

Keep This Pamphlet as a Souvenir and Guide for Future Work

---

---

Right Worthy Grand Council  
J. O. St. Luke

---

---

August, 1935  
**T**HE following Resume' and Resolutions were presented to and unanimously adopted by the 68th Annual and 9th Biennial Convention closed at Richmond City, August 21, 1935.

---

---



As We Shall Remember Her



MRS. MAGGIE L. WALKER  
St. Luke Inspiration

# RESUME AND RESOLUTIONS

---

Richmond, Virginia, August, 1935.

*To the Right Worthy Grand Council, in Convention  
Assembled, at Richmond:*

Since you last met something out of the ordinary has happened in the history of the Right Worthy Grand Council Independent Order of St. Luke. On the 15th day of December, 1934, our community was astounded to receive the information that our matchless leader, Mrs. Maggie L. Walker, had passed from labor to reward. It is the object and purpose of the Board of Trustees to present to you a sketch of her work in connection with the St. Luke Order, which we ask that you will accept as our official report.

We feel that we would be classed as ingrates not to come before you and make an official record of the estimate which we all have and entertain for Mrs. Maggie L. Walker, who occupied the position of Right Worthy Grand Secretary-Treasurer, for a great number of years. The official documents in the office of this Order show that in the year 1899, Mrs. Maggie L. Walker accepted the position of Right Worthy Grand Secretary-Treasurer, at Hinton, in the State of West Virginia, after a positive refusal of her predecessor in office to serve the Order any longer. The following reasons were assigned for his failure to continue in office:

- (1) That the Order was at its lowest ebb.
- (2) That no money was in the Treasury.
- (3) That the Order was not spreading as it should.
- (4) That there was lack of harmony and co-operation between the Grand Officers and the officers of the subordinate councils.

---

---

(5) That the salary paid to the occupant of the office of Grand Secretary-Treasurer was only \$300.00 per year, and that would not justify his continuance in the position as official head of the Organization. The official records show that the salary of the Grand Secretary-Treasurer was reduced to \$100.00 per year at the session held in Hinton, West Va. At this same session a committee was appointed, composed of Dr. H. L. Harris, M. H. Griffin, C. H. Norman, J. J. Carter, and Maggie Murray, to take an inventory of the stock on hand and to transfer the Grand Secretary's office with all of its belongings to Mrs. Maggie L. Walker, who was then and there elected to that position at a salary of \$150.00 per annum. The report of the committee showed that there were 57 benefited councils; 1,080 financial members; \$31.61 in the Treasury and outstanding bills amounting to \$400.00. That is the picture which presented itself to Mrs. Maggie L. Walker when she took possession of the office as Grand Secretary-Treasurer, at the session in Hinton, West Virginia, in the year 1899. WHAT A PICTURE!

### Resume

We do not propose to take up a great deal of space on the official records, nor consume a great deal of time to enumerate the growth of the Organization from that year to the date of Mrs. Walker's death. That is a matter of history and is well known to every member of the St. Luke Order, and to the citizens in the states where the Order does business. From a membership of 1,080 persons, it has grown to about 50,000 or more. We use the figures 50,000 or more for this reason, it is difficult to fix the membership of the Order by the returns to the Endowment Department, at the end of any given month. For instance, we might mention that at the close of the books December 31, 1934, there was a membership of 26,568 men, women and children. For some months about 10 or 15 thousand are lapsed out. The next month, 10, 15, or 20 thousand will return. So that the membership varies from month to month, therefore, we use the indefinite expression of 50,000 or more. From assets of \$31.61 which the Order had in hand at the time Mrs. Walker took charge, assets have increased to \$222,201.93 according to our last annual

---

report submitted to the Bureau of Insurance on December 31, 1934. Today you sit here in the City of Richmond, and over yonder on the corner of St. James and Baker Streets you will see a modern, up-to-date office building, which will reflect credit on any organization in this country. In addition to that from a few scattered councils that aggregated a membership amounting to 1,080 financial members in 1899, today the Order has extended its business to 24 states in the Union, and to the number of 50,000 or more.

