



PANAMA CANAL SOCIETY EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
Hilton Cocoa Beach Oceanfront, 1550 North Atlantic., Cocoa Beach, FL 32931
Minutes – February 13, 2016

Executive Board meeting was called to order by Mike Coffey (President) at 2:04

Attendees:

Shirley Avery (1st Vice President), Kathy Malin (2nd Vice President), Noreen Hanson (Treasurer), Mike Young (Directory) Patrick Smith (Sergeant of Arms), Tom Wilder (Past President), Jacque Vowell (Editor) and Cheryl Williams (Office Manager).

Telephone Attendees:

Bill McLaughlin (Historian, Reunion Chairman) Kelly Parthenais (Director)

Absent: Ray Husum (Director), Richard Grimison (Chaplin) Brittney Wilder (Director)

Location: Hilton Cocoa Beach Oceanfront

Mike asked for the minutes to be reviewed and if any changes were needed. Tom motioned to accept the January 23, 2016 minutes and a second Shirley and the minutes were approved by all.

Membership:

Tom Wilder motioned to accept the new members and Shirley 2nd the motion, and Board approved.

Expenditures:

No approval of expenditures at this time.

Old Business:

Reunion:

Bill: Posters will be done for Samantha LaPorta and the Cultural Seminar and placed in various areas to let everyone know of the locations and events.

Well will be using the same company to print the tickets this year as we have a credit with them from last year. Name badge blanks sent to Robert Printing to have the top Reunion 2016 boarder printed on them.

Count of all the wrist bands for the dances that are located in the office storage needs to be done.

Bill will also have the luncheon program printed.

Tom: Requested approval for up to \$100.00 for Bingo Supplies, for cards and dotting. Kathy motioned to approve and Noreen seconded it everyone agreed.

Center pieces for the luncheon, Tom made several suggestions and it was decided we would talk to George Scribner about something on the tables. Mike will reach out to George and discuss our options.

Storage Area:

Mike added shelving units to the storage closet and organized the boxes on the shelves. The boxes still need to be opened and sorted. We will need board members to go through the boxes and files to see what needs documents can be digitized, and which items in the boxes we need to keep.

Future Reunions:

Betty notified Mike that the Marriott is booked from 2021 out. Other groups are booking that far in advance. The conscious is our members do not want to keep going to the same hotels. We will be exploring different hotels and locations. Prices are very important to our members, many of them are not

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aware that because of our long term booking that our prices are much better than they could get registering for the hotels on their own. We will need to start making the members aware that we may have to pay \$150 to \$175 a night to get a decent venue. We are not sure what our demographic will look like 5 years from now, and we need to be careful what we commit to. Several suggestions were made and the board was encouraged to send Betty ideas so that she can investigate them for us.

Governor Club:

We need to see how many people have renewed their membership for the Governor's Club for 2016. Patrick suggested that we put the GC members online so that they could see when their membership was due. Tom stated Chris could be asked to add an additional page to the web site. Thanking the Governors Club for their continued support. Members showing continued support for 5 years helps us make Reunion hotel plans for the future.

Events:

March Luncheon at UF:

UF is paying for 40 parking places for the UF luncheon at Smathers Museum. Post cards will be sent out this week and registration forms parking maps will be passed out tonight at Carnavalito and put on facebook. Mike requested signs to be put up for members to find the event. We are only at 25 attending and we need at least 75 people to attend. Credit card space needs to be added to registration forms for reunion events.

Kathy paid for the event with her credit card. Tom motioned to cut Kathy a check for her credit card charge for the Luncheon of \$1,899.52, Shirley seconded the motion and was approved by all.

It was suggested we put the events online so people can pay with a credit card. No decision was made on this topic.

Carnavalito:

This event is somewhat at risk. We will discuss this in the future. We need to get more members to commit to coming this event. Next year we are not booked here. In 2014 we had a \$900.00 deficit and last year we had a \$200.00 deficit. In 2014 we had to spend "x" amount of money or pay the difference. We did not find this out until after and we had to pay the 900.00. We elected to pay for appetizers that were passed around at the cocktail hour.

Spring Picnic:

We have shelter 8 this year and we are set.

South Florida Picnic:

Kathy will talk to Scott about reserving the pavilion and once he booked the pavilion, he will notify Cheryl and she will write him a check to refund him the cost of the pavilion.

Holiday Luncheon:

Kelly is going to follow up on the date for St. Petersburg holiday celebration so that we do not have both events on the same day. She is looking into different venues. We received a lot of positive feedback on it.

Rick's on the River:

Noreen is reaching out to "Hogan's Beach" now known as The Beach. She will let us know what she finds out. Rick's has changed management and she said she was not pleased last time she went there. By changing the venue to The Beach it is more centrally located for the people in this area.

Space Coast Picnic:

Mike will talk to the Space Coast group to discuss which date in November they are committing

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Voting:

No nominations came into the office or to Tom Wilder. The ballots will be in the March 2016 *Canal Record*.

Directory:

There was no art work sent to the office. Mike received a few from the same person who sent us samples last year.

Treasures Report:

Copies of the 2015 Financials everyone should have a copy of the Profit and Loss statement. Noreen reviewed it with the board. She pointed out that it cost us \$1,100.00 dollars to hold the different functions this year that the event cost did not cover. The picnics there is no fee charged to attend, and Rick's on the River is only a \$5.00 charge to help offset the cost of the event. She also brought up the high fees we pay for credit card use for membership, reunion, etc. A discussion was made about charging members who use credit cards an additional fee for credit card use. Nothing was decided on at this time. We had several decreases in our spending this year for example, salaries (we went from 2 employees to one), rent, and supplies. We had an increase in our postage, due to Pride sending the foreign mail at the wrong rate. The foreign issues were returned and Cheryl had to be resend them at a much higher rate.

Directory:

The directory will be printed this year by State and will be proofed before going to the printer. The page will be printed in landscape once again.

Dates for upcoming Events:

Executive Board Meeting for the Reunion: June 11, 2016

Annual Reunion: July 6-10, 2016

Rick's on the River: September 17, 2016

South Florida Picnic – October 15, 2016 (Kathy)

Space Coast: November 5, 2016 (tentative) (Richard Grimison)

Holiday Luncheon: December 3, 2016 (tentative) (Kelly) Kelly is looking into to other options.

Meeting was adjourned at:

Cheryl Williams
Office Manager

Mike Coffey
President