

1982

### Director's Meeting

Florida Historical Society  
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**MINUTES OF THE DIRECTORS' MEETING**  
*FLORIDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY*

Olive Peterson, president of the Florida Historical Society, called the mid-winter meeting of the Society's board of directors to order at 9:30 a.m., December 4, 1982, at the Florida Historical Society Library, University of South Florida, Tampa. Present were Samuel J. Boldrick, Paul E. Camp, Hampton Dunn, Jane Dysart, Linda V. Ellsworth, Lucius F. Ellsworth, Kendrick Ford, Thomas Greenhaw, Ernest Hall, Daniel T. Hobby, Marcia Kanner, Peter D. Klingman, Sperry Lee, Eugene Lyon, John K. Mahon, Samuel Proctor. William R. Adams, Gerald W. McSwiggan, L. Ross Morrell, and Randy Nimmicht were absent. Milton Jones, Lee Warner, and Patsy West also attended.

The board approved the minutes of the May 6, 1982, directors' meeting in Fort Lauderdale, as published in the *Florida Historical Quarterly*, LXI (October 1982), 226-33.

Paul Camp, executive secretary, presented the financial report. Total assets of the Society as of September 30, 1982, were \$82,959.12. On September 1, 1982, income from the following sources was recorded: memberships, \$10,350.50; sales of *Quarterlies* and the *Index*, \$678.12; interest and dividends, \$7,187; contributions, annual meeting income, and miscellaneous, \$4,883.76, bringing the total income for this period to \$23,099.38. Disbursements for this period were \$18,708.11. Major expenses included: printing, mailing and other publication costs for the *Florida Historical Quarterly*; the annual meeting; and operating costs of the Society's executive office. Lucius Ellsworth noted that the \$2,500 grant from National History Day should be included in the total income. Camp reported that some additional assets recorded in the fourth quarter were not included in this report but would be reflected in the annual report. For example, library and other subscriptions, \$7,000, had been paid. The financial situation, he added, is better than this report actually reflects. Mr. Camp reported a decline in membership from 1,411 on December 31, 1981, to a present count of 1,382. A brief discussion focused on membership decline and budget estimates. Peter Klingman moved acceptance of the financial report, Linda Ellsworth seconded, and the motion was approved.

Samuel Proctor, editor of the *Florida Historical Quarterly*, reported that the quantity of articles and diversity of topics had increased, but some were being poorly researched and called for major revisions and in some cases rewriting. He requested assistance in obtaining photographs, especially those suitable for the cover of the *Quarterly*. Budget cutbacks from the state might result in the University of Florida reducing its support of the *Quarterly*. In that event, financial support for secretarial services may be requested from the Society.

Thomas Greenhaw, editor of the *Florida History Newsletter*, reported on the progress of that publication. He stressed the need for more news items, especially from south Florida.

Patsy West, executive chairman of the Confederation, announced plans to improve communications among members. Confederation members will be assigned certain counties to contact for news items and information. The Confederation is working on a program to recognize outstanding achievements by local historical groups. "Projecting Your Image" will be the program theme for the Confederation sessions, May 5-6, 1983.

President Olive Peterson gave the membership committee's report for O. C. Peterson. She commended Paul George and Gerald McSwiggan of Miami for organizing the recent party in Miami to attract members. She announced that a membership party would be held in Fort Pierce, and she asked board members to consider similar activities in their areas of the state. The Peterson report included a recommendation for a reception committee at the annual meeting to make people who attend feel welcome, and suggested a system of recognizing people for attending conventions over a number of years.

Milton Jones gave the finance committee's report. The committee recommended that income from dedicated funds be differentiated in the financial statement and listed separately. Any expended income from the dedicated funds will be returned to those funds. Mr. Jones also recommended that the Society take advantage of the potentially higher yield from the new money market deposit plan and invest its funds in those accounts. John Mahon moved that the board direct that the Society's annual financial statement show income and disbursements from each of the dedicated funds: Arthur W. Thompson Memorial Prize, Father Jerome Book Fund, Charlton Tebeau, Jr., Book Fund,

Wentworth Publication Fund, and Julien Yonge Publication Fund. He also asked the finance committee to investigate and report whether the Julien Yonge Publication Fund as reported in the annual financial report is accurate, and whether part of the total should in fact be reported in the Society's general account. The board approved the motion.

Lucius Ellsworth, chairman of the junior history committee, reported that district level history fairs will be held this year in Escambia, Santa Rosa, Volusia, Leon, St. Lucie, Broward, Okaloosa, Orange, and Seminole counties. Pointing out that the \$2,500 from National History Day was half the amount provided last year, he noted that local societies would have to take over the funding responsibility next year. He presented the budget for Florida History Fair 1983. Approximately 8,000 students had participated in the events the past year. Jane Dysart recommended that board members try to involve corporations and encourage them to sponsor history fair prizes or provide other support.

