

**PANAMA CANAL SOCIETY, INC.**  
**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES**  
**DER DUTCHMAN RESTAURANT, SARASOTA, FLORIDA**  
**MAY 4, 2013**

**President Tom Wilder** welcomed the 50 members and guest in attendance to the General Membership Meeting held during the Society Spring Luncheon at Der Dutchman Restaurant, Sarasota, Florida and called the meeting to order at 11:40 a.m. Tom told the membership that we are still enjoying travelling around the state of Florida for our membership meetings and he remembers years ago that Mr. Dixon, from Sarasota, always thanked him for coming to this area.

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

Tom welcomed past presidents Pete Foster, Muriel Whitman, Faith Brundage, Bill McLaughlin and Bob Russell who were in attendance. He also introduced the board members that were in attendance including 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Shirley Avery; Director Noreen Hanson; Director Mike Young; Treasurer Bill McLaughlin; Immediate Past President Bob Russell; Chaplain Cheryl Russell; Editor Jacque Vowell and Office Manager Nancy Van Sieten.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m. for lunch and reconvened at 12:30 p.m.

Tom announced that prior to the commencement of the meeting, copies of the minutes from the General Membership Meeting held on March 9, 2013 at Fort DeSoto Park in St. Petersburg, Florida were distributed to the membership, and therefore, the membership was asked for a motion to accept the minutes as written. Muriel Whitman made the motion to accept the minutes; it was second by Faith Brundage. Motion carried.

The March 2013 Profit and Loss Comparison stands for audit.

**Bill McLaughlin, Reunion Coordinator** reported today that we are 59 days away from the reunion. The reunion will start on July 3<sup>rd</sup> with registration and information opening at 5:30 p.m. till 8:00 p.m. Thursday will kick off with the 33<sup>rd</sup> Chagres Invitational Golf Tournament at 7:00 a.m. If you haven't signed up for golf your paperwork needs to be received by June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Back to the Teen Club Dance on Thursday night will be sponsored by BHS/CHS classes of '63, '68 and '73 starting at 9:00 p.m. The Trolling '69ers will be playing the old tunes.

Bill reminded those in attendance that the Society Annual Meeting will take place on Friday morning at 10:00 a.m. Please try to attend and show your support for the Society. We will also have some nice door prizes which are donated each year by the Vendors.

On Friday afternoon from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. we will have two Cultural Seminars. Bob Russell reported that at 2:00 p.m. Dr. Bruce J. MacFadden Curator and Professor at the Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida will be speaking and his topic will be "Collecting fossils along the Panama Canal: A once-in-a-century opportunity". The second seminar will be Brian Allen a CHS/72 graduate and his topic will be his book "My Paradise Lost, Misadventures to Manhood in the Panama Canal Zone".

Bill also reported that because of many requests from members, we will be changing the type of entertainment this year at the Friday Night Dance. This year we will have "Blue Stone Circle" performing from 8:30 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. and they are the house band for Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville at Universal Studios City Walk in Orlando. They are a high energy band playing music from the 60's, 70's 80's and 90's.

On Saturday the Annual Luncheon will feature our guest speaker Panama Canal Pilot and Balboa Port Captain William B. Huff and his topic will be the "Pilots perspective of the new locks". His talk will cover a brief history of the Panama Canal Pilots and then discuss the differences between the old and new locks along with how pilots will have to navigate the new locks.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Pool Party will take place poolside at the Marriot's Spa Pool. Sentimiento Panama's Cumbia Band (typical music) will be the entertainment this time. Remember, you must be a member in good standing and registered for the reunion to participate. Name badges are required to participate.

The Saturday Night Ball will once again feature Frankie Pretto and the Parranda Band from 8:30 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. Frank Pretto and the Parranda Band are celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year so we are sure they will have some exciting music. Also, we plan on having the Murga this year in conjunction with the Saturday Night Ball. The Murga will begin at 9:00 p.m. in the Crystal and Grand Ballroom foyer.

**Editor Jacque Vowell** reported that the June issue is almost complete and should be ready for proofing the following week.

**Director Noreen Hanson** reported that on September 14<sup>th</sup> the Society is sponsoring the 2<sup>nd</sup> PanaZonian Tampa Bay get-together at Rick's On The River on September 14<sup>th</sup> starting at 5:00 p.m. There will be a minimal fee of \$5.00 to help cover the cost of food.

Tom announced that this year we have three members that attended four meetings out of six membership meetings. Shirley Boswell, Susan Burk and Joan & Ed Ohman have won the Membership Attendance Award. Tom announced that they have their choice of tickets for either the Friday or Saturday night dances and that to let the office know which ones they would like.

**Friends of the Panama Canal Museum at the University of Florida Kathy Egolf** reported that the Panama Canal Museum closed on July 31, 2012 with the collection transferred to the University of Florida in Gainesville. The University is hard at work preserving and digitizing the collection, and so it will become available to more people around the world in the years to come. Before the museum closed, our members

and friends donated very generously to a \$100,000 endowment that will eventually, hopefully, be matched by the state. We also had other funds from the PCM that were turned over in support of our collection.

In the fall, UF received a grant from the Institute of Library and Museum Services for nearly half a million dollars to use in integrating the PCM collection into the George A. Smathers Libraries and to plan a series of events in 2014-2015 to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the canal. UF is more than matching that nearly half million dollar amount, and so over \$1,000,000 is being spent on our collection in just the first few years it's there at UF.

Kathy also reported that UF has already digitized and have available online the Panama Canal Reviews, Spillways, oral history interviews and various other materials, including five years and a month of Panama Americans. The University of Florida and the PCM Friends will be at the same location at the reunion as they were last year. There will be exhibits and the silent auction, and the Panama Canal Society and the PCM Friends will be sponsoring the cultural seminars on Friday afternoon, July 5. Kathy also mentioned that they hope to have the 2013 ornament and 2014 calendar available at our online store (<http://universityoffloridalibraries.merchmo.com>) by the time of the reunion, and there will be online access to the store at the reunion.

The president thanked Bob and Cheryl Russell for handling the arrangements for the luncheon and presented them with a small token of appreciation from the Society.

Tom announced that the Annual Reunion will take place from July 3<sup>rd</sup> to July 7<sup>th</sup> at the Orlando World Center Marriott and the Annual Meeting will be on Friday, July 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.; October 5, 2013 will be the next General Membership Meeting in Ocala, Florida at Latinos y Mas Restaurant and on November 2<sup>nd</sup> we will be heading over to the East Coast for the picnic at Tom Statham Park Pavilion near Titusville.

Door prizes were awarded and the grand prize of two nights at the Orlando World Center Marriott was won by Shirley Boswell.

Faith Brundage made a motion to adjourn the meeting; 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**

