

EMILY RETHERFORD LISSKA**10404 Sylvan Lane West Jacksonville, Florida 32257 (904) 504-1242 ERL49@aol.com**

Emily Lisska is the current President of the Florida Historical Society, the oldest cultural organization in Florida. A Jacksonville native, Emily has actively researched, preserved, presented and promoted North Florida's unique and diverse history for more than a quarter of a century.

From 1996 until 2018, she served as Executive Director of the Jacksonville Historical Society. She managed the organization's four historic buildings, including two National Register Sites. She directed history activities at the society's 1888 Old St. Andrew's and the society's archival repository where she maintained tens of thousands of rare history documents and photographs in the 1878 St. Luke's Hospital and the Florida Casket Company— acquisitions highlighting her tenure. Emily also curated the award-winning Merrill Museum House. Following retirement in 2018, she continued as a society volunteer with the launch of an oral history project and exhibit on the city's immigrant population. In 2018, she created the exhibit *Hats off to Jacksonville: The 50th Anniversary of Consolidation*.

Her credits include the acclaimed *Jacksonville Family Album*. She wrote and edited the 430-page coffee table book with noted author Wayne Wood. She also edited the award-winning book, *The Great Fire of 1901*, while creating citywide activities to commemorate the Fire's centennial. Emily was editor of the Jacksonville Historical Society's *Historical Quarterly*, *The Courier* and *First Coast Steamboat Days*; she created the popular facsimile edition of Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Palmetto Leaves*. Two Emmy-winning documentaries, *The Kiss of Life* and *Ax Handle Saturday* are among her projects.

She is a current board member for The Woman's Club of Jacksonville, the Memorial Park Association and the Mandarin Community Club, where she is also a past-president and secured restoration funds for the 1872 Mandarin School. Emily serves on the F.S.C.J. Board of Governors.

Past community activities include a gubernatorial appointment to the Florida Elections Commission; development of the first teen pregnancy prevention program in the Duval County School System; participation in the J.C.C.I. Study on Visual Pollution; service on the city's Task Force for Downtown Preservation; and appointment to the city's Blue Ribbon Commission on Cemeteries. She is a Past-President of the Jacksonville Women's Network.

Emily is recipient of the Rossetter Award for the Outstanding Woman in Florida History and the Melody Anne Bishop Community Involvement Award presented annually by the City Council President. The Southern Academy of Arts and Letters awarded her its highest honor, "The Order of the South." She is a graduate of the University of Florida and attended Florida State University for graduate studies. Emily is married to Lawrence Lisska, M.D., and they have two sons.