



PANAMA CANAL SOCIETY
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES
Kelly Park East
2550 North Banana River Dr., Merritt Island, FL
February 24, 2024

Meeting was called to order at 12:30 by Carl Orvis (1st Vice-President).

Carl welcomed the 45 plus members and guests present and thanked them for coming on this beautiful but chilly day and being patient with the police. He thanked everyone that attended the Happy Hour at Gators Dockside the night before. There was a quorum present to conduct business. Carl gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mike Young.

Carl thanked Peggy Huff and Kathy Malin for organizing the picnic. A copy of the last General Membership was distributed earlier. Bill Huff motioned to approve the minutes, Jane Huff seconded, and the motion carried.

Carl introduced the Board Members present: Laura Kosik (2nd VP), Bosco Hoyte (Director), Mike Young (Director), and Kathy Malin (Office Manager). He mentioned there were no Past Presidents in attendance. Carl reminded everyone to get a door prize ticket and purchase raffle tickets.

Membership is declining thus the Society has started a membership campaign and is looking for marketers. If you know of anyone, please contact a Board member.

The March *Canal Record* will be out in the next week or two. Inside will be the Nominations for the next Board. Carl announced he is running for President. Laura Kosik and Mike Young are running for 1st Vice President, Penny Canamas is running for 2nd Vice President and the members running for Directors are Bosco Hoyte, Cheryl Williams, and Dixie Barons. We need all members to vote, and the deadline is June 24th.

The Reunion will be in Orlando again from July 3-7th and the theme is "A Star-Spangled Reunion" since the 4th of July is on Thursday. Carl explained to all that Betty LeDoux has investigated other hotels in other cities including Panama, Ft Lauderdale, Tampa, Dallas, Las Vegas, as well as different hotels in Orlando. Rosen Shingle Creek Resort has the best deals for food and beverage minimums and with great pricing for hotel rooms.

Reunion registration is open and closes on May 31st. Carl advised all to get their registration in early because two years ago, the Society ran out of rooms by May 15th. The reunion convention will be on the opposite side of the convention center this year near the parking lot.

The Society is looking for volunteers to assist at the reunion and a big thank you to all the ones in the past. Anna Hertrich, the Office Assistant, is our Reunion Volunteer Chairperson so either contact her or call the Office if you are interested in volunteering. Volunteers are what makes our reunion happen!

There are many events happenings during the week of the Reunion including golf tournament, 4 dances, bingo, pool party, vendors, Class reunions, etc. One can review the Schedule of Events online or in the December *Canal Record*.



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Hotel confirmations will be emailed within 2 months after registering. The luncheon was too expensive and after the Board discussed it with the Sarasota Luncheon attendees, the Board decided not to hold a luncheon. Bill did ask Frankie Pretto to play Lucho music in the Clubhouse during the lunch hour on Saturday which he agreed to.

Carl asked Kathy Egolf to come to the front to speak about the Friends of the Panama Canal Museum Collection (PCMC). Kathy spoke about the current exhibit, "The Cutting Edge" which is an engineering achievement. She said the Museum curators will be replacing with a Railroad exhibit which will be revealed at the April luncheon. The luncheon is on April 6, and you need to sign up with the PCS office. Kathy told all about a Hawaiian cruise to raise money that will be in September. Kathy asked Carole Miller to speak about the Reunion's Silent Auction. Carole indicated it has been a learning process since her sister, Mickey Fitzgerald passed away. Mickey did so much by finding volunteers, monitoring the room, finding donations, bid forms, etc. Carole asked for volunteers to work the Auction for this year.


Carl asked for any comments or suggestions. Janice Scott asked if anyone had paper routes in the Canal Zone. She and Tom Stoakley found and discussed an article in one of the old *Canal Records* about delivering papers. Tom would send the article to the office to see if we could add it to the *Canal Record* again so the younger generation can talk about their experiences. Janice also spoke about the windfall act that the Bill in Congress is being rescinded.

Carl mentioned he heard from Steven Price, BHS 1977, who is working with legislature in Washington, DC to add Canal Zone civilians to the H.R. 5026, Panama Canal Zone Veterans Act of 2021. Steven wants to encourage Zonians to contact their representatives. Fred Hoppe stated he can guarantee that there was Agent Orange in Gatun Lake. That is how the government cleared up the foliage in the lake.

Carl drew for the Early Bird drawing for 2 free hotel nights at the Reunion. Samuel "Skip" Rowley won the drawing. We took a short break before the final drawings.

Peggy Huff looked over everyone's coffee bean count. Luis Payne won that drawing. Raffles were sold during the picnic and the Society made \$250. Carl and Kathy Malin drew raffle and door prizes.

Mary Alice Albritton motioned for the meeting to adjourned at 1:45 pm, Bebe Nehring Tudor seconded, and the motion carried.



Carl Orvis, PCS 1st Vice President



Kathy Malin, PCS Office Manager