

1983

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., January 21, 1984, in the president's dining room of the University of Central Florida, Orlando. Present were Randy Nimnicht, Lucius F. Ellsworth, Paul E. Camp, Samuel Proctor, Thomas D. Greenhaw, Samuel J. Boldrick, Richard Brooke, Jr., Hampton Dunn, Ernest W. Hall, Daniel T. Hobby, Alva L. Jones, Marcia Kanner, Peter D. Klingman, Mary C. Linehan, L. Ross Morrell, Daniel L. Schafer, Bettye D. Smith, John K. Mahon, and Jane E. Dysart. Kendrick T. Ford, Gerald W. McSwiggan, and George F. Pearce were absent. Pat Wickman, Linda Ellsworth, Lucille Rights, and Hayes Kennedy also attended.

The board approved the minutes of the May 7, 1983, directors' meeting in Daytona Beach, as published in the *Florida Historical Quarterly*, LXII (October 1983), 252-66.

Paul Camp, executive secretary, gave the financial report. Total assets of the Society as of December 31, 1983, were \$92,286.68, representing an increase during the past year of \$5,288.27. Camp reported the interest earned on the E. F. Hutton account. Income from memberships totaled \$20,236.41; sales receipts, \$1,323.76; interest income, \$1,302.05; and dividends, \$5,183.02. Profit from the annual meeting amounted to \$147.80. The Father Jerome Fund received a \$25.00 donation. The total income for 1983 was \$31,218.04. Three thousand dollars was transferred from the Freedom Federal account to the main checking account. Disbursements from 1983 totaled \$25,929.77, with major expenses being assigned to production, publication, and mailing of the *Florida Historical Quarterly* and the *Newsletter*. Mr. Camp noted also an increase in office expenses. During the discussion which followed Mr. Camp's report, Samuel Proctor asked that future financial reports of assets, namely the E. F. Hutton account, reflect the different sources of income to that account. The president requested that Mr. Camp meet with the finance committee to determine the separate amounts in that account and report to the directors.

The matter of charging for certain services, such as photo duplicating and microfilming, which the Society now performs free was discussed. The directors voted to establish a committee to review these services and to determine a reasonable fee structure, Sam Boldrick will chair that committee which includes Paul Camp and Dan Hobby. Mr. Camp presented the budget for 1984. He was asked to prepare a revenue estimate with the budgetary estimate. President Peterson also reminded the executive secretary to provide the directors with all financial reports at least two weeks prior to the May meeting. Mr. Camp next reported on membership, including a breakdown of member totals by district. He pointed out that for the first time in several years the Society has had a gain of members. The board approved the report of the executive secretary.

Dr. Proctor, editor of the *Florida Historical Quarterly*, reported that he had received thirty-two articles for consideration including submissions from Spanish and French historians. As in the past, the quality of research and writing of the articles submitted is uneven. Among the books reviewed in the journal this past year, fifty dealt with Florida subjects. Dr. Proctor commended Dick Johnston of E. O. Painter for his excellent cooperation in printing the *Quarterly*. Dr. Proctor reported that the University of Florida's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences continues to support the *Quarterly* with the services of a secretary and a graduate student. The *Quarterly* also now has available a word processor. The University Library provides office space.

Thomas Greenhaw, editor of the *Florida History Newsletter*, reported an increase in the cost of production. More news items from local groups and individuals are being furnished, but more is needed. Information must be submitted six weeks before publication date to be included in the *Newsletter*.

Pat Wickman, executive chairperson of the Confederation, announced that the needs assessment survey is underway. Surveys will be mailed to 350 historical agencies in Florida during the first week of February. She also reported that the first award for an individual or organization making an outstanding contribution to the preservation and conservation of Florida history will be announced at the May meeting. Guidelines and nomination forms for the award will be sent to Confederation members. Ms. Wickman announced the themes of the Confederation workshops

for the May meeting, and that a luncheon will be held on the first day (Thursday) when the award will be presented. The award will be announced also at the Society's banquet on Friday evening. She stated that the Confederation board has approved a request from the Society of Florida Archivists for affiliate membership in the Confederation. The Society of Florida Archivists will help with costs of Confederation functions. The directors approved unanimously a motion to offer affiliate status to the Society for Florida Archivists. Ms. Wickman presented a design for a logo for the Confederation and, if appropriate, for the Society. Lucius Ellsworth suggested that a formal recommendation including costs of the logo be prepared for action by the board at the May meeting. Dr. Proctor noted that the information gathered by the Confederation would be valuable for updating the Society directory.

A motion was passed to include in the Society's annual budget an amount not to exceed \$1,500 to support the Confederation's activities. Lucius Ellsworth recommended that the board, at the May meeting of the Society, offer an amendment to the by-laws to include the chairperson of the Confederation as a voting member of the Florida Historical Society board of directors.

Hayes Kennedy presented the finance committee's report. In December 1983 the committee— William Goza, Milton Jones, and Mr. Kennedy— reviewed the Society's money market investment account with E. F. Hutton. Because the account continues to meet the "prudent-man" criteria upon which it was established, the committee recommended no changes be made at the present. The account, opened on February 22, 1980, with an original investment of \$40,000, is now worth \$64,322. Mr. Nimmicht requested that the executive secretary consult the finance committee when he compiles the projected income report. Mr. Jones did not recommend a full audit of the Society's books, but a motion mandating an annual review of the financial records passed unanimously. A motion empowering the finance committee to dispose of the Society's stock holdings if necessary also passed unanimously. Proceeds from the sale of stock will be deposited in the money market account.

