

**PANAMA CANAL SOCIETY, INC.  
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MINUTES  
CARNE CHOPHOUSE, TAMPA, FLORIDA  
DECEMBER 7, 2013**

**President Tom Wilder** welcomed the 80 members and guests in attendance to the General Membership Meeting and Christmas Luncheon at the Carne Chophouse in Tampa, Florida and called the meeting to order at 11:50 a.m.

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

Tom welcomed Past Presidents in attendance including Pete Foster, Betty LeDoux, Jim O'Donnell, Margot Jordan and Bob Russell. He also introduced the board members in attendance including 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Mike Coffey; 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Shirley Avery; Directors Noreen Hanson, Kelly Parthenais and Mike Young; Past President Bob Russell; Bylaws Chairperson Kathy Malin; Sgt. at Arms Brittney Wilder; Chaplain Cheryl Russell; Legislative Representative Jim O'Donnell; Editor Jacque Vowell and Office Manager Nancy Van Siclen.

The meeting reconvened after lunch at 1:00 p.m.

Prior to the commencement of the meeting copies of the minutes from the general membership meeting held at Tom Statham Park in Titusville were distributed, and therefore, the membership was asked for a motion to accept the minutes as written. Betty LeDoux made the motion to accept the minutes; it was seconded by Rod Snyder. Motion carried.

The October Financial Statement was distributed and stands for audit.

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Mike Coffey and chairperson of the Membership Committee announced that the board has approved anyone giving a gift of a New Membership during the months of December and January for 1<sup>st</sup> time members would be waived the \$10.00 administration fee.

He also reported that we will be celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the opening of the Panama Canal and we will be celebrating this event at the reunion. Mike reported that the Golf Tournament has been changed from Thursday morning to Friday morning; the Thursday night dance will feature the Omega Band and the dance is sponsored by the classes of 69, 74 and 79. Blue Stone Circle will be playing on Friday night and Frankie Presto will be on Saturday night.

Editor Jacque Vowell reported that the December issue of the *Canal Record* is at the Tampa Post Office and ready to be mailed.

Bob Russell, a member of the Nominating Committee and in the absence of Bill McLaughlin since he had surgery at the beginning of the week reported on the Nominating Committee Report for the 2014-2016 term. The other committee members included Bliss Morris Connerton, Rae Donaldson and Thomas Ellis Jr.

The slate of officers for the 2014-2016 term are as follows:

President – Mike Coffey  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Shirley Avery  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Kathy Malin  
Director – Kelly Parthenais  
Director – Brittney Wilder  
Director – Mike Young

At this point the nominations were opened from the floor. For President there were no nominations. Betty LeDoux made a motion to close the nominations and it was seconded by Steve Nehring. Motion carried. For 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President there were no nominations. Betty LeDoux made a motion to close the nominations and it was seconded by Steve Nehring. For Director Positions there were no nominations. Margot Jordan made a motion to close the nominations and it was seconded by Amparo Paul.

Bob Russell reported that the ballots for the membership to vote on the new slate of officers will be in the 2014 March *Canal Record*.

Kathy Egolf of the Friends of the Panama Canal Museum reported that the membership dues for the coming year at due and that you could order the 2014 Calendars and 2013 Ornaments online. The University of Florida at Gainesville are planning several activities during the year and of course the big activity will be in Gainesville during the weekend of August 15<sup>th</sup> where they will celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the opening of the Panama Canal with seminars, symphony and a dinner on Saturday evening.

Tom Wilder thanked Kelly Parthenais for organizing the luncheon along with Sheila Rose and Marissa Little and Margaret McLaughlin for the lovely table decorations. Each were presented with a small token of appreciation from the Society.

Tom reported that the Society office has new hours effective November 1, 2013 and they are as follows: Society office closed on Mondays; Tuesday thru Thursday normal hours 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. and closed for lunch between 12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m. and Friday we are open from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon.

January 31, 2014 – February 2, 2014 Carnavalito will be at the Royal Crown Plaza Hotel in Melbourne, Florida and on March 22, 2014 the Annual Spring Picnic will be held at Philippe Park in Safety Harbor, Florida.

Tom also announced that our Annual Luncheon Guest Speaker at the Reunion will be Mr. Jorge L. Quijano who is the CEO of the Panama Canal Authority.

Door prizes were awarded and we had two grand prizes – the first one was a stay at the Bristol Hotel in Panama and was won by Dennie Hannigan and the second one was a two night stay at the Orlando World Center Marriott which was won by Russell LaFuente.

Hubie Jordan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:15 and it was seconded by Bob Russell. Motion carried.

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**NANCY VAN SICLEN**  
**OFFICE MANAGER/SECRETARY**

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**TOM WILDER**  
**PRESIDENT**