

1978

Directors' Meeting, December 9, 1978

Florida Historical Society
membership@myfloridahistory.org



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MINUTES OF THE DIRECTORS' MEETING

Florida Historical Society

President Jerrell H. Shofner called to order the meeting of the board of directors of the Florida Historical Society at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 9, 1978, in the University of South Florida Library, Tampa, Florida. In addition to the president, those present included Nancy Dobson, Herbert J. Doherty, Jr., Linda Ellsworth, E. Ashby Hammond, Marcia Kanner, Hayes L. Kennedy, Peter D. Klingman, Wright Langley, Chris LaRoche, John K. Mahon, Janet S. Matthews, Thomas Mickler, Vernon Peeples, Thelma Peters, O. C. Peterson, Olive Peterson, Samuel Proctor, and J. Leitch Wright, Jr. Dr. Thomas Greenhow, editor of the *Florida History Newsletter*; Robert C. Harris, representing the Confederation of Florida Historical Societies; Jay B. Dobkin, executive secretary; and Margaret Burgess of the Society staff also attended. W. Robert Williams and Sue Goldman were absent.

The board approved the minutes of the meeting of the board of directors held May 4, 1978, as they were published in the *Florida Historical Quarterly*, LVII (October 1978), 256-60.

Jay Dobkin presented the Society's financial report. It shows a net worth of \$69,417.71, as of November 30, 1978. Current assets are \$60,008.71, and fixed assets, \$326.00. Income from membership was \$10,567.50. Mr. Dobkin noted the gift of \$1,000 from The Wentworth Foundation, Inc., and gifts to the Father Jerome book acquisition fund. Major disbursements were for publishing the *Florida Historical Quarterly* and the *Florida History Newsletter*, for expenses for the annual convention, and for book acquisitions. Disbursements amounted to \$16,667.09. Mr. Dobkin reported that the Society is selling its Pennzoil United shares at the request of the company and at its offering price of \$1,000. This amount will be deposited in the Julien Yonge Publication Fund.

Mr. Dobkin also reported on the status of the Society's library and on the cost of maintaining the acquisition of all

scholarly publications relating to Florida. He has compared the card catalogue against catalogues listing all imprint publications, and the Society's library is current. It will cost approximately \$500 to maintain this condition. Dr. Proctor moved and Mr. Mickler seconded the motion that the librarian be authorized to spend up to \$500 annually to purchase additional volumes for the library. The motion carried.

Dr. Shofner announced that an inventory will be made of Society property (furniture, artifacts, art, etc.) loaned to other state and private agencies. Dr. Proctor reported that there are items at the Florida State Museum, in Jacksonville, at the Stetson University Library, and in St. Augustine. These items include two Audubon prints loaned to Stetson; a bed once belonging to George Fairbanks and now in the Rawlings House near Gainesville; a painting by James Bard at the Florida State Museum; and an etching at the Kingsley Plantation House. Marcia Kanner was appointed chairperson of the inventory committee, and Linda Ellsworth will assist her with the project.

Dr. Shofner asked if there was a catalogue of the Society's manuscript collections. This information is available, according to Mr. Dobkin, but the list for book holdings is not complete. He reported on the interest of the University of West Florida library in developing a union list of manuscript holdings. Until that is completed, Mr. Dobkin recommended that a list of the major manuscript collections belonging to the Society be printed in the *Florida Historical Quarterly* to assist researchers.

Wright Langley recommended several matters for discussion. He suggested that a list of volunteer researchers be compiled. These volunteers, persons living in various parts of the state, would do minor research tasks in their area for other Society members. Volunteers will be sought through notices in the *Quarterly* and *Newsletter*, and a report will be made at the next meeting of the board. Mr. Langley also suggested the development of portable exhibits and slide presentations which could be made available for schools or for public meetings. These exhibits would describe the society and its objectives, and it would utilize the Society's collections. Dr. Shofner appointed Mr. Langley to chair a committee to consider the feasibility and cost. Mrs. LaRoche and Mr. Dobkin will also serve on this com-

mittee. Mr. Langley recommended that the Society adopt an easily recognized logo. After lengthy discussion, Mr. Peoples moved and Dr. Proctor seconded the motion to appoint a three-person committee to recommend a design to the board. The motion passed. Dr. Shofner will ask Marty Grafton of Coral Gables to serve on this committee. Mrs. Grafton designed the Society's membership brochures.

