



Panama Canal Society General Membership Minutes  
St. Petersburg Yacht Club, 1 Central Avenue, St. Petersburg, FL  
December 15, 2018

Meeting was called to order by Shirley Avery Bentley (President) at 12:00 p.m. Shirley welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming to this great location. She also thanked Ted and Mel Henter who are members of the Yacht Club and who graciously reserved this beautiful venue for us. Shirley thanked Noreen Hanson and Kathy Malin for all their hard work in putting together this event.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Laura Kosik

Shirley introduced all the Board Members and Past Presidents present. Shirley announced that Margaret McLaughlin made the centerpieces and decorations. She thanked her for sharing her talents with us.

**Board Attendees:** Richard Grimison, Brittney Wilder, Lee Bentley, Patrick Smith, James Beattie, Rod Snyder, Noreen Hanson, Bill McLaughlin, Jacque Vowell, Laura Kosik, Carl Orvis and Bob Russell. (not attending Mike Coffey and Ray Husum)

**Past Presidents:** Margot Jordan, Bill McLaughlin, Elaine Lewis, Bob Russell, and Tom Wilder

**Invocation:** Carl Orvis

Ten door prizes were drawn then Shirley told everyone to enjoy lunch and we will reconvene after lunch. The meeting was reconvened at 12:40 p.m. with Shirley introducing Bill McLaughlin, the Reunion Coordinator. His report follows:

**2019 Reunion:** The Yellow Pages are published in the December issue of the *Canal Record* which you have received my now or very soon. Bill announced that the online registration will be up today. Please read all the information provided in the registration packet carefully as information has changed this year. Get your registration in early to be entered in the drawing for two free nights.

2019 will be a big anniversary year of significant events that happened in Panama and the Canal zone that affected many Zonian and Panamanian lives. These anniversaries are the 1964 riots (55 years), in 1979, the Panama Canal Treaty Implementation and the end of the American Canal Zone (40 years) and in 1989, *Operation Just Cause* (30 years).

The Annual Luncheon topic is *Operation Just Cause* with the guest speaker as Kurt Muse who was imprisoned and survived during this Cause. There will be outstanding unpublicized photos and video will be shown and courtesy of Society Member, K-Boy Richey. The UF Museum will also have displays of *Operation Just Cause*.

The Cultural Seminar's topic will also be *Operation Just Cause* with several panel members discussing significant actions and stories occurring during the operation and how it affected the Canal communities. Panel members will be Joe Wood, Dick Morgan, Richard Wainio, Bob Rupp and Kurt Muse.

This year's Reunion theme is: "Remembering the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Panama Canal Treaty and the end of the American Era and Canal Zone."

A new program will be offered this year on Friday afternoon called **Painting with a Twist**. The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual **Pool Party** will once again be a BIG HIT with *Shorty and Slim* playing their most popular music. You can also get the Society's special room rate four days before and after the Reunion.

**UF Museum:** Kathy Egolf spoke about setting sail on a cruise to Cuba towards the end of January with 40 PCS/Museum members. They are planning a River Cruise for the next year. The next Luncheon at the UF Museum Gallery in Gainesville, FL will be March 16<sup>th</sup>. She indicated the Gallery will display all the big 2019 anniversaries that Bill McLaughlin mentioned earlier. This will be the last year for the Auction at the Reunion. Kathy encouraged all to join the UF Museum and forms are on the tables.



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**Ballot:** Jacque Vowell announced the change to the ByLaws to increase membership. The change is regarding the “public and private schools in the Canal Zone” and the ballots are both in the December *Canal Record*.

**CIS Insurance:** Beth Brandenburg reported that the old Mutual of Omaha insurance was an elective insurance for the Canal Zone employees. After 18 years, she is turning over the ‘watch’ to Kathy Malin. Kathy explained that she had a list of insured members and to contact her at the office to see if your family member has this insurance.

Many more Door Prizes were drawn. Shirley thanked all the members, vendors and Board members that donated the prizes. There were 3 Grand Prizes donated by Margaret McLaughlin, Maritza Reyes and the Orlando World Center Marriott. Kathy Wilder won the Marriott grand prize.

Shirley thanked the members, their guests, vendors, and Board members for joining us today and wished all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. The meeting adjourned at 2:05 pm.

**Members attending:** There were 163 tickets sold.

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Shirley Avery Bentley  
President

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Kathy Malin  
Office Manager