



PANAMA CANAL SOCIETY
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Saturday, October 7, 2023 – 9:30 a.m.
Seven Springs Golf & Country Club, President's Room, New Port Richey, FL

The Board Meeting was called to order at 9:45 a.m. by Bill McLaughlin, P.P. (President).

Attendees:

Bill McLaughlin, P.P. (President & Reunion Coordinator), Carl Orvis (1st Vice President), Laura Kosik (2nd Vice President), Mike Young (Director), Margaret McLaughlin (Director-at-Large), Ted Kaufer (Sergeant-at-Arms), Bill Lane (Chaplain), Anna Hertrich (Office Assistant), Kathy Malin (Office Manager) and Betty LeDoux (Reunion Co-Lodging Chairperson)

Attendees by ZOOM: Bosco Hoyte (Director), Penny Canamas (Director), Elaine Lewis, P.P. (Past President), Ray Husum (ByLaws), Jacque Vowell (Editor), and Cheryl Williams (Reunion Co-Chair for Lodging)

Bill welcomed all and was disappointed in Board members not attending in person. He asked if everyone had read the August 5, 2023, minutes. Elaine Lewis made a motion to approve the August Executive Board meeting minutes, Bosco Hoyte seconded, and the motion carried.

Financials:

Check Detail Report was business as usual. Elaine motioned to approve paying the bills, Carl Orvis seconded, and the motion carried.

President/Reunion Coordinator Report and Remarks:

The Board is still searching for a Treasurer and a Legislature Representative. Bill tried to persuade Bruce Homa to be the Treasurer at the Sarasota luncheon but to no avail. Laura Kosik asked if our CPA could be the Treasurer, but Kathy Malin said she wasn't a member and not involved with the Society. The CPA firm files our annual taxes, quarterly payroll reports and now reconciles finances monthly. Bill indicated the Office Manager can be the Treasurer.

Bill spoke about the cost of paper after a member's suggestion to use dull-coated paper (endurance silk-text). It costs more but decided to try it with the October *Canal Record*. Board members and Betty LeDoux thought this Record was one of the best with clear pictures, including black and white. Betty suggested using this new paper on future issues but the opaque paper for the Directory and Yellow Pages. Laura's concern was how to offset the increased expense, possibly by new members? Bill suggested we find sponsors to cover the costs.

Pete Foster's Celebration of Life is scheduled for Saturday, October 28th in Clearwater.

Yellow Pages are final. Bill introduced to the Board the new Rosen Shingle Convention Manager, Helen Ronchetti and read her bio. He felt Leann was not a good fit. Joan will still be the Banquet manager.

Bill reviewed the 2024 Reunion Coordinators with the Board. Laura asked for the list to be sent out to the Board. Carl inquired about the meeting with Helen and Bill responded that it would be after the New Year. Next year, our Reunion rooms are on the opposite side of the convention center towards the parking lot. Bill and Margaret McLaughlin spoke to Rolando Armien about including children in their dance class. It was decided to charge 6–11-year-olds \$10.00 each and 12 and above will be \$15 or \$25 for couples. It is required that the parents be present and at least 10 children need to be signed up. Ted Kaufer stated there were 6-yr old twins attending this past year's class. The children will be allowed to dance in the Despedida.

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Bill reviewed the bands for the three nights. Children under 12 will not be allowed into the Ball. Bill discussed the Murga stated that the small Murga was \$900 and the extra small Murga with no horns is \$400. Ray Husum mentioned the group was not in costume at this year's Murga. Bill will ask them to wear costumes or at least a Guayabera. The Board discussed saving the large Murga with queens for special years, for example every ten years. Laura made a motion to hire the small Murga for \$900, Carl seconded, and the motion carried.

There will not be an annual luncheon or a golf luncheon due to the high prices of the meals. The Hotel has not counter offered a better price for the annual luncheon and the Hotel manager stated the food prices are higher. Bill mentioned the price of luncheon meals at the Sarasota luncheon and all members agreed they would not pay the \$55+ to attend.

A discussion regarding the neck wallet with a lanyard. Samples were shown and the Reunion logo described. The Board decided on a blue neck wallet with white Reunion logo and no dates. Then a red wide lanyard with Panama Canal Society in white. Since the Fourth of July is on a Thursday this next Reunion and a Friday in 2025, the Board asked Kathy to get quotes on 1 & 2 years' worth to save on money, possibly 2,500 and 5,000.

Bill showed the Board pictures of the tickets and Official Name Badges. He stated this Official Name Badge gets into all dances free. Carl suggested people with Official Name Badges still receive a wristband not to confuse Security. Betty reminded everyone that food is not allowed into dances and possibly adding no food on the tickets.