### **Visioned The Future**

Again, it is very important that you ask the question what about the set-up of the Organization? If you go to the office and take an observation you will find that the system of accounting as installed by Mrs. Walker is up to the standard of systems prevailing in the high class fraternities of the United States of America. The Legal Reserve rates have been worked out by National Actuaries so that we know now when every member joins the Order that the premiums which they are to pay according to their ages and physical condition will stand the test upon examination. The best we can say is this: If we were asked the question what has Mrs. Walker accomplished for the St. Luke Order, from August 1899, to December 15, 1934, we would answer:

### **Foundation Laid**

That she has laid a foundation for the Organization. It remains to be seen whether those of us who come on after her will build wisely on the foundation she has laid, or whether we will stand by with idle hands and allow petty bickering, ill feeling, and other minor details which do not go to the merits of the Cause, to deter us from building on this foundation which she has so wisely laid for us. Let each one answer for himself.

In ancient times when a King died and the Crown Prince who took the throne after him would come to the point where he had to be crowned King of the Country over which his father had presided, the people would ask this question: Now that he has the crown, what will he do with

---

it? Mrs. Walker has wrought and wrought well. She has laid a foundation that every member of this Fraternity ought to be proud of, and the one supreme question which the members of this brotherhood are asking, and which the people who are not connected with the brotherhood are asking, is what are the people going to do with the crown that Maggie L. Walker has left? The most important work about any building is the foundation. If you can get the foundation right, you can erect the building, but if the foundation is faulty and the building is erected, it will eventually give away, because of an improper foundation. Sometimes it becomes necessary to take the building down after it is erected, because the foundation was started wrong. May we rejoice in the foundation left us!

Here we have a perfect foundation laid by a woman who had faith in herself, faith in her fellowman, and faith in God, and with this undying faith, she worked on until the final command, "Enough, come up higher." She has gone and now the supreme question arises what are we going to do with the crown she has left? What answer will you make? Let us all unite in one chorus. We will build on Maggie L. Walker's foundation.

We began this summary of Mrs. Walker with her advent on the scene in the year 1899, at Hinton, West Virginia. Let us see what was the report of the condition of the Order, the next year 1900, which session was held at Lynchburg, Va., and over which Miss Ella Onley presided as Grand Chief. Miss Onley's report showed that the year was filled with a most rebellious spirit on the part of the subordinate councils.

It further showed that the endowment of \$50.00 paid at the death of a member had become compulsory on councils in the brotherhood. All councils in the brotherhood accepted this, except Good Hope Council, No. 15, at Richmond, Va. For this disobedience this council was suspended, but was afterwards reinstated upon the payment of all of its indebtedness to the Grand Lodge. The report further showed that there were 89 councils in the brotherhood, with 3,830 persons. The Order's membership was doubled in one year.

---

The Juvenile Department report showed that there were 35 circles with 1,205 children. From this year 1900 onward, the Order made its start to success under the banner of our departed Right Worthy Grand Secretary-Treasurer at Lynchburg, Va., and the year 1900 was her first report to the Grand Council.

### **Official Set-Up**

It is a matter generally known that Mrs. Walker, for many years prior to her death, was physically incapacitated and yet the Order did not suffer one iota on account of her infirmities. It is well known that even though she was in an invalid chair, she went over the entire jurisdiction where the Order was doing business, as far west as Chicago, as far north as Massachusetts, and as far south as Florida. We dare say if many people who had been afflicted as Mrs. Walker was, they would have given up in despair long ago. Notwithstanding her personal affliction, so that she could not walk, she went night and day over the entire jurisdiction where the Order was doing business, and whenever she met those around her, she greeted them with a smile, so that those within the ranks, at the Home Office, and all people with whom she came in contact on the field, were inspired and encouraged by her cheerfulness. We dare say that her devotion and loyalty to duty have not been excelled by anyone in the history of any organization; and we venture to say that it has only been equaled by a few. This is a small estimate of the character of the woman, a sketch of whose career we desire to spread upon the records of this Order.

