

1966

## Directors' Meeting

Florida Historical Society  
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MINUTES OF THE DIRECTORS' MEETING  
PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

February 12, 1966

The board of directors of the Florida Historical Society met at White Hall, the Henry Morrison Flagler Museum in Palm Beach, on Saturday, February 12, 1966, at 1:00 p.m. with Judge James R. Knott, president, presiding. Present were William Goza, Margaret Chapman, Mrs. Ralph F. Davis, Samuel Proctor, Mary Turner Rule, Charles O. Andrews, James C. Craig, David A. Forshay, Walter P. Fuller, Jay I. Kislak, Frank J. Laumer, Leonard A. Usina, John E. Johns, Herbert J. Doherty, Jr., Frank B. Sessa, and William W. Rogers. Adam G. Adams, representing the Florida Library and Historical Commission, and Walter P. Hellier were also present.

Adam G. Adams, chairman of the nominating committee, reported that his committee was trying to straighten out the new Congressional districts and that a report would be made at the annual meeting. He invited suggestions for new directors to be elected at the meeting in May.

The board discussed the selection of a site for the 1967 annual meeting. Key West, Sarasota, Fernandina Beach, Koreshan State Park in Lee County, and Fort Lauderdale were mentioned as possible sites. William Count, representing the city of Key West and Old Island Restoration Foundation, extended an invitation to the Society to hold the 1967 meeting in Key West. The president appointed Mr. Goza as chairman of the site selection committee.

Mr. Goza gave a brief outline of the proposal to designate five regional vice-presidents from the members of the board of directors. These persons will act as a liaison between the board and the members of the Society; will promote membership and the activities of the Society; and will represent the organization at ceremonies in their own particular areas. Dr. Johns offered a motion for adoption of the proposed regional districts, which was seconded and passed by unanimous vote. The five vice-presidents nominated and elected were William W. Rogers (North-

west Florida), James C. Craig (Northeast Florida), Walter P. Fuller (Central Florida), Mrs. Ralph F. Davis (Southwest Florida), and Leonard Usina (Southeast Florida).

Each director gave a progress report on the junior and senior high school subscriptions to the *Florida Historical Quarterly* in their districts. Mr. Fuller suggested the P. T. A.'s should be approached for funds to purchase the *Quarterly* or that school libraries be urged to include subscriptions in their budgets. Mr. Kislak raised the question of whether individuals contributing to the purchase of the *Quarterly* could take advantage of the provisions of the National Defense Educational Act. Judge Knott suggested that interested persons might make a direct gift to the school system, and then the schools could negotiate the forty-five per cent deduction allowed by the law. Miss Chapman requested the board to direct its attention also to public libraries in Florida. If legislation for state aid, matched with federal funds, could be drafted and introduced by Mr. Adams of the Florida Library and Historical Commission and supported by each director in his district, Miss Chapman thought this might help eliminate part of the problem of securing needed funds for public libraries.

Miss Chapman announced that every Florida school and junior college had been notified of the junior essay contest which the Society sponsors. Forms were mailed in January to the heads of all social science departments. Dr. Rogers and his colleagues in the Department of History at Florida State University will act as essay judges.

Dr. Proctor gave a status report on the Julien Yonge Research Fund. His committee - R. W. Patrick, Miss Chapman, H. J. Doherty, Jr. - recommends that neither the principal nor the interest be utilized until a sum of at least \$15,000 is available. Then only the interest should be used to subsidize the publication of manuscripts accepted by a Board of Editors. Dr. Proctor proposed working out an arrangement with a Florida press to publish historical manuscripts with this subsidy from the Society.

Dr. Proctor suggested that since Dr. Patrick has been more closely identified with the Julien Yonge Fund than any other person, that the Society use his departure from the University of Florida to accept a position at the University of Georgia as a reason to solicit additional monies for the Yonge Fund. Dr.

Proctor and Miss Chapman were asked to draft a letter to be sent to each member to encourage contributions to the Fund. If the \$15,000 goal is soon reached, publication of manuscripts can begin.

Dr. Proctor also informed the board members of a proposed memorial fund to be endowed by the family of the late Dr. Arthur W. Thompson of Gainesville. This endowment would be used to award an annual prize for the best article published in the *Florida Historical Quarterly* each year. Mr. Goza assured the board that under the law of Florida the Society's charter does allow it to accept and utilize such gifts and bequests. Mr. Goza moved that the Florida Historical Society through its duly constituted officers, enter into an appropriate agreement with the donors of the Arthur W. Thompson Memorial Fund. Mr. Fuller seconded the motion, and it carried.

Dr. Johns moved to adopt an appropriate resolution of thanks and appreciation to Dena Snodgrass and Mrs. W. S. Manning of Jacksonville for their services in editing the "Newsletter." Motion was passed by unanimous vote. Dr. Johns moved to ratify the appointment of Dr. William Rogers as editor of the "Newsletter."

Dr. Proctor suggested that at the annual meeting resolutions be read expressing the Society's appreciation for the many contributions of Dr. Rembert W. Patrick and Dr. Dorothy Dodd to the Florida Historical Society and to Florida history. Judge Knott asked Dr. Johns to draft and frame these resolutions.

Mr. Craig reported that a news story on the articles in the Quadricentennial number of the *Quarterly* had been sent to all Florida dailies and that the response had been satisfactory. Mr. Craig will prepare similar releases for each forthcoming issue of the *Quarterly*, and he has agreed to handle all pertinent news relating to the Society's activities.

Mr. Goza reported that for the third consecutive year the Florida Historical Society has increased its membership: 142 new annual, fellow, students, and life members, and 53 libraries for a gross increase of 195. Miss Chapman announced that no person is taken off the membership roll until he has received at least three delinquent dues notices.

Judge Knott reported that letters have been sent to members of the board requesting recommendations for historical marker

sites. He requested the cooperation of the board in compiling a list of marker sites which can be turned over to the Board of State Parks and Historic Memorials.

Judge Knott introduced Walter Hellier, a former director, and called attention to his book *Indian River: Florida's Treasure Coast*. Dr. Proctor announced that the review of Mr. Heller's book by Dr. Charlton Tebeau would appear in the April number of the *Quarterly*. Judge Knott announced that Mr. Fuller's history of St. Petersburg will be completed within the next few months.

Miss Chapman and Dr. Proctor informed the board of a two-day conference of historical societies from the South Atlantic states sponsored by the State and Local Historical Association and the North Carolina Department of Archives to be held in Raleigh, North Carolina on April 15-16.

Mr. Kislak, on behalf of the Historical Association of Southern Florida, invited all members of the Florida Historical Society to an exhibit in Miami of paintings and historical material belonging to Judge Knott's family. Mr. Kislak also informed the board of the current pictorial history of Florida being distributed by the Florida Savings and Loan Association.

Miss Chapman informed the board that Morris E. White of Tampa, a member of the board of directors, had recently received an honorary degree from the University of Tampa.

Dr. Proctor announced that continuing efforts are being made to secure all correspondence of Jefferson Davis and his family to be included in the Jefferson Davis Papers which are now being prepared for publication. Florida has made a contribution to help finance this scholarly project. Dr. Proctor conveyed to the board a message from Dr. Patrick upon the eve of his departure, thanking the board and the Society for the help and cooperation given him during his many years in Florida.

President Knott extended the gracious invitation of Mrs. Marjorie Merriweather Post to the directors to be her guests at a reception at her home, Mar-a-Lago, after the meeting. He then thanked everyone for coming and announced that the board would meet again on Thursday evening, May 5, at Clearwater Beach.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mrs. Ralph Davis  
Recording Secretary