



PANAMA CANAL SOCIETY
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Saturday, August 3, 2024 – 9:30 a.m.
Seven Springs Golf & Country Club, New Port Richey, FL

The Board Meeting was called to order at 9:33 a.m. by Bill McLaughlin, P.P. (President).

Attendees:

Bill McLaughlin, P.P. (Outgoing President), Carl Orvis (Incoming President), Mike Young (1st Vice President), Penny Canamas (2nd Vice President), Cheryl Williams (Director), Dixie Barons (Director), Jim Parthenais (Treasurer), Ted Kaufer (Sergeant-at-Arms), Bill Lane (Chaplain), Betty LeDoux, P.P. (Reunion Hotel Chairperson), Anna Hertrich (Office Assistant), and Kathy Malin (Office Manager)

Attendees by Zoom: Bosco Hoyte (Director), Kelly Fenton (Director-at-Large), Elaine Lewis, P.P. (Past President), Ray Husum (ByLaws), David Dahlstrom (Legislature Reporter), and Jacque Vowell (Editor)

New Business:

Bill McLaughlin welcomed all and explained the responsibilities of the Past President which position Bill now occupies. Bill then stated, "I, Bill McLaughlin now pass the baton to Carl Orvis, our newly elected President and CEO of the Panama Canal Society. Thank you departing board members and God Bless this new board."

At 9:36 am, Cheryl Williams made a motion to adjourn this part of the meeting, Dixie Barons seconded, and the motion carried.

Carl Orvis called the second part of the meeting to order at 9:37 am. He announced his appointed board members: Kelly Fenton as Director-at-Large, Jim Parthenais as Treasurer, Ted Kaufer as Sergeant-at-Arms, Bill Lane as Chaplain, Ray Husum as ByLaws and David Dahlstrom as the Legislative Representative.

Personnel:

Carl then asked Kathy Malin to leave the room and Jacque Vowell to exit Zoom for the Board to discuss personnel issues. After discussion, the Executive Board reinstated Kathy and Jacque. They accepted.

New Business:

Carl asked if everyone read the June Board minutes. Cheryl made a motion to approve the minutes, Bill McLaughlin seconded, and the motion carried. There are 2 new members to be approved, Edward O'Connor & Heather Montesonti as well as Loisa (Thomas) White. Bill McLaughlin made a motion to approve the new members, Penny Canamas seconded, and the motion carried.

Financials:

Carl asked if anyone had questions about the Check Detail report. A discussion ensued with Jim Parthenais detailing his expectations on reporting the finances. Jim requests the Board review and approve all contracts before the contracts are signed. Bill mentioned to the Board to review the reunion expenses stating the Ball expenses were high. He said, this is something to think about for the future. Bill motioned to pay the bills, Cheryl seconded, and the motion carried.

Kathy discussed the investment accounts. She also explained that we cannot change signatures on the bank accounts and other documents until we have signed Board minutes which will be in October. Jim and Kathy will discuss the P&L and other finances in the October meeting.

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President Remarks:

Carl suggested all Board members read over the Bylaws to become familiar with their duties as well as the Bylaws governing Society business and affairs. Carl stated the office should always be copied on emails for filing purposes.

Carl explained to the Board about disconcerting problems with one member at the Reunion. There have been several complaints over the years about this individual. Carl explained his previous offenses and the current incidences at this year's reunion. Carl went over to the hotel and reviewed the Security footage of one incident that happened in the Rotunda. None of the other hotel incidents were reported to Hotel Security. Several members told Carl that they want him 'banned' from the Reunions. The Hotel cannot ban him because they were not called. Regarding the incident on security footage, the other individual did not want to press charges.

Ray Husum reviewed the ByLaws, and it does not state about expelling members. In Robert Rules of Order, it does state, we need 'a trial'. Both Ray and Carl mentioned that no one has talked to this individual about his 'side' on things. Several suggestions were made on disciplining or banning this individual. Carl agreed to call this individual for him to have his due process. Ray will write up a letter and suggest a committee be formed, with 2 members with police background and a Board member.

Cheryl Williams stated when Nancy Van Sclen was the Secretary, the Board did ban one individual for several years, but he has redeemed himself as he became older and mature. He is attending Reunions now.

Dixie Barons made a motion to form a Special Committee to investigate these incidences and suggest a solution to the Board, Penny seconded, and the motion carried.

Carl had the appointed Board members stand, and he swore them into office.

