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A NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE HISTORICAL RECORDS COORDINATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF STATE HISTORICAL RECORDS ADVISORY BOARDS. ATLANTA, GEORGIA. JUNE 6-7, 1980

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Foreword

Under the terms of a National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) grant, the National Association of State Archives and Records Administrators (NASARA) conducted a national meeting of state historical records coordinators and representatives of State Historical Records Advisory Boards in Atlanta, Georgia, June 6-7, 1980. Attending were representatives from forty-eight states (Maine and Maryland were not represented), the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.*

The purposes of the Atlanta conference were to review and evaluate the NHPRC's records grant program and to develop policy and procedural changes to recommend to the federal commission to improve the program for the future. The agenda for the two-day conference was planned by a steering committee composed of Martha M. Bigelow, F. Gerald Ham, Peter T. Harstad, Carroll Hart, Cleo Hughes, Sidney F. McAlpin, Harry E. Whipkey, and Albert H. Whitaker. A. K. Johnson, executive director of NASARA, chaired the steering committee session, and all conference sessions were also under his direction. Local and special arrangements were handled by the staff of the Georgia Department of Archives and History.

The program on June 6 opened with an address by Peter T. Harstad, entitled "In Quest of A National Historical Records Program," which reviewed the background of the NHPRC's records program and set the stage for the conference's evaluation of current policies and procedures. There followed papers on "The Objectives of the NHPRC's Records Program" by

* A list of representatives attending the conference is found on pp. 82-83.
F. Gerald Ham; "The Role of State Boards and Coordinators: Functions and Responsibilities" by Martha M. Bigelow; "The Role of the State Boards and Coordinators: Appointments and Composition" by Cleo A. Hughes; "Funding: Issues and Options" by Sidney F. McAlpin; and "Formation of A Continuing Organization to Represent the Interests of Coordinators and Boards" by Charles Lee. Concurrent meetings of discussion groups on the first four subject areas, led by Ham, Bigelow, Hughes, and McAlpin, completed the day's agenda.

The formal business session of the conference was held on Saturday, June 7, with A. K. Johnson presiding. The session included reports and recommendations from the discussion groups, a report by Charles Lee on formation of a continuing organization, and discussion and votes on recommendations. The business session also witnessed the election of a six-member steering committee (F. Gerald Ham, Peter T. Harstad, Elbert R. Hilliard, Sidney F. McAlpin, Marlene Wallace, and Julia A. Yelvington) to coordinate action based on the outcome of the conference and to represent coordinators and advisory board members for 1980-1981.

The steering committee was given immediate responsibility for reviewing all of the recommendations of the conference. Responsibility for preparing the final report of the Atlanta meeting (subject to review by the steering committee) was given to Harry E. Whipkey and Albert H. Whitaker. Whipkey and Whitaker were also named to represent coordinators and advisory board members at the October 26 meeting of the federal commission.¹

¹This foreword is from the introduction to the "Recommendations to NHRPC of State Historical Records Coordinators and Representatives of State Historical Records Advisory Boards" prepared by Harry E. Whipkey and Albert H. Whitaker.

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This issue of Georgia Archive includes the papers presented at the Atlanta conference by Peter T. Harstad, F. Gerald Ham, Martha M. Bigelow, Cleo A. Hughes, and Sidney F. McAlpin; the recommendations presented by the conference to the NHPRC in October; and the commission's response to those recommendations. The Editors wish to thank Larry Hackman, Peter Harstad, and A. K. Johnson for their support and assistance, and all those who contributed to this issue.

The Editors

2 The presentation by Charles Lee was not submitted to Georgia Archive for publication.
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