



PANAMA CANAL SOCIETY
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES
2550 North Banana River Dr., Merritt Island, FL
November 7, 2020

Meeting was called to order at 12:20 p.m. by Brittney Wilder (1st Vice President).

Brittney welcomed the 28 members and guests present and thanked them for coming. She also thanked the Space Coast Group for organizing the picnic. Brittney told the group that Bill McLaughlin hurt his back the evening before and could not drive down, but he sends his regards.

Brittney asked all to rise while Jacque Vowell lead the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by Carl Orvis giving an invocation.

Carl then gave a moving dedication to the service members in attendance, he asked them to stand, and we all thanked them all for their service. Carl reminded the guests to remember all service men and women on Veteran's Day, next Wednesday. He asked if any Vietnam Veterans were in attendance. Donald Humphrey stood, and Carl welcomed him home. Carl explained when he returned home from Iraq in 2007, the Vietnam Veterans were at the airport thanking all the service members. He went on to describe that Americans did not thank the Vietnam Veterans when they returned home, so he wanted to thank Donald.

Brittney thanked Peggy Huff and Richard Grimison for chairing this event and making the picnic possible. She then introduced the Board Members present: Laura Kosik (Director), Carl Orvis (Chaplain), Jacque Vowell (Editor), Kathy Malin (Office Manager) and herself, 1st Vice President. The Board was sworn in at a safe venue back on August 8th. Normally they would have been sworn in during the Annual Business meeting but as you know the Reunion was cancelled.

The Society is looking for volunteers to assist at the Reunion. Laura Kosik is our Reunion Volunteer Chairperson and stood up and told the group about how to contact her if they are interested in working 1-1/2 hour during the Reunion. The Executive Board is currently looking for new office space and revamping our computer systems and website hosting. The Fall Directory and October *Canal Records* have been mailed.

Brittney asked the attendees to look at the upcoming events in their handouts and that Kathy has Carnavallito registration forms. The Reunion will be July 7-11, 2021 at the Caribe Royale Resorts in Orlando. Brittney went on to describe some of the Reunion events. The Yellow Pages are being finalized to be inserted in the December *Canal Record*.

Brittney introduced Mickey Fitzgerald who has taken over the Friends of the Panama Canal Museum Silent Auction at the Reunion. Mickey asked for volunteers and how important the Auction is in raising money for the Museum. Carole Miller spoke about the Panama Canal Museum Collection, Oral Histories and other information on the website ran by the University of Florida. If you are interested in becoming a member, it is only \$26 a year.

Brittney asked if all have read the October General Membership Meeting minutes and if so, she needs a motion to approve. Richard Grimison motioned to approve the minutes as written, Diana Grimison seconded, and the motion carried.

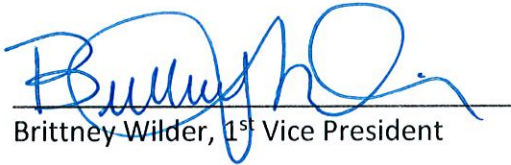


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Brittney asked if there was any new business. Richard stood up and introduced Captain Mari Smith who was visiting Florida from Panama and is the 3rd ever female Panama Canal Pilot. She graduated at Balboa High School in 1985 and Kings Point in 1989.

Diana Grimison drew the door prizes tickets. Afterwards, Brittney and Kathy presented Peggy and Richard with thank you gifts.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:42 p.m.


Brittney Wilder, 1st Vice President


Kathy Malin, PCS Office Manager