

**PANAMA CANAL SOCIETY, INC.**  
**GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING**  
**A. L. ANDERSON PARK, TARPON SPRINGS, FLORIDA**  
**MARCH 21, 2009**

**President Tom Wilder** welcomed the 60 members and guests in attendance at the General Business Meeting held at A. L. Anderson Park, Tarpon Springs, Florida on March 21, 2009. The meeting was called to order at 12:00 noon.

**Chaplain Cheryl Russell** gave the invocation. **Sgt. at Arms Chris Wilder** led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Tom Wilder** recognized past Presidents Faith Brundage, Bill McLaughlin, Bob Russell, Elaine (Vestal) Lewis and Margot Jordan who were in attendance. Tom also introduced the following board members that were in attendance: Tom Spence, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President; Shirley Avery-Bentley, Director; Pam Reid, Director; Bob Russell, Past President; Chris Wilder, Sgt. At Arms; Bill McLaughlin, Bylaws Chairperson and Reunion Coordinator; Cheryl Russell, Chaplain and Albert and Aura Wilder, Sunshine Committee. Shortly after the introduction of the board members, Jim Parthenais, Treasurer and Mike Coffey, Director arrived at the meeting.

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, copies of the General Membership meeting held on February 7, 2009 in Melbourne, Florida were distributed to the membership; therefore, the president asked for a motion to accept the minutes as written. Bob Russell made a motion to accept the minutes; Hubert Jordan seconded it. Motion carried.

The January Financial Statement was also distributed to the membership and stands for audit.

**Bill McLaughlin, Bylaws Chairperson**, reported that the office received 117 valid and 3 invalid ballots on the proposed bylaw changes and were counted today with the following results:

. Amendment #34 was approved by the membership with a count of 95 yes votes and 16 no votes

. Amendment #35 was approved by the membership with a count of 103 yes votes and 8 no votes.

. Amendment #36 was approved by the membership with a count of 108 yes votes and 2 no votes.

The president asked for a motion to destroy the ballots. Bob Russell made a motion to destroy the ballots; Margot Jordan seconded it. Motion carried.

**Bill McLaughlin, Reunion Coordinator**, reported that the 2009 Reunion Committees are busy preparing for the reunion in July. He also reported on the following:

1. We are returning to the Gatlin Ballroom section of the convention center.
2. Tito Mouynes will be performing on Friday night and Frankie Pretto will be performing on Saturday night.
3. The Annual Luncheon will have a Panama Folkloric dance performance by the "Sentimiento Panama" dance group. The performance will include various folkloric dances that will highlight the origination and signification of the different dances.
4. Saturday afternoon we will be hosting a poolside party on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July with a DJ.
5. The Thursday night dance will be sponsored by BHS/79 and the band that played last year ("Strobe") will be playing once again.
6. A reminder that the bedrooms attached to the Suites is an additional cost and not part of the Suite cost.
7. The reunion operates on volunteers, so please consider helping out by signing up for registration, ticket sales, etc. Tom and Cecilia Spence are chairing Registration and have a sign up sheet with them today for anyone wishing to volunteer at Registration.

**Kathy Egolf, Executive Vice President**, of the Panama Canal Museum reminded those in attendance to renew their membership dues for 2009. Please visit the Museum room at the reunion this year where the exhibit will highlight the flora and fauna of Panama. Cheryl Russell is working on the 2010 calendar for the Museum and the Museum is planning a cruise in 2010 aboard the Celebrity Equinox.

The president reminded the membership of the May 2<sup>nd</sup> luncheon at Troyer's Restaurant in Sarasota and will be hosted by Bob and Cheryl Russell.

Bob Russell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:00 p.m.; Joan Ohman seconded it. Motion carried.

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**NANCY VAN SICLEN**  
**OFFICE MANAGER/SECRETARY**

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**TOM WILDER**  
**PRESIDENT**