



Panama Canal Society General Membership Minutes
St. Petersburg Yacht Club, 1 Central Avenue, St. Petersburg, FL
December 3, 2022

Meeting was called to order by Bill McLaughlin, President, at 11:46 a.m. Bill welcomed everyone and thanked all for coming to the luncheon. We have a quorum present with 137 members and family attending.

Invocation: Bill Lane

Moment of Silence for our recently departed members and friends. Bill told the audience that we lost a dear friend and matriarch, Nancy Van Siclen, in October. Nancy will be sorely missed and as a tribute, Nancy's picture will be on the cover of the December *Canal Record*.

Pledge of Allegiance: Ted Kaufer

Bill thanked the St Petersburg Yacht Club and their staff. He also thanked Kathy Malin, Laura Kosik, Mike Young and especially his wife who created the center pieces. Bill asked all to review the September membership meeting minutes that were left on each table, and we will vote after the lunch. He mentioned the flyer on the tables with the agenda, upcoming meetings, board info and reunion sponsors. Bill told everyone to enjoy lunch and would reconvene after lunch.

After lunch, Bill called the meeting back to order and introduced the Past Presidents present: Betty LeDoux, Elaine Lewis, Bob Russell, and himself. Bill then introduced the Executive Board in attendance: Carl Orvis, 1st Vice President; Laura Kosik, 2nd Vice President; Directors: Penny Canamas, Bosco Hoyte, Mike Young and Margaret McLaughlin; Elaine Lewis Sitting Past President; Ted Kaufer, Sergeant-at-Arms; Bill Lane, Chaplain; Jacque Vowell, *Canal Record* Editor; Anna Hertrich, Office Assistant; and Kathy Malin, Office Manager. We are still missing a Legislative Representative and a Treasurer.

Bill asked if all read the September minutes, Elaine Lewis motioned to approve the minutes, Carl Orvis seconded, and the motion was approved.

The PCS website has been recently overhauled by Kathy Malin and her team. We thank Chris Wilder for many years of being our website administrator.

We are still on a membership campaign so encourage friends and family members to join us and keep up your dues.

Bill announced the results of the ByLaws Amendments # 43 and # 44 with 136 total votes. On #43, there were 131 – Yes votes; 3 – No votes; and 2 were blank. On #44, there were 114 – Yes votes; 20 – No votes; and 2 were blank. Just to clarify, we are not raising the membership dues at this time.

The investment questionnaires were counted in early November and the results were: 8 – do not invest; 49 – invest in CDs; 22 – invest in stocks, bonds, & mutual funds; 5 – with suggestions. We plan to purchase CDs this month.

We had a very successful 2022 Reunion and more in attendance in previous years. The December *Canal Record* was mailed out yesterday and we will open online registration soon. We are looking for volunteers and if interested, contact Anna Hertrich in the PCS office. We recommend registering early since we sold out of hotel rooms in the middle of May 2022. You can cancel your hotel reservation up to 72 hours in advance. If you register by February 8, 2023, you will be in early bird drawings at the Space Coast picnic and the UF luncheon for free room nights and gift certificate at one of Shingle Creek's high end restaurants.



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After careful consideration, the Executive Board agreed that the reunion registration fees will increase from \$10.00 per person to \$15.00 per person for current members and their spouses. Late registration fee for members will be \$20.00, for non-member guests the rate will be \$25.00 per person, 18 & over; and \$30.00 for late registration. We are hoping this will be an initiative for non-members to join the Society.

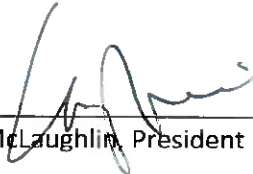
We are planning a big musical show for the Annual Luncheon. For the first time in 20 years, PCS' Annual Luncheon will have a musical show similar to the 2003 Reunion production. The show is titled "A Retrospective of American Musical Theatre in the Panama Canal: 1979-1999". All the Reunion information will be in the December *Canal Record*.

Bill introduced John Nemmers, the Program Director and Curator of the Panama Canal Museum Collection at the University of Florida. John told the crowd this year was the 10-year anniversary of the opening of the Museum at UF. They are currently on a 10-week campaign to raise \$10,000. He went on talk about the new exhibitions, digital collection, 170 interviews for oral history, and the April luncheon with the PCS. John spoke about the annual Auction at the Reunion that raises funds for the Museum Collection. He thanked all the volunteers especially Kathy Egolf, Mickey Fitzgerald, and Carole Miller and these ladies are looking for volunteers for the reunion. To join the Friends of the Museum, it is only \$26.00 a year and John thanked everyone for their continued support.

Bill asked if there was any old or new business. He announced that Cheryl Williams will be the Hotel co-chairperson along with Betty LeDoux. Betty came to the podium and told the audience that all Reunion registrations will be collected, held in order received then processed in January. We will all miss Nancy's expertise.

Bill thanked the members, their guests, vendors, Mel and Ted Henter, Christmas chairpersons, and Board members for joining us today and wished all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Door prizes were drawn with Lois Jones winning one of the grand prizes of a table decoration made by Margaret McLaughlin and Robert Sanchez won the 2 nights at Rosen Shingle Creek. The meeting adjourned at 1:38 p.m.



Bil McLaughlin, President



Kathy Malin, Office Manager