



PANAMA CANAL SOCIETY EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

19001 Sunlake Blvd., Lutz, FL 33558

Minutes – January 23, 2016

Executive Board meeting was called to order by Mike Coffey (President) at 10:16.

Attendees:

Shirley Avery (1st Vice President), Kathy Malin (2nd Vice President), Noreen Hanson (Treasurer), Kelly Parthenais (Director), Brittney Wilder (Director), Patrick Smith (Sergeant of Arms), Tom Wilder (Past President), Bill McLaughlin (Historian, Reunion Chairman) Betty LeDoux (Reunion Hotel Chairperson) and Cheryl Williams (Office Manager).

Telephone Attendees:

Ray Husum (Director–At-Large) and Richard Grimison (Chaplin)

Absent: Mike Young (Director)

Location: Aging Solutions Boardroom.

Mike asked for the minutes to be reviewed and if any changes needed to be changed. Bill requested to remove “our” on the 2nd page for drink tickets.

Tom Wilder motioned to accept the August 15, 2015 Minutes. Shirley Avery 2nd the motion 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:

The check detail report was reviewed through January 22, 2016 and nothing unusual to report. Tom motioned to pay the bills and Shirley 2nd the motion, and the board approved.

Reunion:

Future Hotel needs:

Our last contract is thru 2019 ending at the Marriott. Betty did research on several hotels, Caribe Royal, Hilton/Riverwalk in New Orleans, Gaylord Palms, Hilton Bonnacreek, Diplomat in Ft. Lauderdale on the beach, Hard Rock in the Dominican Republic, their prices were either too high or they were not available for the dates we required.

Richard suggested we look into hotels in Panama, and it was decided we would survey our members about going to Panama or other connections. The survey should consist on: willing to travel, hotel pricing (how much is too much) and time of year.

Betty presented using Rosen shingle Creek (RSC) and Marriott World Center (MWC) rotating yearly until 2023 and for 2-24 again at MWC and asked about the right of refusal for 2024. Noreen motioned and Tom seconded the motion and it was approved all.

Betty will go forward and secure the contracts and can renegotiate lower rates if the industry changes.

Yellow pages:

Bill revamped the yellow pages, there are several changes; museum hours, golf relocation, room name changes. Tickets for drinks will be sold in advanced sales in the Club House and will be okay for 3 nights.

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We will need signage for pre sales of drink tickets. The tickets will be good for 3 nights however they are nonrefundable. There will be more ticket sellers in the evening.

Golf: Regarding golf the RSC's golf course will be under renovation during our stay there. We will be moving tournament to Champions golf course. It will be a 4 man scramble. The RSC will supply busses to take our members over to the tournament. Katie Beattie has taken over Margo Jordan's position for the Golf Tournament. There will be a luncheon and a bar set up for the golfers. Transportation will be offered for volunteers and guest that want to go to the luncheon. Betty will look into other courses rates and share with Cheryl for members that want to golf on other days during their stay.

Betty stated that the best rate for RSC was \$195.00 and MWC is \$239.00 with resort view and \$279.00 for pool view so our price at \$139.00 plus tax is a huge savings to our members.

Pool Party:

There are still no sponsors for the pool party. We need \$1000 with one sponsor for \$500.00 for two sponsors.

Contracts are signed and sent.

Sponsors for the Reunion:

We discussed sponsorship and what the sponsor is entitled to at that level. Ray motioned for the board to add Diamond level which would require a donation or contribution in kind of \$2000 or more. It would include everything in the Titanium level and use of our logo in the sale of goods and the logo in their marketing materials. This level will be subject to board approval. This would be valid for the current year and would be renegotiated yearly. Amend Titanium use of logo in marketing only. Tom seconded the motion and everyone agreed.

Noreen will send Ray the perimeter of the different levels and he will write up a contract for the sponsors. Noreen requested that Ray rewrite the 2016 levels to announce in the March issue of the *Canal Record*.

In 2017 there we will have a contract for all Sponsors to sign year to year.

Yellow was decided to use for our bags this year.

Nominating Committee:

Tom reported on the nominating committee and announced that the two people that were nominated from the floor at the December Luncheon both decided not to run. We have a full slate and he thanked the board for running again.

Tickets:

Bill asked Jacque to check on Pride printing the tickets. We will get a quote from Sir Speedy and Pride, to see which is the best option.

Bingo:

Chris is usually in charge of Bingo, but he was recently promoted to Captain and will have to be transferring to Georgia and will probably be in training for the next year. At this time he does not know if his schedule will permit time off during the reunion time. Tom and Brittney will cover his absents over Bingo.

