



HISTORY OF THE NATIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

In 1921, Lemon Thompson a Wiley graduate, had big dreams about how graduates as a whole could continue to be directly involved. The following year the Wiley College National Alumni Association was formed and the following officers were elected: Dr. C. N. Atkins, President; P. H. Willard, F. P. Hodge, Dr. O. J. Moore and Rev. L. C. Thomas, Vice President; B. A. Lewis, Secretary and Ms. M. S. Atkinson, Treasurer.

The fledging organization was enthusiastic and ambitious. It set into operation a plan to encourage all graduates of the institution to become members of the National Alumni Association and support their Alma Mater.

Prior to this organization, the Wiley Clubs in each city had functioned to bring about unity, loyalty, and support of their Alma Mater. Dr. M. W. Dogan, then president of the College, and other Wileyites had fostered the development of the Wiley Clubs. It had become necessary to organize a national body to unify the clubs into a whole, and thus, the National Alumni Association came into being. Mr. Henry J. Mason and Dr. Dogan organized the early Wiley Clubs.

The first administration made notable contributions to the College in terms of financial support, loyalty to ideals, and fostering strong alumni relations. The Association's aim was to promote the interest of the College, as well as interest of the alumni.

The annual fee to the organization was payable at a reunion during Commencement. At that time, Commencement was always held on the last Monday of the regular school session.

In 1924, the Association elected a new president, P. H. Willard. Serving with him were F. P. Hodge, Rev. E. Brown and C. L. Franklin. The treasurer was Dr. F. E. Williams, Sr., and the secretary was Dr. Maggie B. Daniel. This group of officers became notable for helping push the Association and Wiley College into being known as "Big Wiley." Many achievements and accomplishments took place. The Association grew and showed promise of becoming a mainstay of the institution.

In 1928, F. P. Hodge was elected president of the National Alumni Association. Under his administration, Wiley was ushered into what was known as the "Heyday of the College" and a golden era was in force. Wiley College, with the help of its alumni, became a national presence in education and its graduates could be found in all sections of the country. The constitution of the Association was rearranged and expanded and alumni financial support increased.

Mrs. Marietta Buford Nelson became secretary of the Association in 1930 and was followed by Mrs. Hettie L. Bradford in 1935.

Dr. O. J. Moore became president of the association with Dr. F. E. Williams as treasurer and Mrs. Hettie L. Bradford as secretary in 1935. This administration embarked on an ambitious program and served its Alma Mater and the National Alumni Association vigorously.

In 1945, Dr. K. B. Morris became president of the Association and the body continued to grow and move

forward in every way. Dr. Morris brought about great change in the Association and influenced the College's program greatly. A new constitution was written and ratified and the scope of the work of the Association increased.

The National Alumni Association under the dynamic leadership of Dr. Mavis raised funds for the construction of a gymnasium for the College athletic program. Indoor athletic activities had been carried on in the College Refectory and the need for a modern gymnasium was an idea whose time had come. This revolutionized athletics at Wiley. At that time, the new gymnasium was ultra modern with quarters for athletes as well as playing courts and facilities for other indoor sports and activities.

The next administration was headed by Fred E. Lewis in 1948. Serving with him were Dr. F. E. Williams, Sr., Treasurer and Mrs. H. L. Bradford, Secretary. Mr. Lewis continued in the tradition of his predecessors. His regime fostered an expansion program for giving to the Alma Mater.

Founders Day activities were started in 1948 by the College and the Association. Yearly goals of increased giving were set by the Association, broadened and achieved to benefit more needy students.

The Association changed leadership in 1953 and Dr. R. L. Harper became president. Serving with him were Mary Greer Crawford, Secretary and Dr. F. E. Williams, Sr., Treasurer. He set forth a seven-pronged program which placed emphasis on loyalty, payment of dues, support for Homecoming, Founders Day, enhancement of City Clubs and support of alumni projects.

In 1974, Dr. Amos F. Draughan became president of the Association. Mary Greer Crawford served as secretary and Dr. George M. Scott became treasurer. With this team, alumni giving reached an all-time high. Alumni participation in the Association increased greatly. Founders Day activities sponsored by the Association and the College continued to be a week long activity.

A rewriting of the Constitution allowed for regions of the Alumni Association to be organized and Wiley Clubs sent representatives each year to the Association's Annual Meeting.

Addendum by Theresa Frazier Hudson, '67

Due to the death of Mrs. Mary Greer Crawford, February 6, 1995, the following information is being added.

The preceding WCNA History was written by Mrs. Crawford. Mrs. Crawford served as secretary of the WCNA from 1953 to 1988. During her 35 years as secretary, she became a reliable and recorded source of historical data for both the College and the Association.

