

**PANAMA CANAL SOCIETY, INC.
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
TOM STATHAM PARK, TITUSVILLE, FLORIDA
NOVEMBER 9, 2009**

President Tom Wilder welcomed the 77 members and guests in attendance to the General Membership Meeting held at Tom Statham Park, Titusville, Florida on November 9, 2009 and called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

In the absence of **Cheryl Russell**, **Tom Wilder** gave the invocation and in the absence of **Chris Wilder**, **Margaret McLaughlin** led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Tom Wilder recognized past president Bill McLaughlin who was in attendance and introduced the board members who were in attendance including Margaret McLaughlin, 1st Vice President; Pam Reid, Director; Bill McLaughlin, Bylaws Chairperson and 2010 Reunion Coordinator; and Nancy Van Sclen, Office Manager.

Tom thanked Bob & Kathy McConaughy and Bob & Fran Morrissey for organizing this event and presented them with a small token of appreciation from the Society.

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, copies of the General Membership Meeting held on September 12, 2009 in Ocala, Florida were distributed to the membership; therefore, the president asked for a motion to accept the minutes as written. John Marcum made a motion to accept the minutes; Joan Ohman seconded it. Motion carried.

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

The president reported to the membership that the Society had been contacted by the attorney of Lucille Abernathy who passed away in August of this year. Lucille had been a member of the Society and volunteer at the Annual Reunions for many years. We were advised that Lucille had endowed the Society with a very sizeable monetary donation from her estate. Tom reported that we have set up a separate account for this money to earn interest and not have it included in our daily operating account. At this time we have no plans to use this money but to just let it earn interest.

In the absence of **Jacque Vowell**, Record Editor, Tom reported that we are working on the December issue of the *Canal Record* and hope to have it to the printer in the next couple of weeks.

Bill McLaughlin, Reunion Coordinator, reported to the membership that if you register for the 2010 Reunion prior to January 31, 2010 your name will be placed in a drawing to be drawn at Carnavalito on February 6, 2010 to win a complimentary two night stay (King or Queen Room) at Rosen Shingle Creek Resort during the 2010 Reunion.

Bill also announced that this will be the last year at Rosen Shingle Creek and that in 2011 we will be going back to the World Center Marriott. Bill reported that the board feels that it is always good to change venues every few years.

Bill reported that Rosen Shingle Creek Resort is offering the members who register with the Society for the Reunion and you are staying from Wednesday night thru Saturday night they will give you Sunday night free. We are also planning a venue for Sunday afternoon for the entire family to attend. We will publish more information on this in the March issue of the *Canal Record*.

The 2nd Annual member appreciation pool party will be held on Saturday afternoon at pool side. Participants must be members in good standing, registered for the reunion and have their name badge.

With the increasing interest in TV shows such as *Dancing with the Stars*, *America's Got Talent*, etc. the Society will host a dance contest on Thursday, July 1, 2010. For more information on this new program please read the yellow pages.

Bill also reported that with the agreement from the president, Mike Coffey will be the co-chair as Reunion Coordinator.

Tom reported that **Bob Russell**, Chairperson of the Nominating Committee was not able to attend the picnic today but asked that the membership be advised that nominations are still open and that if anyone was interested in running for the term of 2010-2012 to please get in touch with him before December 12, 2009.

Tom reported that he has appointed **Mike Coffey as** Chairperson of the Membership Committee. Tom advised that they are diligently working on having people join and keep their membership current.

Kathy Egolf from the Panama Canal Museum reported that she has several new items for sale today including the 2010 calendar and the new Christmas ornament. The Museum is also working on exhibits for the reunion and items for sale at the silent auction. Kathy also reported that the Museum has been working with the University of Florida which will be written about in the next publication that the Museum mails out. The Museum also was remembered by Lucille Abernathy.

Margaret McLaughlin reported that the committee is working hard on the arrangements for the Annual Christmas Luncheon which will be held on December 12, 2009 at the Wine Cellar Restaurant in North Redington Beach, Florida.

Tom called on **Donita McConaughey** to report on Carnavalito 2010. Donita reported that Carnavalito will be held again at the Holiday Inn on February 5th and 6th. The committee is again planning on having get-together on Friday, February 5th from 4:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. and if anyone would like to bring something it would be very much appreciated. The dinner dance will be on February 6th and Frances Lindh Morrissey will again be playing the organ for our enjoyment. The hotel has also offered a special rate for a Sunday buffet breakfast from 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. for those staying at the hotel.

The president reminded everyone that the reunion dates are June 30, 2010 through July 4, 2010. He also reminded the members that the 2010 membership dues are due before December 31, 2009.

Door prizes were awarded at the end of the meeting.

Margaret McLaughlin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:15 p.m.; Kathy Wilder seconded it. Motion carried.

NANCY VAN SICLEN
OFFICE MANAGER/SECRETARY

TOM WILDER
PRESIDENT