



Martin O. Weddington Papers.

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300 Saint Albans • St. Paul, MN 55104

75th Anniversary



1926 – 1976



1978 – Present

THE STERLING CLUB FOUNDERS

W. E. Alexander

Richard Anderson

Bismark Archer

Walter Dywer

O. C. Hall

O. D. Howard

J. E. Johnson

Fred McCracken

Howard McIntyre

Dwight Reed, Sr.

William Tandy

Hammond Turner

C. W. Wigington

THE STERLING CLUB, INC. 1919 - 1994 A HISTORICAL REVIEW

by Abram H. Weaver, Archivist

In November of 1918, a group of "Negro" men gathered to organize a Corporation. They elected as officers the following:

Joseph E. Johnson, President
Fredrick D. McCracken, Vice President
Bismark C. Archer, Secretary
O. D. Howard, Treasurer

A nine-member Board of Directors conducted the affairs of the Corporation during its first existing year. Those Directors were:

Orrington D. Hall	Clarence W. Wigington	W. E. Alexander
Hammond Turner	Howard F. McIntyre	Walter R. Dyer
Richard A. Anderson	Dwight T. Reed	William B. Tandy

The following year, the group sought incorporation by making an application to the State of Minnesota. According to the original Articles of Incorporation presented, under Article I:

"Section 1. The name of this Corporation shall be The Sterling Club."

"Section 2. The general purpose and plan of operation shall be to own, lease, in whole or in part, acquire, operate, use, mortgage, pledge, sell, assign, transfer or otherwise dispose of real estate and buildings necessary, expedient or proper to maintain a clubhouse; to promote and encourage all manly sports and physical culture, and to conduct a Club for the purpose of providing refreshment, entertainment, exercise and social diversions of its members."

"Section 3. The place of location shall be the City of St. Paul, in the County of Ramsey and the State of Minnesota."

The Sterling Club, incorporated on August 28, 1919, was the beginning of The Sterling Club as we know it today.

Due to abject discrimination, there were few places "blacks" could go for entertainment and socializing. The membership, reflecting an occupational diversity which included railroad men, white collar workers and professionals, met at the Odd Fellows Hall, which later became known as Hallie Q. Brown Community Center.

In 1926, seven years after its incorporation, and despite objections of many local residents who attempted to block construction, thinking it would become "just another joint," The Sterling Club had a clubhouse built on a site near the intersection of Dale and Rondo (Concordia) Streets. The land on which the clubhouse was built was deeded to the Club on December 31, 1924 by Elmer Morris, Sr., a St. Paul druggist. Clarence W. Wigington, Board Member and a leading architect for the City of St. Paul, designed the clubhouse in compliance with the existing building codes of the community. The clubhouse was constructed as a residential dwelling, complete with a kitchen and a bathroom that included a bath tub.

On April 6, 1926, a series of One-hundred fifty "Third Mortgage Gold Bond" certificates in the amount of \$40.00 were issued to members in good standing. This helped defray mortgage costs. Bond coupons were redeemable every six months at the rate of four percent per annum, payable semi-monthly. Hammond Turner, Frank B. Simpson and Clarence Roper were trustees for the Secured Third Mortgage Trust Deed and Fredrick D. McCracken was President at the time. Efforts of this kind demonstrated a determination to have a progressive and successful Club.

In The Sterling Club's initial years there were several membership classifications – life, resident, non-resident, associate and honorary. A resident member enjoyed full rights, privileges and courtesies. Conditional variations applied to the remaining membership, i.e., a non-resident member paid initiation fees and was assessed for entertainment events, but did not pay dues or have voting privileges. Membership classifications were modified in 1959 to recognize the sole classification of "regular" member.

Original members represented a stable cross-section of the "colored" community and the Club more than served the needs of its membership in civic and social affairs. The classic annual dinners, in-house parties and other social/civic functions soon fostered a perception of the Club as prestigious. Candidate "forums" for those seeking political office were sponsored by The Sterling Club, even though it was non political and had a policy of not endorsing political candidates or parties, a policy that remains in effect today. Although other social/civic groups were allowed to rent the clubhouse, those group functions were monitored closely.

During the great depression all did not fare well for The Sterling Club. Financial difficulties were encountered which caused membership to face the possibility of losing ownership. In an effort to thwart this possibility, membership qualifications and initiation fees were relaxed, thus increasing membership.

Amid its financial woes and as a possible solution, the Club considered leasing the clubhouse to other civic/social organizations but this action never matured. In May, 1933, the Club refinanced its mortgage with the Minnesota Building and Loan Association. This firm displayed exceptional leniency by accepting past due and partial payments until the mortgage was eventually amortized.

Individually, and in small groups, wives of the members of The Sterling Club, active since early 1930 and organized as the Ladies Auxiliary in mid-1930, played a pivotal role in raising additional revenue. The Auxiliary charged admission for cabaret-style Friday and Saturday nights at the clubhouse, complete with a band, food, beverages and social games. This gigantic effort also helped save the Club from mortgage foreclosure. At its regular meeting, held March 2, 1937, the President of The Sterling Club requested that the secretary write Mrs. R. F. Wilson, President of the Ladies Auxiliary, a letter of thanks for the Auxiliary's financial assistance. This was only one of many occasions that the Auxiliary was thanked for financial assistance.

During the early 1930s there also existed a Junior Sterling Club. This structured group of young men, who provided their own agenda and an avenue for future members, often made financial contributions to the Club.

The Sterling Club survived World War II and continued to flourish long after the war. Prosperity prevailed and membership increased. Competition with outside forms of entertainment and the lifting of racial discriminatory practices in some public places had little effect on The Sterling Club's vitality.

Urban renewal during the sixties and seventies displaced many in the "black" community. The Sterling Club was no exception. The last meeting was conducted in its original clubhouse on December 14, 1976. Subsequently, the structure was razed and members met at various locations for a period of two years.

An appointed Building Committee, comprised of present members Ben L. Alexander, Otto T. Burroughs, Richard M. Mann, Charles W. Bradley, former member Herman P. Bailey, and late members Anthony M. Saunders and John L. Banks, was charged with site selections, contracting, building starts and completions, while working with the St. Paul Housing and Redevelopment Authority and various City officials. This Building Committee, which completed its task in a creditable fashion, greatly facilitated the move to the present clubhouse.

On June 24, 1978, a ground-breaking ceremony was held at the new site of The Sterling Club, which was attended by many of its members. Ben L. Alexander, President, and Charles W. Bradley, Building Committee Chairman, made commentary regarding the old and new clubhouses. The Auxiliary was represented by President Jewell Alexander. A prayer was given by the Reverend Chester L. Talton, rector, St. Philips Episcopal Church.

At the new facility, located on three lots, 120' x 124', on the southeast corner of Carroll and St. Albans Streets, constructed by August Construction Company, The Sterling Club held its first meeting on December 3, 1978. Ben L. Alexander presided and Charles W. Bradley served as Chairman of the Board of Directors. As the Club settled into its new location, the established annual agenda was soon renewed. The Annual Meeting (a By-Law requirement) highlights major events. The "State of the Club" financial forecast and major plans for the coming year are reported by the President. A full financial report on past and current treasury status is made by the Treasurer. Other business is also conducted at this Annual Meeting.

Aside from the annual meeting, scheduled annual events are an Invitational golf tournament, initiated by Levi L. Brady in August, 1984, a week-end fishing trip, a bowling outing, fund raisers, dinner-dance, award presentations, and New Year's Eve and Super Bowl parties. Other events also occur during the course of the year.

The Sterling Club carries an average membership of fifty-nine, with the present classification of regular, lifetime and honorary. Candidates for membership are sponsored by a current member or members. Club familiarization, such as a prior Club visit, attendance at a Club function, or having been introduced to current members are considered criteria. The Board of Directors serves as a screening body. After a candidate for membership is approved by the Board, the General body casts secret ballots to accept or reject the candidate.

Board members are elected by the general body at the regular meeting each November. Terms for Board members are staggered. Three members are elected for three years, three members for two years and three members for one year. Thereafter, three regular members are elected annually for three-year terms.

Effective with the election in November, 1987, the term for President, Vice President, Secretary, Financial Secretary and Treasurer is two years.

