

**PANAMA CANAL SOCIETY, INC.  
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING  
SOCIETY HEADQUARTERS OFFICE – SEMINOLE, FL.  
APRIL 17, 2010**

**Present:** Tom Wilder, Margaret McLaughlin, Tom Spence, Mike Coffey, Pam Reid, Shirley Avery, Bliss Connerton, Jim Parthenais, Bill McLaughlin, Jacque Vowell and Nancy Van Siclen.

**Absent:** Bob Russell, Cheryl Russell, Chris Wilder and Jim O'Donnell.

The president called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

**Consent Agenda:**

**February Board Minutes:** Mike Coffey made a motion to approve the February Executive Board Minutes; it was seconded by Margaret McLaughlin. Motion carried.

**Expenditures:** Tom Spence made a motion to approve the expenditures from February 1, 2010 through April 16, 2010 in the amount of \$34,110.43; it was seconded by Mike Coffey. Motion carried.

**New Applicants:** Mike Coffey made a motion to accept the 12 new applicants for membership; it was seconded by Jim Parthenais. Motion carried.

**President: Tom Wilder**

**New Business:**

**Leasing of New Copier – Quotes** – Tom reported that the current copier is no longer working. Five companies were called to submit quotes. Three companies responded. A list of the three quotes was given to everyone to review. After some discussion, Mike Coffey suggested another company in Tampa. He would like to call her during the break. Tom did say that if the cost is not that much more he would like to consider the color copier option. After more information is received the vote can be done on-line.

**Logo Trademark Update** – Tom reported that all the information is at the Trade Mark Office but they wanted the logo in color. We have sent that information to the attorney and the attorney does not see a problem. We should be hearing something in the near future.

**Old Business:**

**Old Copier Contract - \$1,000 Settlement** – Tom reported that we thought the old copier contract had gone away. We had an attorney get involved because we opt out of the maintenance agreement. Our attorney has reported that for a \$1,000.00 they are willing to settle. Tom suggested that we cut our loses and move on. The original contract was signed in 1999. Mike Coffey made a motion to pay the \$1,000.00; it was seconded by Tom Spence. Motion carried.

**Treasurer: Jim Parthenais**

**Financial Update** – Jim feels that the new format on the financials gives more information. Jim highlighted some of the different line items for the board on the financial statement.

**Separate Money Market Account** – Jim reported that we had two CD's mature and instead of putting them in another CD, since the interest rates are so low, we have put the money from the CD's in our Money Market account with a little better interest rate. Jim will keep an eye on the interest rates for CD's to see if anything becomes available to transfer the money from the Money Market into a better CD.

**Director: Mike Coffey**

**Membership Committee Update** – Mike reported that we recently have linked-in set up and he has had several positive responses. We are up to 50 members and he feels that this is adding value to our membership.

**Cayuco/Shorty & Slim Sponsorship Update** – Mike reported that we signed up 14 new members in Panama during the Cayuco race and this also gives the Society more exposure. David Seitz will be sending a link to the race and the performance at the Yacht Club. Mike is recommending that we participate again next year.

**Director: Pam Reid**

**Web Site Calendar** – Pam suggested that we post of the forms for the different Society functions, including the board meeting dates, on the website. Jacque will send Chris the forms in a PDF format. Tom feels that posting the board meeting dates would be more work to keep it up to date and we don't have the staff. Tom said that the members that are hosting functions around the country should be notifying the Society and we could then print it in the *Canal Record* and on Face book.

**Membership Form** – Pam gave everyone the updated form for approval that she feels is more professional. After discussion, Tom suggested that Pam make the changes we discussed and he can send it out online for a vote. Mike Coffey made a motion that we accept the application, after we see the new corrections; seconded by Tom Spence. Jim Parthenais said that when we get the email with the final product we can just confirm our approval.

**Organ Donors** – Pam said that about two years it was suggested that we have a link to make inform members that someone needed a transplant or blood donation. This item was vague and this would have to be researched back in the minutes to see what was discussed.

**Past President: Bob Russell**

Bob Russell was absent for this meeting so Tom Wilder reported on his area as follows:

**Troyer's Luncheon** – Tom reported that the luncheon at Troyer's would not start until 12:00 noon instead of 11:30 a.m. Cheryl and Bob will call all who have registered and advise them of the change.

**Cultural Seminars** – Tom reported that everything is on track for Dr. Stanley Heckadon from the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Panama will be our guest lecturer for the two seminars.

**Nominating Committee** – Tom reported that all bylaw requirements have been complied with. The committee will meet at 8:30 a.m. on Friday morning, July 2, 2010 in the Sandlake Conference Room for the purpose of counting the ballots before the meeting.

**Editor: Jacque Vowell**

**Status of June *Canal Record*** – Jacque reported that the March issue is completed; the April Directory is in the mail to the members and she is hoping to have a rough draft of the June issue in about a week or so for proofing.

**Office Manager/Secretary: Nancy Van Siclen**

**Correspondence** – Nancy reported that the office received an email from a member who was upset about being charged the extra \$10.00 administration fee when paying her dues in March. After discussion Mike Coffey made a motion to refund the \$10.00; seconded by Jim Parthenais. Motion carried.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Reunion Coordinator: Bill McLaughlin**

**2010 Reunion Update** – Bill reported on the following items for the Reunion:

- 1) Since there was no interest in the dance contest it has been cancelled.
  