### **Executive Movement**

Immediately after the death of Mrs. Walker, the committee designated from the Executive Board assembled at headquarters, in order to check up on the standing of the affairs, realizing that she had departed this life and that the interests of the Fraternity needed immediate oversight, and that the people on the field would be anxious to know what had been done and was being done, what was the set-

---

---

up of the Order at headquarters, and to whom they should look for guidance and authority.

In everything in life, there must be a head, there must be authoritative government, whether it be in a home, church, or a branch of the civil government. We found no confusion in the Home Office at Richmond. It is a well known fact that for the past fifteen years Mrs. Walker had been working on a plan of dividing and subdividing the duties of the office which she held. When Mrs. Walker took charge of the Order at Hinton, West Virginia, in the year 1899, the numerical strength of the Order was so small that she could entirely fill all duties assigned her in the Order, well and satisfactorily.

In other words she was Grand Secretary-Treasurer, Auditor, and directed the field work, and yet had plenty of time left to herself to attend to other duties not directly in line with her officially designated office. As the Order grew on in numerical strength Mrs. Walker worked out a plan of dividing these duties exercised by herself, so that at the time of her death, we found there existed in the Home Office a complete set-up of the management of the Order, so that everything moved on in perfect smoothness. We worked with Mrs. Walker, we met her face to face, monthly and semi-annually, and she never hesitated to give to us all information needed and desired, in order that we might see just what was the condition of the Order as we went along. We might enumerate here some of the divisions which she made, and to which she called our attention from time to time, as the Order increased in growth.

(1) She created the office of Chief Supervising Deputy, that was another subdivision of her duties.

(2) She created the office of General Field Secretary, that was another subdivision of her duties.

(3) She created the office of Grand Juvenile Directress, that was another subdivision of her duties.

(4) She created the office of Auditor, that was another subdivision of her duties.

---

(5) She created an assessment department, and over this department she placed a man who was skilled in the manner of tabulating the assessment of every member, that was another subdivision of the functions of her office.

(6) She created a Printing Department over which she placed a head, and this was another subdivision of the duties of her office.

So that at the time of Mrs. Walker's death, and at least twelve or fifteen years prior to her death, her duties were simply honorary, and in the capacity of an overseer. In other words, her prime duty simply consisted of seeing that the work was well done by those whom she had trained for the respective positions which they occupied. As soon as the death of Mrs. Walker was flashed over the country, the one burning question which arose in the minds of every citizen, and in the columns of the newspapers, has been who will succeed Maggie L. Walker as Grand Secretary-Treasurer of the I. O. of St. Luke?

As a Trustee Board, we answer without reservation or condition, that there is no such office in the St. Luke Order, as Secretary-Treasurer. The office of Secretary-Treasurer occupied by Mrs. Maggie L. Walker has been abandoned by custom and usage, and by Mrs. Walker, for the past fifteen years. The duties of the Secretary would be to keep the records, and this has been done by subordinates designated by her.

The duty of a Treasurer would be to keep, hold, and disburse the finances of the Order. These funds have been regularly deposited in bank for years and no one has kept, held, or disbursed the funds of the Order except by check as ordered by her. Mrs. Walker created the office of Auditor, whose duty it is to receive funds, deposit them in bank, and write checks for all orders of disbursements which were lawfully charged against the finances of the Order. This auditor is under bond by a bonding company to protect the Order against all losses, if any should occur. We are proud to say that no losses have occurred since the office of Auditor was established.

