



Panama Canal Society General Membership Minutes
St. Petersburg Yacht Club, 1 Central Avenue, St. Petersburg, FL
December 4, 2021

Meeting was called to order by **Bill McLaughlin, President**, at 11:54 a.m. Bill welcomed everyone and thanked everyone for coming to the luncheon. We have a quorum present to do business.

Bill told all that **Chaplain Carl Orvis** could not be here today as he is recovering from a recent medical procedure and was doing well. **Cheryl Russell** will give the Invocation in his place.

Invocation: Cheryl Russell

A Moment of Silence for our recently departed members and friends was asked for and given.

Pledge of Allegiance: Sgt. at Arms Christine Kervin Tirpak (all standing)

Bill stated we have 128 in attendance today. He asked all to review the agenda, 2 membership meetings' minutes and the Profit & Loss statement that were left on each table and we will review after the lunch.

An information flyer with today's meeting agenda, upcoming membership meetings, and a list of the new Executive Board with phone numbers and a thank you to our reunion sponsors. This flyer should be at your table.

At this point, Bill told everyone that we would break for lunch and we would reconvene the meeting after lunch.

After lunch, Bill called the meeting back to order and introduced the Executive Board Members present who were **James Beattie, Laura Kosik, Nancy Van Sicien, Patti Revello, Tom Wilder, Elaine Vestal Lewis, Bob Russell, Christian Kervin Tirpak, Jacque Vowell, and Kathy Malin**. He then introduced the Past Presidents: **Margot Jordan, Betty LeDoux, Elaine Vestal Lewis, Bob Russell, and Tom Wilder**. He thanked **Patti Revello** and **Kathy Malin** for their hard work in organizing today's luncheon and to **Margaret McLaughlin** who worked very hard on creating the center pieces and grand door prize florals.

He asked if everyone had read the Annual Membership meeting minutes from July 9, 2021, and the September 11, 2021 General Membership meeting in Sarasota. Bill asked for a motion to approve the minutes. **Elaine Lewis** motioned to approve the minutes as written, **Betty LeDoux** seconded, and the motion was carried. Bill asked if anyone had questions regarding the Profit & Loss statement, there were none so the report will stand for audit.

Bill announced that we had a very successful Reunion in 2021 despite the pandemic. We had close to the same attendance that we had in 2019 and there was no pandemic in 2019. Our members wanted to get out and resume their lives with family and friends. He thanked all the volunteers for making the Reunion happen and we are now looking for volunteers for the 2022 Reunion. Contact Laura Kosik or the PCS office if you are interested in volunteering.

The PCS office moved at the end of August to 15131 Ogden Loop in Odessa. The phone number and office hours remain the same and are included in today's meeting flyer. We want to thank Aging Solutions for renting office spaces for our office these past years.



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The Society is currently on a membership campaign as mentioned in the June *Canal Record* President's Report and at the Annual Meeting at the Reunion. Please encourage your friends and family to join and maintain their memberships. Encourage descendants to join or sponsor an Associate member.

Next, Bill introduced **Bob Russell, Chairman of the Nominating Committee to give his report.**

Report of Nominating Committee for Election of Officers For the 2022-2024 Term - December 4, 2021

Thank you, Bill, for the introduction.

Well, it's now time to talk about the election of officers for the term - August 2022- August 2024 term.

Before I continue, I want to recognize the Nominating Committee members present today. When I call your name, will you please stand - **Betty LeDoux, Elaine (Vestal) Lewis, and Jacque Vowell. Barbara Lancaster**, our other member, was unable to attend today but she will be at the annual reunion.

Thank you all for your assistance and dedication to the business of the Society; especially, in helping solicit eligible candidates to run for office. I look forward to working with you at the annual reunion when we count the ballots.

Now to the business at hand. November 24 was the last day to accept mail-in nominations. That is, letters received in the Society office must have had a postmark or hand mark of no later than November 24. **No mail-in nominations were received.**

Also, current Executive Board Members not seeking reelection are *Brittney Wilder, James Beattie, Patti Revello and Nancy Van Sicken*. Let's give them a round of applause to show our appreciation for their past and continued contributions to the Society. Their term of office will end in August 2022.

In accordance with Society Bylaw, Article V-Section 2, Paragraph E, I now submit the Nominating Committee's 2022-2024 slate of officers for consideration by the membership. When I call your name please stand to be recognized. Thank You.

President – Bill McLaughlin

First Vice President – Carl Orvis (**absent today recuperating from neck surgery**)

Second Vice President – Laura Kosik

Directors :

Penny Canamas

Rae Donaldson

Alejandro "Bosco" Hoyte

Michael "Mikey" Young

Today is also the last day to accept nominations from the floor. Having said that, I now open the floor for nominations. Are there any nominations from the floor?

Per the bylaws of the Panama Canal Society, a call was verbally made three times for nominations from the floor and with no responses from the attendees. There being no nominations from the floor, Bob closed the nominations.

Let's give a round of applause to all of our members who are willing to run for an elected office in the next term.



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Also, for your information, the official ballots of the candidates with their biographies and photographs will be in the March 2022 edition of the *Canal Record*. I ask everyone here today to **PLEASE VOTE** for the candidate of your choice, even if he or she is running unopposed. It shows your support to that member and to the Society. Thank you.

I look forward to seeing you at our annual meeting on Friday, July 8, 2022, when we will announce the election results.

