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MINUTES OF THE DIRECTORS' MEETING

Florida Historical Society

Dr. John K. Mahon, president of the Florida Historical Society, called the midwinter meeting of the board of directors of the Florida Historical Society to order at 9:30 a.m., December 6, 1980, at the Florida Historical Society Library, University of South Florida, Tampa. Present were Paul E. Camp, Linda V. Ellsworth, Lucius F. Ellsworth, Mildred L. Fryman, Paul S. George, Thomas Graham, Hayes L. Kennedy, Wright Langley, W. Sperry Lee, Eugene Lyon, Thomas Mickler, Randy Nimmicht, Olive Peterson, Samuel Proctor, Jerrell H. Shofner, Paul W. Wehr, Glenn Westfall, and Linda K. Williams. Also attending were Thomas Greenhaw, editor of the Society's *Newsletter*, and Nancy Dilley of the Society staff. William R. Adams, E. Ashby Hammond, and Vernon Peebles were absent.

The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the May 1, 1980, board meeting at Orlando, as they were published in the *Florida Historical Quarterly* LXIV (October 1980), pp. 254-59.

Paul Camp, executive secretary, presented the financial report for the period from April 1, 1980, through October 30, 1980. This report lists the Society's total assets as of October 30, 1980, as \$68,756, including fixed assets of \$126, and other assets totalling \$68,630. Income from memberships for the period were \$9,916.25, representing an increase of \$1,825.75 over the same period in 1979. Contributions, including \$1,000 from the Wentworth Foundation, provided \$1,025. Total income was \$17,689.60. Disbursements for the same period were \$14,388.83. Major expenses included the printing, mailing, and other publication costs for the *Florida Historical Quarterly*; expenses incurred for the annual meeting; and the operating costs of the Society's executive office. Mr. Camp presented budget estimates for the next fiscal year. The board had mandated preparation of such a report at its May 1, 1980, meeting. The Society's fiscal year corresponds to the calendar year-January 1 through December

31. Camp's budget lists anticipates disbursements by categories. He explained his estimates of expenditures, which includes a ten per cent increase over the current year to accommodate for inflation. Total estimated disbursements are \$30,632, and estimated income for 1981 is \$35,280.

At its December 9, 1978, meeting, the board had approved an annual expenditure of up to \$500 per year for the acquisition of books for the Society's library. The board added that amount to the 1981 proposed budget. Randy Nimnicht moved that an additional \$500 be used to purchase additional books if necessary to add to the holdings, these latter expenditures to be approved by the president. The board approved Mr. Nimnicht's motion.

The board discussed increasing registration fees for the annual meeting of the Society and the Florida Historical Confederation to reflect rising costs. Mr. Nimnicht called for a single, joint registration fee for the annual Society meeting at a rate of \$10.00 for members and \$12.50 for nonmembers, effective at the May 1981 meeting. The board approved. The board then adopted the proposed budget, and commended Mr. Camp and his assistant, Ms. Dilley, for their work in preparing the budget.

Dr. Samuel Proctor, editor of the *Florida Historical Quarterly*, reported an improved outlook in terms of the number of articles being submitted for publication in the journal. He expressed continuing concern over the poor quality of many materials received. Dr. Proctor anticipates publishing a special issue of the *Quarterly* in 1981, to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the attack on Pensacola by Spanish forces commanded by Bernardo de Gálvez, and the 160th anniversary of the transfer of Florida from Spain to the United States in 1821. Dr. Proctor expressed a need for photographs suitable for use as cover graphics for the *Quarterly* and for information about new publications on all aspects of Florida history. He expressed his thanks to Thomas and Georgine Mickler for help in the latter area and requested the assistance of the directors in meeting these needs. Dr. Proctor commended the E. O. Painter Printing Company for the continued high quality in the publication of the *Quarterly*. He also thanked his editorial board for their assistance.

Dr. Proctor also reported on the progress of inventorying

the Society's historical and art objects. A list of items in the Florida State Museum has been compiled. Other items, approximately twenty per cent of the total artifact collection belonging to the Society, are in other depositories throughout the state. The board discussed the matter of how best to use and protect the items after the survey is completed. Linda Ellsworth suggested that the inventory committee, composed of Marcia Kanner and herself, work in conjunction with Dr. Proctor to complete the inventory and to recommend ways to care for the artifacts. Dr. Mahon charged this committee with several tasks, including reconfirming with original donors or heirs that items are now the property of the Society; developing guidelines and loan criteria for the items; and recommending options for the display, storage, or use of the artifacts. The committee will report its progress at the next meeting of the board.

Dr. Thomas Greenhaw, editor of the *Florida History Newsletter*, reported a paucity of information suitable for the newsletter. He suggested that the board consider approving less frequent publication of the newsletter and adopting a smaller format. After discussion, the board agreed to change the publication's format to a more cost-efficient size. The board solicited the cooperation of the Florida Historical Confederation membership through its president, Linda K. Williams, in keeping the newsletter informative. Dr. Proctor moved that the Society continue to publish three issues of the newsletter annually, and that the board thank Dr. Greenhaw for his continuing editorial efforts and Dr. Jerrell Shofner for assisting with the publication of the spring 1980 issue. The motion was approved.