---

---

## Testimonial and Memorial

Again, the members of this Board desire to emphasize to this Grand Body, that they entertain for themselves no personal ambition for preferment in the Organization. As a Board we are seeking no advancement for ourselves, the members of our families, nor any other particular friends in whom we are interested. The polar star by which we are guided is to hold this Organization intact on the foundation on which Mrs. Maggie L. Walker has placed it. We feel that no better memorial or testimonial of her worth to us as citizens could be erected than to maintain her work intact for the benefit of the present and coming generations. We ask you all to share with us in this opinion, and work with us to this end. We, therefore, now present to you for your consideration and adoption, the following specific recommendations:

(1) We recommend that Mrs. Lillian S. Bazley, who has occupied the office of Auditor, to be elected to the office of Grand Secretary, omitting the designation "TREASURER". This designation is purely surplusage.

(2) We recommend that Mr. John S. Collins be elected to the office of Chief Supervising Deputy, a position heretofore assigned him by Mrs. Walker.

(3) We recommend that Mrs. Lelia W. Bankett be elected to the office of General Field Secretary, a position heretofore occupied by her by appointment of Mrs. Maggie L. Walker.

(4) We recommend that Mr. Albert R. Graves be elected to the position as Head of the Assessment Department, a position heretofore assigned him by Mrs. Walker.

(5) We recommend that Mrs. Lillian H. Payne be elected to the position of Head of the Printing Department, a position heretofore assigned her by Mrs. Walker.

(6) We recommend that Miss Maria E. Burke be elected to the position of R. W. G. Juvenile Directress, a position heretofore assigned her by Mrs. Walker.

---

(7) We recommend that Mrs. Hattie N. F. Walker be elected to the position as assistant to the Right Worthy Grand Secretary, whose duty it shall be to take over the duties heretofore performed by Mrs. Bazley in her capacity as Auditor, and any other duties assigned her by the Grand Secretary.

### **Legitimate and Natural Growth Anticipated**

The Trustee Board would not have you think for a moment that we are of the opinion that no other changes will be needed in the progress of the Order. As is well known, as the Institution grows, and as emergencies present themselves for solution, it will be necessary at different times to create new offices, and appoint new assistants.

We are of the opinion from a careful survey of industrial conditions existing in the country and which conditions have affected this Order, along with all others, that no additional offices ought to be created at this biennial session. It is a fact generally known that industrial conditions have not been good for our Race group for the last six years. The results have been felt in all institutions fostered by our Race group. The St. Luke Order has felt the effect of the industrial depression like all other institutions.

We are trying to steer this Order along safe and conservative lines. For this reason we are led to advise that no additional offices be created at this session and no additional compensation be paid to employees. We feel highly gratified to know that the Order has been able to maintain as many employees as it has on its payroll. Notwithstanding the fact that in the last six years any number of organizations all over the country have passed from the scene of action, due to industrial conditions. Yet through it all, Mrs. Walker was diplomatic enough to so steer her Organization so that it has come through safe thus far, and our aim is to maintain the same high standard. For this reason we feel that if there ever were an hour in the his-

---

---

tory of this Organization when the utmost conservatism should be exercised, it is now.

This Board is anxious to go on record as favoring the official advancement of all persons in the Order, according to merit, fitness, and character for the position to which they are to aspire. We desire it known that any person in the Institution, it matters not from what section of the country that person may hail, has a right to aspire to any office which he or she desires. We wish to emphasize that the only requirement is fitness for the position and we do not desire to see a system of personal favoritism set up in the Order. We want every person to feel absolutely free to present himself before the body as a candidate for any office at any time, whether he has served any office in the Grand Lodge or not. The rule is one of fitness and capability to carry on the Order to success and not one of personal favoritism.

