



Black O'Kelleys Family Association, Inc.

2200 N. Highway 67, #606
Florissant, MO 63033-9998

Acting Board of Directors:

Nelson O. Minter,
President

Joyce Ann Huston,
Vice President

Nikki Williams
Sebastian,
Treasurer

Nannetta Hall,
Secretary

Jamil Franklin

Dr. Nicole
Richardson

Nissan Thomas,
Esq.

Erica Williams

March, 2021

Dear Family,

We hope this letter finds you staying safe and enjoying the new year with God's blessings.

The purpose of this letter is to formally introduce you to the formation of the Black O'Kelleys Family Association, Inc. aka (BOFA ~pronounced bo-fah~). BOFA is being formed as a non-profit organization to provide overarching leadership of the O'Kelley family operations with continuity and structure that include; historic preservation of the family archives, sharing awareness of our rich heritage with the public, reunion planning and operations, fundraising, scholarships, tax exempt status privileges, apply for grants, eligibility for lower postal rates on bulk mailings and more! It is vital to have a governing body for members to discuss issues and ideas regarding the direction of the family as we continue to grow. This leadership became ever more present in the wake of the current pandemic and its impact on the family.

The design of a logo for the new Corporation was created by Robin Carnilius (Nannetta Hall's child) with input by the Board. The elements represent:

1. The familiar 4-leaf clover used in the traditional O'Kelley Family Reunion logo which will continue to be used at the reunions.
2. The burning bush and eye are about Ellen's struggles. The master blinding her in one eye and threatening to throw her in the burning bush.
3. Ellen's mulatto hands embracing her sons from which we descend, and the year she was born (per current records) in 1843.
4. The inset broken chains represent our enslavement to freedom.
5. Colors of the three-part African Liberation Flag; **Red**: the blood, **Black**: the people, **Green**: the abundant & vibrant natural wealth of Africa, the Motherland.

The Corporation's logo does not replace or sunset the historical family crest we have been using for reunions. The Corporation's logo is created to represent the new organization when interacting with the public.

Throughout the years, family elders spoke of forming a family organization to provide educational scholarships to high school graduates and to help with the reunions. The Committee for the 2012 St. Louis, MO, O'Kelley Family Reunion formed a non-profit organization to oversee that reunion's efforts. They were quite successful in their endeavor and was able to provide seed money to help



Black O'Kelleys Family Association, Inc.

2200 N. Highway 67, #606
Florissant, MO 63033-9998

jumpstart subsequent reunions. Their Treasurer, Amir Paschal, still retains \$400 from that reunion although the organization's certification expired. The remaining funds are being transferred to BOFA to be applied to the next St. Louis sponsored reunion.

Following the 2018 O'Kelley Family Reunion in Washington DC, Joyce Ann Huston began querying family members for interest in forming a nation-wide family organization whose skill sets and/or active family leadership would prove extremely valuable for forming the new organization. The resulting board would include descendants of Ellen Johnson-Mathews-Fisher, extended family, and other interests.

Please welcome the **BOFA Acting Board of Directors** who have volunteered to lead this effort.

Descendants of Daniel Smith O'Kelly (fyi, Daniel didn't use the 'e' on the end)

- St. Louis, MO:
 - Nelson O. Minter, President; Joyce Ann Huston, Vice President
 - Directors: Jamil Franklin, Erica Williams
- Tucker, GA: Nikki Williams Sebastian, Treasurer
- Severn, MD: Nannetta Hall, Secretary
- Los Angeles, CA: Director, Nissan Thomas, Esq.

Descendant of Charles Edward O'Kelley

- Washington, DC: Director, Dr. Nicole Richardson

Descendant of Will Dock O'Kelley

- (TBD) Director: Charles Keith O'Kelley resigned due to personal matters.