Mini Reunion:

Cultural Seminar: Kathy requested a sign to announce Lila Cheville seminar.

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Mini Reunion:

There are 11 total mini reunions so far. DODDS teachers will have a mini reunion as well. The cut for banquet space is April.

The board stopped for lunch at 12:00 pm.

The executive board meeting recommenced at 12:21

Cabanas:

Betty got the hotel to add a few more cabanas for our guests. Saturday is over booked, it was decided that the board members will not have cabanas on Saturday.

Class competition:

Cheryl's son Sean suggested to help encourage membership, we have a competition for each class holding a mini reunion at one of the hotel hospitality suites, be given recognition for the class with the most Governor's club members. This will help with the members that only join once every 5 years instead of renewing their membership every year. Kelly will help promote this to the mini reunion representatives.

Other:

D LaPorta asked if his daughter could perform at the reunion. It was decided by the board that Samantha could perform. Mike will give D several options such as; the club house, after the business meeting in the corridor for Samantha to perform. We need to promote this in the June *Canal Record* and on face book.

Bill requested Jacque announce in the record that the hotel is booked solid this year and the block of rooms we have are the only rooms available to us. The members need to know excess registrations will not be accommodated by us. We will not offer shuttles or other hotel accommodations.

Coloring book:

Jacque asked about a coloring book for 2016. Everyone agreed to do it again, it has been a big hit with all the children that attend the reunion. It was suggested to ask George again, and ask several artists to do several pages to compile one coloring book.

March Luncheon at UF:

Our current count is 25 we need at least 75 to attend to cover costs. The library will be open from 11:00-3:00 so they will hire staff for that time. The Paramount hotel is offering a special rate of \$79.00 vs \$129.00 for our members attending the luncheon.

Post cards need to be sent to Ocala, Gainesville, Tallahassee, Tampa, Jacksonville, Daytona, Orlando and Melbourne. We will make a flyer to hand out at Carnavalito to advertise the UF Luncheon.

We will have a brief business meeting covering upcoming events. This will allow the Friends of the Museum a little more time for their presentation.

Carnavalito:

We have 59 registered as of today. Cheryl sent out over 100 postcards and has received a couple of responses already. Tom will do a push on face book that members can call the office and pay with a credit card.

Betty announced that our hospitality suite will be on the ground floor in the Horizon room, we are able to bring our food and drink for the pre-Carnavalito fun!

Cheryl and Betty will take care of the decorations this year.

Spring Picnic:

We have shelter 8 this year and we are set.

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Directory:

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

Canal Record:

Al Sprague said he would be happy to design the Decal for 2016 March issue. We talked to George about doing the 2017 decal.

Pride issues with the *Canal Record*. They claimed once it was there fault, then changed their mind and said it was a corrupt file. The other mistake they made was to send the October issue out to foreign mail with US postage cost on it. Cheryl had to put them all in envelopes and resend them to the recipients at about a \$300 cost to the Society.

It was decided to give Pride one more try, due to the fact that it saves time in getting the Record out sooner.

Web site:

The obituary's and minutes are not up to date on the web site. Jacque stated she will take care of it and send the files to Chris to post. It was decided the obituaries will be sent to Chris approximately 30 days after the *Canal Record* goes out.

Organization:

Aging Solutions removed the desk that was in our storage room and repainted the room. They removed everything from the room. The room needs to be organized and straighten out. Mike will purchase shelves for the room and help with organizing it.

Requested each Chairperson for the reunion go through their supplies to see what needs to be order and report to Cheryl so she can order supplies for them.

Dates for upcoming Events:

Carnavalito: February 12 -14, 2016

UF Luncheon: March 12, 2016

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.

Financials:

May 15 will file our 990 taxes. Noreen will have the books ready by early March. We are in the Black and we are working on the budget for 2016.

Tom made an observation of the bank fees of \$6,700 for the whole year we are paying for credit cards.

BBVA sent us a letter offering 1.1% if we add \$25,000 to our Money Market account. Cheryl was asked to call Michelle at BBVA and see if this promotion is still available. If it is Noreen motioned to transfer \$25,000 to the BBVA 9036 account. Tom seconded the motion and the board approved.

Membership is at approximately 1600 at this time. We need to send post cards, emails and have volunteers call to encourage members to renew.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:40 pm.

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Cheryl Williams
Office Manager

Mike Coffey
President