



PANAMA CANAL SOCIETY
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES
VFW Post 10131
105 Long Point Rd., Cape Canaveral, FL
February 22, 2025

Meeting was called to order at 11:35 by Carl Orvis (President).

Carl welcomed the 25 members present and thanked them for coming and supporting the Society and VFW. [Total attending 35.] There was a quorum present to conduct business. Carl called Bill Lane to give the invocation followed by a moment of silence. Then Carl lead the group with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Carl thanked the VFW staff for setting up for the potluck. He then broke for lunch.

At 12:50, Carl called the meeting back to order. He introduced the Board members present who were Bosco Hoyte (Director), Bill Lane (Chaplain), and Kathy Malin (Office Manager). He mentioned there were no Past Presidents in attendance. Carl reminded everyone to sign in to receive a door prize ticket and you can purchase raffle tickets to support the Society.

Carl stated the Society is finally "out of the red" in 2024 because of the many member donations, raffles, charging member the credit card fees and saving \$10K with not printing a separate Directory and including the Directory in the December issue. In the March issue, the ByLaws will be printed along with a change to the ByLaws regarding "Procedure for Violating Code of Ethics".

Carl announced that Jacque Vowell worked late last night to make changes to the March *Canal Record* which is going to be printed next week.

The theme for the Reunion is "Stars, Stripes, & Summer Nights" which will be in Orlando from July 2 – 6 at the Rosen Shingle Creek. One member asked why it is at the Rosen Shingle Creek again and Carl explained about the many hotels and conference centers that Betty LeDoux researched. Because of the inexpensive room prices at the Rosen Shingle Creek compared to other hotels in Orlando along with 11 other cities, the Board wanted to bring the most benefit to the members. Also, the Rosen Shingle Creek Conference Center does not charge a minimal Food & Beverage service thus saving the Society money.

Carl announced that Frankie Pretto became ill after flying to Panama in January. Because of his precarious health issues, he decided to cancel attending this year's Reunion. After speaking to the BHS 75 representative, Carl has asked the *Salsumba Orchestra* to move from Thursday night to play at the Ball on Saturday. This will be a huge savings for the Reunion. They promised to learn some Lucho songs. BHS 75 will have the band, *Panama*, play on Thursday night.

Other events at the Reunion, is the 45th Annual PCS Chagres Invitational Golf Tournament which kicks off the Reunion on Thursday morning. Thursday afternoon, there is Bingo and at night there is a rock-n-roll dance. Friday morning is the Annual meeting followed in the afternoon a Trivia game hosted by the UF Museum Collection. Friday night there is another band, *Aquinas*, hosted by BHS 80.

On Saturday, Carl announced the annual luncheon is back with Wendy Tribaldos who will speak about the 1964 Riots from both the U.S. and Panamanian views. Carl stated that he was only 3 years old when the riots



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happened. Friday afternoon there is the Pool Party and Bingo plus a new event, a Cornhole Tournament in the conference center just past the Clubhouse. Check out the Schedule of Events for more events, times & dates.

Reunion registration is open and closes on May 23rd.

PC Society as well as the UF Silent Auction team are both accepting donations. Kathy Malin also has membership and reunion forms as well as PCS/UF/Museum luncheon forms which is March 29.

Carl asked Janice Scott to come to the front to speak about the Friends of the Panama Canal Museum Collection (PCMC). Janice spoke about the new exhibition which details the employees that are involved with the Panama Canal transit. She reminded all that the digital museum is the largest information found on the U.S. History in Panama and of course, the contributions to the Panama Canal.

Last year at the Silent Auction, the team raised \$11K. With this fundraising, the UF team was able to hire a dedicated employee to continue digitizing materials. Janice also stated the benefit of joining the Friends of the Museum, which is only \$26 a year. She then mentioned PCS/UF/Friends annual luncheon on March 29 as well as the New England/Canada cruise in September that helps raise money.

Carl asked for any comments or suggestions. A few members made positive comments.

Carl drew for the Early Bird drawing for 2 free hotel nights at the Reunion. Ernest "Skip" Lewis won the drawing.

Carl & Kathy drew for the 50-50 raffle which collected \$260. Rebecca Pletcher won and donated the money back to the Society. We had 3 more prizes. Afterwards, door prizes were drawn.

Carl thanked Bosco Hoyte, Mary Alice Albritton, Nancy Reid and Kathy Malin as well as the VFW crew on organizing this event. He welcomed all to stay and join the VFW in a game called "Show me the Money".

Richard Grimison motioned for the meeting to adjourn at 1:43 pm, Christina Volonnino seconded, and the motion carried.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carl Orvis", written over a horizontal line.

Carl Orvis, President

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kathy Malin", written over a horizontal line.

Kathy Malin, Office Manager