This Acting Board will provide oversight in forming the BOFA until the family's next reunion where official elections of the Board will be held. The Board began holding monthly meetings in June 2020. We have developed Bylaws ([available on our website](#)) and other required documents for incorporating which includes lessons learned from previous endeavors to remain solvent. These can always be expanded upon as needed. We have secured pro bono legal representation with the Volunteer Lawyers and Accountants for the Arts (VLAA) in St. Louis, MO, who assigned us to the MGD Law Firm. They will ensure all filing requirements comply to governing laws and offer expert guidance.

Funding: We will be establishing membership fees to fund operations. Until then, Board members have personally donated funds to cover costs to-date that include: new PO Box, Missouri Fictitious DBA, Missouri Articles of Incorporation, VLAA workbook & webinar, BOFA Logo, letter to family, and ongoing expenses with the



Black O'Kelleys Family Association, Inc.

2200 N. Highway 67, #606
Florissant, MO 63033-9998

family website and historical efforts. We need additional “start-up” financial support to cover filing costs with the IRS and other operations currently estimated at \$700. BOFA succeeds when everyone helps as they are able. Should we be fortunate to receive donations beyond the current target, it will go towards BOFA approved operations and programs.

Donations of any amount are welcome to aid in the start-up of the Corporation.

Donors contributing a minimum of **\$100** will have their name placed on a **Commemorative Plaque** in their honor as “**Founding Supporters of BOFA**” and will receive a keepsake, **Personalized Certificate**. *Please include with your \$100+ donation if you prefer to remain anonymous on the plaque.*

Additionally:

- Donations of **\$200+** are recognized as a “**BOFA Charter Member**.”
- Donations of **\$500+** are recognized as a “**Gold Star Charter Member**” and your name will have a Gold Star on the Plaque.

For the special recognition, your start-up donation must be received by April 15, 2021.

Please make checks or money orders payable to:

Black O'Kelleys Family Association
2200 N. Highway 67, #606
Florissant, MO 63033

Transactions can also be made via:

- *PayPal* - username: @BOFAInc; website: paypal.me/BOFAInc; email: treasurer@blackokelleys.org.
- For direct bank transfers or other options, please contact the Treasurer @ treasurer@blackokelleys.org.

We are in the process of developing the Membership package and the following Committees: Audit, Communications, Election, Historical, Membership, Reunion, and an Advisory Council. Attached is information about the committees being formed and a brief [survey](#) which we would like you to complete and provide your input. Results will be posted on our website and email distribution. Your participation and support will be vital to making this organization successful and fruitful for generations to come. If you have not submitted a **Family Group Sheet** (attached), please do so for yourself, or deceased family, so that your information is recorded correctly in the family tree database.



Black O'Kelleys Family Association, Inc.

2200 N. Highway 67, #606
Florissant, MO 63033-9998

Respectively,

Nelson O. Minter

Joyce Ann Huston

Jamil Franklin

Nannetta Hall

Dr. Nicole Richardson

Nikki Williams Sebastian

Nissan Thomas

Erica Williams

Black O'Kelleys Family Association, Inc.
Acting Board of Directors

Attachments:

1. BOFA Survey / <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6DQF2T6>
2. Family Tree Data Sheet
3. BOFA Acting Board of Directors Bios
4. BOFA Committees Brochure

NOM/jah



BLACK O'KELLEYS FAMILY ASSOCIATION, INC. (BOFA)

SURVEY: Please reply by (April 20, 2021)

Online at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6DQF2T6>

This survey is provided to the O'Kelley Family to get your direction, guidance, and support. Please provide the following information so that BOFA can continue to organize and plan our next steps.

