



PANAMA CANAL SOCIETY
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES
A.L. ANDERSON PARK, TARPON SPRINGS, FL
May 14, 2022

Meeting was called to order at 11:25 am by Bill McLaughlin (President).

Bill announced we have 34 signed in thus we meet the quorum. He welcomed the members and guests present. Bill led a prayer for departed friends and family and had a moment of silence for our departed members. Ted Kaufer led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Bill thanked Laura Kosik, James Beattie, and Kathy Malin for their hard work in putting together this picnic. He told the group to look over the flyer and minutes from the UF luncheon during their lunch. Bill mentioned the UF luncheon minutes had good information in them. The group broke for lunch.

The meeting resumed at 12:03 pm. Bill then introduced the Board Members present who were James Beattie, 2nd Vice President, Laura Kosik, Director, Tom Wilder, Director-at-Large, Ted Kaufer, Sergeant-at-Arms, Jacque Vowell, *Canal Record* Editor, and Kathy Malin, Office Manager. He introduced the Past Presidents, Betty LeDoux, and Tom Wilder. Bill thanked his wife, Margaret, for all her support while he was recuperating from knee surgery.

Bill asked if all have read the meeting minutes from PCS/UF/Friends General Membership Meeting held on March 26. Tom Wilder made a motion to approve the minutes as written, Terry Deakins seconded, and the motion carried.

The June *Canal Record* will go to the printers on Monday.

Our Reunion this year will be our 90th Anniversary. It will be from July 6-10 at the Rosen Shingle Creek Resorts in Orlando. The registration closes on June 3rd and at last count, we had over 1,386 people registered. We are close to running out of rooms.

BHS 80 is hosting the Yacht Club Dance on Thursday night where you will pay at the door. Friday night "Back to the Teen Club" Dance is free and is hosted by CHS/BHS Classes of 1972. Of course, Frankie Pretto and the Parranda Band is playing for the Ball on Saturday. There is a dress code for the Ball, check the Yellow Pages.

We have two great guest speakers at the Reunion. One is returning for the Cultural Seminar, Stanley Heckadon-Moreno from the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute. The last time he spoke at a Reunion, it was standing room only so be sure to come early. The Annual Luncheon guest speaker, Ilya Espino de Marotta had a family conflict and is sending Miguel Lorenzo, Vice President of Infrastructure on the Panama Canal, to speak. Miguel was instrumental in the 3rd locks and working on the deal for 'green' tugboats. We usually have close to 300 in attendance, and we already have nearly 400 registered for the luncheon.

The Business meeting is Friday starts at 10:00 am and we have grand prizes to Panama to give out. We will be announcing the new Board members. At the end of the meeting, we will have a 90th Anniversary cake ceremony.



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There is free parking for hotel guests. When you register for your room, you will need to register your tag number and receive a QR plaque for your car. For those not staying at the hotel, it is \$25.00 a day. We are working on finding parking for vendors not staying at the hotel.

Remember, there is a 25% discount at most hotel restaurants after you show them your name badge. If you need a family member or a friend to pick up your name badge, email the office with their name before June 28th at 4:00 pm.

John Meeker won the drawing for the \$200 gift certificate to the high-end restaurants at Rosen. Since he passed away last Sunday, we are going to draw a new name from a list of his classmates, CHS 72. Brenda (Egger) White won.

The new Board nominations are in the March *Canal Record*. They need to receive in the office no later than June 28th. Kathy has some blank ballots. There are 4 current Board members not running and we appreciate their hard work and dedication. They are Brittney Wilder, James Beattie, Patti Revello and Nancy Van Sicen.

In the March *Canal Record*, there were 2 ballots: one for nominations and the other for a Bylaw Amendment #42. Because of our office address change, we had 2 ballot that were postmarked before deadline but arrived after. Bill asked Betty to read the amendment and the ballot count. Betty and Kathy opened the 2 ballots, and they were Yes. Betty read the amendment and stated there were 171 ballots with 136 answered Yes; 29 that answered No; and 6 were blank. Bill spoke about the advantages and disadvantages of the Board and Reunion Chairpersons attending by Zoom or conference calls. Ted Kaufer made a motion to destroy the ballots, Cheryl Williams seconded, and the motion carried.

Bill called the representatives from the Friends of the PC Museum. Mickey Fitzgerald and Kathy Egolf spoke about the Auction at the upcoming Reunion. They are still looking for items and volunteers. Carole Miller then told the group about joining the Friends of the PC Museum which is only \$26 a year. She has membership forms too.

The cayuca brought to the picnic by Ralph Furlong went by and everyone enjoyed that and took pictures. Kathy and Anna Hertrich drew the door prizes and Kim Homa won the grand prize of a basket make by Margaret McLaughlin. Laura drew the ticket for the 50/50 raffle where we collected \$315. Kelly (Hunt) Lopez won ½ of that amount. Then Laura drew for the Governor's Club membership that Cindy Alderman donated. Randy Rios won a GC membership.

Ed Ohman made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Lidia Escalante seconded, and the motion carried.

At the end of the picnic, we had 77 in attendance. Meeting adjourned at 12:43 pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill McLaughlin".

Bill McLaughlin, President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathy Malin".

Kathy Malin, Office Manager