



PANAMA CANAL SOCIETY
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Saturday, January 6, 2024 – 9:30 a.m.

ZOOM Meeting: 784 410 2596; Passcode: 8hUXed

The Board Meeting was called to order at 9:32 a.m. by Bill McLaughlin, P.P. (President).

ZOOM Attendees:

Bill McLaughlin, P.P. (President & Reunion Coordinator), Carl Orvis (1st Vice President), Laura Kosik (2nd Vice President), Penny Canamas (Director), Mike Young (Director), Bosco Hoyte (Director), Margaret McLaughlin (Director–At-Large), Elaine Lewis, P.P. (Past President), Ted Kaufer (Sergeant-at-Arms), Bill Lane (Chaplain), Ray Husum (Bylaws), David Dahlstrom (Legislature Rep), Jacque Vowell (Editor), Betty LeDoux & Cheryl Williams (Reunion Hotel Chairpersons), Anna Hertrich (Office Assistant) and Kathy Malin (Office Manager)

Bill welcomed all and asked if everyone had read the October 7, 2023, minutes. Elaine Lewis made a motion to approve the October Executive Board meeting minutes, Carl Orvis seconded, and the motion carried.

Elaine approved of the 3 new members, Carl seconded, and the motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Check Detail. Margaret McLaughlin motioned to approve paying the bills, Elaine seconded, and the motion carried.

Kathy Malin went over the two CDs. The \$150K CD matures on 1/26/24 and been earning 4.25% and the \$75K CD matures on 1/29/24 and been earning 4.95%; in addition, there was \$75K in a Money Market account that on 11/30/23 has accrued \$2,970.13 in interest. A discussion ensued about reinvesting in the CDs. Bill Lane recommended investing \$150K in the one-year CD at 4% and \$75K in the 7-month CD at 5%. Elaine motioned to reinvest the \$225K in CDs as Bill Lane recommended, Carl seconded, and the motion carried. [On January 18 via email, Kathy asked the Board about reinvesting the interest accrued or not to. The Board voted to invest the interest along with the principal. When Kathy went to the bank on 1/31/24, the bank manager had misinformed her about the 7-month CD. They only have a 5-month CD at 4.93%. Kathy invested \$75K in the 5-month CD verses the 7-month.]

Bill stated the Board is still looking into a Treasurer, but a Legislative Representative was found. He introduced David Dahlstrom and his credentials, which included David's great grandfather, Mr. Calvit who was a past President of the Society. Bill then swore David in and welcomed him to the Board.

Bill stated the December *Canal Record* looked great. A discussion ensued on the 2024 decal for the March book. Board members would like to see AI graphic that people have posted on Facebook. The Board decided on a Toucan.

A discussion on expenditures ensued and one topic was whether we could eliminate printing the Directory every year or not. Ray Husum suggested printing the Bylaws in the March book and in another *Canal Record*; we could print the Directory and other information. Since Jacque Vowell's audio was not working, Kathy explained the Society has a Periodical Permit that does not include the Directory. We also have a limit of pages per issue. Bill assigned Ray, Bosco Hoyte and Jacque to a Directory committee to investigate the pros and cons.

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David Dahlstrom asked what exactly the Board was looking for in the Legislative report since a lot of the members are no longer working for the government. He suggests reporting on how to obtain cedulas, Roosevelt medals or historical documents.

Bill discussed marketing and said that Steve Hoffman had some ideas. Steve and Bill will talk to John Husum, Facebook administrator, on further postings. Betty said that the members are all marketers too. When we are out and about, we need to market the Society.

David and Mayra Seitz would like to become Area Reporters for the southeast states that Lori Snow was reporting on. Lori is happy to step down. Elaine motioned to approve the new Area Reporters, Bosco seconded, and the motion carried.

Ray will be looking into changing our tax status from 'not-for-profit to non-profit'. Ray believes we are a historical society.

Bill also discussed fund raising and that Louis DeArmas' letter will be in the March book regarding all members donating \$100. Bill also suggested we need more sponsorships. Kathy will send out letters to former Reunion sponsors. Bill will ask the Canal Authority and Betty LeDoux will contact "Visit Panama" to see if they want to be a sponsor and a vendor.

