



PANAMA CANAL SOCIETY
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES
ESPLANADE CLUBHOUSE, 10730 Ingelnook TER, PALMETTO, FL 34221
May 3, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 by Carl Orvis (President).

Carl welcomed 60-plus members and guests present and thanked them for coming to this beautiful location. He reminded them of all the activities planned for both adults and children, such as potato sack races, cornhole, tug of war, water balloon toss, and bubble jars to take home. He thanked everyone for bringing such a wonderful assortment of Panamanian and picnic-style food. There was a quorum present to conduct business. Bill Lane gave the invocation, followed by the Pledge of the Allegiance led by Ted Kaufer. A moment of Silence was offered for all family members who have passed this year and for Al Sprague, who had recently passed and was an icon in the Canal Zone.

Carl introduced the past Society Presidents in attendance, including Elaine Lewis (2005-2006), Bob Russell (2006-2008), and Mike Coffey (2014-2018). He then went on to introduce the Board members in attendance: Mike Young (1st Vice President), Cheryl Williams (Director), Dixie Barons (Director), Kelly Fenton (Director-at-Large), Ted Kaufer (Sergeant at Arms), Bill Lane (Chaplain), and Debbie Lane (Reunion Hotel Co-Chairperson).

Carl asked everyone to review the minutes and reminded them to ensure they received a door prize ticket when they signed in. He announced that we had a special table with special items available for purchase through a separate raffle, with tickets for the 50/50 raffle proceeds going to Society. He then asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Joan Ohman motioned to approve the minutes, and Mike Coffey seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

A brief break was taken for everyone to enjoy lunch, after which the meeting resumed.

Carl thanked Kelly Fenton, Dixie Barons, and Cheryl Williams for organizing and hosting this event. Carl stated the PCSociety is finally in the 'black' in 2024. He went on to thank all the members who donated and encouraged everyone to continue donations. Society saved \$10,000 by printing four magazines, where we combined the directory into the December *Canal Record*. Members are also now paying a small credit card processing fee, which has saved us \$6,000 from the previous year. Lastly, we earned \$9,000 in interest from CDs and money market investments.

Future events: our fall membership meeting will not be held in Sarasota this September. The Board decided to book the luncheon at the Safety Harbor Resort and Spa on Saturday, October 18, 2025. The Christmas luncheon will be held once again at the Columbia restaurant in Ybor City on Saturday, December 6th.

The Annual Reunion will be held July 2-6, 2025. Carl went over all the events each day, with a new band playing on Saturday, the Salsuma Orchestra. Kelly Fenton gave a brief talk about this salsa band. Wendy Tribaldos will be the Luncheon speaker. We still need volunteers for the Reunion. He encouraged everyone to volunteer for an hour or two. May 23, 2025, is the deadline for registering for the Annual Reunion. We have 1,682 members and over 5000 followers on Facebook!



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We made \$465.00 on raffles and 50/50 sales.

Mike Coffey motioned for the meeting to be adjourned at 1:45 pm, and Bob Russell seconded, and the motion was carried.



Carl Orvis, President



Cheryl Williams, Director for
Kathy Malin, Office Manager