

Chapter 6

INTERNATIONAL OFFICERS

THE business and administrative affairs of the International Association have always been conducted by the Board of Directors, consisting of the International officers and the elected directors.

The first officers and directors chosen at the 1922 Atlantic City Convention were:

Paul Wm. Alexander, Lawyer, Toledo, Ohio, President
M. R. Chappell, Lumberman, Sydney, Nova Scotia, First Vice-President
Horace E. Ayres, Physician, New York, New York, Second Vice-President
W. W. Winter, Manager, Mobile, Alabama, Third Vice-President
Earle F. Kuhn, Insurance, Columbus, Ohio, Secretary-Treasurer
Harold W. Bennett, Lawyer, Camden, New Jersey, Director
C. R. Tharp, Accountant, Grand Forks, North Dakota, Director
James P. Harris, Lawyer, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, Director

It will be noted from the foregoing list that the first Board of Directors consisted of the International President, three Vice-Presidents, Secretary-Treasurer, and three Directors. The number of Directors was later increased to six, and it was the custom prior to the 1927 Milwaukee International Convention to elect the Immediate Past President as one of the six Directors. At that Convention the retiring President was made a member of the Board of Directors ex officio, thus increasing the number of directors from six to seven.

(a) Paul Wm. Alexander

At the 1926 Camden Convention, the Past President's Committee presented the following resolution which was enthusiastically adopted by the Convention:

"WHEREAS our Founder and First President, Paul William Alexander, through his arduous and untiring efforts, covering unceasingly a period of six hard years, has been

the sole life and strength of the International Association of Y's Men Clubs Movement and

"WHEREAS he, both alone, and later with the whole-hearted assistance of the Y's fellows acquired, has put into this Association his very heart's blood, this committee believes it fitting and proper to confer a lasting and signal favor on Paul W. Alexander, Our Founder and First President of the International Association of Y's Men's Clubs:— Therefore, be it

"Resolved by the International Association of Y's Men's Clubs in convention assembled, at Camden, N. J., two-thirds of all delegates present and voting concurring therein that Article IV, Section 1, of the Constitution be amended to read as follows:—

"Article IV. Section 1. The officers of the Association shall be President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Third Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer and six elected Directors; each officer shall be, when present, a member of any Y's Men's Convention with full delegate privileges. The retiring President shall be a Life Member of the International Association of Y's Men's Clubs.

"That our Founder and First President, Paul William Alexander, be designated President Emeritus of the International Association of Y's Men's Clubs, with full privileges of exercising a vote on the Board of Directors for a period of three years from the date of the Camden, N. J., Convention."

In this manner, Paul Wm. Alexander became President Emeritus of the International Association of Y's Men's Clubs and became a member of the Board of Directors for three years. At the 1929 Toronto Convention this section of the Constitution was further amended so that he became a life member of the Board of Directors with full voting privileges.

Alex is a native son of Toledo, Ohio, and received his elementary education there. He received his A.B. degree at Denison University and his LL.B. from Harvard. For several years a practicing attorney, he became assistant prosecuting attorney of Lucas County in 1919. He relinquished the post in 1921 to become solicitor for various municipalities but took it up again in 1933 for a period of four years. Since that time he has been Judge of the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Courts of Lucas County. His work in this field has earned him special recognition. He has been elected President of the National Council

of Juvenile Judges and of the National Conference of Juvenile Agencies. He has also been recognized as an outstanding Juvenile Court Judge of the United States by various periodicals such as *Life*, *Time*, and the 1943 Year Book of the *Encyclopedia Britannica*, and *Who's Who in America*. His articles have appeared in various popular and professional periodicals.

As a charter member of the Toledo Club, Alex became a Y's Man in October, 1920; since that time he has been club secretary, club president, president of the Ohio Association of Y's Men's Clubs, president of the International Association of Y's Men's Clubs, member of the International Board, and, since 1926, president emeritus of the Movement. Besides his work as Y's Man, Judge, and his other two national presidencies, Alex has served on the executive boards of 15 or 20 Toledo organizations and a half dozen state and national boards.

In addition to his efforts in the formative years of the International Association, and the numerous trips which he made in the promotion of Y's Men's Clubs, Alex has made many other permanent contributions to Y'sdom. He was the author of the beautiful words of the official Y's Men's song "Once More We Stand," adapted by him to the tune of "Finlandia." He composed the inaugural charge, with which he has personally installed the majority of the International officers and directors. This same charge is used extensively for the installation of local club officers. He is also the author of the Y's Men's induction ritual, which succinctly explains to the new Y's Man the scope and purpose of the Movement. The substance of this ritual was contained in an address delivered by him before the 1930 Wilkes-Barre Convention entitled "Why So Exclusive?" He has attended every International Convention except four, and his helpful suggestions and guidance have been of inestimable value to International.

Married to talented and gracious Lorraine Marshall Eaton in 1918, they are the parents of one daughter, Constance, and grandparents of Marshall Ben Otwell, named for his mother's brother who died at the age of nine, and Charles Alexander Otwell.

At the 1947 Toledo Silver Anniversary Convention, Lorraine and Alex were honored in an impressive ceremony which included the presentation of a sterling silver service, and the laudatory remarks of the ten past International Presidents in attendance.