

PANAMA CANAL SOCIETY, INC.
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES
TOM STATHAM PARK – TITUSVILLE, FLORIDA
NOVEMBER 3, 2012

President Tom Wilder welcomed the 49 members and guests in attendance to the General Membership Meeting held at Tom Statham Park in Titusville, Florida and called the meeting to order at 12:00 noon.

Chaplain Cheryl Russell gave in invocation and in the absence of **Sgt. at Arms Brittney Wilder**; past president **Bob Russell** led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The president welcomed past presidents Pete Foster and Bob Russell who were in attendance. The president also introduced the board members that were in attendance including Immediate Past President Bob Russell; Chaplain Cheryl Russell; Editor Jacque Vowell and Office Manager Nancy Van Siclén.

The meeting adjourned for lunch and reconvened at 12:30 p.m.

The president announced that prior to the commencement of the meeting, copies of the minutes from the General Membership Meeting held on October 6, 2012 at the Latinos y Mas Restaurant in Ocala, Florida were distributed to the membership, and therefore, the membership was asked for a motion to accept the minutes as written. Pete Foster made a motion to accept the minutes; it was seconded by Bob Russell. Motion carried.

The September 2012 Profit and Loss Comparison stands for audit.

In the absence of the Mike Coffey, 1st Vice President and Reunion Coordinator, the president reported that the “yellow pages” are completed and will be in the December issue of the *Canal Record*. Also, on Thursday night we will be having a “Back to the Teens” Dance hosted by BHS/CHS 63, 68 and 73 with Bob Rupp’s Band “Trolling 69ers” and his son Shawn Rupp will be playing Country music.

Tom also reported that Friday night we will be going back to the two separate dances – the after hours dance will start at 11:00 p.m. and after hearing from several members with suggestions to change the music on Friday night we will be having a band called the Blue Stone Circle out of Orlando. They will be playing all typed of music.

The president reported that he is working with the Pilots Association to arrange for a speaker for the Annual Luncheon at the reunion. Tom also reported that the Orlando World Center Marriott is still working on upgrading the hotel and there is still construction going on but the Society is working with them to try and eliminate any noise over the weekend while we are there.

Editor Jacque Vowell reported that the December issue is almost ready for proofing and hopes to have it ready to send to the printer by the end of next week. She also mentioned that we have placed several notices in this issue for anyone wishing to volunteer during the reunion at registration, ticket sales, etc. If you are interested please look at the listing of chairperson and give them a call if you are able to volunteer for one of shifts.

In the absence of the **Bylaws Chairperson Kathy Malin-McInturff** the president reminded the membership to vote on an amendment to expand our membership to include an Associate Membership. The Associate Membership would not have a vote or be able to serve on the Executive Board and they must be sponsored by an active member of the Society.

Kathy Egolf from the Friends of the Museum reported that the doors of the Panama Canal Museum closed on July 31, 2012 and the entire collection of artifacts are now at the University of Florida in Gainesville. In September Richard Wainio, recently retired Director of the Port of Tampa, and former Panama Canal executive discussed the impact of the Canal expansion on US ports at the UF George A. Smathers Libraries. Also, the University of Florida as received a leadership grant to support the integration of the Panama Canal Museum Collection into the Smathers Libraries for over \$400,000.00

Kathy also reported that the Panama Canal Museum Friends Executive Council will also have Cheryl Russell, representing the Panama Canal Society; Peggy Huff will continue with the news letters and stay on the Executive Council along with Elizabeth Neily who will be sending out email blasts to the members of Panama Canal Museum Friends. The gift shop will close after December 31, 2012 and items can be ordered online. The Friends of the Museum still plan on being at the reunions having exhibits and the silent auction.

Kathy also told the membership that in 2014 there will be a series of activities at the University of Florida commemorating the 100th anniversary of the opening of the Panama Canal and will feature James Brooks-Bruzzese who will have a special opening night performance on August 15, 2014.

The president reminded the membership that the next general membership meeting will be the Annual Christmas Luncheon held on December 1, 2012 at the Wine Cellar Restaurant in North Redington Beach, Florida and that Carnavalito will be the weekend of February 1 – 3, 2013 at the Hilton Melbourne Beach Oceanfront Hotel in Melbourne, Florida.

Door prizes donated by Jeannie Hickman, Pat Risberg, Pete Foster, Friends of the Museum, the Titusville Picnic Committee and the Panama Canal Society were awarded.

Pete Foster made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:00 p.m.; it was seconded by Ed Ohman. Motion carried.

NANCY VAN SICLEN
OFFICE MANAGER/SECRETARY

TOM WILDER
PRESIDENT