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Director's Meeting

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membership@myfloridahistory.org



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MINUTES OF THE DIRECTORS' MEETING
FLORIDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Randy Nimmicht, president of the Florida Historical Society, called the mid-winter meeting of the Society's board of directors to order at 9:10 a.m., December 8, 1984, at the Florida Historical Society Library, University of South Florida, Tampa. Present were Hampton Dunn, Lucius F. Ellsworth, Paul S. George, Thomas Greenhaw, Alva L. Jones, Marcia J. Kanner, Mary C. Linehan, Gerald W. McSwiggan, Gary R. Mormino, Owen North, George F. Pearce, Daniel L. Schafer, Michael Slicker, William M. Straight, Kyle S. VanLandingham, Patricia Wickman, and Olive D. Peterson. Also attending were Hayes Kennedy (finance committee), and Nancy Dilley (Florida Historical Society fiscal clerk). Richard Brooke, Jr., L. Ross Morrell, Samuel Proctor, Larry Rivers, Bettye D. Smith, and Linda K. Williams were absent.

The board unanimously approved the minutes of the May 4, 1984, directors' meeting in Fort Meyers as published in the *Florida Historical Quarterly*, LXIII (October 1984), 249-55.

Mr. Nimmicht asked each director to introduce himself and to share a personal experience dealing with some aspect of Florida history. He thanked the directors and explained his plans for the Society. He wants the Society to become more visible throughout Florida and the members of the board of directors to play a more active role in the Society's activities. Nimmicht expressed his desire to have all directors involved in specific projects, to appoint new committees, and to secure adequate funding for programs. He indicated his approval of the present role of the Society, and he posed questions for its future activities and growth. Nimmicht outlined a three-year plan, and indicated his hope that there would be many positive things to report at the end of that period. Part of that goal is to increase the present budget by one and one-half times.

The progress report of the *Florida Historical Quarterly* was read by Gary Mormino in the absence of the editor, Dr. Proctor. Dr. Proctor reported an increasing interest among scholars wishing to be published in the *Quarterly*. A total of nineteen articles have been submitted this year, all of which were unsolicited. Four

were rejected, twelve were returned for revision, and final action has not been taken on the others. Seventeen articles were published this year (1984) in the four issues of the *Florida Historical Quarterly*. Dr. Proctor reported a backlog of articles in his files, including several that will require major revision and rewriting. Articles were submitted not only by Florida and American historians but also by historians from France and Spain. Considerable effort will be needed to prepare these out-of-country articles for publication. Seventy-one book reviews were published in 1984. These were reviews of books dealing with Florida and the South. In the Book Notes section, twenty-five books on Florida and twelve relating to general southern history were reviewed. Dr. Proctor was notified by the E. O. Painter Printing Company that effective with the October 1984 issue, printing and photograph duplicating costs would be increased by approximately eight and one half per cent. Dr. Proctor urged the directors to inform authors, editors, and publishers of books, monographs, pamphlets, or other material emanating from their communities to provide review copies to his office in Gainesville.

Dr. Mormino, executive director, reported on the abundance of back issues of the *Quarterly*, and noted that the problem of ordering *Quarterlies* from the printer has been resolved. Dr. Mormino and Dr. Lucius Ellsworth expressed appreciation to Dr. Proctor and his staff for their continued hard work and the consistent high quality of the articles published in the *Florida Historical Quarterly*.

Thomas Greenhaw, editor of the *Florida History Newsletter*, explained that the use of white paper on future issues will enable a clearer reproduction of pictures. Printing costs of the *Newsletter* has increased in the last two issues. Mr. Nimmicht, reaffirming his desire for a balanced budget, requested Dr. Greenhaw to develop a budget to be submitted for approval.

Mr. Nimmicht stated the need for a purchase order system in order to keep tabs on allocated funds. The Society will not be responsible for items ordered in the future without approval of the executive director.

Mr. Nimmicht also appointed two committees to assess both the *Newsletter* and the Florida Historical Confederation. Committees were asked to examine the two programs offered, why they were established, and their future plans.

Patricia Wickman reported on the activities of the Florida Historical Confederation and explained the Confederation's responsibilities as a support, technical, and communicative organization for agencies in Florida dealing with historic interpretation. Ms. Wickman stated that the goals of the Confederation include support of the *Newsletter* and the updating of the Florida History Directory. The directory will be expanded to include an analysis and synopsis of information gathered by the Confederation in its survey and to create a profile of all agencies involved in Florida history. Ms. Wickman announced that the Division of Archives, History and Records Management, Florida Department of State, will pay the cost of printing a new directory, which is expected to be available in May. Another project of the Confederation is an awards program. An outline of the regulations on eligibility and submission will be distributed to the directors. Another suggestion that is being evaluated is the taping of workshop sessions held at the annual meeting and offering the tapes for sale. The board suggested that Ms. Wickman try to secure funding from the Florida Endowment for the Humanities for this latter project.