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____ E-mail: _____

- Do you accept the acting Board of Directors and support the non-profit corporation to provide education scholarships?
 YES
 NO
- What committee(s) would you like to volunteer on? Pick all you like. Please add your name below.
 Reunion
 Communications
 Audit
 Elections
 Membership
 Historical
 Advisory Council (55+)
 None
Name _____
- I have children in grades 6 - 12 that want to lead a youth contingent of the organization. List full names and ages: _____
- When would you feel comfortable to attend a reunion?
 2022 2023 2024 6 Months after CDC declares social distancing is no longer required.
- Pick one city you would like to see host our next reunion.
 St. Louis Los Angeles New Orleans Other (please specify) _____
Include your name if you are willing to host in the selected city. _____
- To descendants of Will Dock O'Kelley. We are seeking a replacement for this Board seat. If interested, please submit your name, contact info, and include a short bio _____
- What's on your mind? Please provide any comments or suggestions you would like to see happen within the family over the next 3 years.

(USE THE BACK OF THE PAGE FOR ADDITIONAL COMMENTS)

- Do you accept the new BOFA logo? This will be used for BOFA business with the public. It does not replace our current O'Kelley Family Reunion crest.
 YES
 NO Why: _____

Replies may be sent via: Email to: info@blackokelleys.org ♦ Phone: (314) 339-8972 ♦ Mail to:
Black O'Kelleys Family Association, Inc., 2200 N. Highway 67, #606, Florissant, MO 63033-9998

FAMILY GROUP: _____

FAMILY NUMBER: N/A

Date: Compiled By: Your Address: Telephone No: E-Mail: Other:	HUSBAND'S-MALE NAME:				
	Event	Date	Place or Name	Source	
	Birth				
	Graduation		(Degree)		
	Marriage				
	Death				
	Burial				
	Occupation or Profession				
	Father's Name				
	Mother's Name				
	Other Spouses				
	Notes				
	WIFE'S-FEMALE NAME:				
	Event	Date	Place or Name	Source	
	Birth				
Graduation		(Degree)			
Death					
Burial					
Occupation or Profession					
Father's Name					
Mother's Name					
Other Spouses					
Notes					
MF	Name of Child & Spouse	Event	Date	Place	Source
1		Birth			
		Marriage			
		Death			
		Burial			
2		Birth			
		Marriage			
		Death			
		Burial			
3		Birth			
		Marriage			
		Death			
		Burial			
4		Birth			
		Marriage			
		Death			
		Burial			
5		Birth			
		Marriage			
		Death			
		Burial			
6		Birth			
		Marriage			
		Death			
		Burial			
7		Birth			
		Marriage			
		Death			
		Burial			

Additional Notes:

Return Completed Form To:
 Black O'Kelleys Family Association, Inc.
 2200 N. Highway 67, #606
 Florissant, MO 63033-9998
 or E-Mail to: Info@BlackOKelleys.org





BLACK O'KELLEYS FAMILY ASSOCIATION, INC. (BOFA) ACTING BOARD OF DIRECTORS BIOS

	<p>President, Nelson O'Kelley Minter, St. Louis, MO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master of Systems Engineering, Bachelor of Science Computer Science (MSE & BSCSc) • Senior Systems Engineer, DRS Land Systems • Member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. • Host 2000 St. Louis, MO O'Kelley-Darris Reunion; Multiple Committees • Coordinator of Multiple O'Kelley Family Picnics • Wagon Master of Memphis Bus Tour & Party Train to Chicago Reunion
	<p>Vice-President/Incorporator, Joyce Ann Huston, St. Louis, MO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bachelor of Science Business Administration (B.S.B.A.) • Virtual Administrator, Trumpeter, Vocalist • O'Kelley Family Historian; FTDNA Project Manager; Multiple Historical & Lineage Societies, NSDAR Arts Award • Black O'Kelleys Website Admin, P.R., featured in TV, Newspapers, Podcasts • Author: Black O'Kelleys in America (1991); Co-Author, Black O'Kelleys Book of History (2016) • Host 1991 Las Vegas O'Kelley Reunion; Multiple Committees
	<p>Treasurer, Nikki Williams Sebastian, Atlanta, GA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master of Public Health (MPH) • I.T. Specialist, U.S. Dept of Health & Human Services • Member: National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR), Atlanta & DC; National Society Daughters of the Union, 1861-1865; Daughters of Union Veterans of Civil War; Sons & Daughters of U.S. Middle Passage lineage societies • O'Kelley Family Co-Historian • 2002, 2016 Atlanta O'Kelley Reunion Host
	<p>Secretary, Nannetta Hall, Severn, MD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bachelor of Science, Education (B.S.Ed.) • Education Coordinator, Historic Annapolis • Retired, United States Air Force • Active member of Omega Eta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Fulton, MD • 2018 Washington, DC O'Kelley Reunion Host



