



PANAMA CANAL SOCIETY
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES
2550 North Banana River Dr., Merritt Island, FL
February 26, 2022

Meeting was called to order 11:50 a.m. by Bill McLaughlin (President).

Bill welcomed the 70 plus members and guests present and thanked them for coming. He also thanked the Space Coast Group especially Peggy Huff for organizing the picnic. Bill thanked Richard Grimison for organizing the Happy Hour last night and Carl Orvis is welcoming all to join him tonight at the VFW in Cape Canaveral.

Bill introduced PCS Chaplain Carl Orvis to give the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Bill had a moment of silence for our departed members and friends.

Bill asked all to look over the December membership minutes and the P&L on everyone tables during lunch. Also on the tables is a flyer with today's Agenda, a list of Executive Board members and a thank you to the Reunion sponsors. We will now break for lunch and reconvene afterwards.

After lunch, Bill introduced the Board Members present: Laura Kosik (Director), Tom Wilder (Director-at-Large), Bob Russell (Director & Legislature Rep.), Carl Orvis (Chaplain), Jacque Vowell (Editor), Rae Donaldson (Sunshine Committee), and Kathy Malin (Office Manager). Some of the Board members in attendance are running again but Brittney Wilder, James Beattie, Patti Revello, and Nancy Van Siclen are ending their two-year term this August. The new slate of offices and the election ballots are in the March *Canal Record*. The ballots will be counted by the Nominating Committee and Chairperson Bob Russell, at this year's Reunion and the results will be announced at the Annual Membership meeting on Friday morning.

Bill recognized the Past Presidents present: Bob Russell and Tom Wilder. He thanked his wife, Margaret, for all her support to him and Society & Reunion for her ideas the past 20+ years.

The Society is looking for volunteers to assist at the Reunion. Director Laura Kosik is our Reunion Volunteer Chairperson so either contact her or call the Office if you are interested in volunteering. Volunteers are what makes our Reunion happen! The Executive Board consists of 15 officers which could not run the Reunion by themselves.

The Society office found a new home in Odessa and the new address on the flyer. The phone number remains the same. We are in the process of revamping our computer systems, software, database, and website hosting to improve daily operations. The March *Canal Record* is at the printers and be in the mail soon.

Bill asked if all has read the December General Membership minutes. Mary Alice Albritton motion to approve minutes, Nancy Reid seconded, and the motion passed.

Bill stated the Reunion is July 6-10 at the Rosin Shingle Creek Resort in Orlando. The Yellow Pages were in the December *Canal Record* and online. There are many events and dances to attend starting with BHS 80 sponsoring the Thursday night dance; BHS/CHS 72 are hosting the Friday night followed by a DJ dance, and Frankie Pretto and the Parranda Band on Saturday at the Ball. Dances are expensive so with the Classes sponsoring dances, it saves the Society money. Last year, the Friday night dance was so popular, BHS 76 donated \$1,000 from their income to the Society.



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The guest speaker at the Cultural Seminar is Dr. Stanley Heckadon-Moreno from the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute. The guest speaker for the Luncheon, Iyla Marotta, just cancelled last week. She has recommended Miguel Lorenzo, VP of Infrastructure and Engineering, to replace her. Miguel was instrumental in the construction of the new locks and Canal Expansion Project.

There was an Ad in the Yellow Pages of the December *Canal Record*, that if you return your Reunion registration by February 8th, you will be in a drawing at the Space Coast picnic for free two-nights during the Reunion. There will be another drawing at the UF Luncheon/meeting for (1) Complimentary three-night stay; (2) Upgrade to a suite; and (3) Dinner certificate for the \$200 at Calla Bella or A-Land Remembered fine dining restaurants. All of these are to be redeemed at this year's Reunion. All prizes were donated by the Rosen Shingle Creek Resort. The winners of these drawings do not have to be present.

Bill and Kathy had a member draw a name for the free two-night and Raymond Ramos won. Reunion registrations are coming in for our 90th Anniversary celebration and it should be another great turnout.

Bill introduced Mickey Fitzgerald from the Panama Canal Museum who gave a report. Mickey needs items and volunteers for the 2022 Silent Auction during the Reunion. Mickey asked volunteers to see her after the meeting and stated how important the Auction is in raising money for the Museum. Carole Miller spoke about the Friends of the Panama Canal Museum Collection, Oral Histories and other information on the website ran by the University of Florida. If you are interested in becoming a member, it is only \$26 a year. Mickey and Carole invited all to visit their display of French era bottles and other items.

Bill asked if there was any new business, comments, or suggestions. For upcoming PCS events, see the flyer.

Door prizes were drawn. The meeting was adjourned at 1:12 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill McLaughlin", written over a horizontal line.

Bill McLaughlin, PCS President

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kathy Malin", written over a horizontal line.

Kathy Malin, PCS Office Manager