



Panama Canal Society General Membership Minutes
St. Petersburg Yacht Club, 1 Central Avenue, St. Petersburg, FL
December 10, 2016

Meeting was called to order at by Mike Coffey (President) at 12:04 p.m.

Mike welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming. He introduced all the Past Presidents present. He also thanked Ted & Mel Henter who are members of the yacht club and who graciously reserved this great venue for us. He thanked Kelly Parthenais for all her hard work in putting together this event.

Pledge of Allegiance: James Beattie (Sergeant-at-Arms) and Bryce Beattie.

Invocation: Richard Grimison gave a heartfelt invocation.

Board Attendees: All board members were present at the Luncheon.

Members attending: There were 120 tickets sold with 105 members attending and 13 guests.

Mike asked if everyone had a chance to review the minutes of the last meeting. Kelly Parthenais made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Kathy Malin, motion carried.

UF Luncheon: Kathy Malin gave an update of the UF Luncheon to be held on April 1, 2017. She also announced that Friends of the Museum membership is down from 800 members to 200. She urged our members to join the Friends of the Museum. She suggested we let our friends and family attending the reunion know that the exhibit is open and suggest they stop in Gainesville to see it.

Mike announced that Margaret McLaughlin made the centerpieces and sewed the little Christmas stockings with candy in them. He thanked her for sharing her talents with us.

Phillipe Park Picnic will be in May.

2017 Reunion: Bill announced that the online registration will be up and running soon. The Cultural Seminar last year was presented by Lila Cheville on Polleras and Diablitos. This year Sentimento Panama will talk about the instruments and various dances. The annual luncheon speaker will be William Friar who has written three Panama related books: the guidebook *Moon Handbooks: Panama* (now in its fourth edition); an ecotourist guide, *Adventures in Nature: Panama*; and a photo essay book, *Portrait of the Panama Canal* (a new edition of the Portrait book is coming out at the end of 2016 with new photos of the third locks project from start to finish). He also writes about England, San Francisco, and various bits of South America. The 9th Annual Pool Party will feature Shorty & Slim. The Reunion will be held at the Marriott this year, if you register through the society for your hotel, you can extend your stay at our rate for 4 days before and 4 days after the reunion.

Mike announced that we have to book our Reunion Hotels several years in advance and that Betty LeDoux helped us secure the Caribe in Orlando for 2020-2021. We are currently working on 2022 -2025.

Updates: Mike announced that we are financially healthy and should show positive revenue for the year. He thanked James Beattie who has given over 400 hours working of volunteer time on our new data base. The Board decided to hire another part time staffer. We hired Betty LeDoux as Member Support who has lots of experience with the board and the Society. The Meeting adjourned at 1:10 and the door prizes were then drawn.

Cheryl Williams
Office Manager

Mike Coffey
President



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