In closing, I wish you a Happy Hanukkah, a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

Mr. President that concludes my report. **Robert T. Russell** Nomination Committee Chair

Next Bill called up **John Nemmers**, Program Director & Curator of the Panama Canal Museum Collection, University of Florida. John first introduced **Emily Fahey** who is the new Assistant Director of Development who will be managing PCMC Friends activities and John encouraged people to talk to Emily about renewing/joining. John then promoted the Oral History fundraising and the 8-week Challenge. They had hoped to raise \$8,000 and ended up raising twice that. John promoted the Spring Luncheon with the opening of the new exhibition on health and medicine in the Canal Zone, as well as a display of Al Sprague's art donations. John announced that we are celebrating the 10-year anniversary of the collection at UF. **Kathy Egolf**, Executive Council Vice President of the Friends of the Panama Canal Museum to report on the 2021 auction and **Carole Miller** about membership to the Friends and **Mickey Fitzgerald** about the upcoming 2022 Silent Auction and the exciting donations already received for the 2022 silent auction. A big thank you to all the volunteers and donors who made the auction a success.

REUNION REPORT: 2022 Reunion July 6 – 10, 2022 - Where: Rosen Shingle Creek Resort – Orlando

Highlights:

Yellow Pages (reunion registration information and forms) will be published in the December issue of the *Canal Record* which you should receive any day in the mail. On-line registration will be posted on the Society's web site starting approx. the week of December 6th. Please read all the information provided in the registration packet yellow pages carefully as much information has changed this year being at a new property. Get your registrations in early to insure get a chance to win some great perks. If you get your registration in before February 8th, 2022 you might win the drawing at the Space Coast Picnic for a free room for two nights during the reunion and a second drawing on March 26th at the UF luncheon/meeting (1) Complimentary three-night stay (king or queen room). (2) Upgrade to a suite. (3) Dinner certificate for \$200 for Cala Bella or A Land Remembered fine dining restaurants. All of these redeemed at Rosen Shingle Creek Resort during the 2022 PCS Reunion. All these prizes are donated by the Rosen Shingle Creek Resort

- Hours of operation for Registration, Information and Ticket Sales has changed this year to better accommodate our attendees. Read the Schedule of Events in the registration packet.
- The Cultural Seminar presenter will be Dr. Stanley Heckadon-Moreno from the Smithsonian Tropical Institute. He will share his research about the great ornithologist Alexander Wetmore's expeditions throughout Panama from 1944 to 1996. He will also talk about *The Man Who Talked to Rocks*, on the explorations of the great geologist of the Panama Canal, Robert H. Stewart. These presentations should captivate the audience for an enjoyable Friday afternoon learning things that we never knew



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about a portion of Panama's' history. Don't miss our 2022 Cultural Seminar.

- We are very honored to have Ilya Espino De Marotta as our Annual Luncheon Guest Speaker during the 2022 Panama Canal Society Reunion. Ilya is the Deputy Administrator of the Panama Canal. She is the only women to have risen to such a senior management position in the Panama Canal. This will be very special and informative program.
- BHS & CHS 72 has accepted to host the Friday Night Dance and has a great night planned featuring "Z Band". The theme for the dance will be "Back to the Teen Club Dance". More info in the December book.
- We will have Frank Pretto and the Parranda Band at the Saturday Night Dance.
- We are anticipating a large showing of reunion attendees this year since we are returning to Rosen Shingle Creek. It is going to be a wild reunion. There are many reunion programs still in the works to celebrate the 90th Anniversary of the Panama Canal Society.

All the information will be in the December *Canal Record* along with the registration forms as I mentioned before.

And with all that said;

Is there any other old or new business to come before the board and membership today?

I would like to open the meeting to you – THE MEMBERS – for any comments or suggestions you may have to assist us in serving you.

Since there is no further business to come before the board and membership today, I would like to thank each of you again for attending today and hope you enjoyed the lunch and comradery.

Thanks again to **Patti Revello** and **Kathy Malin** for teaming up and organizing this luncheon today. And **Margaret McLaughlin** for the beautiful decorations Great job!!!

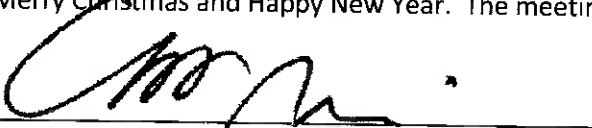
Everyone count off at your round your table and the lucky number will win the little Christmas tree centerpiece on your table. #5 was the lucky number.

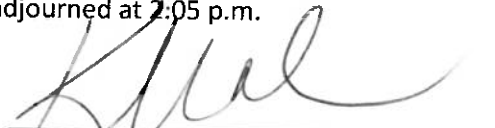
Of course we must give thanks to our hosts **Mel** and **Ted Henter**, for if it wasn't for them, we wouldn't have the use of this beautiful facility today. My wife **Margaret** has made a silk Christmas arrangement for you Mel and Ted as a thank you from the Executive Board and members of the Panama Canal Society

We have some great Door Prizes to be given out before we adjourn. So keep your tickets handy.

Can I please have a motion to adjourn the meeting? - This meeting portion of today's event is now closed. Have a safe trip home.

He thanked the members, their guests, vendors, and Board members for joining us today and wished all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. The meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.


 Bill McLaughlin, President


 Kathy Malin, Office Manager