

President's Message

Hey there, Zonian Nation!

I hope this message finds you well! First, I want to express my sincere heartache for all those affected by this past devastating hurricane season. My thoughts and prayers are with you all !!

Members who send in their 2025 Reunion and Hotel Registrations forms by February 6, 2025, will be included in the Early Bird drawing on the February 22, 2025, at the Space Coast Potluck and General Membership meeting. The winner of this drawing will receive a complimentary two-night stay (king or double queen room) at the Rosen Shingle Creek Resort during the 2025 Panama Canal Society Reunion (PCS).

A second drawing will be held on March 29, 2025, at the PCS/UF/Friends of Museum luncheon at University of Florida (UF), Smathers Libraries. There will be 3 drawings which are: (1) complimentary three-night stay (king or double queen room); (2) upgrade to a suite; (3) dinner certificate for \$200 for *Calla Bella* or *A Land Remembered* fine dining restaurants. These can be redeemed at Rosen Shingle Creek Resort during the 2025 PCS reunion. The reunion registration opened in December 2024.

I am truly looking forward to the Society's 2025 activities, as we have added a new wrinkle to a few events. First, the Space Coast Potluck will be held on February 22, 2025, at VFW Post 10131 in Cape Canaveral, Florida. I'm the Second in Command at the VFS, so there will be no charge for using the hall. Also, the night before, Friday, February 21st, a 'meet and greet' will be held at the "Time Out" Sports Bar in historic Cocoa Village. Then, we will venture around the corner to enjoy a fabulous "Beatles Tribute Band" at Bugnutt Brewery. It should be a great weekend.

On March 29th, PCS, the Friends of the PC Museum, and UF will hold a joint meeting and luncheon at the Smathers Libraries. This is a great opportunity to visit the new exhibit. At the Reunion, UF curators are hosting a Canal Zone history Trivia game. You can also find out more about the Museum at the Reunion.

The Gulf Coast Spring Fling potluck will be held at Artisan Lakes in Palmetto, Florida on May 3rd. More information is in the December *Canal Record* and will be available in the March book.

This year's Annual Ball is on July 5th and will feature *Frankie Pretto and the Parranda Band's* farewell performance. Frankie has been performing for us at the Reunion for over 30 years. I am invited everyone to join me on Saturday, July 5th, to show our sincere thanks and appreciation for his longtime support of our Society and give him the proper sendoff he deserves.

In conclusion, I wish everyone a safe Holiday Season, no matter how or who you celebrate! As for me...Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to All !!!

I wish all of you MUCH ZONIAN LOVE! GOD BLESS!

Carl Orvis, President