Eugene Lyon, chairman of the program committee, outlined the program for the annual meeting. The theme will be "The Outlaws: Florida Outside (or Just Inside) the Law." His committee includes William Adams, Amy Bushnell, and Paul George.

Peter Klingman, chairman of the committee to promote Florida history in the schools, reported that he had represented the Society at a workshop in Tallahassee convened to write standards and skills of excellence to be incorporated into the public school social studies curriculum. He and David Colburn of the University of Florida have assumed responsibility for constructing a test on Florida history and government to be given to the top one per cent of the high school students as part of the Commissioner of Education's PRIDE program. They have asked twenty members of the Society to assist by submitting questions for the examination. Randy Felton, social studies consultant for the Department of Education, has requested that the Society construct a guidebook to curriculum resources in Florida history. Lee Warner, representing Ross Morrell, commented that the State Library, with funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities, had compiled and sent to press a list of resources on Florida folklore, including local history. Mr. Klingman stressed the need to institutionalize the relation-

ship between the Society and the Department of Education in order to ensure the place of Florida history in the schools. Lucius Ellsworth called attention to the program in Escambia County where the Chamber of Commerce has agreed to recognize the PRIDE winners and suggested that local historical societies could do the same for the history winners.

Mr. Ellsworth, chairman of the committee on the future growth and development of the Society, reported that he, Hampton Dunn, William M. Goza, and Olive Peterson had met with President John Lott Brown of the University of South Florida. President Brown at that time, and in later communications, assured the committee of his institution's commitment to strengthen its relationship with the Florida Historical Society. As soon as the newly appointed dean of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences arrives and the economic situation of the University is clarified, President Brown assured that there will be a permanent commitment to the Society.

Olive Peterson announced that she had been unable to attend the dedication of the restored Old Capitol because she was out of the country at the time. Her designated representative was not able to attend either. Hampton Dunn and others who had seen the Capitol commented on the excellence of the restoration project. She also announced that Milton Jones had represented the Society on the jury to select recipients of awards from the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation. It was announced that Dr. Mahon had represented the Society at the rededication by the Daughters of the American Revolution of the monument to Daniel Newnan near Windsor, Florida. Newnan had been killed in a skirmish with Indians in 1812.

Peter Klingman announced the plans for the 1983 meeting in Daytona Beach. It will include an antique fashion show sponsored by the Halifax Historical Society. The Holiday Inn Surfside will serve as the convention hotel.

Kendrick Ford reported that the Society has been invited to hold its annual meeting in 1984 in Fort Myers. The Society is invited to hold its 1985 meeting in Tallahassee. The Board voted to accept both invitations.

The board received a written report from the committee appointed by President Peterson to review the Continental Heritage Press proposal to publish a series of books on Florida history

with the Society as major sponsor. Milton Jones is chairman and William Goza and Hayes Kennedy are members. The committee noted several positive features in the proposal: publication of books on Florida history is one of the Society's basic objectives; the proposed income is desirable; the Society is not obligated for any investment or expense; and sponsorship of the series could enhance the Society's visibility and possibly attract new members. The committee had several reservations about the contract: the Society's limited control over subjects and quality of the projected volumes; not enough time allotted for the Society's representative to check historical accuracy; indefinite time period of the Society's commitment to the project; the Society's direct involvement in soliciting sponsoring contributions; the question of the propriety of the Society's involvement with a private commercial publishing house; and the possible negative impact on the Society's reputation if the publications are not of highest quality. The committee also raised legal questions concerning vague language in the contract and possible jeopardy to the Society's tax exempt status.

In the discussion Lucius Ellsworth assured that his and Linda's relationships with the Continental Heritage Press had been very satisfactory. Several board members made the point that the topics and approach of the publication as stated in the contract were too indefinite; they wanted to know if these were to be histories of specific industries and businesses in Florida or more general historical studies. The board was unwilling to endorse the project until all matters of concern were clarified. A motion was approved that the board would support the concept of a relationship with Continental Heritage Press to pursue the production of a series of books on Florida history pending a satisfactory agreement. Mrs. Peterson will appoint a committee to conduct the negotiations with Continental Heritage Press.

Dr. Proctor urged that the executive committee of the Society be reactivated and meet every three months to take care of any business which comes up between the biannual board meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

**G**REAT EXPECTATIONS. . . . .

1983

May 5	Florida Historical Confederation	Daytona Beach, FL
May 6-7	FLORIDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY- 81st MEETING	Daytona Beach, FL
May 11	Preservation Day	Tallahassee, FL
May 27-30	Florida Folk Festival	White Springs, FL
June 5-9	American Association of Museums	San Diego, CA
Sept. 29- Oct. 2	Oral History Association	Seattle, WA
Oct. 47	American Association for State and Local History	Victoria, B.C.
Oct. 26-80	National Trust for Historic Preservation	San Antonio, TX
Nov. 9-12	Southern Historical Association	Charleston, SC
Dec. 3-4	Southern Jewish Historical Society	Savannah, GA
Dec. 27-30	American Historical Association	San Francisco, CA