



Panama Canal Society Annual General Membership Meeting
Orlando World Center Marriott, Orlando Florida
Reunion 2018 – June 29, 2018

Meeting called to order at by Mike Coffey, President at 10:03 a.m.

Location: Orlando World Center Marriott, 8701 World Center Drive, Orlando FL 32821

Pledge of Allegiance: Laura Kosik (Sergeant-at-Arms)

Invocation: Richard Grimison (Chaplain)

Past Presidents: Mike introduced the following Past Presidents in attendance: Muriel Whitman (1987-1988), Betty LeDoux (1989-1991 & 2000-2002), Margot Jordan (1997-1998), Bill McLaughlin (2002-2004), Elaine (Vestal) Lewis (2004-2006), Bob Russell (2006-2008), Tom Wilder (2008-2014). Mike thanked Muriel for her many years of support.

Mike also introduced: Nancy Van Siclén – Office Manager Emeritus (2000-2014) and Cheryl Williams – Past Office Manager (2014-2017).

Board Attendees: Mike Coffey (President), Shirley Avery-Bentley (1st Vice President), Kelly Parthenais (2nd Vice President), Tom Wilder (Immediate Past President), Noreen Hanson (Treasurer), James Beattie (Director), Brittney Wilder (Director), Patrick Smith (Director), Raymond Husum (Director at Large), Bill McLaughlin, PP (Reunion Coordinator / Historian), Richard Grimison (Chaplain), Laura Kosik (Sergeant-at-Arms), Lee Bentley (Bylaws Chairperson), Jacqué Vowell (Editor), Kathy Malin, (Office Manager), and Rae Donaldson (Sunshine Committee)

Quorum of Members: Laura Kosik announced there were 166 attending [by end of meeting, there was 185]. We therefore had a quorum.

Minutes Approval: Mike asked all to review the February 24 & March 3, 2017, General Membership minutes. Margot Jordan made a motion to approve the February minutes, seconded by Nancy Van Siclén; motion carried. Joella Deakins made a motion to approve the March minutes, seconded by Betty Yerxa, motion carried.

Sponsor Recognition: Mike introduced and thanked the Diamond Level sponsors for the reunion: Lori Snow, Condor Tours & Travel; Jose Fernandez, International Wine & Spirits; Joaquin Arias, Decuria Group; and the Bentley Family. Other sponsors were: Tom Ellis, B&C Financial Advisors; Space Coast Gang; BHS 77 and Howler Monkey.

Door Prizes: Several door prizes were drawn and Shirley encouraged everyone to stop by and support the sponsors and vendors who generously donated door prizes.

Reunion/Membership: Mike spoke about how he perceived the Reunion. He enjoys re-connecting with friends and family, having fun, making new friends, and gaining a new appreciation of the Board members' hard work. He will remain on the Board as a Past President. The Society membership committee will be working on keeping members, gaining new members and encouraging the Governor's Club membership. Mike quoted Ray Husum, "We need to evolve or dissolve." All members need to be pro-active and encourage the younger generation to be involved. Mike then introduced three Society members from the younger generation. Ben Parthenais addressed the membership stating that he came to his first reunion at six months old and his sister, Anabelle at 10 weeks. Both his parents have been on the Board. He has made new friends with his parents' friends that have children his age. Anabelle spoke about being a future President, learning about the history of Panama, loving Bingo and meeting her parents' friends. Next, Brittney Wilder introduced herself and that she held several Board positions in addition to serving as a Sergeant in the Florida Prison



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system. She then expressed her definition of family which includes the Reunion family; making new memories and her son's first trip to the Reunion was at 6 days old.

BenefitHub: Mike introduced William Breaden, BHS 77, who is striving to add value to the Society with a new website. This site will provide benefits to the Society members with information on the Society, Reunion, Vendors, companies and a pharmacy that will provide discounts and benefits to Society members. Members will be able to type in their home zip code to find discounts in their area. Bill presented a slideshow and announced the Society will send out an email blast with the website information.

Financial Update: Mike presented a slide show with 2015-2017 breakdowns and how we are breaking even.

Door Prizes

Presentations: Mike presented plaques to his two outgoing Board members: Kelly Parthenais and Ray Husum.

Reunion Coordinator-Bill McLaughlin reported that we started working on the reunion last August with our after-action reports. We will begin 2019 reunion in August and to look for the Yellow Pages in the December Canal Record. He stated Registration was down for this reunion, but the Vendors have filled that room. Ticket sales were up compared to last year. David Wright is taking photos so visit his booth. Sentimiento Panama's "Los Legendios" band is playing tonight at the PingDing Dance, then again Saturday at the Murga and Despedida on Sunday. Bill then thanked his CEO, Margaret.