The general body and the Board of Directors hold their respective meetings on a regular monthly basis. The Sterling Club By-Laws are updated periodically to reflect the changing times that affect policies and procedures. Over the past two decades, these changes averaged five years.

As part of its on-going civic involvement, The Sterling Club recognizes exceptional community achievement. Dr. Floyd Massey, former pastor of Pilgrim Baptist Church, was the club's first recipient of its "Man of the Year Award" in 1964. The Club's award presentation was suspended and then reinstated in 1987 as "St. Paul Citizen for Outstanding Service to the Community" when Ronald Wesley Pauline received the award. In six subsequent years, this award was bestowed upon six others who were distinguished for serving the community: James S. Griffin, 1988, William R. Finney, 1989, Clarence W. Wigington, posthumously, 1990, Curman L. Gaines, 1991, Beverly O. Hawkins, 1992, and Martin O. Weddington, 1993.

Another phase of civic involvement is offering the use of the Club facility to community organizations for meetings, socials and receptions.

To honor an outstanding, conscientious and dedicated member, a recreation parlor, located on the lower level of the clubhouse, was named for John L. Banks. During his membership, John served in practically every capacity, held various offices and responsibilities and was regarded by fellow members as a stalwart willing to do whatever was needed for the good of the Club. John L. Banks died March 4, 1992.

Recognition of members of The Sterling Club has also been acknowledged by the St. Paul City Council. The late Jimmy Lee, former long-term member and sports official, was honored, posthumously, when the former "Oxford Recreation Center" was dedicated the "Jimmy Lee Recreation Center" September 21, 1980. James L. Griffin's achievements in the sports world and as a St. Paul School Board member were recognized by dedication of the stadium at Central High School "James S. Griffin Stadium" on August 30, 1988.

Almost from its inception, The Sterling Club developed social awareness in the community and tried reaching out to people in need. On May 1, 1980, the Club proposed the establishment of The Sterling Club Charitable Fund to consolidate its benevolent endeavors and to gain Recognition of Exemption status. A Declaration of Trust was made June 1, 1980 by its newly appointed trustees, Otto T. Burroughs, Harold L. Finch and Paul L. Wood. The application for Recognition of Exemption was approved October 16, 1980.

At the commencement of The Sterling Club Charitable Fund, its financial support was from cash donations made by individual members. It is now funded mainly by a set-aside-fund from the Club. A wide range of charitable donations are granted each year. The most frequent requests are from organizations sponsoring academic scholarships and institutions rendering funds for "at risk" youth programs. A Charitable Fund Committee processes requests and recommends selected requests for action. Most recommendations favor African-American and community-based groups.

The Sterling Club, while granting charitable gifts, has received an abundant number of benefits from members and friends. In March, 1941, a generous monetary gift was bequeathed to the Club from the estate of Mrs. Florence Brown. Over the lifetime of the Club many others have supported the Club with generous gifts of money, furnishings, works of art and other club-related memorabilia.

As in the 1930s, The Sterling Club Auxiliary remains a strong adjunct and enthusiastically supports the Club's objectives. The Auxiliary recognizes three membership classifications: Participating Auxiliary membership, Life membership and Honorary membership. Auxiliary membership is exclusively limited to the current wife of a current member of The Sterling Club, and to the widow of a deceased member, if the widow was a Participating Auxiliary Member at the time of her husband's death. Auxiliary monthly meetings coincide with the meetings of The Sterling Club. Present Participating membership totals forty-four, with three Honorary memberships.

Many able and highly motivated women have served as President of The Sterling Club Auxiliary. None have served with more dedication than present member, Mrs. Jewell Alexander. Elected to the presidency in the 1960s, Mrs. Alexander served the Auxiliary in that office over twenty years. Under her leadership the Auxiliary became strong and cohesive with an annual program that included fund-raising events, charitable donations to social agencies, social events at the clubhouse that included family members as well as members of the community, an annual picnic at Cedar Lake Farms, an annual cocktail and New Year's Eve party. For many years the site of the annual St. Philips Episcopal Church Palm Sunday Tea and Musicale was the clubhouse of The Sterling Club. The Auxiliary was instrumental in securing participants and assisting church members with the refreshments.

The present Auxiliary, now known as the Women's Auxiliary, rather than the Ladies Auxiliary, has continued to embrace the type of annual programs initiated during Mrs. Alexander's presidency. Fruit baskets are now distributed to sick, shut-in and honorary members. Contributions of non-perishable food are made to area food shelves. Monetary contributions are made to women's shelters and to other Twin Cities social agencies, as well as to the American Cancer Society.

Fund-raising events include excursions to various midwest area locations and an annual raffle. Financial assistance is offered to The Sterling Club on an annual basis for re-furnishing, re-decorating and other general expenses. The annual cocktail party, an invitational affair held to thank supporters of Sterling Club events, remains the highlight of the summer season.

The Women's Auxiliary By-Laws, subject to periodic revision, now stipulate a two-consecutive-year limit on elected offices, except for special circumstances. Serving as Auxiliary President currently is Mrs. Mari Finney.

The Sterling Club Newsletter, originated by Auxiliary member, Mrs. Daisy Young in December, 1983, is presently edited by Willie P. McCoy, who keeps members apprised of Club concerns, current and future events and membership information. This monthly publication features an article by the Club's President, as well as motivational and inspirational remarks, often furnished by the editor.

Club records verify that many distinguished members have served in various capacities since its inception in 1918 and incorporation in 1919. Club managers in years past have more than fulfilled this distinction in their operation and maintenance of the clubhouse. Capably following in the footsteps of previous clubhouse managers are Ira P. Allen and Donald R. Banham, co-managers in 1994.

The uninterrupted seventy-five year existence of The Sterling Club spanned generations of family members who have participated and contributed to its success. James G. Kirk, Jr. and James S. Griffin are second generation members. As the ranks of senior members thin, they are replaced by younger members seeking the heartfelt comradeship the Club offers. The legacy of the founding fathers is steeped in the Club's rich history and is continuously rekindled by acknowledging and "honoring our founders' dream."

By its presence across the years, The Sterling Club has created a legendry that pervades the St. Paul "black" community. That presence will continue to undergird local stability. The Club's future outlook is to maintain its social character and remain committed, not only to the demands of its civic responsibilities, but also to stand dedicated in providing benevolent benefits for African-American social programs.

The Sterling Club's history dictates that it will be a viable organization for generations to come. Our founders' dream is remembered.

I wish to extend my appreciation and sincere thanks to all who willingly gave so much of their time to assist me in compiling this historical review.

Abram H. Weaver

The Sterling Club Archivist



Proclamation

- WHEREAS: Due to discrimination against African-Americans in the early 1900s, there were few places where African-Americans could gather for entertainment and to socialize; and
- WHEREAS: A group of African-American men of St. Paul, Minnesota, organized and incorporated The Sterling Club on August 28, 1919. Reflecting occupational diversity, club members included laborers as well as professionals and met at the Odd Fellow Hall, which later became known as the Hallie Q. Brown Community Center; and
- WHEREAS: The Sterling Club was created to serve the needs of its members in civic and social affairs. Classic annual dinners, in-house parties and other social/civic functions helped to foster The Sterling Club's prestigious reputation; and
- WHEREAS: The Sterling Club suffered greatly from financial setbacks during the Depression era, and the efforts of the Women's Auxiliary helped save the club from mortgage foreclosure; and
- WHEREAS: After surviving more than seven decades of social, economic and community changes, which included the closing of and then reopening of the clubhouse, The Sterling Club maintained a high level of membership and community respect; and
- WHEREAS: As part of its on-going civic involvement, The Sterling Club recognizes exceptional community achievement. The Sterling Club has presented awards for "Man of the Year", "St. Paul Citizen for Outstanding Service to the Community" as well as others, and has created the Sterling Club Fund for charitable endowments; and
- WHEREAS: The Sterling Club's commitment to civic responsibility and to providing benevolent benefits for African-American programs is greatly admired and appreciated on this, its seventy-fifth anniversary;

NOW THEREFORE, I, ARNE H. CARLSON, Governor of the State of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim November 5, 1994 to be

THE STERLING CLUB DAY

in Minnesota.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this fifth day of November in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and ninety-four and of the State the one hundred and thirty-sixth.

