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The New Leadership

Who are these leaders with this determination to help rebuild and transform Elkdom to its former focus on obtaining a secure, productive and unfettered way of life for all in our still-oppressed communities, particularly our masses? Aside from the national staff headed by Grand Exalted Ruler Wilson and Grand Daughter Ruler Smith, there are about 170 elected and appointed officials from the Lodges and Temples who comprise the overall governing body. Beyond the national convention, they are required to convene and deliberate once every year at the Elks National Shrine in Winton, North Carolina, with the State Association Presidents and the Daughter State Presidents of the auxiliaries holding most influential positions apart from the two national heads.

The names and titles of these esteemed and most important national and state leaders are as follows:

Donald P. Wilson, Grand Exalted Ruler
Stanley Thomas, G.E. Leading Knight
Donald Washington, G.E. Loyal Knight
Albert Summerville, G.E. Lecturing Knight
Carl O. Dickerson, Grand Secretary
C.L. Smith, Grand Treasurer
Joseph Frazier, Grand Esquire
Robert Batts, Grand Inner Guard
Winston C. Rolle, Grand Tiler
Richard Vaughn, Trustee
John Hilton, Trustee
William Baum, Trustee
Charles Moore, Trustee
M.M. Sitton, Trustee
Howard Thomas, Auditor
Richard Rawlins, Auditor
Harcourt Brown, Auditor
David Groves, Auditor
William Pollard, Auditor
Keesler Montgomery, Grand Legal Advisor
James Magbee, Grand Recorder
Ralph Smith, Grand Convention Director
Charles Jones, Comm. of Security
E.L.D. Moss, Grand Dir. of Economics
Robert Lovett, Grand Chaplain
William Patterson, Beauty & Talent
J. Hugo Madison, Comm. of Education
J. Garrick Hardy, Deputy Comm. of Education
Alfred Bell, Comm. of Shrine
Gary Cooper, Deputy Comm. of Shrine
James Chase Jr., Comm. of Veteran Affairs
Remus Smith, Director of Pioneer Fez
Stanley Thomas Jr., Grand Dir. of Awards
Lawyer Dixon, Comm. of Fire & Safety
Richard Williams, Deputy Comm. of Fire & Safety
Kenneth Jefferson, Chrm., G.L. Credentials Comm.
Frank Brown, Sec., G.L. Credentials Comm.
Dr. J.D. Weaver, Grand Medical Director
Herbert Harris, Grand Historian
Roosevelt Chunn, Chrm., G.L. Degree Team
Emanuel Harrison, Grand Inspector
Herbert Jackson, Grand Inspector
Norman Day, Grand Inspector
James Hunter, Master of Social Sessions
William Lackey, Grand Youth Director
Victor Lewis, Grand Architect
Harvey N. Schmidt, Comm. of Civil Liberties
W.O. Perry, Assist. to GER
Percy Simond, Asst. to GER
Herbert Brock, Assist. to GER
George Walker, Assist. to GER
Reginald Wilson, Assist. to GER
Edgar C. Campbell, Assist. to GER

S.T. Enloe, Assist. to GER
K.W. Houston, Assist. to GER
Judge Edward Tibbs, Assist. to GER
Collins Yarbrough, Assist. to GER
William Rush, Burial Fund Comm.
Willie White, Burial Fund Comm.
Albert Triplett, Burial Fund Comm.
Gen. John S. Beverly, Grand Commanding Gen.
Fred Young, Grand Adjutant General
James Jeter, National Civil Defense Officer
James Andrews, Grand Inspector General
Elver D. Lee, Grand Surgeon General
James Jackson, Eastern Division Commander
Samuel Joseph, Southern Division Commander
William C. Wilson, Western Division Commander
Alonzo D. Foote, Sr., Pacific Division Commander
Charles Brown, Deputy Grand Auditor
G. Earl Belnavis, Deputy Grand Auditor
Jeremiah Phillips, Grand Choir Director
Willis Jackson, Grand Coordinator of Awards
Joseph Hall, Grand Organist
Ray Brightful, Asst. Grand Secretary
Thomas Logan, 1st Asst. Grand Chaplain
Elwyn Golphin Jr., Asst. Grand Treasurer
John Trezevant III, Asst. Grand Esquire
Richard Dennis, Asst. Grand Inner Guard
James Watson, 1st Asst. Convention Director
William Watkins, Grand Director of Athletics

STATE PRESIDENTS

Malcolm Thomas, Ala.
Alvin Starks, Ark.
Walter Butler, Fla.
Harvey Thomas, Ga.
Morris Spearman, Ill-Wisc.
Benjamin Merriweather, Ind.
Robert Gilbert, Ky.
Willard Lewis, La.
Alfred Bell, Michigan
Herbert Brock, Middlewest
Colyer Frierson, Miss.
Floyd Crumpton, Mo.
James West, New England
Matthew Vaughn, New Jersey
Earl Chapman, New York
Lem Long, North Carolina
Vollie Johnson, Northwest
William Pollard, Ohio
Arthur Whitmore, Pacific
Fred Montgomery, Pa.
M.M. Sitton, South Carolina
Oscar Bond, Tenn.
William S. Fountain, Tri-States
James Jordan, Tex.
Samuel Raines, Virginia
George Blue, West Va.
Winston C. Rolle, Bahamas

