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A new addition to the Grand Temple official staff was the appointment of Past Grand Daughter Ruler Emma Huston of St. Louis, Missouri as Grand Directress of Public Relations.

Current Programs

O provide insight into the priorities and goals of the Daughters, the Grand Temple—under the leadership of Grand Daughter Ruler Jean C.W. Smith—chose the theme "Back to Basics." G.D.R. Smith summarized the rationale for the theme saying:

The alphabet is basic to writing and notes are basic to music. To Elkdom, basic are officers who are knowledgeable enough to promote subordinate temples, State Associations and a Grand Temple that function in a businesslike manner; basic is a constitution and by-laws that provide clear guidelines for all daughters; basic are departments with purposes that reflect our commitment to the cardinal principles on which our organization was founded; and basic are membership drives intended to attract and keep the type of members that will reflect favorably on the organization and will make a contribution to the growth of the organization.

As one of the first steps in charting the way "Back to Basics," the Grand Temple sponsored a series of area workshops. The purpose of these workshops was to promote uniformity, consistency and a better understanding of the principles of Elkdom and as a vehicle to explain the policies of the new administration.

In 1986, the first completed steps in a general expansion of the Grand Temple charitable programs was unveiled. The target population of these programs was expanded to include the blind and mentally impaired in addition to the elderly and youth.

To provide the resources for the expanded population, four new departments were commissioned. The new departments included a National Shoe Bank, Helping Hands for the Blind, Aid for the Mentally Impaired and Networking. Each of these departments will provide aid to the needy both within the organization and the larger community. It is envisioned that these departments will offset the results from past and potential cuts in federally-funded social programs.

"Recently," said G.D.R. Smith, "we have begun a new networking relationship with the Assault On Illiteracy Program (AOIP). This is going to be one of our *biggest challenges* because it also has shown it can be one of the *biggest opportunities* for both service and membership growth."

Anticipating their commitment to AOIP, the National Youth Council was organized in 1968. This program provides a yearround program for our youth between the ages of 8 and 18. The purpose of the program is to help youth to become better citizens of their communities and the country as a whole; to create better social conditions by providing wholesome recreation and activities; to offer those youth who are lonely a feeling of belonging and promote their growth and development into happier, self-sustaining members of the community. Opportunities are extended to both boys and girls and, according to G.D.R. Smith, "It is in this area of youth that we will be assuming major planning and coordination leadership within AOIP.'

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Dgt. Emma L. McGhee, President Texas State Association



Dgt. Helene Stotts, President Virginia State Association



Dgt. Pender J. McCall Grand Daughter Treasure



Emma Smith Huston Grand Director of Public Relations



Dgt. Alfredia C. Fountain, President Tri-States Association



Dgt. Ophelia K. Davis, President West Virginia State Association



Dgt. Karen Wilson Grand Organizer



Ogt. Naomi Strickland, President Emeritus Ohio State Association