



PANAMA CANAL SOCIETY
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Saturday, April 9, 2022 – 9:30 a.m.
Seven Springs Golf & Country Club, New Port Richey, FL

The Board Meeting was called to order at 9:34 a.m. by Bill McLaughlin, P.P. (President).

Attendees: Bill McLaughlin, P.P. (President & Reunion Coordinator), James Beattie (2nd Vice President), Patti Revello (Director), Laura Kosik (Director), Bob Russell, P.P. (Director & Legislature Representative), Elaine Lewis, P.P. (Past President), Cynthia Alderman (Treasurer), Ted Kaufer (Sergeant-at-Arms), Carl Orvis (Chaplain), Anna Hertrich (Office Assistant), Kathy Malin (Office Manager), and Margaret McLaughlin (Reunion Decorating Chairperson)

Attendees by Telephone: Jacque Vowell (Editor), Ray Husum (ByLaws), and Betty LeDoux, P.P. (Reunion Hotel Chairperson)

Absent: Brittney Wilder (1st Vice President), Tom Wilder, P.P. (Director–At-Large),

Bill welcomed all and asked Cynthia Alderman and Ted Kaufer to stand to be sworn in. He said that Christine had moved to Virginia and welcomed Ted to the Board. Bill asked if everyone had read the February 5, 2022, minutes. Cynthia made a motion to approve the February Executive Board meeting minutes, James Beattie seconded, and the motion carried.

Correspondence:

Bill asked to review the North Carolina's reporter, Sheila Tucker's letter regarding paying for the rental of a building at a park near Charlotte, NC. It costs \$500 and it is a covered building in case of rain. In her letter, Sheila mentioned at last year's picnic, they recruited 4 brand new members, and all joined the Governor's Club. All attendees but 4 were current Society members. A discussion ensued stating these picnics should be for membership recruitment. Cindy motioned to pay the \$500 for the North Carolina picnic rental, Patti Revello seconded, and the motion carried.

Margaret McLaughlin suggested that the Board needs to set up 'a cap' for out of state picnics. She also stated we expect them to recruit / retain members for the Society. Cynthia stated a \$500 cap is reasonable and we should reach out to other states. Carl stated when he retires in May, he plans to attend other state's picnics. He suggested a raffle to give out a Governor's Club membership or waived admin fees if they register at these events. Cindy motioned to set a cap at \$500 for other state's events if they use it as a membership recruitment, James seconded, and the motion carried.

Financials:

The Check Detail was reviewed, and several Reunion expenses were discussed. Patti suggested we purchase a gift for the members to honor the 90th anniversary. A discussion ensued and a Campaign pin was suggested. Kathy will get pricing and Patti offered that her company could donate \$500 to purchase the pins. Cindy motioned to pay bills, Elaine seconded, and the motion carried.

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Cindy discussed the P&L and other financial documents included in the Board's packets. The P&L is misleading for the first six months because we have all this income and expenses haven't been paid yet. Cindy recommends that we do not show the members the P&L at events because it is so misleading unless we present a letter of explanation with it. She does recommend a financial report for the previous year at the Annual Meeting. Bill recommends the previous year's final P&L should be printed in the October *Canal Record* along with a letter of explanation from the Treasurer. He stated he went back through the old Canal Records and found where we last placed the financial records in the October *Canal Record* and it was in 2000. Bill will announce at the Annual Meeting that a Financial Report be presented at the Annual Meeting and the report will now be printed in the October *Canal Records*. Cindy has worked on the 2022 budget and anticipates a loss. This is how important membership recruitment is.

President Report and Remarks:

A discussion ensued on raising Society dues. Membership hasn't increased from \$40 in 10-15 years. The Board recommended for Ray Husum and the ByLaws committee to write an amendment to delete the dollar amount for membership dues from the bylaws and rewrite the bylaws that the increased amount, if any is up to the Board's discretion and vote. Ray will have this for the June's Board meeting. The Reunion fees do not need amendment to change the pricing by doing this new method. Ray suggested if we want any benefits and discounts, to send him your recommendations.

Changing Reunion prices was discussed because a lot of people hang out in the foyer of the dances and in the convention center and have not registered or paid for any tickets. Also, other people 'piggyback' on members for their Reunion registration and not become members. Laura asked if Betty LeDoux has worked on bundling ticket prices. Bill will tell Betty to start looking at smaller and cheaper hotels. The Board decided to put this on August Board meeting agenda.

Bob Russell suggested to cut back on the pages in the *Canal Record* to save money.

Cindy says looking over the last 5 years of financials that we truly did not have an Audit because this is an expensive cost. Kathy stated we had an audit in 2018 and will send to her. Ray says the Bylaws mentions an Audit Committee and this committee needs to audit the books and records every year and the Audit Report be printed in the *Canal Record* following its presentation. He feels the definition of an audit got lost over the years. He feels we need to change the Audit Report to Financial Review in the Bylaws and select a committee with two or more members. These members or Board should have a financial background or at least an awareness.

Bill asked everyone if they read Dennis Gilbert's emails on our financials. Bill did respond to Dennis. Dennis also asked if members should receive perks when the Society dissolves, what happens with those funds. Another discussion arose over any left-over funds when the Society dissolves. Bill would like the money to go to the University of Florida PC Museum to preserve our history and Bill would like a Bylaw change directing where the leftover funds will go specifically to UF. Cindy stated that a Bylaw change is not needed as all funds will be gone by then. Ray disagreed and proposed an amendment ballot be sent to the members and have them vote on this. PCS members have joined the Friends of the Museum.

