



PANAMA CANAL SOCIETY
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
UF SMATHERS LIBRARY
MINUTES – March 3, 2018

Meeting was then called to order at 12:01 pm by Shirley Avery-Bentley (President)

Shirley welcomed the 66 members and guests present and thanked them for coming.

Laura Kosik began the Pledge of Allegiance.

Shirley introduced the Past Presidents: Bill McLaughlin, Bob Russell and Tom Wilder and then Board Members who were Brittney Wilder (2nd VP), Lee Bentley (Director), and Laura Kosik (Sergeant-at-Arms). She thanked Kathy Malin for her hard work at the office and the event.

Cheryl Russell gave the invocation.

The meeting broke for lunch and resumed at 12:50 p.m.

Shirley asked if all have read the meeting minutes from Carnavalito General Membership Meeting. Bob Russell made a motion to approve the minutes as written, Tom Wilder seconded, and the motion carried.

Shirley called Bill McLaughlin to give an update on the Reunion. He spoke about the theme of the Reunion which is the "End of the American Era" and explained the decal that is in the March Canal Record. Bill gave a background on Kurt Muse and his book, "Six Minutes to Freedom". Kurt will be the Luncheon speaker as well part of the panel for the Cultural Seminar. The luncheon tickets are going fast, there are 220 signed up. Bill describe the new event, Painting with a Twist. This is the last year for the Silent Auction hosted by the Friends of the Museum. UF will display "Operation Just Cause". *Shorty and Slim* will be playing at the Pool Party. There will be an alternate location if the weather doesn't hold up. All activities are listed in the Yellow Pages and the June Canal Record will announce any updates to the Reunion. Volunteers are needed and contact Laura or Kathy.

Dean Judy Russell welcomed all to visit the Anniversary exhibits across the hall. The Gallery displays all the big momentous anniversaries in 2019: i.e. – 20th anniversary of the transfer of the Canal; 30th of Operation Just Cause; 40th of the Treaties; and 55th year of the '64 riots. She acknowledged and thanked her UF Smathers Libraries staff for their creativity and hard work on the exhibits. Judy asked all to write comments on the exhibit or your memories of these events and time in Panama.

John Nemmers introduced himself and explained how the collection was used. John, Liz Bouton and their staff are preserving and promoting the collection to researchers, scholars, students and others. He explained how they store and display the items that are donated. During National History Month, many students searched and asked questions about the online Panama Canal Museum. Smathers Libraries have asked the facility to develop courses on the Panama Canal and to date 6 honor courses have been developed. Only 4.8 million documents have been downloaded this year which is down from last year. The Collection Managers want people to visit the Blog and assist in identifying photographs or even describe what is happening in the pictures.



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Joe Wood, President of the Friends of the Executive Committee, thanked Judy, John and the UF staff for their dedicated service. We are lucky to find a home at UF. The Friends had 149 members in 2018 and raised \$7.3. In 2019, we only have 78 members but have raised \$5.7. It is only \$26 to join the Friends. During the year, the Friends have fund raisers such as the annual cruise raised \$1050 and the Silent Auction at the Reunion. This year, the Friends did receive a windfall from the 2009 BP disaster of \$3.9. Another fundraiser is duplicates to the Roosevelt Medals which can be purchase online after verifying you are a descendent to the medal holders. See Frank Townsend if you have more questions. We need funds for the traveling exhibits so we can share the Panama Canal Zone with others.

Shirley thanked all for attending, reminded everyone to renew their dues, and sign up for the Reunion. She asked if there was any other business. Shirley then told all some St Patrick's Day trivia: the largest parade is in New York City, Saint Patrick was British, it takes 25 pounds of dye to turn the Chicago River green and there are no women Leprechauns.

Meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Shirley Avery, President

Kathy Malin, Office Manager