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Director's Meeting

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MINUTES OF THE DIRECTORS' MEETING FLORIDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Randy F. Nimnicht, president of the Florida Historical Society, called the mid-winter meeting of the Society's board of directors to order at 9:00 A.M., December 7, 1985, at the Florida Historical Society Library, University of South Florida, Tampa. Present were Lucius F. Ellsworth, Paul S. George, Linda K. Williams, Samuel Proctor, Thomas D. Greenhaw, Patricia R. Wickman, Gregory Bush, David Colburn, Alva L. Jones, Wright, Langley, Mary C. Linehan, Raymond Mohl, Owen North, Larry E. Rivers, Daniel L. Schafer, Michael Slicker, William M. Straight, Kyle VanLandingham, and Gary R. Mormino. Also attending were Hayes Kennedy and Jerrell H. Shofner. J. Earle Bowden, J. Richard Brooke, and George F. Pearce were absent. Mr. Nimnicht welcomed the directors and guests and thanked Dr. and Mrs. Mormino for hosting the board at the reception in their home Friday evening.

The board unanimously approved the minutes of the May 2, 1985, directors' meeting in Tallahassee as published in the *Florida Historical Quarterly* (October 1985), pp. 230-38.

Dr. Mormino, director of the Florida Historical Society, noted in his report that there had been important gains in the past year in three critical areas: finance, membership, and development. The Society's finances are in a stable condition. At the May 1985 meeting, the membership approved the increase in dues as recommended by the board, and noted there has been a growth in membership from 1,375 in December 1984, to 1,518 in December 1985. This will provide additional income. With sales of Society materials, a grant from the Florida Endowment for the Humanities, and gifts, Dr. Mormino expects a surplus revenue of \$4,000-\$6,000 for 1984-1985.

Membership had been declining in recent years, reaching a low of 1,300 in 1982. Losses resulting from attrition and cancellation had averaged 200 annually in recent years. Dr. Mormino addressed this problem in two ways. First, to show a new image for the Society—activism, dynamism, and professionalism—he spoke to many groups throughout the state and solicited memberships from his audience. Second, the Society designed a new brochure which was mailed to 5,000 prospective members. Mail-

ing lists were obtained from local and regional societies, including the Historical Association of Southern Florida, Gulf Coast Heritage Society, Tallahassee Historical Society, *Tampa Bay History*, St. Petersburg Historical Society, the University of Florida's Department of History, and the University of South Florida Alumni Association. Nearly 300 new members have been added to the roles in recent weeks. Additional brochures will be mailed in February and March 1986. The rate of attrition has also been reduced during the last three years. Dr. Mormino predicts a membership of at least 1,650 in 1986.

Mormino emphasized that if the Society expects to play a more activist role, it must plan for future development. A fund-raising campaign was begun in October. Some sixty members have responded with contributions of \$1,600 (an average of \$25 a pledge). The director recommended that \$1,000 of this amount be allocated to the Father Jerome Fund in order to purchase additional Florida books. The Society received a \$6,000 grant from the Florida Endowment for the Humanities to conduct a Florida history teacher workshop. The director asked the board to support two important items in the 1986 budget: the acquisition of a computer and the employment of a part-time assistant to help with the increasing duties of the office. Dr. Mormino noted that a computer is needed for producing labels and for word processing. He will investigate the possibility of contracting computer services to see if it is more economical than purchasing equipment. President Nimnicht asked the board members to review the budget during the meeting, and announced that he would defer action on the computer matter until a later point in the meeting.

Dr. Ellsworth noted the excellent press coverage that the Society has received this year, and thanked Dr. Mormino and other board members for their cooperation. He urged the board to support Dr. Mormino in his efforts to keep the office running efficiently.

Mr. Nimnicht reminded the board that the Society has made a commitment to the University of South Florida administration to begin supporting the secretarial position within three years and to try to fund some of the expenses now being paid by the University. Revenue from the membership campaign and annual appeal could be utilized for these purposes.

Dr. Samuel Proctor reported that thirty articles had been submitted for consideration for publication in the *Florida Historical Quarterly* in 1985. The majority were from professional historians, but several were submitted by non-professionals and graduate students. Sixteen articles were published this year (1985), covering a variety of historical events and persons important to Florida history. Forty-eight of the sixty-seven book reviews published this year were related to Florida topics, and twenty-five additional books on Florida were covered in Book Notes. The *Quarterly* is interested in reviewing books dealing with any aspect of Florida history, anthropology, geography, or government, and will also note the publication of novels, children's books, and reprints. A review copy of the book (hard cover) must be submitted to the editor together with full ordering information. This year six articles from the *Quarterly* are being reprinted in other books. The *Quarterly* retains copyright on all reprinted material.

Dr. Proctor also reported on the status of the Panton-Leslie project sponsored by the Florida Historical Society, the P. K. Yonge Library of Florida History, and the University of West Florida. The project is under the direction of Dr. William Coker of the University of West Florida. The papers of the Panton, Leslie Company and the Forbes Company are being collected for publication. The first volume will be published by the University of West Florida Press in April 1986.