Arne H. Carlson
GOVERNOR

Jean A. Grone
SECRETARY OF STATE

City of Saint Paul

Proclamation

WHEREAS, the Sterling Club was incorporated in 1919 as a social club for Saint Paul's African-American community; and

WHEREAS, the Sterling Club had a rich tradition of civic involvement, including development of the Sterling Club Charitable Fund, the presentation of the Man of the Year Award, and the Saint Paul Citizen for Outstanding Service to the Community Award; and

WHEREAS, the Sterling Club plays an important role in community stability and remains committed to its civic responsibility and dedicated to providing benevolent benefits for African-American social programs;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Norm Coleman, Mayor of the City of Saint Paul, do hereby proclaim Saturday, November 5, 1994 to be

STERLING CLUB DAY

in the City of Saint Paul.



In Witness Whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Saint Paul to be affixed this Fifth Day of November in the Year Nineteen Hundred and Ninety-four.

Norm Coleman
Norm Coleman, Mayor

Proclamation

WHEREAS, The Sterling Club, which was incorporated on August 28, 1919, is celebrating its 75th year in existence, and was established as a place where African-Americans could gather to socialize and seek entertainment; and

WHEREAS, through the years, The Sterling Club has managed to survive many threats to its existence, including an attempt by local residents to block construction of the original clubhouse, financial difficulties during the Great Depression and World War II, and urban renewal during the 60's and 70's which did succeed in temporarily displacing the club house; and

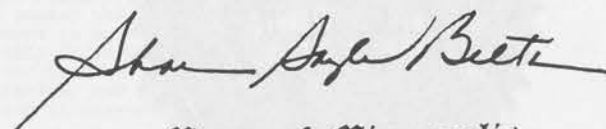
WHEREAS, presently, as part of its ongoing civic involvement, The Sterling Club recognizes exceptional community achievement by presenting various awards to deserving members of the community, and has established The Sterling Club Charitable Fund, which processes requests for charitable contributions; and

WHEREAS, The Sterling Club's presence undergirds community stability in St. Paul, and its members remain committed to their civic responsibility and are dedicated to providing humane benefits for African-American social programs;

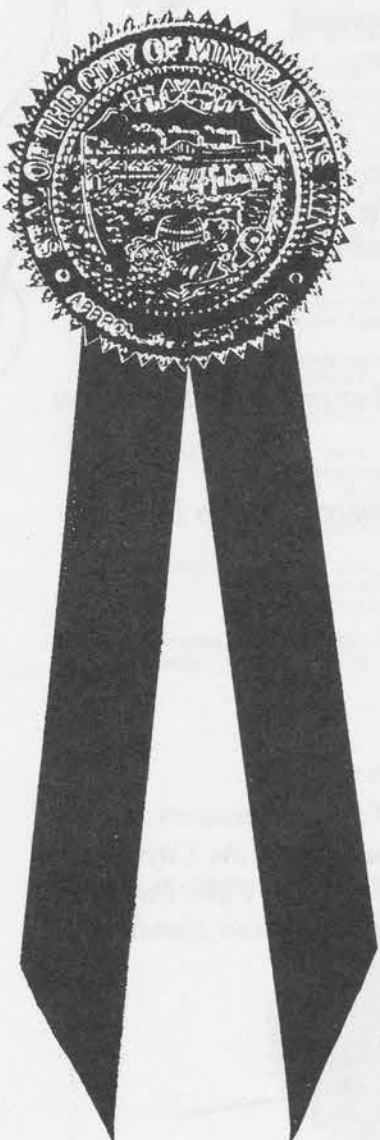
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Sharon Sayles Belton, Mayor of the City of Minneapolis, do hereby proclaim Saturday, November 5, 1994 to be

THE STERLING CLUB DAY

in the City of Minneapolis and urge citizens to recognize the history of The Sterling Club and its commitment to the community.



Mayor of Minneapolis



300 Saint Albans
St. Paul, MN 55104

October 21, 1994

Greetings:

The Sterling Club, Inc. was the first African-American social club to be incorporated in the state of Minnesota. The current members are proud to be a part of this prestigious organization.

It was learned through reviewing early meeting minutes that the vision of The Sterling Club, Inc. was to be a guiding light in and for the community. Members of the organization have worked unselfishly and served the community in the past and will continue to do so in the future.

Additionally, The Sterling Club Auxiliary has always willingly assisted the men in their community efforts, while at the same time establishing and achieving their own organizational goals. A hearty "Thank-you" is extended to the Auxiliary from me on behalf of the men.

It has been my pleasure to be in a leadership role for this outstanding group of men. Because of their individual commitments to the goals and success of the club, my responsibilities as president have been relatively easy in moving forward the club mandates.

I look forward to a long and bright future and many more accomplishments.

Sincerely,



Willard P. Jones
President, Sterling Club, Inc.



October 21, 1994

Greetings:

On this auspicious occasion of the Sterling Club, Inc.'s 75th Anniversary, I'm delighted as well as honored to be the Sterling Club Auxiliary's president for 1994.

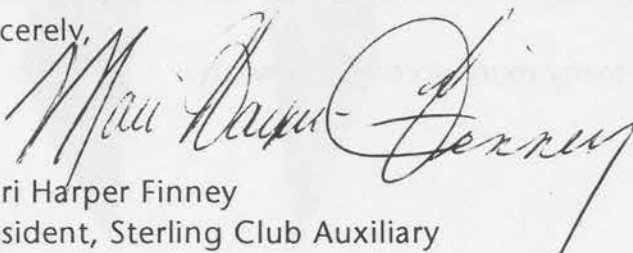
During my tenure as president, it has been my privilege to be associated with such a distinguished membership.

I'd like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation posthumously for those who are no longer with us, but worked so diligently for the good of the club and to support our men this past year.

Nineteen ninety four has been a year of triumph and challenges which affected us individually as well as corporately. We have made financial gains through fundraising, which enabled us to fully support our club in its mission.

Congratulations gentlemen and a warm "Thank-you" ladies one and all for making this a great year.

Sincerely,


Mari Harper Finney
President, Sterling Club Auxiliary

75TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

Floyd Clark – Chairman

Grace Bellesen

Francis Bellesen

Bernard Glover

Levi Brady

James Griffin

Abram Weaver

Floyd Barr

Millie Clark

Velma Waters

Martin Weddington

Lawrence Hampton

INVITATION COMMITTEE

Grace Bellesen - Chair

Francis Bellesen

Yvonne Brady

William Bowman

Millie Clark

Ron Buford

Charlsie Buford

John Garner

Leslie Garner

Charlene Briscoe

BANQUET COMMITTEE

Bernard Glover – Chairman

Velma Waters

Beverly Long

Leslie Garner

Frank G. Dye, Sr.

SOUVENIR BROCHURE COMMITTEE

Levi Brady - Chairman

Yvonne Brady

Charlsie Buford

Ron Buford

Leslie Garner

John Garner

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Jim Griffin

Paul Wood

Floyd Barr

John Garner

Martin Weddington

Abe Weaver

Grace Bellesen

Earl Scott

Francis Bellesen

Mari Finney

Don Colbert

SPECIAL THANKS TO

Laura Weaver - Typing

Floyd Clark - Photography

Francis Bellesen - Photography

Sterling Club, Inc. Happy 75th Anniversary

Richard and April Estes

Estes Funeral Chapel "Where Thoughtful Service Is A Cherished Tradition"

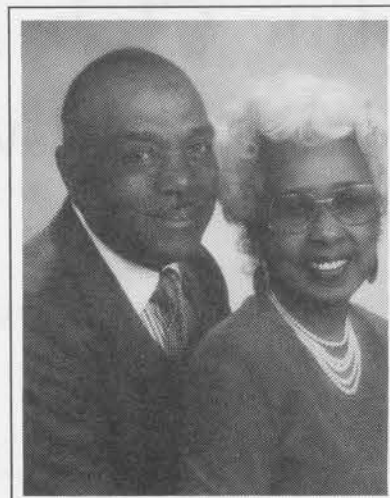
Business: 521-6744

Home: 521-6208

Richard C. Estes, Mortician
2210 Plymouth Avenue North

Careful Attention to All Pre-arranged and
Cremation Services Available

***Congratulations to The Sterling Club and Auxiliary
and Best Wishes for the Future***



Floyd and Millicent Clark

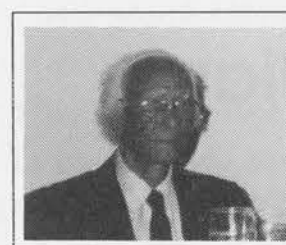
**The Members of
The Cameo Social Club**

**Extend Congratulations and Best Wishes to
The Sterling Club
on its 75th Anniversary**

**TO THE STERLING CLUB ON ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY
WE GREET YOU AND CONGRATULATE YOU**

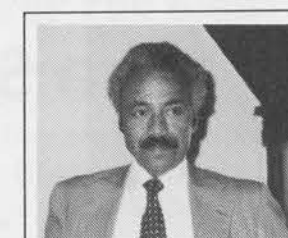
MEMBERS, JIM & EMMA KIRK

MAY YOU HAVE 75 MORE



JAMES G. KIRK, SR.

