



PANAMA CANAL SOCIETY
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Saturday, August 6, 2022 – 9:30 a.m.
Seven Springs Golf & Country Club, New Port Richey, FL

The Board Meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m. by Bill McLaughlin, P.P. (President).

Attendees:

Bill McLaughlin, P.P. (President & Reunion Coordinator), Carl Orvis (1st Vice President), Laura Kosik (2nd Vice President), Penny Canamas (Director), Mike Young (Director), Margaret McLaughlin (Director-at-Large), Ted Kaufer (Sergeant-at-Arms), Bill Lane (Chaplain), Jacque Vowell (Editor), Betty LeDoux, P.P. (Reunion Hotel Chairperson), Anna Hertrich (Office Assistant), and Kathy Malin (Office Manager)

Attendees by Zoom: Bosco Hoyte (Director), Cindy Alderman (Treasurer), Elaine Lewis, P.P. (Past President), and Ray Husum (ByLaws)

New Business:

Bill welcomed all and asked Penny Canamas, Margaret McLaughlin, and Bill Lane to rise and be sworn in.

Bill asked Kathy Malin, Anna Hertrich, and Jacque Vowell to leave the room for personnel discussions. [Notes are attached to these minutes.]

Bill clarified the Board's responsibilities and ask them to read the ByLaws for more information on attending meetings. He preferred in person meetings versus Zoom.

Bill stated the Financials discussion will be now at the end of the meeting and the Board will decide upon an investing Questionnaire for the members to respond. The Board will discuss Dennis Gilbert's letter at the end, too.

Bill asked if everyone had read the June 11, 2022, minutes. Carl Orvis made a motion to approve the June Executive Board meeting minutes, Elaine Lewis seconded, and the motion carried.

Jacque announced there are new reporters interested. Lori Snow, who is the GA reporter, would like to include 3 other states – MS, AL, and LA. Terri Stetler is interested in replacing Carie Osborn in Southern CA, since Carie is moving out of state. Maureen Husum and Norine Kaufer-Smith are interested in being Central CA. [Now since Terri is reporting for Southern CA, Maureen and Norine are removing their names.] Susie (Smith) Hamner is interested in being the MD reporter. The Board motioned to approve all the new reporters.

The Board discussed David Lane's submission to the CA reporter regarding his family's three incidents regarding possible human trafficking in Panama. After reviewing Lori Snow's response and a response from an American in Panama, the Board decided not to print David's specific incidents but have Jacque or the CA reporter mention to be aware when travelling overseas.

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Bill asked everyone to read Norine Kaufer-Smith's ideas and Bill's responses. More Reunion ideas can be discussed in the October Board meeting.

Kathy Malin added 3 new names to the list of 11 new PCS members who joined at the Reunion. Cindy Alderman motioned to approve 14 new members, Elaine seconded, and the motion carried.

Bill asked if anyone had questions on the Check Detail which was emailed to all. No one did, then Cindy motioned to pay the bills, Carl seconded, and the motion carried.

Reunion Report:

The 2022 Hotel bill was \$23,391.54; the Annual Luncheon had 430 attending thus the catering bill was \$15,117.85 which was paid by the attendees and sponsorship dollars and the Pool Party was \$2,412.12 and it was fully sponsored. Audio and technology expenses are the higher costs for our Reunion.

Kathy received 3 requests from members' to be reimbursed for Reunion expenses. Kathy explained the circumstances of each of the members and the expenses they requested to be reimbursed. Carl moved to reimburse all 3 members on their requests but not Reunion registration; Penny Canamas seconded, and the motion carried.

Bill discussed the After-Action Reports (AAR) and asked everyone to read these reports before next year's Reunion to refresh their memories on how to do things better for their event they are assigned. The Hotel ignored Bill's event plan. Bill had to fight for convention space.

A few suggestions for next year:

- a) Secure the air-wall doors to the Vendor's room (Gatlin A, B and C airwalls).
- b) The Saturday Ball needs volunteers, and the guards need to arrive ½ hour early. Next year, Frankie Pretto band should play from 8:00 pm to 1:00 am.
- c) Recommend wristbands versus stamps and secure table and chairs for outside the dances.
- d) Carl stated that not all Zonians like the Panamanian music that Frankie Pretto's plays. Maybe mix in some other Spanish music.
- e) Dress code and children under 12 were discussed. Suggest deleting dress code.
- f) For Friday night, Carl suggested a DJ Sock Hop from 8:00 to 10:30 pm followed by the DJ dance starting at 11:00 pm to 2:00 am and raise the price to \$15.00.
- g) A problem in Registration was people picking up other people's registration packets even though they were instructed to contact the PCS office before June 28th.
- h) Move Volunteer's refreshment behind a partition and rope off behind the "U" shape.
- i) Start the Annual Membership meeting at 9:30 so the Chairs have time to get to their events by 1:00pm and possibly eat lunch.
- j) Bingo should move to Thursdays and Saturdays, too many events on Friday.
- k) Bill wants UF to organize the Cultural Seminar with a Board member assisting.
- l) Ray recommended raising the Lottery tickets prices so there will be less tickets to be drawn.
 - a. 1 for \$3; 2 for \$5; 4 for \$10; and 9 for \$20.
- m) Raise the registration fee from \$10 to \$15 and \$15 to \$20 at late on-site registration.
- n) Look into an all-inclusive price for registration and the dances. Luncheon and golf are still a separate price. Betty LeDoux will investigate these prices.