Linda Ellsworth reported on plans for the annual meeting to be held in St. Petersburg, April 30-May 2, 1981. Mrs. Ellsworth and Dr. Peter Klingman, program committee co-chairs, have arranged three program sessions focusing on the history of Florida's ecology and environment. Dr. Mahon discussed plans to meet the board's recommendations that the annual meetings be both intellectually stimulating and enjoyable. Glenn Westfall recommended that various environmental groups in the state be informed of the 1981 meeting theme and session topics when the program is printed.

Ms. Williams, appointed president of the Florida Historical

Confederation by Dr. Mahon after the resignation of Margaret Ann Lane from that position, reported on Confederation plans for its 1981 meeting. The Confederation will convene on Thursday afternoon, April 30, 1981.

Mr. Nimnicht suggested that at its next meeting, the Confederation board consider offering a prize to a local historical society doing the most to promote local history. Dr. Proctor proposed that the Confederation board suggest the category in which a prize would be offered and the manner in which funds to support it can be obtained. The board approved the motion.

At the May 1980 meeting of the board, the directors authorized an annual financial review of the Society by an outside agency. Mr. Camp presented the board a report on the first annual evaluation, prepared by C. P. Saclarides, Clearwater, Florida. The evaluation found the Society's records to be in order. He recommended the completion of certain taxation formalities attendant to the changing of the Society's fiscal year. Lucius Ellsworth moved that the board act upon the review presented by Mr. Camp, and this motion was approved.

Mr. Camp presented the board with a financial statement for the period from November 1 through December 3, 1980. Income of \$4,624.70 was reported, and disbursements totalled \$4,653.01. The board, in compliance with the Society's by-laws, will ask the Society membership at the annual business meeting in May 1981, for approval of an increase in annual membership fees. These increases were recommended by the board in May 1980.

Hayes Kennedy reported on the activities of the finance committee to convert Society funds to higher income-producing accounts; \$40,000 was placed in money market funds in February 1980. Dividends accumulated since that date through September 30, 1980, totalled \$3,197. This sum has also been reinvested in the same fund. Projected earnings for the eleven months of 1980 during which funds have been invested in this account will be \$4,594, an average of \$418 per month and an average annual yield of 12.53 per cent. Mrs. Ellsworth proposed a resolution of thanks to Mr. Kennedy and his committee. This resolution was adopted by the board.

The board discussed the duties of the finance committee

authorized at the May 1980 directors' meeting. This committee has the responsibility for continued management and maximization of income from the Society's invested assets. President Mahon announced the appointment of Milton Jones as chair of this committee, together with William Goza and Hayes Kennedy.

Dr. Paul George, chairman of the membership committee, reported a loss of members during the previous six months. He stressed the need for increasing efforts to solicit new members and to persuade existing members to continue to renew their memberships. Dr. George's committee includes William Adams, Hayes Kennedy, Wright Langley, and Glenn Westfall. The board discussed various ways to increase membership. Lucius Ellsworth called for an analysis of membership trends and categories so that specific proposals for action can be presented to the board at its May 1981 meeting. Dr. Mahon will prepare and circulate to the membership before May a letter suggesting ways to increase membership. The directors also urged close cooperation between the 1981 annual meeting program committee, the membership committee, and the executive secretary in publicizing the upcoming annual meeting.

Directors appointed the following nominating committee to serve in 1981: George E. Buker, Jacksonville; Jane Dysart, Pensacola; Robert Harris, Largo; Milton Jones, Clearwater; and Thelma Peters, Miami.

Mr. Camp reported that the Society has been invited to hold its 1983 annual meeting in Daytona Beach. Dr. Proctor moved the acceptance of this invitation, which the board passed unanimously. Ms. Williams will contact the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation to explore the possibilities of a joint meeting in Daytona Beach in 1983.

Dr. Ellsworth reported on the activities of the Junior Historical Committee. A History Fair for school-age participants will be held in Orange County in February 1981. Three other area fairs will be organized in Alachua, Escambia, and St. Lucie counties during the 1981-1982 school year. The board commended Dr. Wehr for his leadership in organizing the Orange County Historical Fair.

Wright Langley reported that the Society's traveling exhibits committee needs assistance in developing a system of distribut-

ing the exhibit which has been created. Ms. Williams will solicit cooperation from the Florida Historical Confederation in this matter.

The board discussed ways of securing increased visibility for the organization and its activities. A publicity committee to work on behalf of the Society was appointed, including Wright Langley, chairman, and Paul George and Charles Hamilton as members.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mildred L. Fryman
Recording Secretary

GREAT EXPECTATIONS.

1981

April 23-25	Citadel Conference on the South	Charleston, SC
April 30	Florida Historical Confederation	St. Petersburg, FL
May 1-2	FLORIDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY- 79th MEETING	St. Petersburg, FL
May 7-8	Gulf Coast History and Humanities Conference	Pensacola, FL
May 31- June 5	American Association of Museums	Indianapolis, IN
Sept. 14-17	American Association for State and Local History	Williamsburg, VA
Sept. 22-25	Society of American Archivists	San Francisco, CA
Sept. 24-27	Oral History Association Workshop and Colloquium	Burlington, VT
Sept. 30-Oct. 4	National Trust for Historic Preservation	New Orleans, LA
Nov. 11-14	Southern Historical Association	Louisville, KY
Nov. 6-8	Southern Jewish Historical Society	Mobile, AL
Dec. 28-31	American Historical Association	Los Angeles, CA