**(2) GENERATIONS
STERLING CLUB MEMBERS**



JAMES G. KIRK, JR.

**IN MEMORY OF FREDDIE INGRAM
1922 - 1988**

**BARBARA INGRAM - WIFE
MARC INGRAM - SON
KRISTI LEE - DAUGHTER
RACHEL & CHRISTOPHER LEE - GRANDCHILDREN**

**Congratulations to
The Sterling Club
and
The Sterling Club Auxiliary
on their
75th Anniversary**

Best Wishes for the Future

Ken & Norm's Liquors, Inc.
4801 Chicago Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55417

**Congratulations
and Best Wishes to
The Sterling Club
on your
75th Anniversary**

The Manning Family

Mrs. Myrtle Manning - Mother
Arthur Manning, Rosetta Mainor,
Ethel Manning-Barr, Ruth Breland,
Lt. Col. (Retired) Monroe Manning,
Dr. Reuben Manning, Sarah Standifer,
Lillian Manning

**Congratulations to
The Sterling Club
on 75 Years
of Continuous Service**

Just For Fun Club

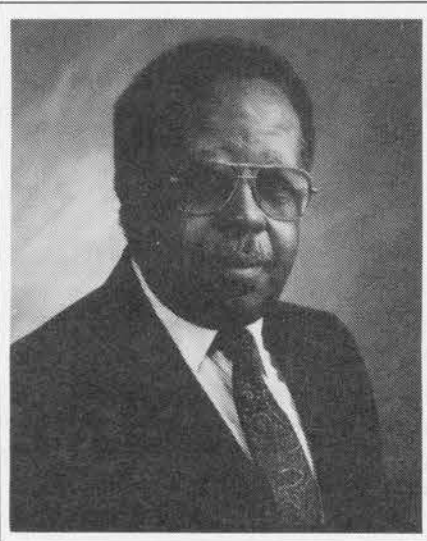
Pat Allen - President
Anita Allen - Vice President
Barbara Ingram - Treasurer
Rosamond Banham - Secretary
Pauline Wallace - Corresponding Sec.

In Loving Memory of Joe Waters

*Your Memory is a keepsake
With which we will never part,
God has you in His keeping
We have you in our heart.*

Wife Velma and sons
Kermit Waters and wife Peggy
and Joseph Waters
Granddaughters Chris and Joey Waters

*On behalf of the late George Harold Finney,
I, Mari Harper Finney, would like to congratulate
The Sterling Club on its 75th Anniversary.*



George Finney was and remained
a proud, active member in good standing
of The Sterling Club, Inc.,
an outstanding organization known
for its long-standing advocacy and
cultural tradition, its community, and
civic involvement.

George would like to be remembered
as a person who loved this Club.

**Congratulations to
The Sterling Club and Auxiliary
and Best Wishes for the Future**

The Twin Cities Untouchables Social Club

Congratulations to Sterling Club 75th Anniversary Celebration

The T.S.T.C. Club of the Twin Cities

W. D. Brown, M.D.

Richard M. Mann

William "Bill" McMoore

Charles Rogers

David V. Taylor

Paul Thomason

Rodney England, M.D.

Louis Moore, Jr.

Charles Nichols

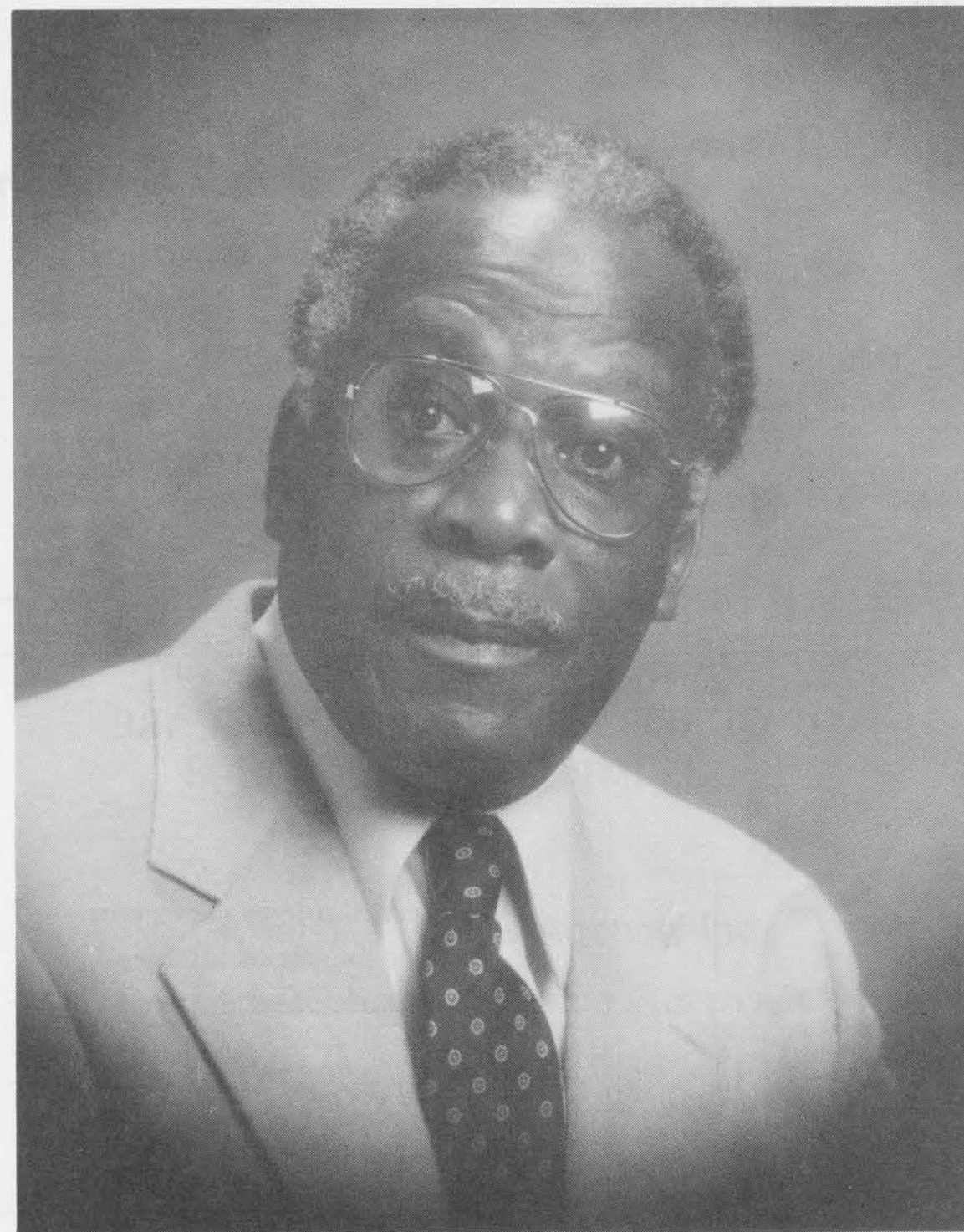
John L. Sims

Henry Thomas

Fred Williams

**Greetings and
Continued Best Wishes
to The Sterling Club
on their
75th Anniversary**

Norma Jones & Family



In Loving Memory
of
John Henry Carr

October 10, 1928

June 11, 1993

*Congratulations on
75 Years of
Serving the
African-American
Community*

Roseville Eye Clinic, P.A.
Elliott V. Troup, M.D.
1330 W. County Road B
Roseville, MN 55113