Dr. Proctor noted that an index to the *Florida Historical Quarterly* has not been published since volume 53 (1974-1975), and a new index is needed. He recommended that the board consider compiling and publishing an index to the *Quarterlies* since volume 53. Dr. Proctor will report at the May board meeting on the costs involved in producing the third volume and in reprinting the first volume, which is now out-of-print. Dr. Proctor concluded his report by thanking his board of editors: David R. Colburn, Herbert J. Doherty, Jr., Michael V. Gannon, John K. Mahon, Jerrell H. Shofner, Charlton W. Tebeau, and J. Leitch Wright, Jr. He also expressed his appreciation to the University of Florida for the assistance it provides.

Dr. Thomas Greenhaw, editor of the *Florida Historical Newsletter*, announced that there will be a few changes made by the printer in the forthcoming issues. The Confederation committee, which will review the newsletter, will report at a later date.

Dr. Jerrell Shofner reported on the proposed readings book on Florida history. It will contain fifteen to twenty articles selected from the *Florida Historical Quarterly* and can be used as a supplementary text for high school, college, and university students. The volume will contain six sections, each with three or four pages of introduction written by Dr. Shofner. A 300-page book is planned with an initial run of 2,000 copies.

President Nimmicht asked the board to review the status of the various restricted funds maintained by the Society. Dr. Proctor prepared descriptions of each fund:

Rembert W. Patrick Memorial Book Prize was established by the Society after Dr. Patrick's death. At the time of his death, he was Research Professor in the Department of History, University of Georgia, and he had for many years served as the chairman of the Department of History, University of Florida. He had also served as editor of the *Florida Historical Quarterly*. There is no endowment for this prize, and the award money comes from the Society's treasury. The annual prize is \$150.

Arthur W. Thompson Memorial Prize in Florida History was established in 1966 by Mrs. Arthur W. Thompson of Gainesville and her family with a gift of \$2,500. The prize recognizes the author of the best article published each year in the *Florida Historical Quarterly*. Dr. Thompson was a member of the history faculty at the University of Florida and a noted authority in southern and American history. Income from the endowment provides the \$150 prize.

Charlton W. Tebeau Book Prize recognizes the best book published annually for young readers. The endowment was established by Dr. Tebeau, former chairman of the Department of History, University of Miami, and former president of the Florida Historical Society. It was supplemented by contributions from other individuals. The annual prize is \$150.

The Julien Yonge Publication Fund was established after the death of Mr. Yonge in Pensacola. For many years he had been the director of the P. K. Yonge Library of Florida History and editor of the *Florida Historical Quarterly*. The endowment came from private gifts, and the purpose was to encourage the publications program of the Society. The fund was used to compile and publish the index for volumes 36-53 of the *Quarterly*. The board of directors voted to use the fund for this purpose, but

with the proviso that all income from the sale of the index would be returned to the fund to be utilized for future publications.

Father Jerome Book Fund was established with private contributions as a memorial to Father Jerome of St. Leo's Abby. The income is to be used to purchase books for the Florida Historical Society Library.

Wentworth Publication Fund was established in the early 1970s with a gift of \$7,500 from the Wentworth Foundation for the purpose of publishing and/or reprinting books dealing with Florida history. An editorial board composed of William M. Goza, Samuel Proctor, and Milton Jones was appointed. There was never any thought, proviso, or indication that the Fund or its income would be used for the publication of the *Florida Historical Quarterly*, the Society's newsletter, or any other Society activity or operation.

President Nimmicht noted that none of the original paperwork dealing with these funds has been found. Dr. Proctor urged that the correct current value of the Yonge and Wentworth funds be established. Dr. Ellsworth moved that the board instruct Dr. Mormino, working with the finance committee, to determine the amounts needed to bring the Yonge and Wentworth funds to their correct balances, and that the board authorize the repayment to be made over the next three years. Dr. Schafer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

President Nimmicht returned the discussion to the Florida readings project. Mike Slicker asked about plans for distributing the book. President Nimmicht noted that distribution plans, as well as more information on the format and a financial analysis, are needed before final approval is given to the project. Dr. Shofner stated that he has done all that he can on the project until it is endorsed by the board. Dr. Colburn moved that Dr. Shofner be given authority to proceed with the project, and that a publications committee be appointed to review the work and look into its distribution. The motion carried. President Nimmicht asked Dr. Colburn, Dr. Proctor, and Dr. Mormino to work with Dr. Shofner on preparing the volume for publication.

Hayes Kennedy and Kyle VanLandingham presented the finance committee's report. Mr. Kennedy is a member of the special committee appointed by the board to oversee the Society's finances. The committee had invested \$40,000 with board approval in an E. F. Hutton money market account. This invest-

ment has now increased to \$75,558. The finance committee recommended that approximately \$25,000 be transferred to the Hutton Investment Series Government Securities portfolio, and the remaining balance be transferred to the Hutton government fund. Mr. VanLandingham moved that the board endorse the committee's recommendation, and his motion carried.

