



PANAMA CANAL SOCIETY  
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
19001 Sunlake Blvd, Lutz, FL 33558  
June 15, 2019

The Board Meeting was called to order at 9:32 a.m. by Mike Coffey (Immediate Past President).

**Attendees:**

Richard Grimison (1<sup>st</sup> Vice President), James Beattie (Director), Patrick Smith (Director), Laura Kosik (Sergeant of Arms), Bob Russell (Legislature Representative & Past President) Bill McLaughlin (Reunion Coordinator & Past President), Betty LeDoux (Membership & Past President), Kathy Malin (Office Manager), Margaret McLaughlin (member and Reunion chairperson)

**Telephone Attendees:**

Brittney Wilder (2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President). Rod Snyder (Director-At-Large). Noreen Hanson (Treasurer). Ray Husum (ByLaws), and Jacque Vowell (Editor).

**Absent:** Shirley Avery-Bentley (President), Lee Bentley (Director), and Carl Orvis (Chaplain),

Pat motioned to approve the new members, James seconded, and the motion carried.

Richard motioned to approve to the April Board minutes, Noreen seconded, and the motion carried.

**Business:**

Kathy notified the Board that membership on-line registration will be shut down on the website on Tuesday, June 25 to print the Membership Reports for the Reunion.

The Board discussed the May Spring picnic. The attendance of 43 was down from previous years. There was not much participation in the games. There was too much food wasted and left overs. Suggestion less meat plates since hamburgers and hotdogs were cooked. Suggest people only bring food to serve 8. In the Canal Record flyer, we need to change the food selection with the letters of the alphabet. Music was suggested to play in the background. Everyone packed up and left after lunch since it was a hot day (Texas picnic had 125 attendees.)

Jacque asked the Board to approve the new Jacksonville Reporter, Carol Call. Carol was the Atlanta Reporter who moved to Florida. Richard motioned to approve Carol Call, James seconded, and the motion carried.

The financials were reviewed. Noreen made a motion to pay the Bills, Richard seconded, and the motion carried. Mike compared the year to year and noticed the membership is down by 63. Total revenue is down by \$4,000 (2.5%).

Betty reviewed the future Shingle Creek contracts. PCS needs to sign an addendum to the 2022-23 contract and revisions to the 2024-25. Shirley has reviewed but the Board needs to approve too. Pat motioned to approve the changes to the 2022-23 contract, James seconded, and the motion carried. For the 2024-25 contract, the room rate is down, and the block is the same. Bill has space issues. In 2024, PCS conference area will be in the Panzacola side of the convention area which is closer to parking lot vice the pool area. Betty needs to move forward with Shirley or Richard's signature once the clauses have been updated. Betty will try to get discounts for the 5<sup>th</sup> night if a member stays 4 nights. Richard motioned to extend the Rosen Shingle Creek contract for 4 years, James seconded, and motion carried.

Bob asked if the Society can purchase an Ad in the Sun City Military Ball like we did last year. A half page Ad is \$125. Richard motioned to approve to pay for the Ad at \$125, Pat seconded, and the motion carried.

Mike asked if there was any progress on updating the Society's website. James looked it over and it needs a major overhaul. Loreen Husum-Ridge was waiting for a meeting. The Board suggested a chair which James volunteered. Ray mentioned the schools need to be updated. A suggestion was made for the committee to meet at the Reunion. Mike asked for an update at the August Board meeting.

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### **Reunion:**

Bill has compared last year's numbers to this year: Registration and Ticket sales are down but the Luncheon is up. At this year's Reunion, Wi-Fi cannot be shared like last year. Encore will issue passwords to Kathy and Noreen. Kurt Muse does not need visual equipment only audio at the Annual Luncheon, so we are saving \$800.

Vendor closed early but there are two people on a waiting list. Kathy will contact. Next year, the Caribe Royal floor plan is tight so possibly one table per vendor.

Photographer needs the Suite numbers, Betty will share on Wednesday.

Kathy needs to collect the electric charges from the classes for the Yacht Club dances.

Security finally signed the contract with their schedule. Bill has reviewed a few issues with them. First, for the DJ dances, one guard is at the door and the other collecting the money. Society does not want to pay overtime, so it was suggested to hire 2 guards for 6-hour shift each for the vendor area.

UF has agreed to pay for Kurt Muse's travel; hotel rooms for the Cultural Seminar speakers and pay for Luncheon programs and other printing jobs related to the Just Cause activities. This means the comp rooms are not to be provided by the Society. Bill, Noreen and Kathy have been working with UF to get reimburse for these costs. Noreen suggested in the future, not to pre-pay travel expenses because of complications of being reimbursed. Rich Wainio must go overseas and dropped out of the Cultural Seminar. UF will film the Cultural Seminar and Luncheon but their videographer was pulled off the Reunion, so Bill has arranged video recording through Encore. The cost of the video recording is \$1,810.51 which is a much-discounted price provided by Encore. The initial charge will go to the reunion master account and reimbursed by UF after the reunion.

