



PANAMA CANAL SOCIETY
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Saturday, March 25, 2023 – 9:30 a.m.
Seven Springs Golf & Country Club, New Port Richey, FL

The Board Meeting was called to order at 9:40 a.m. by President Bill McLaughlin

Attendees: Bill McLaughlin (President & Reunion Coordinator), Carl Orvis (1st Vice President), Laura Kosik (2nd Vice President), Bosco Hoyte (Director), Mike Young (Director), Penny Canamas (Director), Margaret McLaughlin (Directory at Large), Ted Kaufer (Sergeant-at-Arms), Bill Lane (Chaplain), Anna Hertrich (Office Assistant), Betty LeDoux & Cheryl Williams (Reunion Hotel Chairpersons), and Kathy Malin (Office Manager)

Attendees by Telephone: Jacque Vowell (Editor), Ray Husum (ByLaws), Elaine Lewis, P.P. (Past President)

Bill welcomed all and asked if everyone had read the January 25, 2023, minutes. Carl Orvis made a motion to approve the January Executive Board meeting minutes, Bosco Hoyte seconded, and the motion carried.

Financials:

The Check Detail was sent out earlier in the week for review by the Board. Elaine Lewis motioned to pay bills, Carl seconded, and the motion carried.

President Report and Remarks:

Bill mentioned that the March *Canal Record* was sent out and everyone seems to love the sloth decal that Renee Krimminger created.

Bill has talked to Jim Duffus about being the Legislative Representative and will call him back with more details. We still need a Treasurer and a person to be Zonie.

Steve Price called Bill with regards to Agent Orange being used in the Canal Zone. He would like to speak at the Reunion to try and recruit civilians who might have been exposed to Agent Orange. Last year a VA group was at the Reunion to see if they could recruit civilians to start an auxiliary group to their chapter of Veterans of the Panama Canal Zone. Carl agreed there was Agent Orange in the Canal Zone per a Special Forces group who were tested. Elaine told us about a group in the early 2000s at the Reunion interviewing Zonians regarding health issues. She believes it was a group from Texas. The Board agreed to let Steve Price speak at the Annual Meeting for 10 minutes. He can tell the group that any discussions will be discussed after the meeting.

New Business:

Reunion Reports:

Bill reported that he felt Rosen Shingle Creek logistically failed us last year in many ways. He is still working with the logistics staff on finalizing a few issues. The pre-con is still not scheduled yet but announced that it is normally on a Tuesday, which is the 4th of July this year. Betty LeDoux suggested since Tuesday was a holiday, we should consider moving it to Wednesday morning at 10am.

Mike Young will rent the U-Haul van for loading items from the office on Monday, July 3rd with Kathy Malin and Ted Kaufer's assistance. Mike Young will drive the U-Haul over to the hotel on Tuesday and Carl, Kathy and Mike helping to unload in Orlando.

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The registration team needs will set up on Wednesday at 1:00 pm in the conference area Gatlin A1. All Chairpersons need to check their room set up a day before the event and every day before opening to make sure it is correct. (Prior to the meeting, Bill has shared the event plans with the room layouts with the board.) If the room is not correct, let Bill or Carl know so they can contact the Conference staff. Bill discussed the keys and Kathy will distribute them.

Dances were discussed along with the electrical costs.

- Carl stated the Aquinas band's manager is a member, so there is no need for a Certificate of Insurance (COI). Bill needs a contract signed prior to the reunion; they also need to pay \$277.50 for power and labor.
- The Friday night DJ needs a contract and COI; he will be paid \$375 for the three hour dance. The Society will pay the electrical hook up and take the income from advanced tickets and tickets sold the door.
- The Friday night dance is sponsored by CHS 1978 and BHS 1973 & 1978. The Society needs a contract from the band along with a COI. Cost for power and labor is \$555.
- Hotel will provide a DJ for the pool party.
- Bill has the contract signed from Frankie Pretto for the Saturday Night Ball Dance.

Bill is not comfortable without the assistance of Security. He is waiting for a third security firm to return his email. Kathy suggested contacting the old Vendor security person and see if he wants to work. We need two Security people at the luncheon and a few at the Ball to sell tickets and watch the doors. Bill mentioned that we can always hire Rosen security from the hotel.

Anna Hertrich will have the volunteer sign-up program ready to send out next week.

Class reunions and their suites should be careful about bringing in food and drinks. There was a \$500 penalty for bringing in these items in 2022 enforced by the Rosen Shingle Creek General Manager. Betty recommended mini reunions should purchase some food and/or drink from the hotel to eliminate any problems. Jacque sent out the hotel catering menus.

