

1971

Minutes of the Directors' Meeting, Florida Historical Society

Florida Historical Society
membership@myfloridahistory.org



Part of the [American Studies Commons](#), and the [United States History Commons](#)

Find similar works at: <https://stars.library.ucf.edu/fhq>

University of Central Florida Libraries <http://library.ucf.edu>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by STARS. It has been accepted for inclusion in Florida Historical Quarterly by an authorized editor of STARS. For more information, please contact STARS@ucf.edu.

Recommended Citation

Society, Florida Historical (1971) "Minutes of the Directors' Meeting, Florida Historical Society," *Florida Historical Quarterly*. Vol. 50 : No. 4 , Article 11.

Available at: <https://stars.library.ucf.edu/fhq/vol50/iss4/11>

MINUTES OF THE DIRECTORS' MEETING
FLORIDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

President James C. Craig convened the semi-annual meeting of the officers and board of directors of the Florida Historical Society at 10:00 a.m., January 8, 1972, in the student union building, Stetson University, DeLand. In addition to the president, the following attended: John E. Johns, Margaret Chapman, Mrs. Milton D. Jones, Mary Jane Kuhl, Samuel Proctor, Audrey Broward, Donald W. Curl, Herbert J. Doherty, Jr., William M. Goza, Byron S. Hollinshead, Milton D. Jones, Eugene Lyon, Thelma Peters, Mrs. O. C. Peterson, Anthony Pizza, Jerrell Shofner, John D. Ware, and Robert W. Williams.

Mrs. Kuhl, executive secretary, submitted the following financial report:

<i>Bank Balances on Hand</i>	
Tampa Federal Savings & Loan Association (Father Jerome Fund)	\$ 3,175.35
Guaranty Federal Savings and Loan Association (Yonge Publication Fund)	13,514.25
Guaranty Federal Savings and Loan Association (Thompson Memorial Fund)	2,871.42
First Federal Savings & Loan Association (Main savings)	9,801.93
University State Bank (Checking Account)	7,597.93
	\$36,960.88

Dr. Proctor, editor, *Florida Historical Quarterly*, reported that the University of Florida is continuing its support of the journal. There were some difficulties with the mailing of the July and October 1971 numbers which caused them to be late. It was noted that historical societies are no longer considered "educational," hence there is no special second-class postage rate for mailing the *Quarterly*. The editor said that the *Quarterly* costs approximately \$1.06 to \$1.19 per issue to produce, exclusive of editorial expense, mailing costs, and expense of the executive secretary's office. Money is being lost under the current dues structure; it costs approximately \$4.25 - \$4.50 just to get the four

issues ready for mailing. The mailing cost for 1,500 copies is approximately \$50.00. Dr. Proctor suggested two alternatives for a better fiscal picture— either raise the dues to \$10.00 per year or increase the number of members to at least 2,000.

John D. Ware, membership chairman, announced that presently the Society has 1,543 members, an increase of twenty-three since the annual meeting in May 1971. Institutional memberships declined during this period from forty per cent to twenty per cent, and the percentage of individual memberships was thus increased. The display stands with application blanks which had been placed by the directors in strategic spots throughout the state had been successful. Letters inviting many state government officials to join were sent, and several joined. He described the display mechanisms aimed at bringing membership applications to the attention of the general public. He also suggested revising the application blank to contain a self-addressed unit which could be returned to the Society's business office. Board members were urged to launch an active membership drive in their communities and to solicit membership by personal appearances, letter writing, and personal solicitation. Mass mailings, publicity releases, display panels, and speakers were other ideas discussed. Mr. Craig reported that application blanks would be enclosed in the next mailing of the Jacksonville Historical Society, and he suggested that information on membership be included in other local historical society mailings. Mr. Pizzo noted that interesting local societies in the state group were an important means of increasing Florida Historical Society membership. Mr. Jones suggested a color brochure giving details about the Society and its activities. It was noted that the newspapers have not been cooperative in picking up Society releases, but spot announcements have been broadcast over radio and television. Dr. Curl suggested the possibility of local societies collecting dues for the Florida Historical Society at the time of their own dues collection. Local committees to encourage membership were discussed, and Senator Williams pointed out the need of a follow-up to membership solicitations. Captain Ware emphasized that the entire board constitute an active membership committee to be spurred on by the president. Mr. Jones moved that the application form be revised to include a brochure (with a self-addressed return envelope) describing the many offerings of the Society. The motion passed.

Senator Williams was appointed co-chairman on the membership committee, and he said that he would visit local historical groups in his area before May to promote membership. He suggested that other board members do the same for their own areas. Captain Ware and Dr. Proctor will consult with Pat Dodson of Pensacola to see if his advertising agency would revise the membership application forms.