BLACK O'KELLEYS FAMILY ASSOCIATION, INC. (BOFA) ACTING BOARD OF DIRECTORS BIOS

	<p>Director, Jamil T. Franklin, St. Louis, MO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master of Public Administration (MPA) • Supervisor, Environmental Waste District Contracts • 2012 St. Louis O'Kelley Reunion Committee Member
	<p>Director, Erica Williams, St. Louis, MO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master of Business Administration (MBA) • Executive Director, "A Red Circle" a non-profit organization • Former Paralegal at Paule, Camazine & Blumenthal, P.C. • St. Louis Master Gardener • Wife and mother of five children
	<p>Director, Nissan Thomas, Esq, Los Angeles, CA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Juris Ph.D, Bachelor of Arts • Attorney, Law Offices of Nissan Thomas • Supervisor, Music Legal at CBS Television Studios
	<p>Director, Dr. Nicole Richardson, Washington, DC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine, D.O. • Medical Doctor (Internist), The IAFF-Center of Excellence Mental Health and Substance Abuse Center • Mother of two children, Timothy, and Farrah McMillan • Active member of Xi Zeta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Washington D.C. • 2018 O'Kelley Reunion Committee Member
<p>Will Dock O'Kelley Descendant:</p>	<p>Director, TBD</p>

YOUTH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Because the children are our future, we will invest the knowledge and time in their development to ensure they are prepared to be leaders. To that end, BOFA Officers will mentor youth officers, plan, and coordinate youth activities during reunions, and serve as volunteers to support Historical and Educational Outreach to the public.



CONTACT US

BOFA, Inc. is incorporated in the great state of Missouri at the following address:

2200 N. Highway 67, #606

Florissant, MO 63033

Phone: (314) 339-8972

Email: info@blackokelleys.org

Web: www.blackokelleys.org



Black O’Kelleys Family Association, Inc.



BOFA, Inc.
Outstanding Committees

WE WANT YOU..GET EXCITED!

Historical Committee:



The Historical Committee directs family research, education, and preservation to honor its ancestry. Archival of official BOFA historical documents and artifacts will be retained in public repositories or other designated facilities.

Communications Committee:



The Communications Committee acts as the conduit of information gathering and dissemination to the BOFA membership, public relations, website, and social media representation. It provides support to all

Standing Committees requiring mass communications distribution and coordinates with committees to maintain email, snail mail, phone numbers and other contact information.

Membership Committee:



The Membership Committee defines the application and acceptance process and policy of membership in BOFA.

Advisory Council Purpose & Members

This special council of some of our most wise and respected, will be called upon to provide recommendations and advise on critical conflicts and issues that may arise from time to time within the organization. The elected officers, three senior members from the membership, and the past BOFA Presidents in good standing, shall constitute the Advisory Council.



LET'S GET TO WORK!!!

Reunion Committee:



The Reunion Committee defines the logistical and financial roles & responsibilities and oversees the bi-annual reunion or other designated family assembly dates of the BOFA. The Reunion Committee will solicit a portion of its duties to subcommittees of members within or outside the reunion's host city.

Audit Committee:



The Audit Committee defines the Audit Process and oversees the auditing of the Corporation operations (Treasurer and Secretary).

Election Committee:



The Election Committee defines the election process and oversees the election of Officers and the Board of Directors.