



PANAMA CANAL SOCIETY
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
MINUTES – MAY 16, 2015
DER DUTCHMAN OF SARASOTA, FLORIDA

Meeting called to order by Mike Coffey.

Meeting started at 11:35 a.m.

Mike led the Pledge of Allegiance and welcomed everyone

Cheryl Russell gave a beautiful invocation.

A break from the meeting was taken at 12:35 p.m., so that the members could enjoy their lunch.

The President introduced the past Presidents in attendance.

Tom Wilder – Immediate Past President 2008-2014

Peter Foster – Past President 1985-1986

Betty LeDoux – Past President 1989-1991 & 2000-2002

Williams McLaughlin – Past President 2002-2004

Robert Russell – Past President 2006-2008`

Mike introduced the **Board Members present:**

Shirley Avery-Bentley – 1st Vice President

Kathy Malin – 2nd Vice President

Noreen Hanson – Treasurer

Mike Young - Director

Brittney Wilder – Director

Bill McLaughlin – Bylaws Chairperson

Jacque Vowell - Editor

Cheryl Williams – Office Manager

There were a total of 70 people in attendance to this year's luncheon.

Mike commenced the meeting.

Mike thanked Margaret McLaughlin for doing the decorating the tables for the Luncheon.

He apologized to everyone for the mistake in the directory, we only printed the primary members name and did not include the spouse's name or secondary member. Mike stated we would look into reprinting the directory.

Motion to accept minutes:

Prior to the luncheon, copies of the minutes were placed on the tables and the members were asked to review them. Mike requested a motion accept the minutes from the previous General Membership Meeting held at Phillippe Park on March 21, 2015. Tom Wilder motioned to accept the minutes and Hurbert Jordan seconded the motion and the minutes were approved by all.

Expenditures:

Mike asked everyone to review the Profit and Loss Statements that were also placed on all the tables.

There were no questions so he requested a motion to approve them. Margot Jordon motioned to approve the Statements and Cheryl Russel seconded the motion, and it was approved by all.

Other Officer Reports:

Bill McLaughlin the Reunion Co-Coordinator announced that we have 45 days to go to Reunion 2015 begins. He also stated that all the reunion committees are working very hard to make this a memorable reunion for all. He went on to say we are at about 80 % full in our room block. He urged everyone to sign up quickly, we have extended the sign up a few more days after the May 15th deadline.



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Bill informed everyone that the speaker for Cultural Seminar will be Dr. Peter Szok. Dr. Szok wrote a book about the red devils chiva bus paintings called *Wolf Tracks: Popular Art and Re-Africanization in Twentieth-Century Panama*

We have a new band for Friday Night Party Night Dance called Calliente Band.

For the luncheon our guest speakers will be Al Sprague well known artist and co-speaker Kathleen Plucker Bernard, Kathleen was once a student of Al's, she will be interviewing him so this should be fun and interesting.

Someone asked if Bruce Quinn will ever do another performance. Bill said that would be up to the board and of course Bruce Quinn.

Bill also announced we needed more volunteers for Ticket Sales headed by Brittney Wilder & Patrick Smith, Registration headed by Noreen Hanson, Kelly Parthenais & Kathy Malin, and Information/Society Office headed by Cheryl Williams.

Someone asked if there would be Panama Coffee at the reunion and Bill said there would be 2 vendors selling coffee this year.

Mike Coffey welcomed Nancy Van Siclin, that it was good to see her in the house!

We are doing a joint survey with the University of Florida Museum. We will be posting the survey on our web site and the survey will be at the reunion as well. This survey benefits the museum to keep it grant going. **Kathy Malin**, 2nd Vice President, is our representative for the UF Museum and the Panama Canal Friends of the Museum. The University of Florida gave us a room at no charge for our luncheon on March 12, 2016, this will be our first meeting in Gainesville. The March Picnic will now be held in May.

Mike announced that the Governor's Club will have a VIP line in the Registration room. In the past GC were able to reserve tables at the dances, but we can no longer accommodate them, due to the large number of GC members. Rather than getting a regular name badge GC members will be given a special lanyard with the Governor's Club logo on it.

Up Coming Events:

September 12, 2015 - Tampa Rick's on the River starts at 5:00 p.m. at 2305 N. Willow Ave, Tampa

October 24, 2015 - South Florida Annual Picnic and PCS General Membership Meeting (12:30)
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. at Tradewinds Park, Elfin Pavilion, 3600 W. Sample Rd, Coconut Creek

November 7, 2015 - Space Coast Picnic and PCS General Membership Meeting (12:30) the picnic starts at
11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at Tom Statham Park Pavilion on US Highway 1, Titusville

December 5, 2015 – Holiday Luncheon starts at 11:30 a.m. at 400 Beach Drive (NE), St. Pete,
For more restaurant info, visit: www.400beachseafood.com

Door Prizes:

Door prizes were supplied by the society and some of the members attending the May Luncheon.

Motion to Adjourn:

Meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Mike Coffey, President

Cheryl Williams, Office Manager