Dr. Johns suggested seeking contributions, particularly from industry, in addition to soliciting personal memberships. Mr. Jones emphasized the importance of stabilizing immediately the financial condition of the Society. He called for the immediate reactivation of the finance committee so that it could investigate ways to fund the organization and to develop comprehensive plans for the future. Dr. Proctor called on the president to reorganize a statewide membership committee with the regional vice presidents coordinating the efforts.

Dr. Peterson suggested having one person in each geographic area of the state responsible for supplying releases to the press. Releases based on articles from the *Florida Historical Quarterly* should be sent out. It was noted in passing that no newspapers presently hold membership in the Florida Historical Society.

Captain Ware reported on the cost of reprinting issues of the *Quarterly*. Thirty-five issues were under consideration; the cost of reprinting 100 issues of each would be \$6,475.00. Miss Chapman noted that the first twenty-three volumes are available on microfilm and that libraries tend to prefer purchasing microfilm. Because of financial considerations, Captain Ware moved that the project of reprinting be delayed. This was approved.

Dr. Proctor said that the Historical Association of Southern Florida has offered to sell a quantity of back issues of *Quarterlies* to the Society. Dr. Proctor was asked to negotiate the purchase.

Mr. Craig called for approval of the minutes of the May 1971 board meeting as published in the October 1971 number of the *Florida Historical Quarterly*. The motion was approved.

Under new business Senator Williams described the experimental program on adult education on humanities in Florida established by the National Endowment for the Humanities. The program will develop means of making the contributions of the academic humanists available to the public. The theme is "Man in the 70's," emphasizing such items as coping with change in the

family and community. Senator Williams suggested that the Florida Historical Society participate in the program. Dr. Proctor pointed out the needs of establishing more liaison between the Florida Historical Society and local and regional historical groups. The Florida Historical Society has a responsibility to encourage local programs and to offer guidance wherever possible. Growth and development in Florida is destroying much of the physical evidences of Florida history and there is an emerging need to encourage preservation. Dr. Proctor suggested seeking a grant under the program as outlined by Senator Williams to call a state-wide meeting in the fall of 1972 with all the local historical societies and commissions. The academic humanists could be brought into this meeting, with the Florida Historical Society coordinating the services. Dr. Hollinshead was appointed chairman of a committee to draw up a proposal for the state humanities committee requesting funds on a matching basis for a conference.

The president announced that he had received a letter from Randy F. Nimnicht, historic preservationist of the Florida Division of Archives, History, and Records Management, concerning an historic preservation program. One aspect of this program is to compile an inventory of sites, buildings, structures, and districts of significance to Florida history, architecture, and archaeology. Support from local societies and groups is essential. It was suggested that the Florida Historical Society organize a committee on historic sites with which he could communicate and provide assistance. Senator Williams explained the program further and emphasized its importance. Mr. Jones moved that the Society support this program, and that the president appoint a committee on historic sites from the general membership of the Society, as he may be advised, consisting of one chairman and at least two members who shall be requested to report their efforts to the Board at its next meeting. The motion was adopted.

Mr. Lyon, on behalf of the Indian River Historical Commission and other historic groups in the area, invited the Florida Historical Society to hold its 1973 annual meeting at Fort Pierce. The Port St. Lucie Hilton will serve as convention headquarters. The invitation was accepted.

The group adjourned at 12:30 p.m. and attended a luncheon, hosted by Dr. and Mrs. Johns, in the presidents' dining room

at the University. Mr. Craig thanked Dr. Johns for his efforts in making the meeting such a pleasant occasion. The president also reported on the annual meeting which will be held in Jacksonville at the Robert Meyer Hotel on May 11-12, 1972. Miss Dena Snodgrass and Dr. Charlton Tebeau are serving as program chairmen. The Jacksonville Historical Society is the host organization. The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
ALVA L. JONES
Recording Secretary

GREAT EXPECTATIONS.

1972

April 5-8	Organization of American Historians	Washington, D.C.
May 11-13	FLORIDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY – 79th ANNUAL MEETING	Robert Meyer Hotel Jacksonville
May 18-20	Florida American Revolution Bicentennial Commission Symposium: “Eighteenth Century Florida and Its Borderlands”	University of Florida
Sept. 19-22	American Association for State and Local History	Providence, R.I.
Oct. 26-29	National Trust for Historic Preservation	Washington, D.C.
Nov. 10-11	National Oral History Colloquium	Austin, Texas
Nov. 15-18	Southern Historical Association	Hollywood, Fla.