



PANAMA CANAL SOCIETY  
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
Saturday, May 23, 2020 – 9:30 a.m.  
ZOOM meeting - ID #: 829 0799 3256

The Board Meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Shirley Avery Bentley (President).

**Attendees by Zoom or Telephone:**

Shirley Avery Bentley (President), Richard Grimison (1<sup>st</sup> Vice President), Brittney Wilder (2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President), James Beattie (Director), Patrick Smith (Director), Lee Bentley (Director), Rod Snyder (Director–At-Large), Mike Coffey (Immediate Past President), Noreen Hanson (Treasurer), Laura Kosik (Sergeant of Arms), Ray Husum (ByLaws), Bob Russell (Legislature Representative & Past President), Jacque Vowell (Editor), Bill McLaughlin (Reunion Coordinator & Past President), Betty LeDoux (Hotel Coordinator & Past President), and Kathy Malin (Office Manager)

**Absent:** Carl Orvis (Chaplain)

Richard motioned to approve the April Executive Board minutes, Mike seconded, and the motion carried. Kathy stated the Check Detail Report is 23 pages vice 6 and other than the many cancellations, it was business as usual. No one had questions. Mike motioned to approve paying the bills, Brittney seconded, and the motion carried. Mike motioned to approve new member, Arnold Roe, Richard seconded, and motioned carried.

**Reunion Update:**

Shirley announced that the 2020 PCS Reunion was cancelled yesterday by the Hotel. Betty expanded on Shirley's announcement stating the hotel is uncomfortable about accommodating certain elements of our Reunion; i.e. meeting, clubhouse, etc.

This information is confidential and cannot be discussed till after Tuesday when the Hotel Coordinators send out the information. This is Shirley and Bill's decision and when the email blast has is ready to send out. Richard disagreed that we should not wait on the notification to Attendees. Betty says the notification is ready as soon as the Board approves it.

Betty offered a second option to move to Rosen Shingle Creek from July 2-5 at \$125 per night. Rosen offered discounted golf rates and if we book 100-150 rooms, they agreed to 30% attrition, but it is risky so dropped it to 75 rooms, but open for a discussion. Betty suggested to an abbreviated event and registration, allow the dances, and letting members have a connection on whatever the members are comfortable with. The Board had detailed discussions on moving the Reunion dates and hotel. Several Board members had leave scheduled for the June dates; another had plans for 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend; nightmare to move; others are scared; others said too short of notice; etc. Mike suggested we can offer a non-Society meeting at their own risk. Betty was just finding an option for the Society.

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Mike motioned as part of our communication to offer on their own accord to meet at Shingle Creek but not a Society event. No one seconded the motion and the motion never 'hit the floor'. Brittney suggested we add to the letter to promote next year's Reunion. Hotel said it is cancelled, so that's it. Make the letter simple.

Shirley, Bill and Betty have written a Reunion cancellation letter. Bill read the letter to the Board. Board members offered suggestions.

Brittney motioned to send out a letter to members attending, change the wording to include if you want a refund, notify the office by June 24; otherwise the money will be donated to the Society for other events, Richard seconded after we accept the motion to include the wording about the hotel cancelling, and motioned carried.

Another discussion ensued on Refunds. The registration fee is non-refundable. However, the Board agreed to refund the \$10 fee for those requesting as a hardship case, or if the Office had any conflicts to go ahead and refund the registration fee.

Noreen wants the letter worded "event ticket refunds" along with "vendor refunds" added.

There are 274 primary members registered plus their guests. Bill will send the letter to Mike and Noreen afterwards for their editing and proofing.

Kathy will work on emailing the Attendees today by 6:00 pm then Tom Wilder will place on Facebook after the email blast and Bill will send email to Chris Wilder for PCS website.

Betty has called the golf course on Friday to cancel because the hotel has cancelled our Reunion. The Society is not being penalized for cancelling the tournament.

**Business:**

The Election Policy was discussed. It was decided that Mike and his Committee will meet at the PCS Office after the deadline of June 16 to count the ballots. The 2020-2022 Board will be announced and sworn in at the August Executive Board meeting. The Board decided the September General Membership meeting can be our official Annual meeting since there will be a quorum. June 6 Board meeting is cancelled.

Bob Russell has the September 12<sup>th</sup> luncheon in Sarasota all arranged but is a little worried about Social Distancing. More decisions will be made closer to the date.

Noreen did not present the P&L. She indicated the proposed Budget was wrong, she forgot to add in the Rent to the Budget which is another \$8400 of expenses. Noreen indicated we will be saving on Administrative costs since there is no Reunion.

Kathy asked the Board if she can contact Vendors to spend \$500 for door prizes for the next year at the Society events. Mike motioned to spend \$500 on door prizes, Richard seconded, and the motion carried.

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Bill reported that Betty is working on Carnavallito. She indicated the prices at the hotel in Mission Hills is too much and looking at the Hilton at Daytona Beach and Cocoa Beach which is now open after years being closed due to hurricane. Betty is looking at dates of Feb 12-14 and Feb 19-21.

Sponsors were discussed about moving their sponsorship to next year. Bill will reach out to them about Sponsorship and their advertising. Kathy suggested we ask the Vendors if they want to send in pictures and contact information for the October Canal Record since there will be no Reunion pictures in the book. She suggested ~~to give~~ giving them a free page to advertise their products – good faith endeavor. The Board all liked this idea.

Other future dates are:

June 6 – CANCELLED

August 8 – Board Meeting (Announcement of new Board members)

September 12 – Sarasota PCS Luncheon/General Meeting

October 3 – Board Meeting

November 7 – Space Coast PCS Picnic/General Meeting

December 5 – Holiday PCS Luncheon/General Meeting

Shirley thanked everyone for the last two years. Meeting adjourned at 10:46 a.m.

  
Shirley Avery Bentley, President

  
Kathy Malin, Office Manager