

**PANAMA CANAL SOCIETY, INC.
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
OCALA ELKS LODGE, OCALA FLORIDA
SEPTEMBER 12, 2009**

President Tom Wilder welcomed the 52 members and guests in attendance to the General Membership Meeting held at the Ocala Elks Lodge, Ocala, Florida on September 12, 2009 and called the meeting to order at 11:55 a.m.

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

President Tom Wilder recognized the following past presidents in attendance: Peter Foster, Marje Foster, Bill McLaughlin and Bob Russell. He also introduced the board members attending the meeting which included, Margaret McLaughlin, 1st Vice President; Tom Spence, 2nd Vice President; Shirley Avery, Director; Mike Coffey, Director; Bob Russell, Immediate Past President; Bill McLaughlin, Bylaws Chairperson and 2010 Reunion Coordinator; Chris Wilder, Sgt. at Arms and Webmaster; Cheryl Russell, Chaplain; Jacque Vowell, Editor and Nancy Van Siclen, Office Manager.

Tom thanked Grace Shadeck for sending out emails and calling the members in the area promoting the luncheon and presented her with a small token of appreciation from the Society.

The meeting adjourned for lunch and reconvened at 12:40 P.M.

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, copies of the Annual Business Meeting minutes held on July 3, 2009 in Orlando, Florida were distributed to the membership; therefore, the president asked for a motion to accept the minutes as written. Mike Coffey made a motion to accept the minutes; Shirley Avery seconded it. Motion carried.

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

Also, included in the packets that were distributed to the membership was the August Legislative Report prepared by Jim O'Donnell, Legislative Representative.

Jacque Vowell, Editor, reported to the membership that the October issue of the *Canal Record* was in the mail to the printer. Jacque also reminded the membership that the deadline for submitting articles for the December issue is September 25, 2009.

Bill McLaughlin, Reunion Coordinator, reported to the membership that the 2010 Reunion is in the planning stages and all information regarding the reunion will appear in the December issue of the *Canal Record*. Bill also reported that if you are planning on attending the reunion and will be staying at the hotel for four nights, the hotel is offering the fifth night free. All information will appear in the December issue yellow pages.

Albert and Aura Wilder, Sunshine Committee, reported that they have sent out several get well and thinking of you cards. If anyone knows of someone that is ill to please contact them or the office and a card will be mailed.

The president reported that he has appointed Bob Russell as Chairperson of the Nominating Committee. The committee consists of the Chairperson, two members from the board and two members from the membership. The two members from the board are Bliss Connerton, Director-at-Large and Jacque Vowell, Editor.

Bob Russell, Chairperson of the Nominating Committee, reported to the membership that this meeting we need to select two members from the membership to serve on the Nominating Committee. Bob announced that we have three members who have volunteered to serve; Shirley Boswell, George Downing and Joan Ohman. By a show of hands Shirley Boswell and Joan Ohman* were selected by the membership to serve on the Nominating Committee. Bob reported that the ballot for the election of new officers for 2010-2012 would appear in the March 2010 issue of the *Canal Record*.

*After the general membership meeting it was discovered that Joan Ohman had served on the Nominating Committee for 2008 and our bylaws state that you cannot serve for more than one term without an interval of at least one term between the times of serving. Since the votes were so close between the three members, Shirley Boswell and George Downing will be the representatives from the membership to serve on the Committee.

Kathy Egolf from the Panama Canal Museum thanked everyone for supporting the Museum at the Reunion by visiting the Museum Room, vendor table and participating in the Silent Auction. She also reported that the Museum would be meeting with the University of Florida at their board meeting later this month.

At this time a DVD was shown of the Red, White and Blue Troupe from the 1930's which is an item the Museum has. If anyone is willing to donate \$25.00 to the Museum they will be given the DVD as a gift.

Tom called on Bob McConaughy to report on the Titusville picnic which will be held on November 7, 2009 at Tom Statham Park. Marje Foster reported on the Christmas Luncheon which will be held at the Wine Cellar Restaurant on December 12th and hoped to see everyone at the luncheon.

Tom Wilder reminded the membership that we will again in 2010 be having Carnavallito the weekend of February 5th and 6th at the Holiday Inn in Melbourne and that Fran Morrissey will again be providing the music. Pete Foster reported to the membership that it is a great weekend and the committee works very hard to make sure it is a fun weekend.

Door prizes were awarded at the end of the meeting.

Pete Foster made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:20 p.m.; Mike Coffey seconded it. Motion carried.

NANCY VAN SICLEN
OFFICE MANAGER/SECRETARY

TOM WILDER
PRESIDENT