The year 1989 was the beginning of a new era of leadership for the Association. Ms. Charlotte L. Bell, '60 was elected as president and Alumni giving again reached an all-time high. Serving with her were Richard Foppe' Hodge, Sr. - '65, First Vice President; Ronald E. Franklin, Sr. - '74, Second Vice President; Clara N. Lovely - '62, Secretary; Minnie Y. Devance - '67, Assistant Secretary; Dr. George M. Scott, Sr. - '49, Treasurer; and Dr. Chester Levy, Jr. - '49, Trustee Board Representative. At the time of this addendum, current officers were: Richard Foppe' Hodge, Sr., President (Los Angeles, California); Nolan H. Anderson, Jr., First Vice President (San Antonio, Texas); Ronald E. Franklin, Sr., Second Vice President (Beaumont, Texas); Clara N. Lovely, Treasurer (Marshall, Texas); Emma

Brooks-Baham, Trustee Board Representative (Jackson, Mississippi); Claudia A. Watson, Parliamentarian (Dallas, Texas); and Charlotte L. Bell, Immediate Past President (Chicago, Illinois).

In 1994, Richard Foppe' Hodge, Sr. - '65 was elected president; Nolan H. Anderson, Jr. - '69, First Vice President; Delores Candler Sandling—'53, Second Vice President; Vernella Calvin Taylor - '53, Secretary; Beverly Brown Jackson - '85, Treasurer; Dr. Emma S. Brooks-Baham - '61, Trustee Board Representative; and Dr. Julius S. Scott, Jr. - '45, Chaplain. With this team, alumni giving again reached an all-time high and the National Alumni Association (NAA) Endowment was established. An annual Help-A-Thon was initiated to assist in the beautification of the campus.

Richard Foppe' Hodge, Sr. is the son of the late Freeman P. Hodge, Sr. This is the first time in the history of the Association that a father and his son have served in the capacity of president.

In 1998, Mary Beck, '59 was elected president; Richard Foppe' Hodge, Sr. - '65, First Vice President; Ronald E. Franklin, Sr. - '74, Second Vice President; Vernella Calvin Taylor - '53, Recording Secretary; Roy L. Edwards - '64, Treasurer; Vickie Hines Johnson - '85, Corresponding Secretary; Herman Furlough, Jr. - '63, Financial Secretary; and Billy R. Casey - '73, Trustee Board Representative.

In 1999-2000, Mary Beck was re-elected president along with the following officers: First Vice President, Richard Foppe' Hodge, Sr. - '65; Second Vice President, Ronald E. Franklin, Sr. - '74; Region I Vice President, Dr. Marion T. Jones - '48; Region II Vice President, Lillian Banks - '54; Region III Vice President, Frances L. Whiten - '51; Corresponding Secretary, Leo Draper - '29; Financial Secretary, Herman Furlough, Jr. - '63; Recording Secretary, Vernella Calvin Taylor - '53; Assistant Corresponding Secretary, Vicki Hines Johnson - '64; Treasurer, Roy L. Edwards - '64; Board of Trustee Representative, Billy R. Casey - '73; Chaplain, F. F. McCutchens - '70; Parliamentarian, Rosco Turner, Jr. - '63; and Immediate Past President, Richard Foppe' Hodge, Sr. - '65.

Years 2000 - 2002 and subsequent years, officer elections went as follows: President, M. Christian Jones - '59; First Vice President, Richard Foppe' Hodge, Sr. - '65; Second Vice President, Derek L. Stovall-Leonard - '92; Corresponding Secretaries Vicki Hines Johnson - '85 and Dana S. Stovall - '92; Financial Secretary, Herman Furlough, Jr. - '63; Recording Secretary, Geryl D. Taylor Tucker - '61; Treasurer, Roy L. Edwards - '64; and Trustee Board Representative, Billy R. Casey - '73.

Years 2002 - 2004: President, Dana Simone Stovall - '92; First Vice President, Hazel Calhoun Hays - '50; Second Vice President, Richard Foppe' Hodge - '65; Corresponding Secretary, Tahira-Chandra Yanish - '93; Financial Secretary, Henry Taylor - '79; Recording Secretary, Leslie Lankford Crump - '94; Treasurer, Beverly Davis Hanon - '75; Trustee Board Representative, Roscoe Turner, Sr. - '63; Region I Vice President, Kerven W. Carter - '41; Region II Vice President, Roy Young - '62; Region III Vice President, James R. Norville - '54; Chaplain, Maxine Conner Barnett - '48; and Parliamentarian, Mary Dotson Beck - '59.

Years 2004 - 2006: President, Dana S. Stovall - '92; First Vice President, Richard Foppe' Hodge, Sr. - '65; Second Vice President, Connie L. Smith Davis - '59; Corresponding Secretary, Doretha Piper Allen - '97; Financial Secretary, Henry Taylor, Jr. - '79; Recording Secretary, Sijari L. Stredit - '99; Treasurer, Beverly A. Davis Hanon - '75; Trustee Board Representative, Roscoe Turner, Sr. - '63;

Region I Vice President, Kerven W. Carter - '42; Region II Vice President, Roy C. Young - '42; Region III Vice President, James R. Norville - '54; Chaplain, Terrell Wilkerson - '98; Parliamentarian, Dr. Mary E. Dotson Beck - '59; and Immediate Past President, M. Christian Jones - '59.

