



PANAMA CANAL SOCIETY
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Saturday, March 23, 2024 – 9:30 a.m.
Seven Springs Golf & Country Club, New Port Richey, FL

The Board Meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by President Bill McLaughlin

Attendees: Bill McLaughlin (President & Reunion Coordinator), Bosco Hoyte (Director), Mike Young (Director), Penny Canamas (Director), Margaret McLaughlin (Directory at Large), Ted Kaufer (Sergeant-at-Arms), Jacque Vowell (Editor), Anna Hertrich (Office Assistant), Cheryl Williams (Reunion Hotel Chairperson), and Kathy Malin (Office Manager)

Attendees by ZOOM: Carl Orvis (1st Vice President), Laura Kosik (2nd Vice President), Elaine Lewis, (Past President), and Ray Husum (Bylaws),

Absent: Bill Lane (Chaplain) and Betty LeDoux (Reunion Hotel Chairperson)

Bill welcomed all and asked if everyone had read the January 26, 2024, minutes. Margaret McLaughlin made a motion to approve the January Executive Board meeting minutes, Elaine Lewis seconded, and the motion was carried. Elaine made a motion to approve the six new memberships, Carl Orvis seconded, and the motion carried.

Financials:

Kathy Malin explained that QuickBooks is now handled online, and she shared the current Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss. The Check Detail was sent out for review by the Board. Elaine Lewis motioned to pay bills, Penny Canamas seconded, and the motion carried.

President Report and Remarks:

Bebe Nehring Tudor mentioned at the Space Coast picnic that she might be interested in the Treasurer position. Carl will contact her again.

A discussion ensued on different methods to reduce or eliminate the annual Directory. Ray Husum stated that an amendment to the ByLaws change will not be necessary if we publish it a *Canal Record*. Publishing it in the December book will give more members access to the membership especially after the reunion. Ray stated the Bylaws and other information in the Directory can be on our website. Kathy said the Bylaws and Canal Zone information is already on the website. More discussions arose on the font size, printing in portrait or landscape, printing in state order or alphabetical, surveying the members, contacting the office for information, printing in the June book, alternating years, on-line, etc. but the biggest concern of the Board is saving the Society \$10K in yearly expense. Bill called for a motion to print the Directory in the December *Canal Record*, Penny made the motion, Bosco Hoyte seconded, and the motion was carried. (Laura Kosik was not on the Zoom meeting at the time of motion passage.) Bill will notify members in the President report in the next *Canal Record* as well as David in the Legislative report.

To save additional pages in the *Canal Record*, Jacque Vowell will notify the area reporters to limit their reports to two pages.

Kathy reported that donations were coming in from the members after the idea by Louis DeArmas to help offset the deficit by challenging the members to donate at least \$100 to the Society. Bill and Kathy will send

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out Thank you letters. Wayne Albritton suggested, via email for the Society not to give Governors Club members small gifts at the Reunion and possibly hosting a casino night at the reunion. Ray explained ways to go about hosting the casino night and will investigate further for the 2025 reunion. It is a good idea to raise money. Bill suggested more raffles at Society events and finding sponsors. Ted Kaufer suggested instead of giving away all the Lottery money at the Reunion, it should be a 50-50 where the Society receives half the funds, and then the other half split in three ways.

New Business:

Reunion Reports:

Bill is completing the flyers and making a new one stating that there is NO food allowed at any of the dances, especially the ball.

The entertainers, sound people, photographer, etc. will have Official Name Badges in white and they are allowed into all events at no costs.

We are currently waiting for more sponsors.

The Clubhouse, this year, will be larger with 3 rooms. Margaret had a great idea to have Frankie Pretto play at the Clubhouse and Bill asked Frankie Pretto to perform Lucho music from noon to 1:00 pm at the Clubhouse on Saturday afternoon. Frankie agreed with just his keyboards.

Margaret asked for an additional \$150 to decorate the Clubhouse. A discussion arose on the cost of decorations, but Margaret assured all she was purchasing roses at wholesale costs. Bosco motioned to approve it, Penny seconded, and the motion carried.

Bill will have the storage room secured on Wednesday morning. The U-Haul will be loaded on Monday, July 1st then driven by Mike Young on Tuesday to Orlando. On Wednesday morning, it will be unloaded and placed into respective rooms.

Bill reviewed the Chairpersons duties confirming that Penny & Bosco will work the Friday night DJ dance and asked David Dahlstrom to take the Saturday night Ball from 10 pm – 1 am along with Laura Kosik and Jacque Vowell. Kathy Malin and Elaine Lewis have the earlier shift with 1 volunteer, Janice Scott. No balloons, confetti, or glitter are allowed in or on class reunion tables.