Dr. Daniel Schafer urged the directors to speak in support of the Society and Confederation to area historical societies whenever possible. Dr. Paul George endorsed this suggestion, and explained how Olive Peterson had recruited many members in the Fort Pierce area.

Kyle VanLandingham reported for the finance committee and announced that a report on the investment policies of the Society will be forthcoming shortly. Hayes Kennedy reported on the E. F. Hutton money market account which is currently earning eleven per cent. Mr. Kennedy commented on the Mid-South Utilities stock and the board's desire to liquidate the stock. Only a minimal number of the actual certificates could be located, and it will be necessary to contact the registrar for proof of the remainder. A motion made by Marcia Kanner, and seconded by Dr. Ellsworth, gave the finance committee the power to investigate and take action in the liquidating of the Mid-South Utilities stock.

Alva Jones, reporting for the dues reassessment committee, recommended that dues for annual and family categories be increased. Bettye Smith, history fair committee chair, has been elected mayor of the city of Sanford and will not be able to

fulfill the obligations of her committee. Mr. Nimnicht turned this responsibility over to Dr. George. Dr. Mormino noted that through the history fair the Society would be able to reach teachers and school libraries as prospective members of the Society.

Ms. Kanner reported for the by-laws committee and explained that the original by-laws no longer adequately covered the Society's business. An explanation of these sections that need updating was outlined. The committee hoped that with the board's additional input recommendations for revised by-laws will be available to submit to the membership at the annual meeting in May. A re-incorporation would be advisable at that time, the committee believes. Ms. Kanner asked board members to provide their suggestions to her no later than February 1. One change discussed was the division of districts as the way to nominate and elect board members. Currently the Society divides the state into four districts. There are, fifteen directors, three for each district and three at-large. Dr. Ellsworth recommended that the Society consider Dr. Mormino's plan of three districts with fewer directors for each district and more at-large directors so as to provide wider state representation. Ellsworth suggested that there be no reduction in the total number of directors. Mr. Nimnicht directed the by-laws committee to draft a statement dealing with the distribution of directors, keeping in mind continued regional representation and the utilization of available leadership. The by-laws detailing the method for making amendments was also discussed. A recommendation was made that by-laws changes may be made by a two-thirds majority of the board of directors.

Mr. Slicker, chair of the library assessment committee, described the Society's library. A questionnaire was distributed relative to the status of the library and suggestions were made. It was decided that more time was needed to analyze the Society's library and to decide what future direction it should take. Additional discussion and information will be forthcoming during the May meeting.

Ms. Wickman reported on the progress of the local arrangements committee for the annual meeting in Tallahassee in May. A single registration was recommended to include the sessions of the Florida Historical Society, Florida History Confederation, and the Society of Florida Archivists. Mr. Nimnicht urged

Wickman's committee to prepare a budget that would provide the Society a net profit of between \$500 and \$1,000. Dr. Ellsworth reported for the program committee and gave a brief description of the workshops and speakers to be presented at the annual meeting.

Dr. Mormino reported on the progress of the Society's business office. He listed his three goals, and outlined his proposed methods for achieving them. An appeal to secure new members was discussed. Dr. Mormino described the design for the new brochure that is being prepared. As one example of effective marketing, Mormino cited Owen North's cable television show in Clearwater, which produced several commercials and interviews dealing with the Society. Mormino also outlined his design for a statewide televised course in Florida history.

The Society's 1985 budget was presented, and the directors approved it with provision that the executive director have flexibility to move funds so as to streamline the operations of the Society and to maintain a balanced budget.

Mr. Nimmicht recommended the following dues increases: student, \$15.00; annual, \$22.50; family, \$25.00; and contributing, \$50.00 and above. Dr. Schafer made the motion to accept Nimmicht's motion, and Dr. George Pearce seconded. The board passed the motion.

Mr. Nimmicht urged the board's approval for an annual appeals campaign to the membership. Ms. Kanner made the motion, it was seconded, and it passed.

President Nimmicht adjourned the mid-winter meeting of the board of directors at 1: 16 p.m.

GREAT EXPECTATIONS.

1985

May 1	Society of Florida Archivists	Tallahassee, FL
May 2	Florida Historical Confederation	Tallahassee, FL
May 3-4	FLORIDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY- 83rd MEETING	Tallahassee, FL
May 16	Florida Preservation Day	Tallahassee, FL
June 9-13	American Association of Museums	Detroit, MI
June 23-28	Florida History Teachers Workshop	Gainesville, FL
Sept. 10-13	American Association for State and Local History	Topeka, KS
Oct. 8-14	National Trust for Historic Preservation	Seattle, WA
Oct. 31-Nov. 2	Oral History Association	Pensacola, FL
Nov. 8-9	Florida State Genealogical Society	Tampa, FL
Nov. 12-15	Southern Historical Association	Houston, TX