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MINUTES OF THE DIRECTORS' MEETING

Florida Historical Society

President Thelma Peters convened the semi-annual Board of Directors meeting of the Florida Historical Society at the library headquarters of the Florida Historical Society, the University of South Florida, Tampa, on December 11, 1976, at 10 a.m. Luis Arana, George E. Buker, William S. Coker, Lewis H. Cresse, Jr., Jay B. Dobkin, Linda V. Ellsworth, Marian Godown, Sue Goldman, William M. Goza, Milton D. Jones, John K. Mahon, Randy Nimnicht, Arva M. Parks, Samuel Proctor, Jerrell H. Shofner, Robert W. Williams, and J. Leitch Wright, Jr. were present. Richmond I. Barge, Marcia Kanner, Harry A. Kersey, Jr., and Frederic G. Winter were absent. The president introduced Dr. Arana, Dr. Coker, Mrs. Goldman, Mr. Williams, and Dr. Wright as new board members. Mrs. Margaret Burgess of the Society staff was also present.

The minutes of the December 13, 1975 board meeting, as published in the July 1976 (Volume LV, No. 1) issue of the *Florida Historical Quarterly* and the May 6, 1976 board meeting, as published in the October 1976 (Volume LV, No. 2) issue of the *Quarterly*, were approved as printed. Mr. Dobkin, executive secretary, presented the financial report, As of November 30, 1976, the Society's current assets amounted to \$58,961.99, and its fixed assets were \$436.40, giving a total net worth of \$59,398.39. Mr. Dobkin recommended that the shares of Affiliated Fund owned by the Society be liquidated if the donor had placed no restrictions on the gift. This request was approved.

Membership in the Society has remained stable since the last report at the annual meeting in May 1976. A new staff policy of sending second-reminders to members who have not renewed their membership has proved somewhat successful, as have letters inviting former members to rejoin the Society. Mr. Dobkin reported that Mrs. Charles H. Carter, Alice M. Fitch, and The Wentworth Foundation, Inc., made contributions to the Society's general fund. Mr. and Mrs. John Dubois gave to the Father Jerome Memorial Fund to purchase books for the library. Fifteen volumes have been added to the collection. In addition, the library received 101 manuscripts and 511 books and

pamphlets from the American Foundrymens Society, Warren Green Baird, Jr., John A. Clegg, Dr. William Coker, William Dayton, J. B. Dobkin, Fort Lauderdale Historical Society, Margaret Zeller Garrett, Marian Godown, Hallandale Historical Society, Mrs. Earl Hartman, Dr. William C. Haskett, Mrs. Helen Hastings, B. F. Inman, Iowa State Historical Society, Kyle S. Van Landingham, Anthony P. Pizzo, St. Augustine Historical Society, St. Lucie Historical Society, Sentinel Star Company, S. George Trager, University of Florida Press, and the Utah Historical Society. The approximately 100 manuscripts from S. George Trager consist of valuable documents relating to the Second Seminole War. The gift of books and serials from Mrs. Earl Hartman were from her sister's estate. Dr. Peters commended Mr. Dobkin for his services to the Society.

Although the Society's goal is to increase its membership to 2,000, Dr. Mahon reported that membership stands at 1,635 as of December 1, 1976. Mr. Dobkin suggested that copies of two special issues of the *Florida Historical Quarterly*, the Osceola and the St. Augustine Quadricentennial issues, be offered to the first 100 new or gift memberships, one for the \$10.00 membership or both for a \$20.00 or more membership. This was approved. Mr. Goza offered the following resolution: the Board recommend to the membership in May a change in the fee structure to include a family membership (member and spouse) for a minimum of \$15.00. The resolution passed.

Dr. Wright suggested that before May each director distribute 100 membership brochures, either personally or by letter. According to Mrs. Burgess, the Society will need to reprint the membership brochures soon. Since very few members of the legislature or the executive office belong to the Society, Mr. Goza recommended that copies of the special Bicentennial issue of the *Quarterly* be presented to members of the state Cabinet along with an invitation to join the Society.

Dr. Coker reported on the Panton Leslie Papers publication project. He is editor of the project. Now that the active collection phase is completed, work on a finding guide is underway, and a narrative volume will be published in 1978. The National Historical Publications Commission has agreed to subsidize up to \$10,000 of the publication costs of the projected three volumes of documents.

Dr. Proctor, editor of the *Quarterly*, reported that the publication is appearing on schedule, and he continues to maintain a backlog of articles. He commended Painter Printing Company for the high quality of its work and its continuing attitude of cooperation and support. The question of making the Society's mailing list available to other groups came up for discussion. Mr. Nimnicht moved that mailing labels from the Society's membership list be provided on a three-tier basis: to nonprofit organizations that meet the general concerns of Florida history, on a free or cost basis; to commercial enterprises that also meet the general interests of Society members; and to commercial enterprises in general. The Executive Secretary will be empowered to determine which tier and to negotiate charges. The Division of Archives, History, and Records Management, Department of State, will be exempt from all of these categories. The motion carried. The board also authorized Dr. Proctor to negotiate with authors who are interested in reprinting articles from the *Quarterly* for resale.