Katie Beattie has resigned as the Golf tournament coordinator, and Carl found Dave Bishop to lead the tournament this year. A discussion ensued on purchasing golf towels for prizes and other prizes. Samples were shown to the board. Our sloth image printed on our 2023 decal will printed on the towel without the year. Kathy will get pricing for 100, 150 and 200 towels and send out to Board for approval. Other door prizes were discussed. Carl suggested that golfers are very selective with the type of golf balls and tees so this was not recommended. Kathy has 4 - \$50 gift cards and Betty has a round of golf. Betty will speak to Dave about the golf tournament.

Lori Snow had decided not to sponsor any travel packages at the Reunion this year.

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Cheryl Williams will ask her daughter-in-law, Megan, about obtaining an airline voucher through her business.

Betty reported that the Society is at 70% attrition and is contacting the hotel for an addendum to raise the percentage of rooms. We are still within the required gateway.

Reports:

There are Bylaw amendments in the March *Canal Record* that need to be submitted. Kathy and Anna will count them on June 28 – which is the deadline and Ray Husum can announce the results at the annual meeting at the reunion. A discussion ensued on the dues for one-year membership and the 5-year membership. In the January Board meeting, the one-year membership was decided to be raised to \$50 a year with a \$10 late fee and inactive fee. A Governor's Club member dues increase will have to wait until the new bylaws are counted and approved.

Bill spoke about organizing a Nomination Committee. He will be recruiting people for the committee. Cheryl Williams volunteered to be on the committee. There has to be 2 Board members on the committee, but they cannot have served on the Nomination Committee for 2 terms in a row. There should be an announcement in the October Canal Record for those interested in being on the Board; followed by an announcement at the PCS December luncheon and will be posted in the March, 2024 *Canal Record* along with the ballots. All current Board members are planning to run for office next year except for Margaret and Bill. Bill will automatically serve as Past President for the new term.

Noreen Hanson's Honorary Membership award nomination should be published in the June, 2023 *Canal Record*. Jacque Vowell and Kathy will work on the write-up.

Bill showed the Board the Reunion Annual Luncheon program and mentioned that one cast member had to drop out, but has been replaced.

Bosco Hoyte asked about early check in to the hotel since he must be at the reunion registration by 1:00pm. Betty assured the Board that she always asks the hotel to accommodate the Board members.

Margaret McLaughlin motioned to adjourned Board meeting at 11:25am, Carl seconded, and the motion carried.

Upcoming Events:

April 22, 2023 – PCS/UF/Friends of Museum Luncheon – UF Smathers Libraries 11:00 am - Social Hour with a tour of the Museum followed by a **buffet** and General Membership meeting with an UF presentation. **Chair:** Penny Canamas (Deadline to register is April 15.)

May 20, 2023 – PCS FL Spring Picnic – 11:00 am – 4:00 pm - A. L. Anderson Park, Shelter #9, 39699 U.S. Hwy. 19, Tarpon Springs, FL; **Chairs:** Ted Kaufer & Bill Lane

June 10, 2023 – Board Meeting - 9:30 am – Seven Springs Golf & Country Club, New Port Richey

July 3, 2023 – Pack U-Haul for Reunion – PCS Office, 15131 Ogden Loop, Odessa, FL (U-Haul to be delivered on July 4th by 1:00pm.)

July 5 – 9, 2023 - PCS Annual Reunion, Shingle Creek Resort, Orlando, FL

(Annual meeting on July 7 at 9:30 am – arrive by 9:00 am **** upstairs in Convention Center – Sandlake)

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August 5, 2023 – Board Meeting - 9:30 am – Seven Springs Golf & Country Club, NPR

September 9, 2023 – PCS Luncheon at Der Dutchman Restaurant, Sarasota, FL, - 11:30 am; **Chairs:** Elaine Lewis and Jacque Vowell

October 7, 2023 - Board Meeting- 9:30 am – Seven Springs Golf & Country Club, NPR

December 2, 2023 – PCS Christmas Luncheon at Columbia Restaurant, Ybor City, FL - 11:30am; **Chairs:** Laura Kosik and Mike Young

PCS Events in Other States:

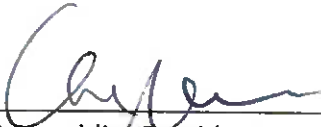
May 7, 2023 – PCS Southern California Luncheon, Newport Beach, CA – 11:00 am

May 28, 2023 – Louisiana First Annual Panamanian Brunch, Baton Rouge, LA – 11:00 am

June 25, 2023 – Northern CA Ping Ding Picnic, Lincoln, CA – 11:00 am

September 9, 2023 – PCS/North Carolina Picnic, Oak Hallow Festival Park, Shelter 3, High Point, NC - noon

September 30, 2023 – PCS/Texas Picnic, Landa Park, Pavilion 16, New Braunfels, TX – 11:00 am



Bill McLaughlin, President



Kathy Malin, Office Manager