Jane Dysart, chairperson of the history fair committee, reported on plans for fairs in Alachua, Leon, Escambia, Santa Rosa, St. Lucie, Seminole, and Volusia counties. Broward and

Okealoosa counties will not be participating this year. It is hoped that more counties will be able to participate in the future and that fair activities will increase.

President Peterson read the report of the publicity committee chaired by Julie Enders. Since the May 1983 meeting, 4,195 inches of news have appeared in the Fort Pierce papers concerning activities of the Society. Releases were sent to other state papers, but no information is available to determine what was printed.

Peter Klingman, chairman of the committee to promote Florida history in the schools, reported that the Society will be able to continue its participation in the Governor's PRIDE program. He also stated that the Society will be able to help prepare learning objectives for Florida history courses. The Society's new executive director will need to respond to this opportunity as soon as possible. Dr. Klingman also suggested that the director pursue the possibility of securing a grant from the state legislature to support development of curriculum materials for Florida history.

On behalf of the arrangements committee for the Society's 1984 meeting, Randy Nimnicht reported that the downtown Holiday Inn, Fort Myers, will be the convention headquarters. Linda Ellsworth, chairperson of the 1984 program committee, announced that plans for the program were virtually complete. Her committee is working with the local arrangements committee to organize a tour of the historical Fort Myers area and the Thomas Alva Edison home. The banquet speaker will be Dr. Gerald George, director of the American Association of State and Local History. Lucille Rights, chairperson of the hospitality committee for the state convention, announced that coffee will be served and that all persons attending the meeting will be made to feel welcome.

Lucius Ellsworth, chairman of the committee for the future of the Society, reviewed the relationship between the University of South Florida and the Florida Historical Society over the past three years. A committee, consisting of Marcia Kanner, William Goza, Samuel Proctor, William Adams, and Lucius Ellsworth, proposed establishing an executive director's position to replace that of the executive secretary and an offer to commit \$5,000 in Society funds to help support that office. Hampton Dunn, William Goza, Olive Peterson, and Lucius Ellsworth constituted the com-

mittee which negotiated with President John Lott Brown of the University of South Florida concerning the establishment of the position and also identifying the person who would fill that office. Dr. Gary Mormino, the candidate proposed by the University of South Florida, was interviewed and approved by the committee. A written statement guaranteeing the Society's active role in the annual evaluation of the executive director needs to be formalized. The Society also needs to determine the range of authority the director will have in dealing with support personnel. At a later date the clerk's position may need to be redefined and that matter also needs clarification with officials at the University of South Florida. Once the agreement is formalized, the Society and the University will be entering into a three-year commitment. With respect to the Society's library, the executive director will be responsible for expansion of the holdings. Maintaining the collection will continue to be the library's responsibility. A written agreement delineating the precise terms of the relationship between the Society and the University should be forthcoming in ten days. Implementation of the plan will be effective in the fall of 1984. A motion to authorize the committee to conclude the agreement with the University of South Florida passed unanimously.

Dr. Proctor next reported on the status of the Continental Heritage Press project. A volume on the history of Florida financial institutions was first proposed but after a negative response from insurance companies who were solicited for financial support, the publisher seems to have lost enthusiasm, at least for the time being.

Reporting for the ad hoc committee on historic preservation, Bettye D. Smith commented on her role in advising the expenditure of funds for historic preservation projects in Florida. President Peterson thanked Mrs. Smith for her efforts and announced that a permanent council for historic preservation appointed by the Florida Secretary of State would henceforth make such recommendations.

Several matters were discussed as old business. The Audubon prints willed to the Society by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings are on display in the Society library at the University of South Florida. The executive director will need to inventory and update a catalogue of the Society's holdings, including its artifacts.

Mrs. Smith announced that the Seminole County School Board was planning to establish a student museum. She requested a letter from the Society to the county school board encouraging them to continue this project. Dr. Proctor announced that a workshop on history for public school teachers will take place this summer. It is being sponsored by the Department of History, University of Florida. He also reported that two persons important to Florida history and the history of the Society died this past year: Senator Robert Williams, first director of the Florida Division of Archives, History and Records Management, and Watt Marchman, former executive secretary of the Florida Historical Society.

The board next discussed future Society convention meeting sites. In 1985 the Society will meet in Tallahassee. A motion to accept an invitation to meet in Sarasota in 1986 was unanimously approved. Decision to accept an invitation to hold the 1987 meeting in St. Augustine was postponed. Board members expressed appreciation for the invitation, but declined to select a meeting site more than two years in advance.

Mrs. Peterson thanked her officers and members of the board and those who helped organize this meeting at the University of Central Florida.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

GREAT EXPECTATIONS.

1984

April 20-24	Gulf Coast History and Humanities Conference	Pensacola, FL
April 27-29	Florida Anthropological Society	Palm Beach, FL
May 3	Florida Historical Confederation	Fort Myers, FL
May 4-5	FLORIDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY- 82nd MEETING	Fort Myers, FL
May 16	Preservation Day	Tallahassee, FL
June 10-14	American Association of Museums	Washington, D.C.
June 11-15	Florida History Teachers Workshop	Gainesville, FL
Sept 18-21	American Association for State and Local History	Louisville, KY
Sept 20-23	Oral History Association	Lexington, KY
Oct 24-28	National Trust for Historic Preservation	Baltimore, MD
Oct 31-Nov 3	Southern Historical Association	Louisville, KY
Dec 26-29	American Historical Association	Chicago, IL