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Directors' Meeting, December 10, 1977

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MINUTES OF THE DIRECTORS' MEETING

Florida Historical Society

President Thelma Peters called to order the semi-annual meeting of the Board of Directors of the Florida Historical Society at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 10, 1977, in the Florida Historical Society Library, University of South Florida Library, Tampa. Dr. Peters welcomed Peter Klingman, O. C. Peterson, Chris LaRoche, Janet S. Matthews, and Nancy Dobson as new members of the board. Also present were Jerrell H. Shofner, Milton D. Jones, Samuel Proctor, William S. Coker, Robert W. Williams, Sue Goldman, Marcia Kanner, Harry A. Kersey, Jr., J. Leitch Wright, Linda V. Ellsworth, and Jay B. Dobkin. Board members Frederic Winter, Marian Godown, Arva Moore Parks, John Mahon, and Herbert Doherty, Jr., were absent. Mrs. Margaret Burgess of the Society staff and Thomas Greenhaw, editor of the Society's *Newsletter* also attended.

The board approved the minutes of the May 5, 1977, Board of Directors' meeting and the May 6, 1977, annual business meeting held in St. Augustine as they were published in the *Florida Historical Quarterly*, LVI (October 1977).

Mr. Dobkin, executive secretary, gave the Society's financial report, showing a total net worth of \$59,852.67 as of October 30, 1977. Current assets amount to \$59,526.67 and fixed assets, \$326.00. The income from membership was \$9,975.00; the Wentworth Foundation, Inc., \$1,000.00; sale of the *Quarterly*, \$4,172.24; and the remainder interest from the savings accounts. Major disbursements were for publishing the *Florida Historical Quarterly*, the *Newsletter*, the annual convention, and library acquisitions. Disbursements amounted to \$15,597.28.

Mr. Dobkin also reported that researchers make continuing use of the Society's library collections, particularly manuscripts and photographs. The board authorized increased expenditures for serials and books already on order for the Society's library and asked that a budget for additional purchases be submitted at the May 1978 board meeting. Contributions were made this past year to the Father Jerome Fund by Louise Dahr Wark, Marian Godown, and Mrs. John Dubois. Books, manuscripts, photographs, and postcards were received from the East Hillsborough Historical Society, Glen Dill, Jay Dobkin, Dr. Frederick Ebersson,

Marian Godown, Dr. Harold Meyer, Donald L. Kemmerer, Ralph K. Potter, Lillian Wilson, Eula Mae Snider, McHenry County (Illinois) Historical Society, Fort Lauderdale Historical Society, Pensacola Historical Society, Waukesha County (Wisconsin) Museum, University Presses of Florida, and the American Revolution Bicentennial Commission of Florida. The board also voted to increase the price to \$15.00 for each roll of microfilm of past issues of the *Quarterly* ordered from the Society. Mr. Dobkin reported that the *Directory of Florida Historical Societies* is being updated, and he asked for the names of any groups that are not now listed.

Dr. J. Leitch Wright, chairman of the membership committee, reported that Society membership numbers 1,708 as of November 30, 1977, a small decline of thirty-seven since April 1977. Dr. Wright is formulating plans for a statewide membership drive and will furnish more information at the annual meeting. Board members were urged to continue contacting delinquent members in their districts, since this seems to be an effective method of encouraging members to renew.

Robert Williams reported on the continuing efforts to save the Historic Capitol in Tallahassee. Board members were asked to contact their legislators and to encourage others in their area to show strong support for preserving the building.

The *Florida Historical Quarterly* is continuing publication on schedule, according to Dr. Proctor's report. A motion was made and passed to increase the editor's expense item \$220 to a total of \$1,000. Dr. Proctor reported for William Goza and the Publications Committee, which also includes Milton Jones as a member. The Wentworth Foundation grant will be used probably for publication of a facsimile of a needed Florida volume. Dr. Coker reported on the progress of the collecting and publishing of the papers of the Panton-Leslie Company.

Reporting for Mrs. Elizabeth Ehrbar, chairperson of the Florida Confederation of Historical Societies, Dr. Peters announced that a workshop will be held in Pensacola on Thursday, May 4, 1978, at the time of the annual meeting. It was recommended that the Confederation hold workshops in other parts of the state in 1979.

Professor Thomas Greenhaw distributed copies of the most recent issue of the *Florida History Newsletter* which he edits. He

announced that the *Newsletter* would begin coming out three times a year: March, August, and December. Membership in the Confederation is still small, and board members were urged to encourage societies in their district to join.

Dr. Wright reported on the program that he and Dr. Lucius Ellsworth have arranged for the annual meeting in Pensacola, May 5 and 6, 1978. Mrs. Ellsworth reported on local arrangements for committee chairman, James W. Moody, Jr. The Sheraton Inn will be the headquarters for the meeting. Marjory Stoneman Douglas of Coconut Grove will be the banquet speaker, and a special guest will be Carita Doggett Corse of Jacksonville. Mrs. Corse directed the Federal Writers Project for the state of Florida during the 1930s.

The board was informed that the three Florida Media Prizes for excellence in historical writing had been selected from sixty entries representing twenty-six newspapers. Dr. Michael Gannon of the University of Florida served as judge, and the Florida Press Association provided brass plaques. Awards went to *Clewiston News* (first place) for a series on the hurricane of 1926; *Tampa Tribune* to Ed Dietz for articles on Ybor City (second place); and to Dick Bussard of the *Jacksonville Journal* (third place). Honorable mention went to the *Wildwood Herald*, *Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel*, and the *Palm Beach Post-Times*. The board expressed interest in continuing this program in conjunction with the Press Association, but pointed out the need of being more involved in the review and selection process.

The board appointed the following nominating committee to report in May: Milton D. Jones, chairman, George E. Buker, Olive Peterson, Marjorie Patterson, and Janice Miller. The Board approved Palm Beach as the site for the 1979 annual meeting and Winter Park for 1980.

Dr. Peters thanked the directors for their support of the Society and herself as president during this past year. She also expressed the appreciation of the board to Mr. Dobkin and Mrs. Burgess for making arrangements for the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda V. Ellsworth
Recording Secretary

GREAT EXPECTATIONS.

1978

May 3	Florida Confederation of Pensacola Historical Societies- Workshop	
May 5-6	FLORIDA HISTORI- CAL SOCIETY-76th ANNUAL MEETING	Pensacola
Sept. 19-23	American Association for State and Local History Annual Meeting	Springfield, Illinois
Oct. 3-6	Society of American Archivists Annual Meeting	Nashville, Tennessee
Oct. 5-6	Gulf Coast History and Humanities Conference	Pensacola
Oct. 11-15	National Trust for Historic Preservation Annual Meeting	Chicago
Oct. 19-22	Oral History Association Annual Workshop and Colloquium	Savannah
Nov. 8-11	Southern Historical Association Annual Meeting	St. Louis
Nov. 15-18	Society for the History of Discoveries Annual Meeting	University of Florida, Gainesville

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