IF QUALITY GENTLE DENTAL CARE
IS IMPORTANT TO YOU



Dr. John M. Williams

We are available to serve you
We love people of all ages
We welcome new patients

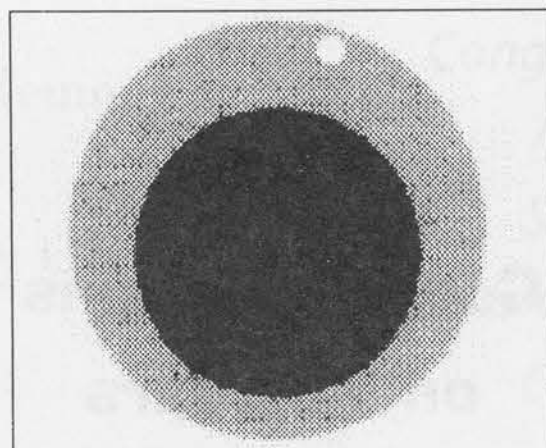
PLEASE CALL TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT

1011 West Broadway, between Emerson and Dupont

521-7611

**Congratulations
on 75 Years
of Continuous Service
to The Sterling Club
and Special Thanks to
The Sterling Club Auxiliary
for their Support**

Glover Insurance Agency, Inc.
2520 Lowry Avenue North
Minneapolis, MN 55411



**CONGRATULATIONS TO
THE STERLING CLUB, INC.
ON YOUR 75TH ANNIVERSARY**

SABATHANI COMMUNITY CENTER, INC.
AND THE HORIZONS YOUTH PROGRAM

*Our mission is to make a difference
in people's lives by providing access
to quality programs and human services.*

*Congratulations on
75 Years of
Serving the
African-American
Community!*



**Congratulations
to the
Sterling Club, Inc.**

**From Members of the
Minneapolis Socialites Club, Inc. (1936)**



President - Willard P. Jones, Sr.
Vice President - Tolly Flippin, Sr.
Treasurer - Pearl Schofield
Secretary - James Lawson

Philip Blackwell
Floyd Clark
Millicent Clark
Patricia Ingram

Dorothy Lawson
Juanita Mallary
Marjorie Mason
Marion McElroy

LaVera Robbins
Ethel B. Sayles
Donald Schofield
Robbie Watson

**To the Men of the Sterling Club
and the Auxiliary,
Congratulations on 75 Years of Service.**

J. W. Clemons

*In Loving Memory
of
Wilbur A. Cartwright*

**Former Sterling Club Member, who passed away in 1973.
He is loved, remembered, and deeply missed by**

Wife - Helen Cartwright

**Daughters - Patricia Allen and Barbara Ingram
and all the Grandchildren**

CONGRATULATIONS
STERLING CLUB, INC.

On Your 75th Anniversary

FROM

GAMMA XI LAMBDA CHAPTER
ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY, INC.

Jack Packer - President
Phillip Branker - Vice President
Trig Cosby - Secretary
Kevin Pinnix - Corresponding Secretary
Rodney Johari - Treasurer

COMING EVENTS

Holiday Fest - November 1994
Martin Luther King Breakfast - January 1995
Annual Golf Tournament - June 1995

To John and Leslie Garner
Congratulations on the
Sterling Club's 75th Anniversary

From Your Son
Paul



**STERLING CLUB
MINNESOTA HISTORY CENTER
November 5, 1994**

MENU

*Crisp Garden Salad
Ribbioned with a Creamy Peppercorn Dressing*

*Breast of Chicken Florentine
Hand Harvested Minnesota Wild Rice Pilaf
Market Fresh Vegetables*

*Sourdough and Wild Rice Rolls
Butter*

*Minnesota Apple Tart
with Spiced Whipped Cream*

Beverage Service

75TH ANNIVERSARY BANQUET OF THE STERLING CLUB

THEME - "HONORING OUR FOUNDER'S DREAM"

PROGRAM

Master of Ceremonies James S. Griffin

National Negro Anthem
(1st and last verse - lyrics on inside back cover)

Invocation Willie McCoy

Welcome Willard Jones, President
Sterling Club

Remarks Mari Finney, President
Sterling Club Auxiliary

Lighting of 13 candles in honor of our founders

History of The Sterling Club Abram Weaver

Proclamations

Mayor, City of St. Paul The Honorable Norm Coleman
Commissioner of Public Safety, State of Minnesota ... Michael Jordan
Chief of Police, City of St. Paul William Finney
Deputy Chief, Minneapolis Police Department William Jones

Outstanding Citizen Award Presentation Paul Wood

Musical Selection Ms. Elizabeth Adams,
Great-Great Granddaughter of
Mr. Fred McCracken, Founder

Dinner

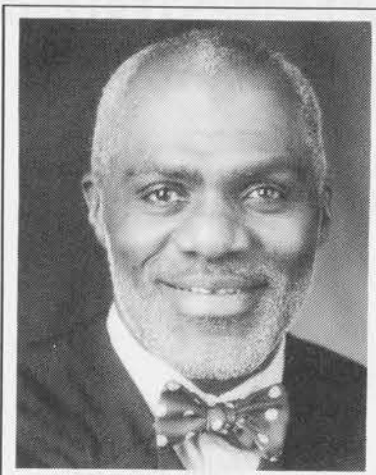
Presidential Award Willard Jones

Introduction of Keynote Speaker James S. Griffin

*The Honorable Alan C. Page, Justice,
Supreme Court of the State of Minnesota*

Remarks Floyd Clark
Sterling Club, Inc. 75th Anniversary General Chairman

Benediction Willie McCoy



ALAN C. PAGE

Minnesota Judicial Center
25 Constitution Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55155
(612) 296-6615

Personal Information

Born August 7, 1945
Wife: Diane Sims Page
Children: Nina, Georgi, Justin and Kamie

Education

Central Catholic High School, Canton, Ohio
Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, University of Notre Dame, 1976
Juris Doctor, University of Minnesota Law School, 1978*
**Employed full-time as a professional football player while a full-time law student.*

Honorary Degrees

Doctor of Laws: University of Notre Dame, 1993; St. John's University, 1994; Westfield State College, 1994

Professional Experience

Associate Justice, Minnesota Supreme Court, 1993-present
Assistant Attorney General, State of Minnesota, 1987-1993
Special Assistant Attorney General (Employment Law Division), 1985-1987
Associate, Lindquist & Vennum, 1979-1984
Commentator, National Public Radio, 1982-1983
Color Commentator, Turner Broadcasting System, College Football Game of the Week, 1982
Professional Football Player, 1967-1981
National Football league Players' Association Players' Representative 1970-1974, 1976-1977
National Football League Players' Association Executive Committee, 1972-1975

Community Activities and Professional Organizations

Member, American Law Institute, 1993-present
Member, Minnesota State Bar Association, 1979-1985, 1990-present
Member, Minnesota Minority Lawyers' Association, 1980-present
Member, National Bar Association, 1979-present
Member, American Bar Association, 1979-present
Member, Advisory Board, Mixed Blood Theater, 1984-present
Founder, Page Education Foundation, 1988. Assists minority and other disadvantaged youth with post-secondary education.
Member, Board of Regents, University of Minnesota, 1989-1992
Helped establish Kodak/Alan Page Challenge, a nationwide essay contest encouraging urban youth to recognize the value of education. Also a regular speaker to groups of minority students about the importance of education.
Member, Institute of Bill of Rights Law Task Force on Drug Testing in the Workplace, 1990-1991
Member, Advisory Board, League of Women Voters, 1984-1991
Board of Directors, Minneapolis Urban League, 1987-1990

Honors and Awards

1994 Aetna Voice of Conscience Arthur Ashe, Jr. Achiever Award
1993 Inducted into College Football Hall of Fame
WCCO Radio Distinguished Good Neighbor Award
1992 U.S. Sports Academy Theodore Roosevelt Meritorious Service Award
Notre Dame Alumni "Reverend Edward Frederick Sorin, C.S.C." Award
NCAA "Silver Anniversary" Award
East-West Game "Babe Hollingbery" Award
1991 Inducted into Chicago's Inner City Sports Hall of Fame
National Education Association "Friend of Education" Award
1990 Inducted into the Nike Walk of Fame
1989 Dedicated "Alan Page Drive" in Canton, Ohio
1988 Inducted into the Football Hall of Fame, Canton, Ohio
1987 Completed Edmund Fitzgerald 100-kilometer (62-mile) race
1981 Selected by U.S. Jaycees as one of America's Ten Outstanding Young Men
1979 First active NFL player to complete a marathon (26.2 miles)
1971 First defensive player in NFL history to receive "Most Valuable Player" Award. Received numerous awards and honors for performance in the NFL.

