

1979

Directors' Meeting, December 1, 1979

Florida Historical Society
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MINUTES OF THE DIRECTORS MEETING

Florida Historical Society

President Jerrell Shofner called the meeting of the board of directors of the Florida Historical Society to order at 10:00 a.m., Saturday, December 1, 1979, at the Florida Historical Society Library, University of South Florida, Tampa. Present were Jay B. Dobkin, Herbert J. Doherty, Jr., Linda V. Ellsworth, Lucius F. Ellsworth, Paul S. George, Thomas Graham, E. A. Hammond, Wright Langley, Christian LaRoche, John Mahon, Janet Snyder Matthews, Thomas Mickler, Vernon Peeples, Olive Peterson, O. E. Peterson, Samuel Proctor, Paul Wehr, and Linda Williams. Margaret Burgess of the Society staff, Thomas Greenhaw, editor of the Society's *Newsletter*, and Paul Camp were also present. Nancy Dobson, Hayes L. Kennedy, and Thelma Peters were absent.

The board unanimously approved the minutes of the May 3, 1979 board meeting in West Palm Beach, as they were published in the *Florida Historical Quarterly*, LVIII (October 1979), 513-16.

Jay Dobkin, executive secretary, presented the semi-annual operational report for the Society, covering the period April 1, 1979, through October 31, 1979. The report did not include payment for printing the October 1979 issue of the *Quarterly* since the bank account was not sufficient to cover the bill. It shows current assets of \$63,293.36; fixed assets, \$126.00; and net worth, \$63,419.36. Income from memberships for the period was \$8,063.50, a decline from the previously reported period for 1978-1979. The total contributions were \$1,180, including the gift of \$1,000 from the Wentworth Foundation, Inc. Disbursements amounted to \$14,126.35. Major expenses were printing and mailing the *Florida Historical Quarterly*, printing and mailing the *Newsletter*, and the annual convention. According to Mr. Dobkin, the present rate of renewals and new memberships indicates that probably there will be a cash shortage also to pay for publication of the January issue. The Society realized a net income of only \$882.33 for the period reported. Lucius Ellsworth made a motion, seconded by Thomas Mickler, that the president be authorized to appoint a committee to recommend the conversion of

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Society funds to higher income-producing accounts. The board approved this unanimously. President Shofner set up a committee composed of Hayes L. Kennedy, Clearwater; Milton Jones, Clearwater; and Jay B. Dobkin, executive secretary of the Society. The committee was also asked to make a recommendation on the disposition of six shares of Mid-South Utilities stock that were a gift to the Society. Dr. Shofner also appointed a committee to examine the long-range financial structure of the Society, including membership, donations, and endowments, etc. Members include Lucius F. Ellsworth, Pensacola; Randy Nimmicht, Miami; Vernon Peeples, Punta Gorda; Milton Jones, Clearwater; and Hayes L. Kennedy, Clearwater.

Samuel Proctor, editor of the *Florida Historical Quarterly*, reported that E. O. Painter Printing Co. had notified him of a cost increase for publishing the journal. Dr. Proctor stated that there has been a recent decline in the number of articles being submitted for consideration, and that many of those sent in are of poor quality-inadequately researched and carelessly written. This is not a situation peculiar to the *Florida Historical Quarterly*; it is being experienced by state historical journals throughout the country. Dr. Proctor reported that the January issue will be printed and mailed on schedule. Cost for the *Florida History Newsletter*, according to the editor, Dr. Thomas Greenhaw, are increasing. During the past year a \$350 contribution was received from the Barnett Bank-Winter Park, but other funds are needed.

The Florida Historical Confederation owes the Society for issues of the *Newsletter* and for a revenue loss from the oral history workshop held in Largo in August 1979. The Confederation currently has a membership of approximately sixty organizations. Plans for a February 1980 workshop in Gainesville have been cancelled, but there will be a workshop in May 1980 in Winter Park in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Society. The program for this workshop has not been finalized. Dr. Proctor made a motion, seconded by Herbert J. Doherty, Jr., that the vice-president of the Florida Historical Society serve as the liaison to the Florida Historical Confederation and help supervise its activities and that the president of the Confederation serve as an ex-officio member of the board of directors of the Florida Historical Society and be invited to attend board meetings. The motion was carried.

