

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

June 2025

Hello Friends!

It's hard to believe that summer is already upon us. We were lucky to enjoy a beautiful spring here in Florida, filled with cool mornings and warm, sunny days.

In late January, I had the pleasure of attending the mini reunion (CZR) in Panama, organized by **Alex Reyes**. It was a wonderful event—full of engaging seminars, fun excursions, and, best of all, the feeling of being "home." Following that, I joined the Windy Sasso / John Cronan SSG Golf Group in Coronado. **George Downing** coordinated the tournament and made sure everyone felt like royalty. Five days of golf were exhausting, but we had a blast—golfing by day and playing liars dice by night. It was my first time participating, and I plan to return next year.

As mentioned in our last issue, the Panama Canal Society has stayed busy! In February, we hosted the Space Coast Picnic at my VFW post—it was a great success, complete with delicious food, good company, and a brief business meeting, all in true Zonian fashion. Thanks to **Bosco Hoyte, Mary Alice Albritton, Nancy Reid** and **Kathy Malin** for organizing this event. Congratulations to the Early Bird Drawing winner for two complimentary hotel nights at the Reunion. **Ernest "Skip" Lewis**.

In April, we partnered once again with the University of Florida and Friends of Panama Museum for our Gainesville luncheon. Thank you to **Penny Canamas** and to all who attended! We also held three prize drawings for our 2025 Reunion at Shingle Creek. Congratulations to our winners: **Mary Combs**: three complimentary hotel nights; **Joan Ohman**: Executive Parlor Suite upgrade; **John Nita**: \$200 dinner certificate to either *Land Remembered* or *Cala Bella*.
REGISTERING EARLY PAYS OFF!

By the time you read this, our Gulf Coast Spring Fling in Palmetto will have occurred. Huge thanks to **Kelly Fenton** and her team for organizing a day full of family fun—egg tosses, sack races, tug-of-war, cornhole, water balloon tosses, and even bubbles for the little ones!

Now, looking ahead—our Reunion is just around the corner. If you haven't registered yet, you'll need to do so onsite. Be sure to check the registration times when you arrive. Even registering onsite comes with great perks, including Complimentary parking (a \$34/day savings); 25% off food outlets (excluding the pool bar); Access to ticketed events; and the Annual Membership Meeting. A big shout-out to our Past President and Reunion Coordinator, **Bill McLaughlin**, and his wife, **Margaret**, for all they do. Bill will be working hard until July 7 to ensure everything goes off without a hitch! We're so grateful for their dedication, we would not be as successful without them.

This year's Annual Ball will feature a new band—*Salsumba Orchestra*—bringing us salsa, Latin jazz, and romantic boleros. Get ready to dance!

Also, some members will host Celebrations of Life during the Reunion for loved ones we've recently lost. Check the bulletin board by the Society Information Desk for updated times and locations.

As always, thank you for your continued support. I look forward to seeing many of you at the Reunion or another event soon. For those unable to attend, we'll share Reunion photos in the October issue and on the Panama Canal Society Facebook page.

If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions about our Panama Canal Society, please don't hesitate to contact me by phone or email.

Zonians Forever!

Carl Orvis, President