To Inform...

Instruct...

Inspire...

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*Congratulations to The Sterling Club
on your 75th Anniversary*

From
Golden Agers of
Hallie Q. Brown Community Center

President - Mrs. Ventress L. Roberson
Vice President - Mrs. Doris Douglas
Rec. Secretary - Mrs. Beverly Carroll
Financial Secretary - Mrs. Lovie Moffet
Treasurer - Mrs. Ruth Blakey
Asst. Rec. Secretary - Mrs. Beulah Swan
Social Chairperson - Mrs. Ceola Swan
Chaplain - Mrs. Bertha Nickerson

*In Memory of
Robert L. Jackson*

May 31, 1916 - January 13, 1991

Doris Jackson

**Congratulations to The Sterling Club
on its
75th Anniversary
from
"The Regalettes"**

Vivian Stone - President
Flornia Hadley Davis - Vice President
Warnell Mims - Treasurer
Gaynell Clardy - Financial Secretary
Roberta Taylor Booker - Secretary
Barbara Doyle - Assistant Secretary
Jacquie Underwood - Correspondence
Margaret Brazil - Sunshine Chairperson

**CONGRATULATIONS TO
THE STERLING CLUB AND AUXILIARY
AND BEST WISHES FOR THE FUTURE**

**THE RICHFIELD-BLOOMINGTON ALUMNI CHAPTER
KAPPA ALPHA PSI FRATERNITY, INC.**

P.O. Box 23637
RICHFIELD, MN 55423

*In Loving Memory
of
Clarence Young*

June 7, 1928

August 31, 1983

**Congratulations
and Best Wishes
on your 75th Anniversary**

The Floyd Barr Family

Ethel Barr
Floyd Barr, Jr. & Kimberly Barr
Tamika Barr
Brandi Barr
Merrie Barr Evans
Jerome Evans
Byron Evans
Stephanie Evans
Steven Evans
Marilyn Barr Pickens
Michael Pickens
Marcus Pickens
Matthew Pickens
Simone Sanders
Lataya Burch
Jerome Robinson

Walker Art Center

congratulates

The Sterling Club and The Auxiliary
on 75 years of service to the Twin Cities community.

Best wishes for continued success!



...the Sauce Expert
maker of fine cooking
sauces



SALUTES THE STERLING CLUB
AND AUXILIARY
FOR 75 YEARS OF SERVICE TO
THE COMMUNITY

*To the Men of the Sterling Club
and the Auxiliary,
Congratulations on 75 Years of Service*



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CONGRATULATIONS

AND

HAPPY SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

TO THE

STERLING CLUB, INC.

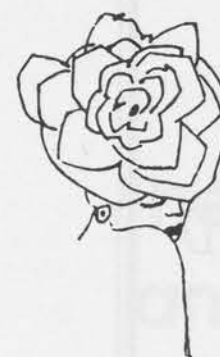


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LAURENCE R. OLIVER
DIRECTOR

MICHAEL G. BRADY
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by
Carolyn*

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MODEL CITIES

congratulates

THE MEN OF THE STERLING CLUB AND
THE AUXILIARY

on

75 YEARS

of service to the community

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430 NORTH DALE STREET • ST. PAUL

AND

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MODEL CITIES IS A COMMUNITY BASED AFFILIATION THAT INTEGRATES
HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES WITH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

**Congratulations to
The Sterling Club and Auxiliary
and Best Wishes for the Future**

Attucks Brooks Post #606

American Legion

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St. Paul, Minnesota 55104

CONGRATULATIONS

to the

Sterling Club

On Its 75th Anniversary

Wheels Inc.

324 N. St. Albans

St. Paul, Minnesota

To the Men of
The Sterling Club
and the Auxiliary

**Congratulations on
75 Years of Service**

TONY PANKEY
Agent

State Farm Insurance
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Burnsville, MN 55337-4764
(612) 891-2774

**Happy Birthday
Sterling Club Inc.**

*Thanks for wonderful
memories of fun events and
friends, past and present.*

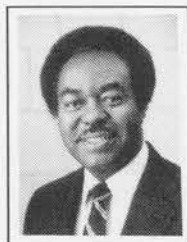
Alfred "Sid" & Gus "Sue" Williams



HALLIE Q. BROWN COMMUNITY CENTER, INC.

270 North Kent Street St. Paul, Minnesota 55102 Telephone: 224-4601

The Board and Staff of Hallie Q. Brown Community Center Inc., congratulates the Sterling Club on its 75th Anniversary and continuous service to our community. We wish the men of the Sterling Club and the Auxiliary continued success and best wishes for the future.



Fred B. Williams
Executive Director

Christine Donovan
President



C O N G R A T U L A T I O N S ! !

**TO THE STERLING CLUB AND THE AUXILIARY
ON ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF SERVING
THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY
WITH CONTINUOUS SERVICE
AND BEST WISHES FOR THE FUTURE!**

SINCERELY,

THE MULTICULTURAL NETWORK OF REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONALS

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Atwood, Kenric M	Herlitz, Edna E	Reed, F Regina
Beckley, Diane	Hong, Chun I	Sallet, Michael R
Berry, Warren D	Hugh, Gregory J	Seabrook, Nathanie
Boone, Joseph T	Jackson, Edward L	Smith, Ronald E
Broadnax, Andre	Jones, Paul	Spears, Annamichel
Campbell, Vincent	Leake, Jean	Staples, Edwin G
Chang, Xiong Pao	Lee, Arthur S	Torralba, Roger
Choe, Kyu C	Lewis, W Calvin	Tseng, Donna K
Clarke, Comfort J	Ligon, Jeannette L	Wallace Jr, Leon
Colbert, John A	Logan, Vervyle J	Washington, Rodney
Counters, Craig A	March, John D	White, Bobbi J
Denney, Jeffrey L	Maxwell, Larry	Williams Jr, Lee D
Dibba, Lamin M	Mazone, Denise M	Wolf, GeriAnn
Drookwimyternngbeh	McCrary, Franklin	Xiong, Hue
Eley, Chiemi	Murphy, Christine	Yousuf, Nasim A
Engbretson, Loree	Olowu, Femi	
Finney, Deborah	Orange, Flowrean	
Green, Terrie L	Pastrana, Jesus B	
Greene, Patricia	Patton, Shellia R	
Hatcher, Diane J	Payne, James	

**Congratulations
to
The Sterling Club
and Auxiliary
On 75 Years of Service**

ARCHIE
GIVENS
SR
COLLECTION

Archie Givens, Jr. Phebe Givens

*In Memory
of
Albert Briscoe*

March 31, 1924

October 15, 1983

Charlene Briscoe

***Congratulations to
The Sterling Club
on its 75th anniversary***

*From two generations of
Sterling Club Members*



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***Congratulations on 75 years,
Sterling Club!***

