



PANAMA CANAL SOCIETY
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Saturday, March 15, 2025 – 9:30 a.m.
ZOOM Meeting: 784 410 2596; Passcode: 8hUXed

The Board Meeting was called to order at 9:33 a.m. by Carl Orvis (President).

Attendees: Carl Orvis (President), Mike Young (1st Vice President), Penny Canamas (2nd Vice President), Cheryl Williams (Director), Dixie Barons (Director), Kelly Fenton (Director–At-Large), Bill McLaughlin, P.P. (Past President), Ted Kaufer (Sergeant-at-Arms), Bill Lane (Chaplain), Jacque Vowell (Editor), Betty LeDoux & Debbie Lane (Reunion Hotel Chairpersons), Margaret McLaughlin (Reunion Decorations Chairperson), and Kathy Malin (Office Manager).

ZOOM Attendees: Bosco Hoyte (Director), Ray Husum (Bylaws), and David Dahlstrom (Legislature Rep)

ABSENT: Jim Parthenais

Carl welcomed everyone and asked if everyone had read the January 11, 2025, minutes. Cheryl Williams made a motion to approve the January Executive Board meeting minutes, Mike Young seconded, and the motion carried.

Dixie Barons motioned to approve the 4 new members, Penny Canamas seconded, and the motion carried.

Financials:

The Board reviewed the Check Detail. Bill McLaughlin motioned to approve paying the bills, Cheryl Williams seconded, and the motion carried.

Kathy reviewed the P&L from 2024 and 2025 stating the financials look good and we were in the black in 2024 by \$9K.

President's Report:

Carl again welcomed and thanked everyone for coming. Carl informed the Board that the Space Coast Picnic was a big success. It was especially well received by the older members. There was plenty of food – much of which was divided up among those in attendance. Carl would like a Certificate of Appreciation prepared to be sent to the VFW. Carl also stated that this event should be held at the VFW again next year.

Carl mentioned that while he was at the Reunion in Panama, he had a great conversation with Alex Reyes who assured Carl that they do not want their reunions to hinder attendance at our Reunions. Alex was very vocal and supportive about memberships and the Reunion. They had a great display of vendors, outings, seminars, videos, dances, etc.

Alex did mention that Shorty and Slim would like to play at the 2026 Reunion – possibly the pool party. Carl discussed possible locations at the pool, etc., which the Board will discuss later.

Reunion Reports:

The logistics is complete and the U-Haul will be loaded on Monday, June 30th then delivered to the Hotel on Tuesday by Mike Young. Bill McLaughlin will complete the printing jobs with our name badges being blue this year. Kathy Malin at the office will print the luncheon tickets. Betty LeDoux will have the Volunteer refreshments sent A-1 vice the Gatlin Registration which is Kathy's Information Desk. Jacque Vowell is looking

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into the coloring books and asked if we had any suggestions of artists. She will work on 2025 and has already found an artist for 2026.

Bill McLaughlin told the Board that we have two options for a DJ for the Pool Party. We can hire Joe, who is the same DJ the hotel has hired and does a great job. David Smith submitted another request to be the DJ for the pool party. Joe's fee is \$595.00, \$250 of which is covered by the Hotel. David has requested \$350.00 plus one room night. The Board discussed both and agreed on hiring Joe. He does a great job and is familiar with our group.

Carlton Morris has requested that we add two comp ball tickets and one golf into his package for covering the reunion events. Carl has assured Bill that he will be taking lots of pictures of the golf even though he will be playing.

Margaret McLaughlin and Betty LeDoux had discussed previously a Reception for Frank Pretto and his band when they were going to play this year. Margaret and Betty stated that even though he will not be playing, we would like to do the reception anyway to express our gratitude for all he has done over the years. We would also like to cover his roundtrip airfare to Reunion since he will still be handling the Mass. Bill mentioned that hiring a priest is very expensive and the members prefer Frank do the mass. After reviewing some various pricing, Penny Canamas motioned to approve the airfare and reception for Frank Pretto not to exceed \$2,800.00. Dixie Barons seconded. Motion carried.

Margaret was asked if she was still going to do the flowers for Saturday night. She will still do the flowers but perhaps not as elaborate as she planned for Frank but colorful to coincide with the Annual Ball theme.

