



PANAMA CANAL SOCIETY
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Saturday, October 16, 2021 – 9:30 a.m.
Panama Canal Society Office, Odessa, FL

The Board Meeting was called to order at 9:32 a.m. by Bill McLaughlin, P.P. (President).

Attendees:

Bill McLaughlin, P.P. (President & Reunion Coordinator), James Beattie (2nd Vice President), Laura Kosik (Director), Elaine Lewis, P.P. (Past President), Christine Tirpak (Sergeant-at-Arms), Carl Orvis (Chaplain), Bob Russell, P.P. (Legislature Representative), Jacque Vowell (Editor), Margaret McLaughlin (Reunion Chairperson) and Kathy Malin (Office Manager)

Attendees by Telephone: Brittney Wilder (1st Vice President), Tom Wilder, P.P. (Director–At-Large), Ray Husum (ByLaws) and Cindy Alderman (Treasurer)

Absent: Nancy Van Sicen (Director) and Patti Revello (Director),

Bill welcomed all and asked if everyone had read the August 7, 2021, minutes. Betty LeDoux wanted wording changed in the second paragraph and Elaine Lewis wanted the Registration paragraph at bottom of first page adjusted. Elaine made a motion to approve the August Executive Board meeting minutes with the two changes, James Beattie seconded, and the motion carried.

Correspondence:

Bill welcome Cindy Alderman as the newly appointed Treasurer. Per ByLaws, the President can appoint a Treasurer. Cindy (BHS 77) has an outstanding resume which everyone received a copy. She understands it is not a paying position and will be balancing the books at the end of each month, reviewing QuickBooks Reports, and analyzing the P&L and other spending. She also understands that she must attend the Annual Meeting during the reunion and must serve on a committee during the reunion each year; Cindy agreed to work at the dances in addition to observing the handling of the income by income producing activities.

Financials:

The Board reviewed the P&L which looked good. Check Detail Report was business as usual. Elaine motioned to approve paying the bills, James seconded, and the motion carried.

President Reports & Remarks:

Bill stated that the move went smoothly and thanked Kathy for moving the Office and Ray Husum for his legal expertise. Our name and website are on the sign in front of the building. Kathy thanks Mike Young and Bill and Margaret McLaughlin for coming to the office to purge and hang pictures.

Chris Wilder is finalizing the moving of our website to Word Press as our hosting server. He is trying to figure out how to put our Access database in the Cloud. Per Kathy, our PCS documents are in the Cloud on Microsoft OneDrive. Chris is going to be traveling overseas for his job and will have limited access to assist PCS.

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We have moved Space Coast picnic from November 6 to February 26 due to conflicting events for many participants.

Kathy shared the menu for the UF Luncheon which is scheduled for March 26. Pricing has gone up after COVID and unless we raise the price, the Society will lose money. Bill explained the Panama Canal Museum Collection (PCMC) will be celebrating 10 years since they took over the Museum collection. Someone has donated an Al Sprague 'mule' painting that was used to create the Canal Zone stamp. Al is writing a book which should be published by December. They hope to have this book at the UF luncheon. James motioned to raise the UF Luncheon to \$35, Elaine seconded, and the motion carried.

New Business:

Bill assigned the Chairpersons duties for the 2022 Reunion as follows:

Onsite Reunion Coordinators: James Beattie will drive U-Haul and Carl & Brittney will place/remove signs throughout the reunion's five days as needed. All will load and unload the trailer.

Registration: James Beattie, Laura Kosik and Elaine Lewis.

Hotel: Betty LeDoux and Nancy Van Siclen.

Information Desk: Kathy Malin and Jacque Vowell.

Ticket Sales: Patti Revello.

Luncheon: Tom and Kathy Wilder.

Golf: Katie and James Beattie.

Vendors: Tom Wilder will set up on Wednesday then Christine Tirpak will be in Vendor Room – Thurs-Sun

Bingo: Nancy Van Siclen. Bingo will be in the Butler Room which is bigger and closer to the mainstream of things. Betty stated that Nancy asked for better prizes besides the \$300 given on site. Elaine motioned to give Nancy \$200 to purchase Bingo prizes, Tom seconded, and the motion carried.

Dances: Carl Orvis and Cindy Alderman. Bill stated we are going back to handing out tickets vice wrist bands because of the congestion at the door. He would like the signs about dress code be placed next to the Ticket Sales at the door plus during the day at the ticket sales table. Cindy suggested to print the dress code on the tickets. Tom stated it should be Business Casual. Others stated no ripped jeans, shorts, tank tops or flip flops and to print it out and place in the Registration envelopes. Betty suggested to place it in the Pink Pages and boxes throughout the March *Canal Record* explaining what Business Casual means and encourage people to dress up. Carl suggested that Security should not sell tickets.

Despedida Lottery Tickets: Ray Husum. Ray will also take the Coloring Books to the Sunday morning show.