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• HITTING & TURF HOCKEY LEAGUES •
• SPORTS / BIRTHDAY PARTIES •

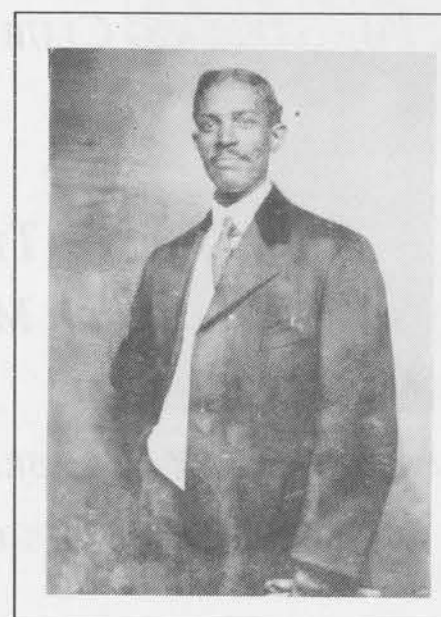
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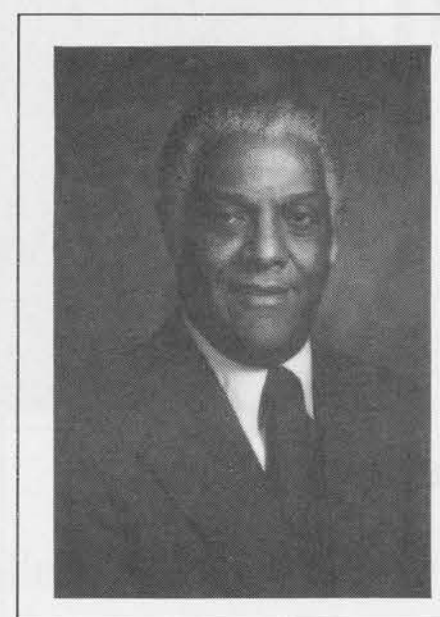
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William Griffin
Past Member



James S. Griffin
Current Member

**Congratulations on 75 Years of Serving
The African-American Community**

**The Hallie Q. Brown
Retired Men's Club**

"A Friendly Club"

Officers

George H. Todd – President
Charles W. Taylor – Vice President
Alexander B. Jordan – Secretary/Treasurer
Clearl Adams – Chaplain



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**SILVER TEAM
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*Best Wishes
Sterling Club*

Mrs Ventress L. Roberson

THE STERLING CLUB INC.

**WISHES TO
THANK ALL OF THE
SUPPORTERS WHO MADE
THE 75TH
ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
A TREMENDOUS SUCCESS!**

**In Memory of
Cora Bell and John Banks**



John and Leslie Garner

**CONGRATULATIONS TO
THE STERLING CLUB, INC.**

**ON THEIR
75TH ANNIVERSARY AND BEST WISHES TO
PRESIDENT WILLARD P. JONES SR.
FROM THE CHILDREN**

**EUGENE P. (SON)
WILLARD P. JR. (SON) AND WIFE JOANIE
JORGE C. (SON) AND WIFE LINDA
AND GRANDCHILDREN...
RACHAEL, ERIC (1), JAMIE, ERIC(2), ANDRE, AND
JESSY PAUL**



**MOST WORSHIPFUL PRINCE HALL
GRAND LODGE**
FREE & ACCEPTED MASONS, JURISDICTION OF MINNESOTA
3836 4th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55409



GREETINGS:

SINCERE CONGRATULATIONS TO THE STERLING CLUB

On behalf of the officers and members of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Minnesota and Jurisdiction we salute you on your 75th Anniversary.

We are using this occasion to demonstrate to you the high esteem with which we hold your organization.

We are hoping this will be one of your greatest events.

It is our fervent prayer that when this 75th anniversary is over we will all be able to say "It was a pleasure to have been here."

Sincerely,

William A. Richardson
Most Worshipful Grand Master

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE STERLING CLUB
ON THEIR 75TH ANNIVERSARY
FROM THE SUBURBANITES SOCIAL CLUB**

*"To be successful, you have to keep moving.
After all, no one stumbles on something sitting down."
- Anonymous*

We are in our 41st year and still going strong. Good Luck!

Louise Haynes – President
Doris Jackson – Vice President
Helen Lamb-Hampton – Secretary
Myrtle Speese – Treasurer
Almaritta Johnson – Sunshine
Velma Waters – Social Chairperson
Pat Harris Speese – Member
Evelyn Russell – Member
Hazel Fulbright – Member

Sterling Club
1994

Sterling Club Auxiliary
1994

1994 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tollie F. Flippin – Chairman
Charles W. Bradley – Vice Chairman
John Anderson – Secretary
Donald L. Colbert – Asst. Secretary
James S. Griffin
Fred B. Williams
Henry Patterson, Jr.
Jesse W. Miller
Drexel C. Pugh

1994 STERLING CLUB, INC. OFFICERS

Willard P. Jones – President
Martin O. Weddington – Vice President
Frederick D. Brown – Secretary
Levi L. Brady – Treasurer
Francis G. Bellesen – Financial Secretary

LIFETIME MEMBERS

Ben L. Alexander
Otto T. Burroughs
Richard M. Mann

HONORARY MEMBERS

Gordon Parks
Thomas N. Ransom

75TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

Floyd Clark – Chairman
Grace Bellesen
Francis Bellesen
Bernard Glover
Levi Brady
James Griffin
Abram Weaver
Floyd Barr
Millie Clark
Velma Waters
Martin Weddington
Lawrence Hampton

INVITATION COMMITTEE

Grace Bellesen - Chair
Francis Bellesen
Yvonne Brady
William Bowman
Millie Clark
Ron Buford
Charlsie Buford
John Garner
Leslie Garner

BANQUET COMMITTEE

Bernard Glover – Chairman
Velma Waters
Beverly Long
Leslie Garner
Frank G. Dye, Sr.

1994 MEMBERS

Allen, Ira P.	Hartsfield, John
Anderson, John E.	Hicks, Edward R.
Banham, Donald R.	James, Donald
Barner, Pearl II	Johnson, Ernest C.
Barr, Floyd C.	Jones, Willard P.
Beard, James E.	Kirk, James G., Jr.
Bellesen, Francis G.	Lawrence, Melvin
Bowman, William C.	Long, Arthur L.
Bradley, Charles W.	McCoy, Willie P.
Brady, Levi L.	McKerson, Hayward C.
Brown, Fred D.	Miller, Jesse W.
Buford, Ronald C.	Patterson, Henry, Jr.
Cameron, John K.	Propps, Charles D.
Chatham, Robert	Pugh, Drexel C.
Clark, Floyd E.	Ray, Joseph P.
Colbert, Donald L.	Scott, Earl P.
Cox, Johnny B.	Scott, John
Dye, Frank G., Sr.	Smith, William A.
Ellis, Dr. Cassius M.	Stewart, Alfred E.
Estes, Richard C.	Thorpe, Robert A.
Favors, Samuel F.	Turner, Maurice O.
Finney, William R.	Wade, Karl J.
Flippin, Tollie J., Sr.	Weaver, Abram H.
Gaines, Curman L.	Weddington, Martin O.
Garner, John W.	Williams, Alfred
Glover, Bernard	Williams, Fred B.
Griffin, James S.	Wilson, William L.
Hampton, Lawrence	Wood, Paul L.

