

SOCIETY OF FLORIDA ARCHIVISTS
CONFERENCE CALL
Meeting Minutes
September 4th, 2009

1. Call to Order—President John Nemmers called the meeting to order at 2.17PM. Present were Mike Zaidman, Vice-President; Judith Beale, Secretary; Flo Turcotte, Director; Wenxian Zhang, Director and Burt Altman, Immediate Past President. John welcomed new directors Flo Turcotte and Wenxian Zhang to the board and thanked Judith for continuing to serve.
2. Secretary's Report--Annual Meeting Minutes had been distributed and Burt moved to accept them, Wenxian seconded and the minutes were approved. Judith will send a PDF version to Burt for uploading to the web site.
3. Vice-President/Newsletter Report—Mike reported that 15 members now receive the newsletter in digital form. Printing costs for the Spring issue were \$270 and \$105.18 for the Summer issue. Stamps were purchased in July costing \$180. The deadline for the Fall issue is October 15th. As usual, he would like contributions on any topic of interest. He is considering removing the membership form from the newsletter as it takes up a lot of space. The form is available on the web site. Flo suggested that he just put a reminder in the newsletter about how to join and where to find the membership form.
4. Membership Report--Mary could not be present and emailed her report that we have 3 new members and 1 new institutional member since our last meeting.
5. Treasurer's Report—Board Members have the report, which shows a Checking Account balance of \$14717.85 and a Savings Account balance of \$5,120.33 at June 30, 2009. Kathy could not be present due to a problem with the conference call system so the report will be discussed at the next meeting.
6. Web Site News—Burt has uploaded a slideshow and presentations from the Annual Meeting. He is gradually adding more back issues of the newsletter. The improvements that were planned to the web site have not happened. The board discussed the matter and felt that the web site looks good at present so there is no pressing need to make any changes. Board members should check that their contact information is correct, and send any ideas for improving the site to Burt.
7. Old Business: 2009 Annual Meeting-- John reported that the Annual Meeting income was approximately \$2237, which was about 50% of the previous year. The expenses were \$4114. We lost about \$1877, whereas we made a profit of around \$2000 in previous two years. The loss is not a significant problem for the Society. We retained sponsorship from Metal Edge. The hotel was good, and those who were present enjoyed the meeting. He believed that the low attendance was due to the poor economy and insufficient advertising. Mike reminded him that the meeting had been advertised in every issue of the newsletter and there had been several email alerts. The poor economy was the problem, not lack of effort on the part of the host committee. John will collate the evaluations and share them with the board, but generally, attendees liked the opportunity for smaller discussions especially the Open Discussion though there was some concern that the possible creation of a College and University Archives would exclude archivists

from other repositories. Attendees would like more sessions on archival basics, such as preservation, digitization, appraisal and arrangement with some more advanced topics.

8. New Business: 2010 Annual Meeting—John indicated that next year's Annual Meeting should be at the same time of year as the 2009 meeting. Both Tampa and St. Augustine had been suggested as possible locations. Tampa is favored for 2010 because it has easy access for most attendees. John will discuss the matter with members in the Tampa area to see if they would be willing to serve on the host committee. Miami has also been suggested as a possible location for the 2011 meeting.
9. New Business: PAHR—John explained that this legislation would be very important for Florida as the allocation depends on population. It would mean a lot of money for cultural organisations in the state. Last year Burt wrote to the Florida delegation on behalf of the SFA. John intends to charge a Special Committee to see what SFA can do to advance the cause of PAHR. The committee will be John, Burt, Wenxian, Carl Van Ness and Esperanza de Verona. They could identify key representatives and advise members on what they could do to advance the legislation. Flo suggested that the Special Committee could provide talking points in the newsletter for members to use in lobbying their representatives. Burt suggested inviting representatives to our institutions. Wenxian suggested providing form letters for contacting representatives.
10. New Business: Connecting to Collections Survey—Burt will be on a panel at the Florida Association of Museums Annual Meeting on 24th September explaining about the Connecting to Collections survey.

The meeting was adjourned at 2.54.