise, this report will stand for audit. Noreen Hanson ran a report that shows the Reunion not only broke even but made over \$8,800. BHS 76 donated \$1,000 to future Reunions. The goal of the Reunion financials is to break even. On a sad note, Noreen Hanson, has moved on and we are currently looking for a member to step up to the Treasurer's position. Noreen has done an outstanding job on the Board since 2010 and as the Treasurer since 2014.

We had a successful Reunion in 2021 despite the pandemic. We had almost the same attendance as we did in 2019 with no pandemic. Bill thanked the volunteers and Laura Kosik, Volunteer Chairpersons, is looking for volunteers for 2022 Reunion. Please contact Laura or the PCS Office.

We are currently on a membership campaign as mentioned in the June *Canal Record* President's Report and at the Reunion. We need to encourage friends and family to join and maintain their memberships. Also we can encourage descendants of Zonians to join or even sponsor an Associate Member.

Bill called upon Bob Russell, who is serving as the Chairperson for the 2021-2022 Nominating Committee (NC) to discuss the NC agenda for today's meeting. Bob explained that the NC was composed of five members - the Chair, 2 Board Members and 2 Regular Members. Elaine Lewis and Jacque Vowell were elected by the Executive Board to serve as Board members on the NC. Bob then stated that the purpose of today's vote was to elect two members from the general membership meeting to the NC.



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Before calling for nominations, Bob informed the membership that Betty LeDoux had been nominated at the Annual Business meeting at the reunion by Dennis Gilbert but not voted on. He also advised the membership to be in compliance with our bylaws Betty must be voted on at today's meeting. Bob then advised the membership that Barbara (Whitman) Lancaster had volunteered after the conclusion of the Annual Meeting to serve on the NC. For her to serve she must be nominated at a general business and voted on. He then asked if there was a nomination from the floor for Barbara. Kathy Malin nominated her.

Bob then asked for any other nominations. Another name was submitted and then withdrawn. Bob asked if there were any other nominations three times. Hearing none, he closed the nominations and called for a vote. Betty and Barbara were unanimously elected to serve on the N.C. At the conclusion of the voting, Bob mentioned that the six elective offices were President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, and 3 Directors. To fill the position of President, a member must have served as an "elected" voting member in one of the positions of Vice President or Director for one term (2 years). All member candidates must be a member in good standing with their dues for one year to be elected to an office. Bob thanked the membership for their participation in the NC election and turned the meeting back to President McLaughlin.

Bill introduced Kathy Egolf to speak about the Panama Canal Museum Collection (PCMC) and the Friends of the Museum. Kathy was excited at the Reunion to see the largest room to host the PCMC from UF and the Auction activities. UF was present and at the Cultural Seminar presented the pop culture of WWII and showed films and photographs from for that era. They also conducted Oral Histories. The Auction did well and made over \$8,000 with Micky Fitzgerald and Carole Miller taking over the responsibilities and did a great job. The amount made set a record and Mickey & Carole want to challenge that amount for next year. They will be at the November picnic with some items to sell. Laura Kosik helped Mickey with Sign-Up Genius for the volunteer schedule, which was a great success, but they need more volunteers at future Reunions. Next year is the 10th anniversary of transferring the Museum from Seminole to UF.

Carole Miller spoke about becoming a member of the Friends of the Museum for only \$26 a year. They currently have 147 members but are looking to increase that membership. See Carole if you want to join.

Bill spoke about next year's Reunion to be held at Rosin Shingle Creek which have larger conference rooms. Sign up by February 8th to be in the early bird drawing for 2 free nights at the Reunion.

Bill asked attendees if there were any new or old business. Dick Morgan told his story about 9/11 that he was returning from a golfing trip in Ireland that day. His plane was diverted to Newfoundland.

Bill thanked everyone for attending and the meeting was adjourned at 1:12 p.m.

Door prizes were drawn.

Handwritten signature of Bill McLaughlin in black ink.

Bill McLaughlin, President

Handwritten signature of Kathy Malin in blue ink.

Kathy Malin, Office Manager