Kathy asked if the Board would like to see a few vendors at the Christmas luncheon and they agreed. She suggested we move the 2025 decal selection to the next Board meeting.

2024 Reunion Report:

Bill discussed the hotel bill which was lower than last year because there was not a luncheon. He heard complaints about the Society not hosting a luncheon. The hotel has agreed to work with us on organizing a luncheon next year. He thanked everyone for submitting their After-Action Reports (AAR).

A few After Action Reports (AAR) reviews:

1. Logistics had members assisting to pack the U-Haul on Sunday which was a huge help. Mike Young also had 2 helpers to load and unload the U-Haul at the Society's office.
2. Margaret McLaughlin has resigned from decorations chairperson. Carl asked if the hotel could handle decorations. The answer was yes, with mirrors and votive candles.
3. Jim suggested the Board should review the hotel, AV, DJ, and other Reunion contracts. Bill said that all quotes are shared with the board and has been standard operating procedures.
4. Registration, Information Desk and the Golf all had great AARs.

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5. Mike Young needed the hotel contact numbers for problems in the Vendor Room. Bill said he will make sure that Mike has the contact information in the future. Mike and Penny will come up with a solution on recording and organizing the door prizes for the Annual Meeting. Penny suggested adding to the Vendor Form, that all vendors need their door prizes bagged and ready to give to Mike. The Board did not feel the need to raise vendor pricing.
6. Cultural Seminar had a fun Pub Trivia and University of Florida will make changes and bring back the trivia at the 2025 reunion.
7. Dance Tickets chairperson, Laura Kosik, suggested not open on Thursday night shift as business was very slow or none and were hardly any tickets were sold. Ray Husum stated the same thing but thought the problem was they were set up around the corner and people did not realize they were there. These location problems can be solved on-site by identifying the issue at the time.
8. Dances on Thursday and Friday nights were out of control for people bringing in their own containers and drinks. Next year, either the class organizers prevent this or hire Security with the class sponsoring pay Security. Friday night DJ dance had a rude person yelling at the two Board members.
9. The Ball had a lot of issues at the door from people not reading the dress and age codes. Security was great at the doors, monitoring drink containers and dress codes. People complained about the band taking long breaks and Bill has counselled band about this. Carl and Kelly Fenton found a band from Orlando that plays Latino music and agreed to learn Lucho music. The Board will review dress and age codes at the October meeting.
 - a. The Board members working the 2nd shift did not know whether to release the decorations or hold them for Despedida.
 - b. Problems with sandals vs flip flops.
10. Frankie Pretto was a huge hit during the lunch hour in the Clubhouse and as the Chaplain.
11. Ted Kaufer suggested we try to control conflicting events and move Bingo on Saturday to 2-4pm. Carl stated we cannot control the smaller class or hospitality suites. Bill stated the only request is on Saturday evening, they stop activities when the Ball starts.
12. The Pool Party ran out of beer. We had 10 kegs but reduced to 4 kegs plus one free donated by hotel. Then Carl ordered another one. Suggest more kegs next year. An issue was people with wristbands picking up extra beer for people who had no with wristband.

2025 Reunion:

Bill McLaughlin discussed the chairpersons for next year's Reunion as well as the deadlines. Bill asked all board members about finding sponsors. Kelly Fenton volunteered to assist. Bill asked if Megan Kat is still involved with sponsors, and she is. Cheryl stated she needs more information, i.e. number of people, etc.

BHS class of 1980 would like to sponsor the Friday Night Dance. Cheryl made a motion to approve this request, Dixie seconded, and the motion carried. The Board decided to have all dances start at 9:00 pm.

Next year, the Reunion will be back on the Gatlin side of the conference center. Cheryl suggested we change the hours on Thursday for Registration and Information Desk to 10 am to noon; 2 – 3:30 pm and 4 – 5:30 pm. Business was very slow on Thursday night. On Saturday, keep the same times and do what we did this year, move the registration packets not picked up to the Vendor room with the people manning the PCS raffle table.

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Kathy stated that Dr Richard and Lila Cheville donated several Al Sprague prints that she would like to use as raffles.

Jacque Vowell will investigate having a coloring book produced.

The Board agreed to keep the board and event insurance active.

Upcoming Events:

Kathy discussed the upcoming events for 2024 – 2025. Carl suggested adding to one's calendars.

Ray Husum went over the trademark violations on FaceBook.

Penny made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Bill McLaughlin seconded, and the motion carried. The meeting ended at 12:06 pm.



Carl Orvis, President



Kathy Malin, Office Manager