Bill received the Despedida contract and is waiting on the Dance Class contract and some of the bands.

For registration, the lanyards have been ordered, and Anna Hertrich will send out Volunteer Sign-up shortly. Kathy will order wristbands for the Ball we already have wrist bands for the Friday DJ and Pool party.

Bill talked about event insurance and mentioned that all the performers need to have insurance. Bill and Carl will contact the performers.

There are 13 class reunions to date.

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Dave Bishop reviewed the golf expenses and income. He will ask Jean Medinger about creating a banner for the one hole that has \$500 donation from an anonymous donor for his parents. Dave will check with Kelly Fenton, Mike Coffey, and Betty LeDoux for sponsorship. Penny Canamas motioned to approve reimbursing Dave for the golf balls already purchased and the prize money, Margaret McLaughlin seconded it and the motion carried. Dave mentioned he was hoping to have Gatorade for all the golfers, but the course wanted \$5 per person extra. Mike Young volunteered along with Steve Gilbert to observe holes for closet to pin.

Reports:

A member called to state he liked the old paper used for the *Canal Records*. Bill said that John Cooke and Janice Scott liked having the new paper then John passed away before he could see the October book. Bill will recognize them at the Annual Meeting.

Board insurance has been purchased.

About the podcast: Will Benninghoff will reach out to the Board to promote the Society. Laura Kosik is interested in the podcast and spoke to Will about appearing once a month. She will promote the website, memberships, Governors Club, Canal Zone vital records and other resources. David Dahlstrom said that Will reached out to him about the Cayuco races. The podcast is every Friday and posted on the Society's Facebook page. Carl Orvis approved speaking on the podcast, Bosco Hoyte seconded, and motion was carried.

Carl spoke about Agent Orange in the Canal Zone and Steven Price wants to include the Zonians with the military mentioned in the House bill. Carl will tell Steven Price to submit an article for the June *Canal Record*. Steven wants a table in the reunion conference center to promote his cause.

The deadline for the next Canal Record is April 6th. David Dahlstrom will mention the House bill in his report. Ray Husum said he thought it was fine to publish in book but wants a disclaimer. Bill has emailed Steven Price regarding a table but there has been no response. Bill indicated that Steven was supposed to speak at last year's annual meeting but got the times mixed up. Bill asked Ray if the vendor disclaimer was good enough and Ray thought it was.

Margaret McLaughlin asked the nomination committee to meet on Friday morning at 7 am in the Panzacola Room H. Ted Kaufer asked about the evening before and that idea was declined by the President. Kathy Malin asked if we can accept scanned ballots especially from Panama and Ray Husum said it was fine.

Kathy Malin mentioned recommendations to our computer system by an IT consultant, but Bosco Hoyte said that Spectrum's internet includes security anti-virus software. Bill McLaughlin will back up his Society files on his home computer with the hard drive that Kathy provided. Kathy backs up the work computer monthly on a hard drive.

Penny Canamas motioned to adjourn Board meeting at 11:47am, Bosco seconded, and the motion carried.

Upcoming Events:

April 6, 2024 – PCS/UF/Friends of Museum Luncheon – UF Smathers Libraries 11:00 am - Social Hour with a tour of the Museum followed by a **buffet** and General Membership meeting with an UF presentation. **Chair:** Penny Canamas (Deadline to register is March 31st.)

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June 8, 2024 – Board Meeting - 9:30 am – Seven Springs Golf & Country Club, New Port Richey

July 1, 2024 – Pack U-Haul for Reunion – PCS Office, 15131 Ogden Loop, Odessa, FL (U-Haul to be delivered on July 2nd.)

July 3 –7, 2024 - PCS Annual Reunion, Shingle Creek Resort, Orlando, FL

(Annual meeting on July 5 at 9:30 am – arrive by 9:00 am)

August 3, 2024 – Board Meeting - 9:30 am – Seven Springs Golf & Country Club, NPR

September 14, 2024 – PCS Luncheon at Der Dutchman Restaurant, Sarasota, FL, - 11:30 am

October 5, 2024 - Board Meeting- 9:30 am – Seven Springs Golf & Country Club, NPR

December 7, 2024 – PCS Christmas Luncheon at Columbia Restaurant, Ybor City, FL - 11:30am

PCS Events in Other States:

April 28, 2024 – PCS Southern California Luncheon, Newport Beach, CA

July 27, 2024 – PCS Northwest Picnic, Prineville, OR

September 7, 2024 – PCS/North Carolina Picnic, Huntersville, NC

September 21, 2024 – PCS/Southern Alabama Picnic, Castleberry, AL

September 28, 2024 – PCS/Texas Picnic, New Braunfels, TX



Bill McLaughlin, President



Kathy Malin, Office Manager