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Director's Meeting

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MINUTES OF THE DIRECTORS MEETING FLORIDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The mid-winter meeting of the board of directors of the Florida Historical Society was convened at 10:00 a.m. in the Special Collections Reading Room, University of South Florida, Tampa, December 3, 1988, by Paul S. George, president. Officers and directors attending included: Rodney E. Dillon, Samuel Proctor, Kathleen H. Arsenault, Patsy West, Niles F. Schuh, Eugene Lyon, Henry Green, Eugene W. Roach, J. Andrew Brian, Gwendolyn B. Waldorf, Robert C. Harris, David R. Colburn, Hampton Dunn, Stuart McIver, Marinus H. Latour, William S. Coker, Michael Slicker, and Lewis N. Wynne, executive director.

The minutes of the May 1988 board meeting were accepted as published in the October 1988 issue of the *Florida Historical Quarterly*. The published agenda of a presentation delivered at the annual meeting, May 1988, on the "Discovery of the Atocha," was amended to note that one of the speakers was "Patrick Cline," rather than "Patricia." The minutes of the Executive Committee meeting, held August 13, 1988, Tampa, were amended to reflect the correct tabulation of votes. Thus, the minutes now read: "Voting in favor of remaining at the University of South Florida were Hampton Dunn, Samuel Proctor, Kathleen Arsenault, and Marinus Latour. Voting in favor of St. Augustine's offer were Randy Nimnicht, Paul George, and Michael Slicker." The voting positions of Marinus Latour and Michael Slicker were reversed in the minutes as published. The resignation of Gerald W. McSwiggan was regretfully accepted.

It was announced that hereafter, unless they include items requiring specific action, most committee reports will be published in the *Society Report* and will not be included on the board's agenda.

Gwendolyn Waldorf reported that 1989 would probably see a doubling in the number of counties and students involved in the History Fair program. This increase in participation is due, in large part, to the involvement of the Florida Department of

Education, and in particular, Kathy Brown (education curator, Museum of Florida History) and Peggy Durham (teacher).

Initial response from the Georgia Historical Society regarding a joint meeting with our Society has been positive. A committee, consisting of Nick Wynne, Samuel Proctor, David Colburn, Raymond Mohl, Kathy Arsenault, and Paul George, was formed to issue a formal invitation, establishing a time (preferably the fall 1990 or 1991) and place for such a meeting.

Nick Wynne reported a revitalized relationship with the University of South Florida, mentioning specifically that (1) several board members had enjoyed individual, informal meetings with President Borkowski; (2) the Society is in the process of moving to its expanded quarters on the fifth floor of the library; (3) the university has provided a part-time work-study student for the Society's use; (4) the university has provided sources of indirect funding to benefit the Society's activities and programs, including some furnishings for the Society's new office; (5) the USF Woman's Club has offered assistance; and (6) the University of South Florida Press has offered jointly to sponsor book publications. The Society has begun paying its bill to USF for services performed (postage, photocopies, telephone, office supplies, etc.) during the period of 1981-1988. Reflecting on the size and nature of the bill, the board requested that Dr. Wynne and Dr. George meet with President Borkowski and request that the university forgive similar future expenses.

As the *Florida Portrait* project was discussed, the publications committee agreed to provide the board with a report in thirty days that would: (1) outline our obligations to sponsors; (2) provide final figures for the cost of production; (3) make recommendations for actions the Society should take in regard to Douglas Drown of the defunct publishing company Continental Heritage; (4) make recommendations regarding the marketing of the book, including the extent of the involvement on the part of the University of South Florida; and (5) make sure that we do not reverse the will or previous decisions of the board. If there is the need, the board will take action on specific items with a mail-vote.

In response to fiscal demands, the board voted to recommend the following changes in dues: (1) increase all individual and private membership categories \$5 per year, with the exception of the student category; (2) create a corporate membership

category with an annual membership of \$100; and (3) increase the library membership category \$10 per year. The recommended memberships are annual membership— \$25, family membership— \$30, library membership— \$35, contributing— \$55 and above, corporate membership— \$100, and student membership— \$15. The board approved an increase in the director's salary (to reflect his increased duties) through May of 1989, in the amount of \$7,500. On or before February 1, 1989, the director will present the board with an itemized budget for its approval. In the future, all budget reports will include the following: (1) itemized budget lines for all income and expenses; and (2) comparative figures for both of the immediate prior years, and one year in advance (the projected year). In the interim, no expenses beyond the day-to-day expenditures are approved, unless authorized by the Executive Committee.

In further response to fiscal responsibilities, the board requested: (1) that the director communicate with the executive directors of other state societies to discuss techniques for fund-raising; (2) that the Society consider the possibility of retaining a consultant to develop a comprehensive, two-year program to raise \$500,000; and (3) that during the current review of the by-laws, the committee consider the possibility of expanding the board to include members with the sole responsibility for fund-raising.

The board requested that the president, or a committee of his selection, approach the governor, the legislative leadership, and the cabinet to explore the possibility of establishing a cooperative, working relationship with the state of Florida.

President George expanded the library committee to include Rodney Dillon (chairman), Kathy Arsenault, Becky Smith, Gwendolyn Waldorf, and Michael Slicker. He charged the committee with the responsibility of reviewing the Society's holdings of books, prints, maps, manuscripts, and artifacts, and requested that the committee make recommendations as to their present and future status, especially the Audubon prints which are currently deteriorating.

Andrew Brian delivered the report of the Florida Historical Confederation, concluding with the suggestion that the by-laws committee review the status of the Confederation and determine whether it should continue as a standing committee or develop as a separate entity.

DIRECTORS MEETING

537

Niles Shuh chairs a committee reviewing the Society's by-laws, giving special attention to the following items (in addition to those previously discussed in this meeting): the make-up of the Executive Committee, the line of succession, the status of the Newsletter editor, and the various duties and responsibilities of ex-officio members of the board.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.