GRAND TEMPLE OFFICERS

Jean C.W. Smith, Grand Daughter Ruler
Zelma Young, Gr. Vice Daughter Ruler
Ruth S. Rhett, Gr. Asst. Daughter Ruler
Ivy Z. Mackey, Chaplain
Buena V. Kelley, Gr. Dgt. Secretary
Pender J. McCall, Gr. Dgt. Treasurer
Susie M. Banks, Recorder
Gladys Taylor, Asst. Recorder
Margaret D. Scott, Escort
Wealthy Gomez, Asst. Escort
Evelyn H. Sams, Asst. Escort
Elizabeth D. Harrison, Doorkeeper
Shirley W. Pierce, Gatekeeper
Mary Rose Jackson, Organist
Helen C. McDonald, Arts & Crafts
Hattie G. Wilson, Arts & Crafts
Marian B. Charles, Trustee
Grace Breden, Trustee
Sarah E. Walker, Trustee
Jeane I. Williams, Trustee
Edna L. Williams, Trustee
Susie McFarland, Auditor
Peggy L. Bray, Auditor
Annice J. Meadows, Auditor
Edna T. Hopkins, Gr. Sr. Mother
Leona E. Denson, Gr. Workshop Coord.
Barbara Stimpson, Asst. to GDR

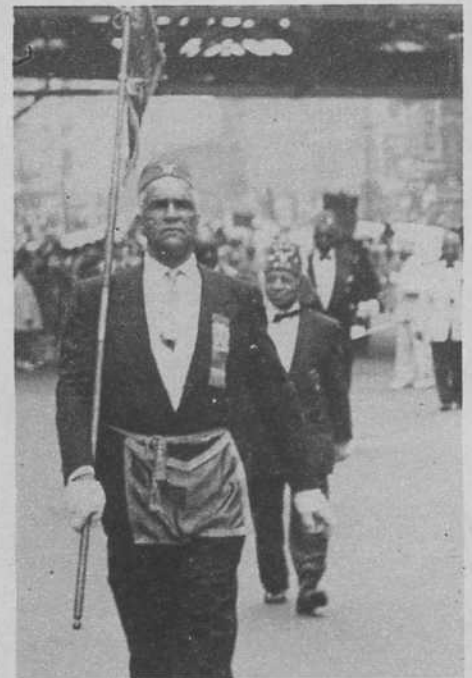
Karen L. Wilson, Gr. Organizer

DGT. STATE PRESIDENTS

Otelia Moss, Ala.
Freddie Jenkins, Ark.
Mable Bostwick, Bahamas
Alice Card, Fla.
Leona Denson, Ga.
Alfrenia Hampton, Ill-Wisc.
Christine Payne, Ind.
Margaret Seals, Ky.
Juanita H. Robertson, La.
Julia N. Ford, Mich.
Arretta M. Butler, Middlewest
L'Dina Robinson, Miss.
Marie H. Brown, Mo.
Elizabeth Almedia, New England
Verna McCutcheon, New Jersey
Zelma Young, New York
Arlease B. Hawkins, North Carolina
Francis M. Taylor, Northwest
Naomi Strickland, Ohio
Kathryn L. Beverly, Pacific
Ida G. Blair, Pa.
Mamie C. Norris, South Carolina
Lillian K. Lewis, Tenn.
Emma L. McGhee, Texas
Alfredia J. Fountain, Tri-States
Helena Stotts, Virginia
Ophelia Davis, West Virginia

DEPARTMENT HEADS

Harriette Seay, Civil Liberties
Elizabeth Richardson, Purple Cross Nurses
Anna Robinson, Youth
J. Ruth Patterson, Shrine
Evelyn Gore, Pioneer Fez
Bradie Session, Education
Alice Boxwell, Deputy Comm. Shrine
Erma Houston, Public Relations



Unity Day, May 1955

“Reaching Back”

The low profile which the Elks have traditionally assumed over the years has overshadowed both their effectiveness and their community-building potential. It also helped in times of trouble. However, the new brand of leadership being bred within Elkdom is becoming a “saving grace” for both Black America as a whole and the Elks themselves.

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Daughters, the Elks have contributed in excess of \$2.5 million in scholarship grants to promising Blacks in the United States, the Bahamas and Canada. Former scholarship recipients include Mary McLeod Bethune, Adam Clayton Powell and Martin Luther King Jr.

The Elks are now comprised of several distinct departments which focus on health, veterans affairs, civil liberties, athletics, talent and education. Most valued by constituents of the Elks is the Department of Education.

Since 1920 also, the Elks' Department of Education, of which J. Finley Wilson is credited as the “Master Builder,” has assumed the nationwide task of teaching basic reading and writing skills to academically disadvantaged Blacks. This department is responsible for soliciting and distributing scholarship grants to those students who seek four-year degrees primarily. Recently, the department, under the leadership of Attorney J. Hugo Madison, has increased its efforts to include vocational students, realizing that in the past a large segment of the young Black population had been omitted from the charity of the Elks.

The Questionable Period

But there was a period of almost 30 years in which Elkdom did not shine so brightly. Haughtiness and excessive pride in self—or even the appearance thereof—always entail a price. There was a period immediately after the “Glorious Years” under J. Finley Wilson’s leadership of which many in Elkdom rightfully are not proud.

It was a period in which success seemed to succeed in obscuring the reality needs of a true and open brotherhood of peers. It was a period when power at the top was allowed to prevail with such impunity that the former impeccable reputation of the I.B.P.O.E. of W. was put into question. Elkdom saw its worst years until some remaining prudent leaders decided to purge the Order of those who brought that great organization to the brink of peril.

Thus, the period from the mid-1950’s to the early 1980’s is not often talked about with pride. However, under the almost completely new leadership of Grand Exalted Ruler Donald P. Wilson and Grand Daughter Ruler Jean W. Smith, a vastly different kind of day is dawning. The entire leadership team, which is focused on the united community necessary to complete the “unfinished work of the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.,” is looking broadly to find new blood to infuse into the activities and programmatic decision-making ranks.