

FISK UNIVERSITY
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37203

May 1968

**GENERAL ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION**

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Cleveland

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Roxbury, Mass.

Officers of the Association are also members
of the Executive Committee.

**TO: Members of the Fisk General
Alumni Association**

FROM: H. A. Johnson, III, President

Dear Fiskite;

During the past nine months, the General Alumni Association has undergone a reorganization of the structure in its various regions. Now the primary focus is on establishing channels of communication between the Alumni and the university, and, between members of the association and all officers of the association.

Shortly, you will receive a new monthly publication prepared by the Public Relations Office in connection with the Alumni Office. It is being developed specifically for alumni and will be under the supervision of Mrs. Katherine Smith in the Public Relations Office at Fisk. You will be informed on matters affecting the university and its environment, the alumni association, and will include activities of general interest to Fiskites.

The loss of our Alumni Secretary in January, after several months illness, created a crisis which jeopardized the continuity of our program. We are pleased to announce however, that Nathaniel (Nat) Williams, class of 1946, has been appointed by Dr. Lawson as the director of Alumni Affairs. We are very enthusiastic with this appointment and pledge Nat our full support as he conducts the affairs of his office.

There will be 155 alumni staffing the newly created Regional Executive Committees in the five regions of the Alumni Association. I hope this structure will establish a more homogeneous progression toward a favorable development. The concept, however, is largely teleological.

There are many things which are in a stage of resolution, or projected resolution and I would like to list a few of the items of interest which you will read about in subsequent publications.

There may be particular concern on your part for items omitted here and I seek your responses to all that stimulates your thinking in relation to Fisk. Reports are being written on the following:

- (1) the inauguration of Dr. James R. Lawson as President of Fisk University
- (2) trends in student unrest and student action at Fisk
- (3) the interstate highway threatening the Fisk community
- (4) the need for a Western Regional Conference within the year
- (5) changes in the constitution of the alumni association
- (6) the inclusion of students in some phase of alumni activity
- (7) the different method of handling and preparing class reunion, alumni day, and Homecoming programs
- (8) changes in the method of electing Alumni Trustees
- (9) responsibilities of Alumni Trustees to the Association
- (10) responsibilities of the Alumni Association to Alumni Trustees
- (11) the role of the alumni association in the projected future of the university.

During my term in office, I expect to provide a clearly defined awareness of responsibility for each alumnus and I will hope that each member of the association will accept that awareness with total involvement in the responsibility. My pledge to the Fisk Alumni Association is:

"I solemnly swear to accept with responsibility the duties of my office; to act with dignity and respect for that office; to recognize that it was given to me by my peers, and to maintain that humility through whatever success my endeavors may reach; to acknowledge my strengths and my weaknesses, and not to be self-satisfied by the former or sensitive of the latter; to serve with the hope that most of my mistakes are behind me, and that the future will give birth to the realization of the fullest potential that is in each of us."

Sincerely,


H. Andrew Johnson