



PANAMA CANAL SOCIETY
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES
2550 North Banana River Dr., Merritt Island, FL
February 25, 2023

Meeting was called to order at noon by Bill McLaughlin (President).

Bill welcomed the 62 plus members and guests present and thanked them for coming. There was a quorum present to conduct business. Bill introduced PCS Chaplain Bill Lane to give the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Bill had a moment of silence for our departed members and friends.

Bill thanked the Carl Orvis, Peggy Huff, and Kathy Malin for organizing the picnic. A copy of the last General Membership meeting was given out with a program. He asked everyone to read over the minutes since we will be voting on them shortly. The program has today's agenda, upcoming meetings, new Executive Board members and a big thank you to our reunion sponsors. Carl thanked Richard Grimison for organizing Friday night's Happy Hour.

Bill introduced the Board Members present: Carl Orvis (1st VP), Laura Kosik (2nd VP), Margaret McLaughlin (Director-at-Large), Penny Canamas (Director), Mikey Young (Director), Bill Lane (Chaplain), Jacque Vowell (Editor), and Kathy Malin (Office Manager). He mentioned there were no Past Presidents in attendance.

Bill asked if all has read the December General Membership minutes. JoElla Deakins motioned to approve the December minutes, Janice Scott seconded, and the motion carried.

Bill asked Kathy to explain about the new website and how to submit the Membership and Reunion registrations. Kathy commented there is not a submit button this year because of new internet security protocols. A member, Dane Richardson, is assisting Kathy with the rebuild and with his assistance, she will work on a better procedure in August.

Last year's reunion was very successful with record attendance. This year's reunion is scheduled for July 5-9. The yellow pages were in the December *Canal Record*. There is an early bird drawing at the end of this meeting for 2 nights stay during the reunion at the Rosen Shingle Creek. Last year, the rooms sold out in the middle of May, so get your reservations in early.

The Society is looking for volunteers to assist at the reunion and a big thank you to all the ones in the past. Anna Hertrich, the Office Assistant, 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!

In October with careful study and consideration, the Executive Board increased early registration to \$15 per member and \$25 for non-members. Late registration at the Reunion was raised to \$20 per member and \$30 for non-members.

For the first time in 20 years, the PCS annual luncheon will host a musical show. Melanie and Fred Bales has organized a musical show called "A Retrospective of American Musical Theatre at the Panama Canal: 1979-1999". We need sponsors and volunteers to help with this presentation.



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Bill asked Mickey Fitzgerald to talk about the annual Museum auction at the reunion. Mickey announced their group has already collected donated items for the auction and have many old bottles. They are thinking about adding a label to the bottles. Mickey thanked the Space Coast members for donating many more items that she was picking up today.

Bill asked if there was any new business, comments, or suggestions. For upcoming PCS events, see the agenda flyer. Janice Scott, BHS 62, gave a brief tour guide of the Cape Canaveral area mentioning the beaches and stating that Cape Canaveral is the largest cruise port in the world. There are 500 field trucks coming and going daily. Richard Grimison is the senior pilot.

Carl Orvis spoke about the FaceBook page and again asking for volunteers at the reunion.

Carl and Kathy drew door prize tickets. Afterwards, drew for the 50-50 drawing which Carl Orvis won and donated the money back to the Society. The 2nd 50-50 door prize was a Society gift basket made by Margaret McLaughlin. At the end, Carl and Kathy had a member draw a name for the free two-night and Mark Heddeaus won.

Janice Scott motioned for the meeting to adjourned at 1:15 pm, Randy Rios seconded, and the motion carried.

Handwritten signature of Bill McLaughlin in black ink.

Bill McLaughlin, PCS President

Handwritten signature of Kathy Malin in blue ink.

Kathy Malin, PCS Office Manager