According to Dr. Peters who reported for Mrs. Elizabeth Ehrbar, a Confederation of Historical Societies workshop is scheduled for January 21-22, 1977, in Tallahassee. The non-member participation fee will be \$10. The board authorized expenditure of up to \$100 for the workshop. Of the 150 agencies in the state, only fourteen are now members of the Confederation: American Society of Civil Engineers, Dade County Historical Society, Jacksonville Historical Society, Dunedin Historical Society, Fort Lauderdale Historical Society, Historic Gainesville, Inc., Historical Association and Museum of Southern Florida, Palm Beach Historical Society, Peninsular Archaeological Society, Pinellas County Historical Commission, Pinellas County Historical Society, St. Augustine Historical Society, St. Lucie Historical Society, and the Sarasota County Historical Commission. Dr. Peters directed Mr. Dobkin and Mr. Camp to contact the Division of Archives, History, and Records Management for assistance in publishing a directory of historical societies in Florida that they are compiling. Dr. Shofner reported for Dr. Tom Greenhaw, editor of the Society's *Newsletter*, that the next issue will appear in February. The board recommended that the *Newsletter* be published three times a

year, alternating with the *Quarterly*. Dr. Proctor commended Dr. Greenhaw for his work with the *Newsletter*.

Mr. Goza explained the expanded publication program made possible by a \$7,500 grant from the Wentworth Foundation. The committee (Goza, Proctor, and Jones) propose the publication of a facsimile of some rare, useful volume of Floridiana. Until a final decision is made, the grant, which was established as a revolving fund to provide on-going support for Society publications, is in an interest bearing account.

Dr. Shofner announced that the index of the *Quarterly*, volumes 36 through 53, was completed and 3,000 copies have been published. The committee (Shofner, Proctor, and Jones) recommended and the Board approved a sale price of \$12.50 per copy. Mr. Goza commended Dr. Shofner and the editor, Dr. Karen Singh of Florida State University, for their work in preparing this volume. Since no copies of the first volume of the Index (volumes 1 through 35 of the *Quarterly*) remain, Dr. Coker suggested that the Society investigate the cost of a facsimile reprint.

Mr. Williams thanked the Society for its assistance in efforts to save the Florida Capitol. He stated that more help was urgently needed. It was suggested that all members write to members of the legislature and to secure needed editorial support from newspapers. Public pressure is needed to help save the building. The Florida Historical Society has already written over 530 letters to members of the legislature seeking support.

The Board encouraged Mrs. Godown to investigate further the possibility of reinstating an annual prize for the best historical reporting by the news media. She will seek ways to fund the prize, and will consider nomination and selection procedures. A report will be made to the Board in May 1977.

Dr. Peters reported for Dr. Thomas Graham of Flagler College and Dr. Michael Gannon of the University of Florida on program plans for the annual meeting to be held in St. Augustine, May 6-7, 1977. The program is complete. The banquet speaker will be Dr. Paul Albury, president of the Bahamas Historical Society. According to Dr. Overton Ganong, local arrangements chairman, headquarters for the meeting will be the Ponce de Leon Motor Court. Additional activities will

be the Confederation workshop scheduled for May 5 and the semi-annual meeting of the Board of Directors.

Dr. Peters requested that board members forward suggestions for new board members to the nominating committee, made up of Judge James Knott, Marty Grafton, Eugene Lyon, Mildred Fryman, and William Coker. Service and support of the Society were suggested as major criteria for recommendations for new board members. Dr. Proctor suggested that the Board re-evaluate the "districting" of the Society used for selection of directors.

Mr. Dobkin reported that the inventory of artifacts that have been given to the Society over the years is underway. No artifacts will be recalled, but formal loan agreements with other organizations will be negotiated. Maps, prints, or art works which could be incorporated into the Society's collections might be resecured.

Dr. Proctor moved that the president be reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred in office. The motion passed.

Dr. Peters thanked the directors for their attendance and Mr. Dobkin and Mrs. Burgess for making arrangements for the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda V. Ellsworth
Recording Secretary

GREAT EXPECTATIONS.
1977

April 1-2	Florida College Teachers of History Conference	Hillsborough Community College, Tampa
April 6-9	Organization of American Historians Meeting	Atlanta
May 5	Florida Confederation of Historical Societies– Workshop	St. Augustine
May 6-7	FLORIDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY– 75th ANNUAL MEETING	St. Augustine
Sept. 27-30	American Association for State and Local History	Charleston, South Carolina
Oct. 4-7	Society of American Archivists	Salt Lake City, Utah
Oct. 20-23	Oral History Association	San Diego, California
Nov. 9-12	Southern Historical Association	New Orleans, Louisiana

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- ☐ Memorial membership- \$350
- ☐ Check or money order enclosed
- ☐ Cash enclosed

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