- 2) The Annual Luncheon has been moved to Panzacola F. Tom would like to make sure that we have a small dance floor placed in the room.
  
- 3) The Security company charge will be the same as last year (\$1,758.05).
  
- 4) Bill has spoken with Rafael about Saturday night before the dance, appearing at the luncheon and at Despedida. Bill will send him an outline of what we would like and for Rafael to get with a cost.
  
- 5) In regard to the Foyer Bars Bill reported that one member suggested last year that we move the bars from the foyer and put them all in the room with the dances. After discussion Mike Coffey made a motion to keep the four bars in the foyer; it was seconded by Shirley Avery. Motion carried.
  
- 6) Bill reported that the tickets are done. Bill also said that we see members with name badges from previous years so this year we have changed the color.
  
- 7) Travel and reservations for band members have been completed.
  
- 8) The Thursday night dance is on. Noreen Hanson (BHS/75) will be hosting this event. Jim Parthenais will get in touch with her to get an announcement put in the June issue.
  
- 9) After Hours Dances – David Smith has submitted a contract and he is offering to do something different this year. He is suggesting a Video during the dance and the cost would be \$650.00 per night. His regular charge is \$550.00 per night. After discussion, it was decided to try something different for the Friday and Saturday Night dances. Shirley Avery made a motion to accept the Video contract at \$650.00 per night; it was seconded by Margaret McLaughlin. Motion carried.
  
- 10) Bill asked Jacque if she was planning a doing something for the reporters this year. Jacque said that she was thinking about having a gathering on Thursday afternoon in a hospitality suite. Jacque asked if she could have \$50.00 to purchase some snacks and finger foods for the gathering. Shirley Avery made the motion to give Jacque \$50.00 to purchase the snacks; it was seconded by Jim Parthenais. Motion carried.

Bill asked that everyone please look at the event plan and let him know of any corrections.

**Tom Wilder –**

**Luncheon Update** – Tom reported that he spoke with Fran Morrissey and she is very excited about the program and that she would like the same people that played with her at Carnavallito (Mike Young & Jaime Rheberg). She is not charging us to play and Tom would like to give her two nights, Mike Young, one night; and Jaime Rheberg, one night. Fran would also like to have some time with the organ to get use to it before the luncheon. Tom also said that she would play about an hour set with a tribute to Lucho. Tom reported that he did send an email to a family member of Lucho to let them know that this is what we were planning for this year.

**Name Tag Lanyard Suggestion** – Tom reported that he was had a week long seminar for the Sherriff's Office and they had the same name badges as we have but they handed everyone a Lanyard when we registered. Tom has a quote of \$ .94 each. His question is do we want to order 3,000 and give that as part of the name badge. Mike Coffey made a motion to purchase the lanyards; it was seconded by Tom Spence. Motion carried. After further discussion, it was decided to get a couple of quotes from different vendors.

**Annual Luncheon** – Nancy said that since is not here for this meeting she would like to know if any board members have any special seating requests to please email Cheryl and copy the office on your request.

**Pam Reid –**

**Family Fun Sunday Update** – Pam asked how many people have signed up to stay at the hotel on Sunday evening. Pam was given a ballpark figure of about 100 members. With that amount the Sunday event would have to be cancelled. We need more people to cover the expenses. The event needs to be a break-even project. Pam would like to have Thursday night to hold this kind event for next year. Pam hopes that we will keep this in mind.

**Family Friday Night Dance** – Pam feels that this should be done in the venue where the dance is going to be held, not in another room. After much discussion, it was decided that we would allow children in from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. on Friday night for the Panazonian dance. It was decided that a flyer could be developed and given out when members are registering. Pam will develop the flyer, and Tom said that Pam should send the flyer to Bill McLaughlin for approval.

**Reunion Vendors** – Pam asked what the objective of the Vendor Room was. Bill explained that it is where members sell item pertaining to Panama. Pam thought we didn't have many vendors last year. The room last year was much larger than normal but we maintain the same amount of vendors every year. Pam would like to propose that anyone that is a member can sell anything they want as long it is not illegal, whether it comes from Panama or not. Tom doesn't want someone forces themselves on us if we open it up for anything to be sold. Pam feels that it should be something that you can purchase and take it with you.

**Parrot Mascot Costume** – Pam said that at a couple of meetings ago she learned that we had a Parrot Mascot and she is suggesting that we purchase a costume of a Parrott which be used at all our Society events. She found a Parrott costume online and the cost of a costume in the states is about \$2,000.00 and she is trying to get in touch with someone in Panama where she thinks the cost would be between \$300.00 and \$400.00. Tom told Pam to get a firm price and bring it back to the board.

**Inflatable Toy** – Pam is suggesting that we rent an inflatable toy such as a slide. They all have insurance. Tom suggested Saturday afternoon from 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. and the cost would be around \$500.00. Pam would like to see it in place the entire time of the reunion. Tom likes the idea but he feels it should just be a one shot time – not the entire time of the reunion. Tom asked Bill to check with the hotel about placing it in the courtyard near one of the pools and the cost cannot go over \$500.00.

**Good of the Order:**

Tom reminded everyone of the next General Membership Meeting on May 1, 2010 at Troyer's Restaurant in Sarasota and the next Board Meeting would be held on June 12, 2010 at the Society office.

Mike Coffey made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:30 p.m.; it was seconded by Jim Parthenais. Motion carried.

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

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**TOM WILDER**  
**PRESIDENT**