



PANAMA CANAL SOCIETY
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES
Der Dutchman Restaurant, 3713 Bahia Vista St, Sarasota, FL 34232
September 14, 2024

Meeting was called to order 12:07 p.m. by Mike Young (1st Vice President).

Mike welcomed the 41 members and guests present and thanked them for coming. He introduced PCS Chaplain Bill Lane to give the invocation and then Mike led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mike asked all to review the July Annual Membership meeting minutes at their seats.

The meeting broke for lunch and resumed at 1:00 p.m.

After lunch, Mike called the meeting back to order then recognized the Past Presidents present: Bob Russell, Tom Wilder, and Shirley Avery-Bentley. He introduced the Board Members that were present: Penny Canamas (2nd VP), Directors: Cheryl Williams and Bosco Hoyte, Kelly Fenton (Director at Large), Bill Lane (Chaplain), Jacque Vowell (*Canal Record* Editor), Rae Donaldson (Sunshine Committee) and Kathy Malin (Office Manager).

Mike asked if all were able to go over the July Annual Membership meeting minutes. Steve Askew motioned to approve minutes, Cheryl Williams seconded, and the motion passed.

For the President's Report, Mike thanked Jacque Vowell for her hard work with the October *Canal Record* which will be out in early October. He also stated the Board and Reunion committee is working on the 2025 Reunion which will be printed in the December *Canal Record*. The Board had a committee investigate saving money on the *Canal Records* and Directory. They advised the Society could save approximately \$10K in printing if we placed the Directory inside the December book vice printing an individual Directory. The Board voted to save the money.

Mike welcomed all to register and attend the PCS Christmas luncheon on December 7th at the Columbia Restaurant in Ybor City. He stated we would have vendors if people wanted to purchase early Christmas gifts. Mike called Kathy Malin to the front to discuss the 2025 Reunion.

Kathy stated the 2024 reunion was a success with 1590 attendees and 170 of those who registered at the reunion. She thanked the chairpersons and volunteers which made the reunion a huge success.

The 2025 reunion will be held July 2 – 6, 2025 at the Rosen Shingle Creek Resort in Orlando. The theme for the 2025 reunion is "***Stars, Stripes and Summer Nights***". The reunion will be held on the Gatlin side of the convention center where we had it two years ago. At the Rotunda, go left down the escalator. The 2025 Reunion Yellow Pages will be ready for the December book as well as online in the middle of December.

Kathy suggested members register early for several reasons. One is that you can always cancel your hotel reservations up to 72 hours in advance and members who register by February 7th will be in several drawings during the Space Coast and UF Museum meetings. There will be 2 drawings for complimentary hotel stays, one upgrade to a suite, and a \$200 fine dining certificate to either *Calla Bella* or *A Land Remembered*. Kathy stated the prizes are non-transferable and had to be used at the 2025 reunion.



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The Society is already looking for volunteers and sponsors for the 2025 reunion. Contact the office if you are interested. An annual luncheon and program are being planned. Kathy called Cheryl Williams and Kelly Fenton to the podium.

Cheryl and Kelly discussed changes for the Reunion. Kelly suggested a cocktail hour, dinner, Murga, Despedida and then the Ball on Saturday evening. She even suggested children can attend and then about 9:30 pm, the kids will be excused. One reason for a change is that it is so hard to obtain restaurant reservations for entire families on Saturday evenings. Many discussions ensue regarding dress code, making the room smaller, a lot of activity for one-night, additional suggestions and then the pricing which would be between \$65 - \$85.

Mike invited Carole Miller of the Friends of the Panama Canal Museum to report on the 2024 Silent Auction. Carole reported that the silent auction had many items including seven Canal Zone telephone books that went for \$25 each. Other notable items for sale were mola boots, a set of 12 Christmas ornaments, stamps, and vintage ladies clothing. She suggested not to throw away anything, it might be someone else's treasure. All items donated are shared with the curators to the Museum before they are placed in the auction. The auction brought in \$10,934. Carole stated it is only as low as \$26 a year to join *Friends of the Museum*. Another fundraiser is happening right now with a cruise in Hawaii. Next year's cruise will be to the U.S. Northeast in September of 2025.

Mike thanked Bill Lane and Jacque Vowell for organizing this luncheon along with Kathy Malin. Great job!

Jacque and Bill drew the door prizes. Jacque announced the future meetings that were printed on the back of the program.

Mike asked for a motion to adjourn. Cheryl Williams made the motion, Bosco Hoyte seconded, and the motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:55 p.m.


Mike Young, 1st Vice President


Kathy Malin, PCS Office Manager