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Ray stated that Board meetings are confidential and if we have members attend, we need to announce that this meeting is confidential or have them sign a NDA. Non-members cannot attend Board meetings or the Annual meeting.

Kathy stated the Bylaw and nomination ballots are coming into the office and sealed together. She showed the Board the difference of two ballots vice one. Bob says we cannot open them until the nominations count. Ray disagrees that the Bylaws ballot ends prior to the nomination. Carl suggested that Anna Hertrich should open them, divide them, and reseal all the thick ballots. Bob moved that Anna Hertrich to open all the double ballots and envelopes, separate and reseal. Cindy seconded, and the motion carried. Bill recommends in the future not to have nominations in same book as a Bylaw change. Another recommendation is to color code the ballots.

Bill stated the website still needs to be updated and asked if the Website committee met? The committee has not met. Kathy said she has called two website builders, but will not work with Word Press. It was suggested for whomever we hire to work on this project from the ground up. Bill asked if any Board members would like to be the Chairperson and call up to 3 vendors for quotes. James agreed and will report back at the June's Board meeting.

New Business:

Bill asked if the Board is attending the Spring picnic on May 14th. Carl and Bob cannot attend. James said the Ralph Furlong is working on a cayuca race that day on Tarpon Lake. The paddlers will come over to the picnic afterwards. Bill said at the last picnic it was hard to be heard while conducting the meeting, he suggested we needed a PA system. Elaine moved to purchase a PA system not to exceed \$300, Bob seconded, and the motion carried.

The UF team would like to change the annual March meeting to April in 2023.

Reunion Reports:

Bill reported that he is very disappointed in working with the new staff at the Rosen Convention Center. It is a hostile environment, and he has to fight for every detail. They only agreed to sell food at the Clubhouse from 11am – 4pm. They wanted to charge higher price for the annual luncheon but the finally agreed to the contract pricing. Bill asked the Board to closely look over their Chairperson assignments and be familiar as to what they need to do at the Reunion.

Betty LeDoux discussed the Hotel's attrition which is at 82% filled. PCS has until June for the next gateway to return 10% of the rooms. If the room block is reduced, PCS will lose convention space. She will start looking for smaller venues for future Reunions, but PCS is locked into Rosen Shingle Creek until 2025. Betty stated there are only 6 cabanas and one for PCS. If anyone knows of any classes that want to reserve a cabana, have them contact Betty.

Rosen forgot to add us to their Golf tournament calendar for 2022 and double-booked tournaments on July 6. Rosen did agree to reimburse the master account for \$500 to help us with the shuttle costs. It is \$800 for the shuttle bus to Falcon Fire's. The Golf tournament needs 72 without paying for a penalty. We have 46 registered and we have 15 days prior to the tournament to change our total. James will talk to Katie about the amount she needs for door prizes.

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Ted agreed to chair the Bingo. Kathy told the Board about the \$200 worth of door prizes and suggested we only use money for door prizes and possibly raise the \$300 cash amount. Bob motioned to increase Bingo prizes to \$500 and not to purchase any door prizes, Elaine seconded, and the motion carried.

Bill is still working on parking issues. People staying at the hotel will receive QR codes from the front desk when they registered their license plate. Day guests have a \$25 fee. There is a possibility of free parking in the Employee Parking Lot for our vendors and contractors, but Bill is still working on that.

Betty will register the two guest speakers. Bill was unable to get Ron Cortez but did get Ron Abuelo for the Happy Hours which were donated by the Varela team. Bill will fix the times on the Hours of Operation for Friday and Saturday from 12:30 – 2:00 pm to 1:00 – 2:30 pm. A cake is being purchased to celebrate 90th year Anniversary and will be served at the Annual Meeting at a cake cutting ceremony.

James will handle the U-Haul loading on Monday, July 4th. He asked for help and Ted volunteered. Kathy will contact a few other volunteers, including Mike Young. Carl will assist in Orlando with unloading.

Registration team will meet after this meeting. Laura is opening the Volunteer site in the next few days.

Jacque asked about a Reporter's Luncheon and Bill asked her to get a head count first.

Dances will use stamp pad and ink vice wristbands. Bill stated with the Classes sponsoring two of the dances, it really helps the Society costs. Carl suggested next year for Friday's dance is we possibly have a salsa band from 8-10pm then rock-n-roll from 10pm-2am.

A tent is not needed for the Pool Party since we have a cabana. Wrist bands with 'over 21' will be used at the Pool party.

David Wright wants to come back as our photographer. Barry Alsobrook, the previous photographer, has moved on.

Bill is looking for someone to chair the Catholic Mass.

Reports:

The SS Ancon will be on the cover of the June *Canal Record* and in the book will be a history about signing the Panama Canal Society charter on 1932.

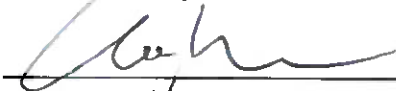
Elaine motioned to adjourned Board meeting at 12:32, Bob seconded, and the motion carried.

Upcoming Events:

PCS FL Spring Picnic is May 14th

Last Board Meeting before Reunion is June 11th

Reunion is July 6-10



Bill McLaughlin, President



Kathy Malin, Office Manager