STERLING CLUB 1994



Ben
Alexander



Ira
Allen



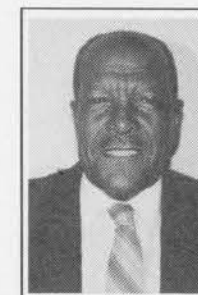
John
Anderson



Don
Banham



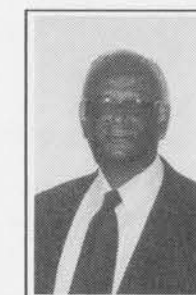
Pearl
Barner



Floyd
Barr



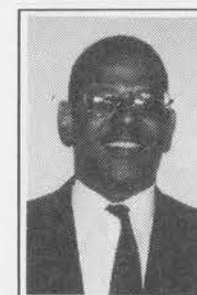
James
Beard



Francis
Bellesen



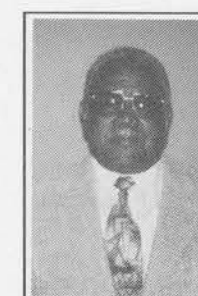
Levi
Brady



Frederick
Brown



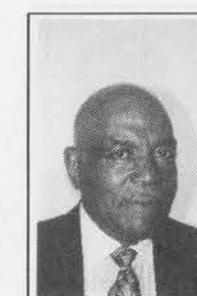
Ronald
Buford



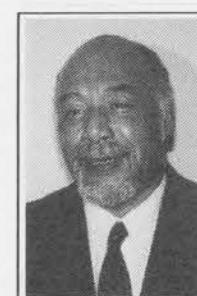
Otto
Burroughs



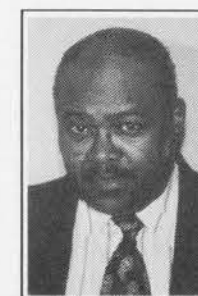
Robert
Chatham



Floyd
Clark



Donald
Colbert



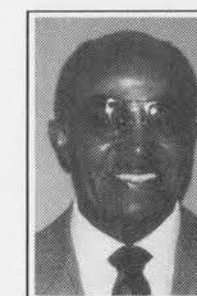
Frank
Dye



Cassius
Ellis



Tollie
Flippin

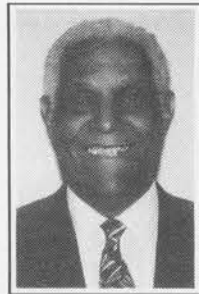


John
Garner

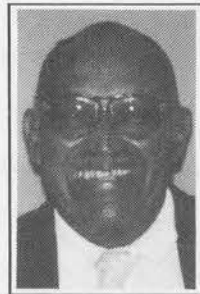


Bernard
Glover

STERLING CLUB 1994



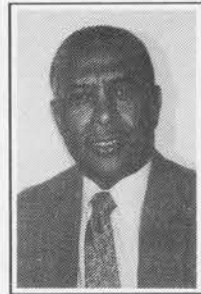
James
Griffin



John
Hartsfield



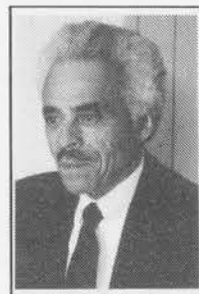
Lawrence
Hampton



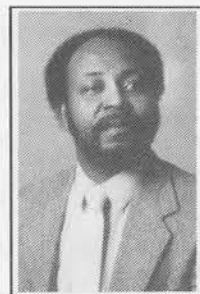
Edward
Hicks



Willard
Jones



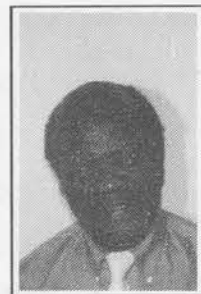
James
Kirk



Melvin
Lawrence



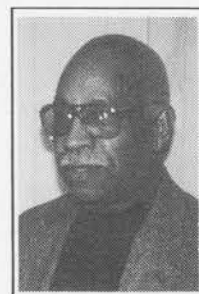
Richard
Mann



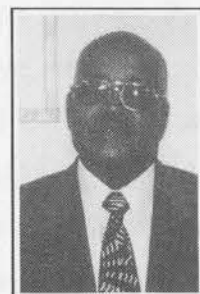
Willie
McCoy



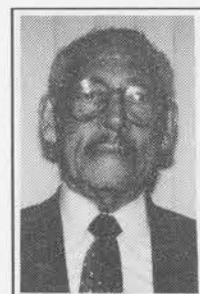
Hayward
McKerson



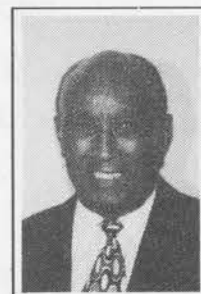
Charles
Propps



Drexel
Pugh



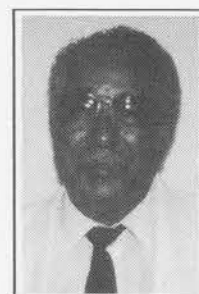
John
Scott



Alfred
Stewart



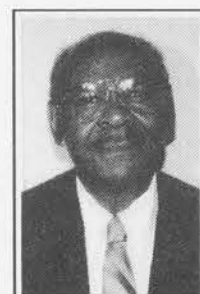
Robert
Thorpe



Maurice
Turner



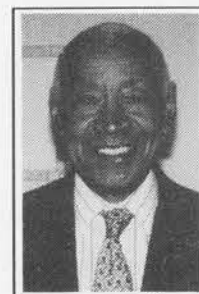
Karl
Wade



Abram
Weaver

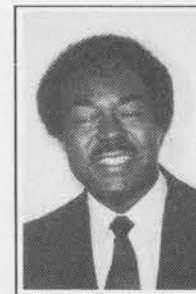


Martin
Weddington



Alfred
Williams

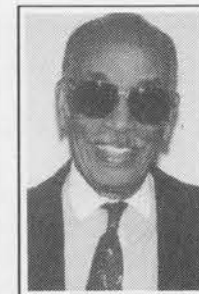
STERLING CLUB 1994



Fred
Williams



William
Wilson



Paul
Wood

1994 STERLING CLUB AUXILIARY OFFICERS

Mari Harper Finney – President
 Rosamond Banham – Vice President
 Leslie Garner – Secretary
 Winifred Hartsfield – Treasurer
 Effie McKerson – Financial Secretary

1994 MEMBERS

Alexander, Jewell	Ingram, Barbara
Allen, Pat	Jackman, Irene
Anderson, Gladys	Jackson, Doris
Banham, Rosamond	Johnson, Alice
Barr, Ethel	Johnson, Geraldine
Bellesen, Grace	Jones, Norma
Brady, Yvonne	Kirk, Emma
Buford, Charlsie	Long, Beverly
Briscoe, Charlene	McFarland, Dorothy
Burroughs, Lucille	McKerson, Effie
Carr, Cathy	Propps, Evelyn
Cartwright, Helen	Scott, Addie
Chatham, Claudia	Scott, Rebecca
Clark, Millicent	Smith, Audrey
Colbert, Novi	Smith, Marjorie
Davison, Teretha Bledsoe	Stewart, Connie
Ellis, Phyllis	Turner, Marjorie
Favors, Annie	Wade, Delores
Finney, Mari	Waters, Velma
Gaines, Maxine	Weaver, Laura
Garner, Leslie	Weddington, Sallie
Glover, Mary	Williams, Sue
Gooden, Louise	Wilson, Willie Mae
Griffin, Edna	Wood, Ruby
Hartsfield, Winifred	Young, Daisy

STERLING CLUB AUXILIARY 1994



Jewel
Alexander



Pat
Allen



Rosamond
Banham



Ethel
Barr



Grace
Bellesen



Yvonne
Brady



Lucille
Burroughs



Charlene
Briscoe



Charlsie
Buford



Cathy
Carr



Claudia
Chatham



Millicent
Clark



Novi
Colbert



Phyllis
Ellis



Mari
Finney



Leslie
Garner



Louise
Gooden



Edna
Griffin



Winifred
Hartsfield



Norma
Jones

STERLING CLUB AUXILIARY 1994



Emma
Kirk



Effie
McKerson



Evelyn
Propps



Addie
Scott



Connie
Stewart



Marjorie
Turner



Delores
Wade



Velma
Waters



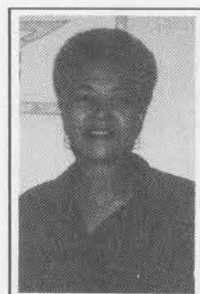
Willie Mae
Wilson



Laura
Weaver



Sallie
Weddington



Sue
Williams



Ruby
Wood



Daisy
Young

"ANONYMOUS FRIEND
OF THE
STERLING CLUB"

CONGRATULATIONS, STERLING CLUB
ON YOUR 75th ANNIVERSARY

and all the best to current club members
as you begin the next 75 years!

from your friends at

WESTERN BANK
& INSURANCE AGENCY

Member FDIC

Equal Opportunity Lender

*In Memory of
Verna B. Flippin*



January 10, 1925 - September 10, 1994

Cherished wife, mother, grandmother and friend.
She embodied all that was good, true and kind.
She was the love of our lives.
She will always be with us - for she will never be forgotten.

*"The Lord hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee
with an everlasting love: therefore with loving kindness have I drawn thee."
Jeremiah 31:3*

Tollie J. Flippin, Sr. and Family

LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING

Lift ev'ry voice and sing
till earth and heaven ring.
Ring with the harmonies of liberty;
let our rejoicing rise
high as the list'ning skies,
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us.
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
let us march on till victory is won.

God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
thou who has brought us thus far on the way;
thou who has by thy might
led us into the light.
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we meet thee,
lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee,
shadowed beneath thy hand,
may we forever stand.
True to our God
true to our native land.

Words by James Weldon Johnson
Music by Rosamond Johnson