



PANAMA CANAL SOCIETY  
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES  
Der Dutchman Restaurant, 3713 Bahia Vista St, Sarasota, FL 34232  
September 10, 2022

Meeting was called to order 11:45 a.m. by Bill McLaughlin (President).

Bill welcomed the 45 members and guests present and thanked them for coming.

Bill introduced PCS Chaplain Bill Lane to give the invocation, followed by a moment of silence for recently departed members and friends.

Bill then introduced PCS Sgt at Arms, Ted Kaufer, who led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Bill thanked Elaine and Jacque for chairing this event.

Bill asked all to look over the July Annual Membership meeting minutes on everyone tables. Also on the tables is a flyer with today's Agenda, a contact list of the new Executive Board members and a thank you to the Reunion sponsors. The meeting broke for lunch and resumed at 12:35 p.m.

After lunch, Bill introduced the Board Members present:

Carl Orvis (1<sup>st</sup> VP), Laura Kosik (2<sup>nd</sup> VP), Penny Wilder Canamas (Director), Bosco Hoyte (Director), Mike Young (Director), Elaine Lewis (Past President), Ted Kaufer (Sgt-at-Arms), Bill Lane (Chaplain), Anna Hertrich (Office Assistant), Jacque Vowell (*Canal Record* Editor), Rae Donaldson (Sunshine Committee Chair)

Bill recognized the Past Presidents present:

Bob Russell, Elaine Vestal Lewis, Shirley Avery-Bentley. He thanked his wife, Margaret, for all her support to him and Society & Reunion for her ideas the past 20+ years.

Bill announced two vacant executive board positions: Treasurer and Legislative Chair. If anyone is interested or knows someone who could fulfill these roles, please contact Bill.

Bill asked if all were able to go over the July Annual Membership meeting minutes on everyone tables. Elaine Vestal Lewis motioned to approve minutes, Joan Ohman seconded, and the motion passed.

Bill shared that in the past, the Society has distributed a Profit /Loss report at this meeting, but because these reports can be misleading with profit/loss numbers ¾ into the year, we decided not to distribute the P/L at this time. Our former Treasurer gave a financial report at the reunion's annual meeting for the year 2021 and that report will be printed in the October *Canal Record*. The 2022 financial report will be given in July at the 2023 annual meeting.

We had a very successful reunion in 2022. We had more attendees than we have had in years. We actually sold out of rooms and some attendees had to stay at another Rosen property. Thank you to all the volunteers that help make the reunion happen. The Society is already looking for volunteers for 2023 reunion. Call Anna Hertrich Volunteer Chairperson at the PCS office or email [office2@pancanalsociety.org](mailto:office2@pancanalsociety.org)



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Bill stated the 2023 Reunion will be held July 5 – 9, 2023 at the Rosen Shingle Creek Resort in Orlando. Registration begins in mid-December 2022 when the December *Canal Record* is received in your mailbox.

Bill encouraged everyone to register early for the 2023 reunion. As written in the reunion registration packet: Members are encouraged to register early for the 2023 reunion and for their hotel room. Reunion Registration and Hotel Reservation forms received by February 8, 2023, will be included in a drawing to take place at the February 25, 2023, Space Coast Picnic. The winner of this drawing will receive a complimentary two-night stay (king or double queen room) at the Rosen Shingle Creek Resort during the 2023 Panama Canal Society Reunion. A second drawing will be held on April 22, 2023, at the PCS/UF/Friends of the Museum luncheon at UF. (1) Complimentary three-night stay (king or queen room). (2) Upgrade to a suite. (3) Dinner certificate for \$200 for Calla Bella or A Land Remembered fine dining restaurants. All of these redeemed at Rosen Shingle Creek Resort during the 2023 PCS Reunion. Prizes are non-transferable and only valid for the person winning the drawing. All these prizes are donated by the Rosen Shingle Creek Resort

Bill announced we are planning a big show at the Annual Luncheon this year: For the first time in 20 years, the Panama Canal Society Reunion's Annual Luncheon will have a musical show similar to the 2003 Reunion production that Bruce Quinn produced. The show is titled "A Retrospective of American Musical Theatre at the Panama Canal: 1979-1999". PCS members Fred & Melanie Bales are thrilled to be working with a talented group of Thespians as they walk & sing down memory lane from our musical theatre years of 1979-1999 at Balboa High School, The Ancon Theatre Guild, and The Pacific Theatre Arts Centre. We need sponsors and volunteers to assist with this undertaking.

Bill encouraged all members to read the Questionnaire of the Society's Saving Investment Options that will be in the October *Canal Record* and requested all to send in votes.

The Society is continuing our membership campaign, and requests all members encourage friends and family to join and maintain memberships. Encourage descendants of Zonians to become members. Even sponsor an Associate Member. Membership dues are our only sustainer right now.

Bill introduced Kathy Egolf, Executive Council VP of the Friends of the Panama Canal Museum to report on the 2022 auction and Carole Miller about membership to the Friends. The 2022 auction made over \$10,000 with Mickey Fitzgerald and Carole Miller.

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. Join the Friends of the Panama Canal Museum at the University of Florida on a cruise through the Panama Canal from January 17 – February 1, 2023. Lori Snow of Condor Tours and Travel is organizing this cruise and will donate a portion to the PCMC. There are already 19 PCS members signed up. Please see the ad on page 103 in the October *Canal Record* for more information.

Bill asked if there was any new business, comments, or suggestions.

Bill thanked Jacque and Elaine for teaming up and organizing this luncheon. Great job!



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Door prizes were drawn.

Bill wished everyone a safe drive home and reminded everyone to attend the Christmas Luncheon on December 3rd at the St. Petersburg Yacht Club.

Motion to adjourn the meeting: Bob Russell, Seconded: Penny Wilder. The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 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 "Anna Hertrich", written over a horizontal line.

Anna Hertrich, PCS Asst Office