This world in which all of us have been permitted to live for a certain number of years, has been standing for a long time. And from the time of recorded historical data to the present hour, we have never received a human voice from the tomb. Human beings come into this world, we greet them in the cradle, we follow them to the grave, and when the grave is closed, there faith begins. No one has ever returned to say one word to us about the life beyond the grave. It would have been a source of inspiration to all of you, if you could have been here on the day when our matchless leader, Mrs. Maggie L. Walker, was buried. It was a gloomy day overhead, but this did not deter the outpour of citizens in all walks of life to pay the last, sad tribute of respect to one who had led a life devoted to the constructive side of the City. The funeral eulogium was preached by Dr. W. T. Johnson. The ministers of the City turned out in a body as an honorary escort. The Mayor of the City graced the occasion by his personal presence, and through the courtesy of Dr. W. T. Johnson was permitted to make a short address from his pulpit.

Dr. S. C. Mitchell, an educator of this City, also spoke. A representative from Tuskegee Institute in Alabama add-

---

ed his words of praise. There were citizens from all walks of life who would have gladly joined in the praise of our leader if time had permitted. After this, on a Sunday, the St. Luke of Richmond District held a Memorial Meeting which was largely attended by citizens of both races, all bent on paying their respect to the memory of our deceased leader.

### **"Carry On"**

Mrs. Walker has gone. The same thing can be said of hundreds of other notables who have made their appearances upon the stage of action since time began; but the world has not stopped in its onward march to higher and better things. The thing for us to do is to bow our heads in humble submission to a Power that is higher than we are, and then rise with determination to "Carry On" as we were advised to do. To those of us who were closely associated with Mrs. Walker, we were made to feel and to know that she was bending her energies to shape things for the final summons. On many occasions she would remind us of what we would have to do when she was gone. Now that she is gone we have no way of communicating with her to find out what her wishes are, so far as this Order is concerned. May we just draw upon our personal imaginations today and ask ourselves this question: **WHAT WOULD MRS. WALKER SAY TO US WERE THE GATES OF ETERNITY OPENED SO THAT SHE COULD SPEAK TO THE GATHERING HERE TODAY?** I dare say if she were permitted to do so, the one sentence from her lips would be this: **"IF YOU LOVE ME, KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS."**.. Her last commandments to the office force and to others with whom she was associated were in these words: **"CARRY ON! CARRY ON! CARRY ON!"**, and today this Trustee Board comes to you and says in the words of Mrs. Walker, **"Carry On! Carry On! Carry On!"** for the good of the Institution, for the good of humanity, and let us demonstrate to the world that we belong to that type of men and women who can put their hands upon things, and they will live after you have touched them.

Wishing you all a happy, prosperous, and construc-

---

---

tive session of this Order, in the year of our Lord, 1935, and further wishing that when you go from here and return to your respective homes, that you will find yourselves baptized anew in the principles of St. Luke, and as St. Luke was a physician, went about healing the sick, that you will go back and heal the wounds which have been made in the hearts of St. Luke by the departure of our matchless leader, Mrs. Maggie L. Walker.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, THE SIGNATURE OF EACH MEMBER OF THE TRUSTEE BOARD HAS BEEN SET BY HIS OWN HAND, THIS 19th DAY OF AUGUST, 1935.

WM. H. HUGHES, M. D.,  
W. T. JOHNSON,  
J. THOMAS HEWIN,  
REV. O. J. ALLEN,  
JOSEPHINE D. CANNADAY,  
JOHN S. SAVAGE,  
GEORGE W. COLEMAN,  
M. M. PEACE,  
OLIVIA Q. BROWN,  
SARAH E. COLLIER,  
FRANCES COX,  
M. V. BINGA,  
J. GRAY,  
GEORGE H. SIMMS,  
JOSHUA MUNROE,  
SALLIE B. PREE,  
SALLIE W. DICKERSON,  
ELLA O. WALLER,  
J. H. DICKERSON.

---

**T**HE SAINT LUKE PRESS  
NINE HUNDRED TWO & FOUR ST. JAMES STREET  
*Richmond, Virginia*

---