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- o) Luncheon price might have to go up depending on the hotel catering prices. Suggest that no gift for luncheon attendees since that is out of PCS pocket.
- p) Members would like the Pollera Experience back.

Chairpersons' new assignments were discussed, and chairpersons need to keep a Schedule of Events, so they know what is scheduled.

For the 2023 Reunion, Board approved Carl's suggestion that "Aquinas" will play Thursday night dance and they will charge only at the door like last year. Board also approved the CHS 73 & 78 will host the Friday night dance with the "Panama Band" playing. They will take care of charging or not. Carl will look into the same DJ playing Friday DJ dance and possibly a Sock Hop.

New Business:

Need a Legislature Representative; all will miss Bob Russell and Jim O'Donnell who were in that position for many years. A few suggestions were thrown out, but Jacque will place an announcement in the Canal Record.

Tom Wilder wants to step away from being the FaceBook Administrator. Jacque will place an ad. [John Husum has stepped up to be the FaceBook Administrator with Kathy as back-up.]

Margaret needs \$352 for Christmas luncheon decorations. She prefers cash vice check because of her taxes. Elaine motioned to approve \$352 for decorations, Penny seconded, and the motion carried.

Bill assigned Bosco Hoyte to investigate a new website for the Society. He asked Bosco to contact Kathy upon his return from Panama.

To find ways to cut *Canal Record* costs, Jacque reached out to Pride who previously has printed our books. Pride can print our books again but there is a paper shortage, and they need to fix the mailing situation. Kathy mentioned their internet was hacked about 3 years ago, thus they could not print or send out our books. This lasted over a year, and they seem to still have problems with mailings per Jacque. Elaine made a motion to keep Robert's Printing for our last two 2022 *Canal Records* and Directory, Cindy seconded, and the motion carried.

Bill introduced a committee he created to investigate an Investment Questionnaire for the members. He appointed Elaine, Carl, and Margaret. It will need to be finalized by August 19 and will be printed in the October *Canal Record* and sent out in an email blast. The members will decide on how to invest the money.

Ray Husum brought up ByLaws, Article 9 regarding the actions of the Executive Board "...shall not be confidential and shall be reported fully to the membership..." Ray reiterated that the Board and Society's meetings are private and closed to non-members. If we publish anything including emails, we must print a Confidential and Proprietary statement. Dennis Gilbert should not have posted on FaceBook, we did have Tom Wilder remove his letter. Ray reiterated that we cannot share with public or if friends come in, they should sign a non-disclosure statement. As a Board member, we have a duty to keep information confidential. We are a private organization. Cindy suggested to alert membership about disseminating and not-disseminating information to non-members on the meetings agendas and outcomes. Past *Canal Records* are

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on the website and on the University of Florida Museum website, but Ray stated we can choose to release the magazines and make documents non-proprietary.

Ray says Dennis made a motion and it was seconded by Ms. Hilliard at the Reunion Annual meeting, and he felt it carried. Betty LeDoux said the motion was an intent and technically an illegal motion because he did not address the President, he addressed the Treasurer. The President is the only one can accept a motion. But the Board is still going to act on the motion request.

Ray disagreed and suggested the Board ask the membership to vote on how to invest the \$300K and will write up his motion suggestion via an email. Margaret stated the Questionnaire will have the members voting on to invest or not; it doesn't have to be a ballot at this time since we are going forward with Dennis' suggestion that the members need to decide on investing. Cindy stated that we should look into the investments but not publish it. We agreed to publish the financial statements in the October *Canal Record*.

Bill stated the Questionnaire will be in the October *Canal Record* and then with the results, a ballot would be published in the December book. [This will be impossible because the deadline for the December issue is in October.] But Ray reminded all that this information is confidential. Board is elected by the members so the Board should make the decision after the members decide whether to invest or not. Carl suggested that Ray write up an article about confidential and proprietary for the *Record*. Cindy recommended not to put a dollar amount on the Questionnaire because we need money in case there is a crisis. Bill stated that the Society had a scare in 2020 during COVID when the Society almost cancelled the Reunion and if the Caribe Resort did not close their hotel, the Society would have to pay out money for every room in the block. Cindy suggested many options in her documents that are not risky, very safe, and have full access to the Society's money if everyone would have read her documents she presented.

Carl mentioned that Lisa (Barrett) Allen broke her femur on Saturday night in the Convention Area. She has spent three weeks in an Orlando hospital but is now back at home in St. Augustine.

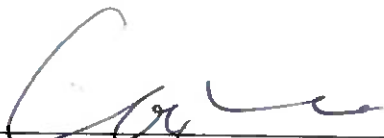
Elaine made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Margaret seconded, and the motion carried. The meeting ended at 12:36 pm.

Upcoming Events:

Sarasota Luncheon is on September 10th.

Next Board meeting is October 15th.

Christmas Luncheon is December 3rd.



Bill McLaughlin, President



Kathy Malin, Office Manager