The logistics for the Reunion was discussed. Mike Young agreed to drive a U-Haul over and back but needs help loading and unloading, especially on Monday. Carl suggested that no Board members leave until U-Haul is loaded on Sunday. Board members will need late check-out. Bill will ask the Hotel if there is a storage room under the escalators on the other side.

Bill discussed signage disbursement and wanted the Chairpersons to be responsible for setting up and returning their signs. Ted Kaufer and Mike will meet at the office to go through all the sign boxes and get them in order and labeled.

New Business:

Kathy needs to order Cheryl Williams a co-chair lodging badge and Dave Bishop with a golf chairperson badge. The new Governors Club (GC) ribbons are horizontal along with the Veteran ribbons. At this year's Reunion, we used up all the vertical GC ribbons. Kathy will also order more Vendor ribbons. Kathy or Anna will count the wristbands to see what needs to be ordered. Vendors' set-up will only be open during the hours stated even if the loading dock is open.

Bill asked the Board their intentions for the 2024-2026 Nominations. Carl will be running for President, Laura and Mike both want to run for 1st Vice President, Penny Canamas will run for 2nd Vice President and Bosco Hoyte has decided to run again as a Director. All names and your intentions need to be sent to the Nomination Chair by November 22nd. Margaret, the Nomination Chairperson, will make an announcement at the December luncheon about the nominations then ask for nominations from the floor. The March Record will list the pictures, bios, and the office they are running for.

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The new President will appoint a new Director-at-Large, all appointed Board members, and chairpersons of standing and special committees. Bill talked about dissolving Legislature, but Ray said the Bylaws need to be changed before. The legislature representative was great for all the retired Federal employees but most of them are no longer with us. Betty stated this position helped us for the not-for-profit status. Bosco suggested asking Luke Givens who lives in Palm Coast and works for Seminole County. Bosco asked for a copy of Legislature duties.

Carl indicated that Richard Grimison might be interested in a position, his work duties have changed. Laura didn't understand why other people are not interested because it is only once a month. She said the downfall is working at the Reunion. Carl suggested a bigger push for volunteers at all events.

Carl made a motion, if Margaret has the time, to make Christmas table decorations and a grand door prize, he suggested to give her \$400, Penny seconded, and motioned carried. Miriam Tiblier donated a large basket and Kathy suggested we raffle it. The Board agreed and Laura and Mike will handle that at the door of the luncheon. Betty will ask the Hotel if they would be interested in donating a 2-night stay for a door prize. Bill said it is great that people bring in many door prizes.

The front cover of the December *Canal Record* was discussed using a Christmas theme that Renee Krimminger created with molas. Pete Foster's picture will be on the cover of the March issue.

BHS 88 sent an email to Jacque requesting to host the Thursday Night Yacht Club dance in 2025. Carl will talk to Dave Smith about what is expected.

Jacque requested the Reporter's Luncheon be moved to Saturday versus Friday in 2024 from 1-2 pm. Jacque suggested the Cultural Seminar Trivia on Friday be longer than one hour. Bill will speak to John Nemmers who is in charge of the Cultural Seminar.

Bill asked the board members if anyone had any other business to discuss before we adjourn.

Carl spoke up- and motioned that Kathy be the Account Holder for the credit card Merchant Account. Kathy interjected to explain Carl's motion. Kathy stated that Bill's name needs to be removed and hers added in place of Bill, because every time Kathy needs to do something, Bill has to get on the phone. Merchant Account needs this action in the signed minutes to remove Bill's name. Laura seconded and a discussion ensued by Margaret and Ray indicating there should be two account holders. Margaret said no to the motion, but a motion was never approved by the other board members. Ray stated why we can't just add Kathy's name with Bill's on the account. Kathy said no, that there can't be two people on the account. The issue is she can't do changes without Bill talking on the phone. Kathy was trying to get our processing fees lowered. Laura commented that these Merchant accounts have levels of authority and Kathy isn't at a level to request the higher level changes. Kathy is an authorized user and can only talk to them, but can't make higher level changes. The President or CEO of the company is the higher level authorizer and this is required by the Merchant Account rules. Margaret voted no again to the motion. Ray wasn't in agreement either. Kathy said forget it and Bill can take care of it from now on. Motion was tabled until further research is done.

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Officers Report: none

Upcoming Events:

Christmas Luncheon: December 2nd

Board Meeting: January 20th

Space Coast Picnic: February 24th

FL Spring Picnic: March 9th

Board Meeting: March 23rd

UF Luncheon: April 6th

Board Meeting: June 9th

Pack U-Haul: July 1st

Reunion: July 3-7th with Annual Meeting on July 5th.

Carl made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Laura seconded, and the motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:51 pm.



Bill McLaughlin, President



Kathy Malin, Office Manager