The Dress Code was discussed. Board agreed for the Ball, no jeans, shorts or flip-flops. The dress code was not published in the Pink Pages as discussed at the August 2018 board meeting. The Board and Security guards need to enforce this Dress Code. Bill will make up new signs. Jacque suggested to put Dress Code flyers in the bags. Richard will post on Facebook.

A membership gift was suggested for the Luncheon Speaker. Mike motioned to give Kurt Muse a Governor's Club membership from 2019-2023, Richard seconded, and motion approved.

Laura reported that there are 162 volunteer slots and 131 are filled. Laura suggested to recognize the top volunteer with a gift or certificate. The top volunteer is Deborah (Mokray) Lee.

Mike suggested if any Chairpersons need help during the Reunion, to text other Board members.

Betty reported on hotel renovations which 6 floors will not be available to us. Everything is manageable, and Betty is working some Suite issues. Board needs to support Betty and Nancy if people complain about Suite issues. Confirmations have gone out with Pink paper for original confirmations and Lime paper for changes. At last pickup, the Society was at 99%. The late registrants seeking sleeping room must pay a higher rate of \$168.

We made the quota for Golf at 76. Pat suggested that the course move the tees and make better pin placement to accommodate our golfers. Last year the hotel failed to give the Pro Shop our requests.

There are 35 vendors. Rod reported he has help for Bingo. It was suggested more money should go to Bingo versus door prizes because it is hard to determine how many winners plus type of door prizes. At the evening dances, Pat and Richard will meet Security at 8:00 each night. On Saturday, Murga will begin at 8:30. Jacque has the signs ready to print for the class reunion reserved tables.

The Board reviewed David Smith's request to DJ at the 2020 reunion. We heard the problems from years ago but would like to give David another chance. Mike suggested to move the motion till the August Board meeting and not sign any DJ contracts till after this meeting. Kathy will notify David.

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Ray reported the Despedida is still at the \$2.00 format. Betty will print the tickets and give to Ray at the Reunion. The coloring books and crayons are ready for the Despedida dance on Sunday. Margaret will have the plants from Friday/Saturday dances ready for lottery drawings.

Jacque reported there are 15 mini reunions and shared the scheduled. She is waiting on the Suite numbers.

Painting with a Twist has 20 signed up and the minimum is 40. Margaret believes we will meet the minimum number at the Reunion. Minimum age is 15. There will be a cash bar outside the room. Mike motioned to sign the contract at \$35 a piece for 40 people with a \$150 travel fee, Richard seconded, and motion carried. Total is \$1550 with a deposit of \$700 that Kathy will cut a check and send with signed contract. Laura will post on Facebook. We will put flyers in registration bags.

Teen Meet & Greet is scheduled for Friday afternoon from 4:30-5:30 in the Atrium. Kathy reported there are about 60 teenagers signed up for the reunion with members. She will send out emails notifying them.

Bob reported the Cultural Seminar is set from 2:00-4:30 on Friday. An extra hour was added to accommodate all the stories. Rich Wainio did cancel but Bob and Bill feel this leaves more time for audience involvement. Kathy will provide door prizes. Mike complemented Bob and Bill on a great job and Bill's dedication to the Society. Members have asked to link the slideshow video to our website. The panel does not want some of their observations told to the public. UF will own the video but Bill will discuss with them about editing the sensitive discussions. Jacque received an article from Bill Riley and had shared with Bill and Bob. They all agreed not to publish the article in the Canal Record.

The Hotel will make the decision at 10:00 am to continue the Pool Party at the Spa Pool or move inside. Shorty and Slim are all set but one member could not get a Visa, so Mayra Seitz and Jaime Rheberg will join the band. Richard will organize the setup of tents. \$5,550 have been raised in sponsorships and will continue to collect at the Reunion.

**Future Events:**

Sarasota luncheon is set for September 7 at \$22 for the meal. The registration flyer is in the June Record. No deposit is needed and pay at the end.

In October there is a Board meeting and on November 2, the Space Coast picnic is scheduled. The PCS Christmas luncheon is set for December 7 at St Petersburg Yacht Club. Shirley and Noreen need to select the menu by end of July in order for Jacque to produce the flyer for the next Canal Record deadline. Kathy will send the menus.

All motioned to adjourn the meeting at 12:08 p.m.

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Mike Coffey, Immediate Past President

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Kathy Malin, Office Manager