The board discussed the progress of the project to inventory artifacts, art and art objects, memorabilia, and other items belonging to the Society. Mr. Dobkin was instructed to circulate to the board and all former officers a list of items that Marcia Kanner and Linda Ellsworth developed from past issues of the *Florida Historical Quarterly*. A follow-up report was requested for the May 1980 board meeting indicating what items had been located and their location and what items were still not identified.

Wright Langley displayed the drawings and plans developed by Milo Smith & Associates for an exhibit unit prototype for the Society. Dr. Proctor made a motion, seconded by Janet Snyder Matthews, that one unit be assembled to be displayed at the annual meeting in Winter Park and that a travel schedule be compiled. Jay Dobkin, Wright Langley, and James MacBeth were appointed to serve on a committee to assemble the exhibit. The board approved the motion. Mrs. Matthews suggested that the unit could work as an effective tool for membership recruitment. Mr. Langley will report on the logo and the voluntary researcher program at the May 1980 meeting.

Dr. Lucius Ellsworth recommended that the Society attempt to kindle enthusiasm for local and state history in middle and high school students through establishment of a junior historian program. He recommended appointment of a committee to investigate the feasibility of establishing a junior historian program in Florida, or alternate ways for stimulating the interest of young people. Dr. Ellsworth's motion, seconded by Mrs. LaRoche, was approved by the board.

President Shofner reported that Dr. J. Leitch Wright had resigned as chairman of the membership committee and that Dr. Paul George would replace him. Current membership totals about 1,625, of which approximately 1,100 are individual members and the remainder institutional members. Dr. Ellsworth suggested that each board member be sent a printout of all members in his district to aid in recruitment activities. Mrs. Ellsworth commented that the American Association for State and Local History was receiving positive response to letters asking why individuals were not renewing their membership and that this was a technique that might be used by the Society in determining needs of the membership.

A report from the nominating committee was given by co-

chair Janet Snyder Matthews. Other committee members are Marcia Kanner, Miami, co-chair; Dena Snodgrass, Jacksonville; Helen Ellerbe, Gainesville; and Milton Jones, Clearwater. Mrs. Matthews reminded the board members that in May 1980, vacancies on the board of directors will occur in Districts 1, 2, 4, and At-Large. The offices of president, vice-president, president-elect, and recording secretary will also be filled. At that time, she urged board members to make recommendations to the committee.

Dr. Shofner reported that the Society had been invited to Fort Lauderdale for their annual meeting in 1982. Mrs. LaRoche made a motion, seconded by O. C. Peterson, to accept this invitation. The motion passed unanimously. Future meeting sites are Winter Park in 1980, and Clearwater-St. Petersburg in 1981.

Several items were noted from recent correspondence. Mrs. Linehan of West Palm Beach requested that a local history session be added to each annual meeting program. The president noted that this has always been a part of each annual meeting, but that future program committee members will be encouraged to continue this practice. Mrs. Barber felt that book display facilities at the 1979 annual meeting were not adequate. This matter will be brought to the attention of local arrangement committee members for consideration in future meeting plans.

On the question of auditing the Society's financial records, Mr. Mickler made the motion, seconded by Dr. Mahon, that an audit be postponed until there is a change in personnel. The motion passed.

Dr. Wehr, representing the local arrangements committee, and Dr. Thomas Graham, co-chairman of the program committee, reported on plans for the 1980 annual meeting in Winter Park. Headquarters will be in the Langford Hotel. Dr. Graham stated that program topics will cover tourism, preservation, and minority groups.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
LINDA V. ELLSWORTH
Recording Secretary

GREAT EXPECTATIONS.
1980

April 24-26	Florida College Teachers of History	University of South Florida
April 30- May 1	Florida Confederation of Historical Societies- Workshop	Winter Park
May 2-3	FLORIDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY- 78th MEETING	Winter Park
June 8-13	American Association of Museums	Boston
Sept. 7-10	American Association for State and Local History	New Orleans
Sept. 30- Oct. 3	Society of American Archivists	Cincinnati
Oct. 2-4	Oral History Association Workshop and Colloquium	Durango, Colorado
Oct. 8-12	National Trust for Historic Preservation	New York
Nov. 12-15	Southern Historical Association	Atlanta
Nov. 21-23	Southern Jewish Historical Society	Jacksonville
Dec. 27-31	American Historical Association	Washington, D.C.