Security: Allison Perry-McLaughlin. Tom suggested that Allison meet with Security onsite and brief them. Bill told us that Allison also is the liaison to the Hotel Security and not the contract security we hire.

Murga/Dance Class/Despedida: Margaret McLaughlin

Cultural Seminar: Bob Russell. Bill and Bob are still trying to find a speaker. More signs need to be posted to draw a bigger crowd. Speakers on Stamp and Bottle collections and a Smithsonian person were suggested.

Sponsors: Bill McLaughlin and Kathy Malin.

Pool Party: Betty LeDoux and Brittney Wilder.

Volunteers: Laura Kosik. Laura stated it is hard to find volunteers for Friday and Saturday.

Zonie: Brittney Wilder.

The Board has many duties and responsibilities throughout the year and at the Reunion. Kathy can send out Reunion Job Descriptions. Board members need to be leaders and take initiatives.

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Reunion Hours of Operations for Registration, Ticket & Lottery Sales, and Information Desk:

Wednesday & Thursday – same as last year

Friday & Saturday – 1-2:30 pm and 3-4:30 pm

Deadlines will be June 3rd for Registration/Hotel and for Refunds, June 15th. Early bird deadline will be February 8th and the drawing at the Space Coast picnic. In addition, the hotel has provided with a complimentary three night stay (king or queen room, an upgrade to a suite, and a dinner gift certificate for of \$200 for Cala Bella or A Land Remembered fine dining restaurants. These will be drawn the UF luncheon. Only members registered for the reunion by February 8th will be in the drawings.

The Annual Luncheon speaker will be Ilya de Marotta, Deputy Administrator, Canal de Panama. Bill promised her airfare and 3 nights at the hotel. The luncheon meal will be Arroz con Pollo, Beef Steak Picado or Spicy Lentil Stew along with an Indian River Salad and Bread Pudding with Ice Cream.

Bill is having difficulties with the Hotel and the Convention team. He and Margaret have driven to Orlando twice now to speak with the Convention team. They want us to pay for Fire Inspectors and/or permits. Bill is still negotiating rum for Happy Hour in addition to the Hours of Operation for the Clubhouse. Rosen Shingle stated all liquors must come through their distributor. Bill needs to ask the Marriott & Caribe about Clubhouse sales to prove to Rosen that the Clubhouse needs to open before lunch to late into the evening.

The Board decided not to purchase bags this year but a lanyard with the 90th Anniversary logo. The lanyards will be the PCS colors – blue and gold. The Governor's Club will receive a pen as the extra gift. The volunteers will receive a koozie with a zipper. Luncheon gift can be the US/Panama flag pin.

At the Pool Party, we will use the Hotel DJ which is provided by the hotel at no cost to us. Last year's Pool Party DJ needed more interaction with the attendees, but the setup was not favorable for this. Betty will contact Grant Hemmond for a DJ at the Friday Night Late Night DJ Dance.

Betty apologized for not having a Reunion all-inclusive package ready to present but will work on one for 2023. This would include the dances as well as Registration but not the Annual Luncheon for one price. Board members still wanted to offer the \$10 Registration fee too.

Nominating Committee:

Bob Russell reported he had a full committee, and that the October *Canal Record* will have a write up on nominations. Bob received an email from Dina Mauldin who expressed interest to run for office, but she lives in South Carolina. A discussion ensued on Board members being out of the Florida area. Tom stated we must change the ByLaws. Ray will work up a ByLaws change for the December *Canal Record*.

No one had additional discussions.

Upcoming Events:

Christmas Luncheon: December 4th

Board Meeting: February 5th

Space Coast Picnic: February 26th

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UF Luncheon: March 26th
Board Meeting: April 9th
FL Spring Picnic: May 14
Board Meeting: June 11th
Pack U-Haul: July 4th
Reunion: July 6-10th with Annual Meeting on July 8th.

A break for lunch was called with the meeting still in session and board members still on the Zoom phone and at the table. Working lunch continued the meeting.

During lunch, Kathy and Bill discussed the hiring of part-time help to assist during Kathy's vacations and during peak Reunion registration. Kathy will be off for two weeks in December. Betty took a full-time job in the beginning of last year that left Kathy alone to handle the peak membership and reunion registration. Betty then spoke up and asked, what about me, I can work weekends? Kathy spoke up and said that he (Bill) told her to hire someone so Kathy wouldn't be so overwhelmed with the work. In anticipation of the upcoming registration season and taking off two weeks in December, Kathy has finally done what Bill asked her to do and is hiring a new office assistant. Betty said so I am out?

Elaine said she has offered to volunteer. Kathy said she calls in volunteers when needed like for name badge printing and registration envelope stuffing, but additional staff member is needed during office hours.

Bill asked the board members present and on the Zoom call if anyone had any other business to discuss.

The Zoom call disconnected itself and no further discussion was made.

Meeting adjourned at noon.



Bill McLaughlin, President



Kathy Malin, Office Manager