Golf: Katie Beattie provided an update on the Golf Tournament. Thanks to class reunions, she had 76 players in attendance. 1st place team (gross): Gerry Brennan, Neil Doherty, Ray Burda & Louis Vogel. 2nd place (gross) was Ingrid Diaz, Margot Jordan, Mike & Patrick Smith; 1st place (net): Hubert Jordan, Richard Burchett, Charley Leves & Richard Phillips; and 2nd place (net) was Mike & Yvonne Mouser, Carlos Fiol & Lauren Ridolph.

UF Museum: Joe Wood announced that this year was the 20th anniversary of the Canal Museum and in 2012, they transferred the Museum to the University of Florida, Smathers Libraries. The Museum started out with 800-900 members but has only 168 members now. It is only \$26 a year so join! The Museum raised \$9,848 in membership. The Silent Auction closes at 3:30 on Saturday; last year the auction made about \$6K. Next year, there is a fund-raising cruise to Cuba and the Museum sells replicas of the Roosevelt Medals for a fund raiser. All funds go to digitizing, preserving and processing our collection. John Nemmers, a UF curator of the PC Museum took to the stage. He expounded on the care of our heritage which will be preserved and put out to the world. UF tracks how many 'hits' the website has created; from Jan-May 2018, there were 2.5 million views. Most viewed were Panama America exhibit, Yearbooks, Spillway and the Annual Reports from the Canal Zone. UF is finding ways to promote our Museum by awarding traveling grants and for those who want to research both the exhibit on-line and to the Gallery. In 2019, there are big events in our history – 20th anniversary of the transfer of the Canal; 30th of *Just Cause*; 40th of the Treaties; 55th year of the '64 riots and the 500th anniversary of Panama. The next PCS/UF/Friends luncheon will be held on March 16, 2019.

Upcoming Events: Shirley Avery announced the upcoming events for 2018. September 8: Der Dutchman Restaurant in Sarasota — Bob & Cheryl Russell, Co-Chairs; October 13: Yacht Starship cruise in Tampa Bay Harbor — Shirley Avery & Betty LeDoux, Co-Chairs; November 3: Space Coast Picnic at Kelly Park East — Richard Grimison, Bob & Fran



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Morrissey, Bob & Kathy McConaughey, Co-Chairs and December 15: Holiday Luncheon at the St. Petersburg Yacht Club, Noreen Hanson, Chairperson. Then in 2019, February 16: Carnavalito in Cocoa Beach with Happy Hour on February 15 — Richard Grimison, Bob & Fran Morrissey-Co-Chairs; March 16: PCS/UF/Friends Luncheon in Gainesville — Laura Kosik, Chairperson.

Announcements: We are honoring Rupert Turner at the PingDing dance tonight; there will be a Bloody Mary bar set up prior to the Luncheon tomorrow; and set up your class photos with David. Mike thanks Kathleen Plucker for her designs in the coloring book

Door Prizes

Nominating Committee: Betty LeDoux thanked her committee of Bill McLaughlin, Kelly Parthenais, Randy Rios and Dennis Gilbert. There were 126 ballots received (1 invalid). Betty reported the following results: President: Shirley Avery Bentley: 121; First Vice President: Richard Grimison: 122; Second Vice President: Brittney Wilder: 117; Director: James Beattie: 118; Director: Lee Bentley: 119 and Director: Patrick Smith: 118. Bob Russell made a motion for the ballots to be destroyed, seconded by Nancy Van Sicle and motion carried.

Presentations: The new Board was sworn in with Shirley Avery Bentley as President. Mike presented Shirley with her new gavel. Shirley presented Mike with a Past President pin. She then spoke about ‘big shoes to fill’ and she has worked on the Board for Mike and Tom’s terms. Shirley announced her appointment of other Board members: Rod Snyder, Director-at-Large; Carl Orvis, Chaplain; Ray Husum, ByLaws; Laura Kosik, Sergeant-at-Arms; Noreen Hanson, Treasurer; Bill McLaughlin, Reunion Chairperson and Kathy Malin, Office Manager. On behalf of the Executive Board and Membership, Shirley presented Mike and Shawn with a stay at the Streamsong Resort in appreciation of their many years of service with the Panama Canal Society. Photographer, David Wright, gave Mike a cold steel machete.

Grand Prizes: Mike asked Lori Snow to come forward and help present the Grand Door Prizes – trips to Panama. The 4 grand prizes were won by Buddy George, Julius ‘Jes’ Little, Vickie Moehrig, and Barbara Vose-Kulig.

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:39 a.m.

Mike Coffey
President

Kathy Malin
Office Manager