Reunion Reports:

- Bill and Margaret met Helen Ronchetti and Joan Deslauriers from the Rosen Shingle Creek on 12/13/23. It was a good meeting.
 - Joan was displeased that there would be no luncheon, but understood regarding the prices.
- Bands will have to go on the back walls for free electricity where house electrical outlets are.
- Shirley Avery-Bentley and Mickler Bentley will once again sponsor the lanyards. Kathy will order 2500.
- A discussion regarding Volunteer gifts of car cup coasters being stone or neoprene. The cost of shipping stone will be too high because of the weight. Elaine motioned to order 200 sets of 2 neoprene coasters, Laura seconded, and the motion carried.
- The Board decided to save money and not purchase a Governors Club gift.
- All ribbons for Volunteer, Vendors, GC, and Veterans will all be horizontal.
- Security will be handled by the hotel security again and paid by PCS.
- Insurance
 - All bands should have their own insurance and if bands purchase their own, Society will reimburse.
 - The Board discussed waivers for entertainers, but Bill thought it is better to get their own insurance.
 - Society events are insured but not entertainers.
 - Bill doesn't like our current office rental insurance and wants to discuss a new policy to cover Board decisions of same
 - Margaret McLaughlin suggested an addendum to our insurance.
 - Ray suggested events insurance policy to also cover meetings.
 - There were 172 non-members in attendance at last year's Reunion.
 - Anna Hertrich suggested adding a disclaimer for entertainers.

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- Betty will ask one of the lawyers from her firm on Monday.
- All ads in *Canal Records* have disclaimers which Ray created. Jacque suggested to put a disclaimer on our website.
 - Bill wanted to see if we could put the disclaimer on the Registration envelopes. Anna stated not all people sign the forms, only the members (not the non-members).
- Class hospitality suites need to take caution on bringing in food and drinks.
- The Board discussed David Wright being the Photographer. The Board did not want to pay David the \$3K. Bill says David will not work for less.
 - Kathy and Bill contacted Carlton Morris to become the Official Photographer. He agreed to take candid shots throughout all the events. Bill will draft up a contract and job description.
 - Kathy suggested the class reunions take their own pictures and send them to Jacque with the list of names.
 - Elaine motioned to hire Carlton Morris and to compensate Carlton with a room and all access badge, Carl seconded, and the motion carried.
- Bill needs the waiver from the DJ. Carl will request it.
- Bill stated golf is limited to 72 golfers again and Dave Bishop is tourney director.
 - Kathy stated Dave has a sponsor for one hole but does not want to be on the sponsor sheet.
 - Kelly Fenton was interested in sponsoring a hole.
 - Betty also would like to sponsor a hole.
- The hotel discouraged the Swim Race and suggested going off-site. Betty stated it would not be a good idea for members to go off-site. Jacque will pull the Ad from the March book.
- Bill discussed the price of flights for the Saturday night band. Board members stated the price quotes sounded like first class and PCS does not want to pay that price.
- Bosco will look for a label printer for the Reunion with non-Wi-Fi options. Label is 2-1/4" x 3-1/2".

New Business:

John Cooke and Janice Scott are the members who suggested changing the type of paper used when printing the *Canal Record*. Bill would like to recognize them both in the next Record, especially since John has passed away. March *Canal Record* will have Pete Foster on the cover.

Kathy would like to change the office hours on Friday from 9am – noon to 10am – 1pm. Penny motioned to approve the change, Carl seconded, and the motion carried.

Bosco suggested adding the membership challenge of \$100 to the membership form. He asked if there was room on the form? Jacque's audio was not working. It could be called DeArmas PCS \$100 Fund Challenge.

Bosco shared the link to the Panama Cedula information.

Laura motioned to adjourned Board meeting at 11:50, Carl seconded, and motion passed.

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Upcoming Events:

PCS Space Coast picnic is February 24th

PCS Gulf Coast Picnic is March 9th

Next Board Meeting is March 23rd

PCS/UF Luncheon is April 6th

Last Board Meeting before Reunion is June 8th

Reunion is July 3-7th



Bill McLaughlin, President



Kathy Malin, Office Manager