Carl mentioned that we did not take our first benchmark with the hotel. Bill McLaughlin and Betty LeDoux explained the Gateways and how they work. Our pickup was such that we didn't need to take it. We will reevaluate as the next Gateway (10% reduction in the room block) approaches in April. Currently the pickup is good, close to 60% of our block. However, it is currently about 2% less than last year around this time. It is anticipated that this will change as BHS and CHS 75 and BHS 80 continue to get their registrations completed.

Jacque stated that she will send Betty a list of the Class Reunions that she has to date.

Debbie Lane advised the Board that she received a call from Maribel Lisk. She would like to attend the Luncheon but would have her grandchildren with her. She asked if there was an option for a children's menu. We will find out the price / options and let Maribel know. Betty LeDoux will talk to Joan about this.

Dave Bishop has organized the golf tournament and ordered souvenir golf balls. He has several sponsors for several holes with banners.

There will be a Cornhole tournament on Friday from noon to 2pm. Kurt McQuillen, CHS 82, will organize it.

The bands need their contracts signed and all of them fall under our COI because several band members are PCS members.

Murga is set.

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VA Cemetery in Bushnell will have a table outside the Vendor room again this year.

Bill discussed Security and that there should be security at all 4 dances, and we will use the hotel security team. Each class will pay for their own security, \$35.00 per hour and 4 hours minimum. Discussion was held as to whether or not, we need Security at the Luncheon. Bill explained that this has been done in the past so people cannot enter and enjoy the presentation when they have not paid for the luncheon. It was decided not to hire Security.

Kelly Fenton mentioned again about walking around the Reunion with a Square or something that will take credit cards to get to those in attendance to donate to the Society. She also mentioned calling people. Betty mentioned that if Kelly is calling people, she needs to have a way to get credit card information right then. Directing them to call the office could result in a drop as many people will not make the call. It was decided that Kathy will develop a form for Kelly to have to take down information for people she may call. When Kathy rents a credit card machine for the Information desk, she can rent a second one.

New Business:

Bill McLaughlin asked the Board about an Honorary Membership for Judith Russell from UF since she is retiring this year. Judith has been supportive of the Reunion and Museum for many years and is responsible for our receiving a large donation towards our Reunion. Cheryl motioned to proceed with the Honorary Membership, Dixie Barons second, motion carried. Bill will do the write up to be published in the June record and to be presented to the membership at the Annual General Meeting.

Officer Reports:

Ray Husum mentioned the Bylaw Amendment that is the March book. Since he will be out of the country, he needs volunteers to count the ballots. It was determined that the ballots should be counted on May 28 and reported on at the June 7 Board meeting and the Annual Membership Meeting at the Reunion. Betty LeDoux and Cheryl volunteered.

Ray mentioned becoming a 501(c)(3) and having scholarships for students. Betty mentioned that this was part of the original documents that were done back in the 90's when the Panama Canal Society Museum was first formed. It was determined that we did not fit into the categories to become a 501(c)(3), but didn't recall the reason why. Then of course that organization ultimately turned into the Museum. Ray will ask Jim Parthenais to investigate this.

Kathy received a call about Canal Zone stamp collection from Len Nadybal requesting a table at the Reunion. Bill McLaughlin will give him a call to find out what he is looking for. The plan is to locate his table/s in the foyer between registration and the museum rooms.

Carl mentioned that we need to start putting the calendar together for events and meetings following the Reunion. Instead of a September Sarasota luncheon, Kathy suggested October 18 at Safety Harbor Resort and Spa. The December 6th luncheon will stay at the Columbia with the same menu.

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Kathy reported that she will have her volunteers in the office on June 11 to help stuff tickets into the registration packets. The next day, Penny will assist Kathy with luncheon tickets. Dixie volunteered to help.

Penny Canamas motioned to adjourn the Board meeting at 11:24. Bill McLaughlin seconded, and motion carried.

Upcoming Events:

PCS/UF Luncheon is March 29th

PCS Gulf Coast Potluck is May 3rd

Last Board Meeting before the Reunion is June 7th

Load U-Haul on June 30th

Reunion is July 2-6th (Annual Meeting on Friday, July 4th)

PCS Board Meeting – September 20 (After Action Reports due)



Carl Orvis, President



Kathy Malin, Office Manager