Dr. Ellsworth reported on the growing statewide interest in plans for the quincentenary of European contact with the New World. He stated that the Florida Endowment for the Humanities would be favorable to a grant proposal for a statewide conference on this topic, which would hopefully produce a strategy for obtaining legislative endorsement of a commission to plan for the 1992 activities. Dr. Proctor reported that the National Endowment for the Humanities has sponsored five national conferences, including one in Florida, and has funded the establishment of the Institute of Early Contact Studies at the University of Florida with Dr. Michael Gannon as director. These national and international activities would tie in with a Florida commission. Dr. Ellsworth moved that the Society participate in efforts to help the state plan for the quincentenary. The motion passed.

Dr. Proctor reported on the status of artifacts and other items owned by the Society that are stored at the Florida State Museum and other museums in the state. Ms. Wickman asked that the Museum of Florida History be considered in any discussions regarding the transfer of these materials. Mr. Nimmicht asked Greg Bush and David Colburn to serve on a committee to address the issue of what to do with the Society's collections.

Ms. Wickman reported on the Florida Historical Confederation. The resource roster is still in rough draft. Beginning this year the awards will also include one recognizing "Longevity of Service." It will honor Dr. Dorothy Dodd of Tallahassee. Award guidelines will be distributed to the judges in January. The *Florida Historical Society Directory* is being distributed to Confederation members. Three members of the Confederation board are retiring in May, and the nominating committee is asking for recommendations for candidates. There are sixty-nine Confederation members out of a potential membership of approximately 400. The by-laws of the Confederation are currently being reviewed. The Confederation has been seeking outside

funding for its May 1986 workshop. Ms. Wickman moved that the Society include \$1,000 in the 1986 budget to pay for the publication of a promotional brochure for the Confederation. Dr. Ellsworth expressed concern about the need for another brochure. Discussion followed about the recruitment of new members, and whether a brochure is the best method to achieve this goal. Ms. Wickman offered a substitute motion asking for authority to begin a membership recruitment campaign. The motion carried.

Michael Slicker reported for the library committee. Approximately 1,000 people a year use the Society's collections. Dr. Mormino said that many books and other materials have been donated to the library this past year.

President Nimnicht announced that the by-laws which were adopted by the Society at the May 1985 annual meeting will be distributed. Linda Williams and Kyle VanLandingham will continue to serve on this committee.

Dr. Paul George reported that eight counties are participating in the History Fair this year, and that the finalists will be invited to attend the Society's annual meeting. Gerald McSwigan is providing the funding for this activity, and may contribute \$1,000 to help send the Florida winners to the national fair.

Dr. Mormino is planning a Society workshop to be held either in Tallahassee, Jacksonville, or Miami in 1986. He will produce a pamphlet for school children if grant support can be obtained.

Mr. Nimnicht reported that the Society is considering the establishment of an essay competition for Florida college students on the subject of "Florida's Past as the Foundation for her Future." President Nimnicht asked Dr. Rivers, Dr. Schafer, Dr. Bush, and Dr. Mohl to serve on a planning committee for this project.

Dr. Mormino reported on the plans for the 1986 annual meeting in Bradenton. Dr. Schafer, chair of the program committee, announced that three sessions are being planned, with the Saturday morning session devoted to topics of local interest. Hampton Dunn will be the banquet speaker.

St. Augustine has invited the Society to hold its 1987 meeting in that city. An invitation has also been received from Sanford. Mr. Nimnicht asked Mrs. Peterson to draft a description of the

procedure to be followed for site selection and report at the May meeting.

After discussion on the proposed budget for fiscal year 1986, Dr. Colburn moved that the budget be approved. The motion carried.

Dr. Mormino announced that the first "Adventures in History" tour will be held in December at the Dade Massacre site at Bushnell. A tour of Ybor City is being planned for spring 1986.

Dr. Ellsworth announced that the committee established to review the Florida Historical Confederation will be meeting shortly.

Ms. Williams requested that board members send suggestions of nominees for directors to her or to other members of the nominating committee.

The meeting was adjourned.

GREAT EXPECTATIONS .		
1986		
Apr. 30	Society of Florida Archivists	Bradenton, FL
May 1	Florida Historical Confederation	Bradenton, FL
May 1-3	FLORIDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY- 84th MEETING	Bradenton, FL
June 15-20	A. F. Wentworth History Teachers Workshop	Gainesville, FL
Aug. 26-30	Society of American Archivists	Chicago, IL
Sept. 30- Oct. 3	American Association for State and Local History	Oakland, CA
Oct. 15-19	National Trust for Historic Preservation	Kansas City, MO
Oct. 23-25	Oral History Association	Long Beach, CA
Nov. 7-9	Southern Jewish Historical Association	Ft. Lauderdale, FL
Nov. 12-15	Southern Historical Association	Charlotte, NC
Dec. 27-30	American Historical Association	Chicago, IL