According to the report of Dr. Leitch Wright, membership in the Society has declined by sixty-three since May. Total membership stands at 1,652. There was much discussion about the need to retain current members. Problems relating to the annual meeting, the possibility of publishing a magazine of popular history, of providing materials for Florida history teachers, and of developing other services were analyzed as they relate to membership. Ms. Matthews reported on a project being tried in Sarasota County. Twenty-four school libraries have been selected to receive subscriptions to the *Florida Historical Quarterly*. Subscriptions will be provided by local individuals and businesses. All board members were again urged to write or telephone individuals whose membership has lapsed. Other suggestions were made for increasing membership and for making the Society's services known to a larger group.

Dr. Proctor reported that the *Florida Historical Quarterly* is making satisfactory progress. He stressed the need for scholarly articles to be submitted; his backlog of manuscripts has declined. He expressed a particular interest in manuscripts dealing with twentieth-century Florida, women, and ethnic groups.

Robert Harris, chairman of the Confederation of Florida Historical Societies, reported that seventy-three organizations are now affiliated. The goal is 100 members by May 1979. The Confederation workshop held in Largo in November 1978, was very successful. Seventy-three persons, representing twenty-nine agencies, registered. Plans are underway now for another workshop to be held in May 1979, at the time of the annual meeting in West Palm Beach. Dr. Harris noted that the Confederation is considering serving as a clearing house for the loan or exchange of artifacts.

Dr. Thomas Greenhaw, editor of the *Florida History Newsletter*, reported the January issue is at the printer, and that

succeeding issues will be expanded to eight pages. The *Newsletter* is being mailed to about 1,800 individuals and organizations. Dr. Greenhaw reported that the Barnett Bank of Winter Park will underwrite the cost of printing the April 1979 issue of the *Newsletter*, and he urged that other donors be sought by members of the board.

The nominating committee for 1979 is composed of Nancy Dobson, chairperson, with William M. Goza, Marcia Kanner, William Adams, and George Pearce as members. Mrs. Dobson called for recommendations for nominations to the board from Districts 1, 3, and 4, and for one at-large member.

Dr. Shofner reported on the plans for the annual meeting in West Palm Beach, May 3-5, 1979. Ms. Arva Parks is program chairperson. The local arrangements committee, chaired by Dr. Jerry Weeks, is planning a reception at Whitehall and tours of several Palm Beach homes. Mrs. Burgess requested that all material to be included in the two programs be in her office by February 1, 1979.

It was announced that Dr. Glenn Westfall of the Tampa Historical Society will be leading group tours to Spain and Mexico during 1979. Anyone interested is invited to contact him at Hillsborough Community College in Tampa. Dr. Proctor, reporting for Dr. William Coker, noted that the first volume of the Panton, Leslie and Company Papers should go to press in 1979. Dr. Coker is editor of the project.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
LINDA V. ELLSWORTH
Recording Secretary

G**REAT EXPECTATIONS.**
1979

May 3	Florida Confederation of Historical Societies- Workshop	West Palm Beach
May 4-5	FLORIDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY - 77th ANNUAL MEETING	West Palm Beach
June 3-7	American Association of Museums	Cleveland, Ohio
Sept. 18-21	American Association for State and Local History	Tucson, Arizona
Sept. 25-28	Society of American Archivists	Chicago
Oct. 3-7	National Trust for Historic Preservation	San Francisco
Oct. 25-28	Oral History Association Workshop and Colloquium	East Lansing, Michigan
Nov. 14-17	Southern Historical Association	Washington
Dec. 28-30	American Historical Association	New York City