Terms 2006 - 2009: President, Henry Taylor, Jr. - '79; First Vice President, Richard Foppe' Hodge, Sr. - '65; Second Vice President, Mary E. Marlon Dees - '64; Corresponding Secretary, Ladonna S. Gaut - 2005; Financial Secretary, Beverly A. Davis Hanon - '75; Recording Secretary, Doretha J. Piper Allen - '97; Treasurer, Dr. Warren H. Hawkins - '56; Trustee Board Representative, M. Christian Jones - '59; Region I Vice President, Roy Lee Edwards - '64; Region II Vice President, Janice Houze Richardson - '98; Region III Vice President, Lenora Blankenship Gibson - '50; and Chaplain, Terrell Wilkerson - '98.

Term 2009 - 2010: President, Henry Taylor, Jr. - '79; First Vice President, Lonnie R. Banks - '89; Second Vice President, Phyllis E. Neal - '81; Corresponding Secretary, Doretha J. Piper Allen - '97; Financial Secretary, Beverly A. Davis Hanon - '75; Recording Secretary, Sharon Gordon Ribeiro - '88; Treasurer, Dr. Warren H. Hawkins - '56; Trustee Board Representative, M. Christian Jones - '59; Region I Vice President, Roy Lee Edwards - '64; Region II Vice President, Janice Houze Richardson - '98; Region III Vice President, Lenora Blankenship Gibson - '50; Chaplain, Terrell Wilkerson - '98; Parliamentarian, Lessie C. Johnson - '74; and Immediate Past President, Dana Simone Stovall - '92.

Term 2011: President, Lonnie R. Banks - '80; First Vice President, Phyllis E. Neal - '81; Second Vice President, Ken Ballard - '81; Corresponding Secretary, Lillian Banks - '54; Financial Secretary, Kerl Nathaniel - 2003; Recording Secretary, Charlene Burroughs - '80; Treasurer, Beverly A. Davis Hanon - '75; Region I Vice President, Roy Lee Edwards - '64; Region II Vice President, Jeanie Turner Melton - '65; Region III Vice President, Lessie C. Johnson - '74; Chaplain, Dr. Julius S. Scott, Jr. - '45; Parliamentarian, Dr. Rodney C. Fluker - '79; and Immediate Past President, Henry Taylor, Jr. - '79.

Term 2012: President, Phyllis E. Neal - '81; First Vice President, Nolan H. Anderson, Jr. - '68; Second Vice President, Schelda Williams - '62; Corresponding Secretary, Lillian Banks - '54; Financial Secretary, Kerl Nathaniel - 2003; Recording Secretary, Charlene Burroughs - '80; Treasurer, Beverly A. Davis Hanon - '75; Region I Vice President, Doretha Piper-Allen - '65; Region II Vice President, Jeanie Turner Melton - '65; Region III Vice President, Lessie C. Johnson - '74; Chaplain, Dr. Julius S. Scott, Jr. - '45; Parliamentarian; Dr. Rodney C. Fluker - '79; and Immediate Past President, Lonnie R. Banks - '90.

In August 2013, Phyllis E. Neal - '81 resigned as president of the National Alumni Association and Nolan H. Anderson, Jr. - '68, First Vice President, assumed the position as interim president. Also in 2013, Dr. Lonzetta Smith-Allen replaced former incumbent Charlene Burroughs as the recording secretary.

Reflecting over the course of time, change in operation, structure, projected outcome of an organization and how it functions is inevitable. Effective March 2014 was the adoption of a new Constitution/ Bylaws and designation of the association as a corporation, non-profit organization. Some officer positions were eliminated or converted under the new guidelines by deleting the former first, second

vice and regional area president positions and incorporating four new directorship positions (Community Relations, Events, Finance and Membership) to streamline the overall functionality, duties and responsibilities of the positions of leadership and provide a better organized chain of command in the organization.

New officers elected in March 2014 were: Nolan H. Anderson, Jr. - '69, President; Dr. Lonzetta Smith-Allen - '82, Vice President; Vicki Hines - '85, Recording Secretary; Sythia Gaut - '84, Corresponding Secretary; Henry Taylor Jr. - '79, Treasurer; F. F. Jim McCutchens - '70, Financial Secretary; Dr. Luther B. Felder II - '71, Chaplain; Atty. Billy R. Casey - '73, Parliamentarian; Dr. Rod C. Fluker - '79, Trustee Board Representative; Janice H. Richardson - '81, Director of Community Relations; Richard Foppe' Hodge - '65, Director of Events; Beverly D. Hanon - '75, Director of Finance; Dr. Barbara Griffin-Washington (former student) – Director of Membership; and Phyllis E. Neal - '81, Immediate Past President.

Other initiatives accomplished included the Association-Corporation providing support to the College towards the recent resurrection of the Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, re-entry and participation in the Homecoming parade.

In March of 2015, another milestone was realized. The Association-Corporation adopted and placed into effect the first Organizational Chart which delineated the leadership structure, reporting scheme of Area Clubs and related committees, promoting and providing more efficient management of organizational, administrative, operational affairs and support to the College.