

Longtime head of city's chapter elected national NAACP president

By Jane A. Smith

Enolia P. McMillan, who has headed the Baltimore chapter of the NAACP for the past 14 years, was elected national president of the 100,000-member civil rights group yesterday.

Mrs. McMillan will preside at the annual meeting of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, represent the association at various functions and lead fund-raising campaigns during her one-year term. NAACP spokesman Denton Watson said Mrs. McMillan, 79, succeeds James Kemp, who died in December.

Mr. Watson described Mrs. McMillan's unanimous election by the 64-member board of directors of which she is a member, as "recognition of the branch's leadership in fund-raising."

The Baltimore branch is one of the most viable in the association in terms of fund-raising and membership, he said.

While the NAACP presidency involves administrative and ceremonial functions, the organization's execu-



ENOLIA P. McMILLAN
... chosen unanimously

tive director, Benjamin L. Hooks, is the group's most visible spokesman.

Mrs. McMillan described her new job as "a challenge."

It is something I had not expected

and did not solicit," she said after returning home from the meeting in New York City.

She said she had not decided whether to resign her Baltimore post. The Baltimore chapter has 7,000 to 8,000 members, she said.

Mrs. McMillan's election was hailed as a victory for Baltimore by the Rev. Marion C. Bascom, pastor of the local Douglas Memorial Community Church.

"I'm thrilled she's been named president. For the longest time Baltimore did not even have a representative on the national board, even though it's been one of the most supportive branches," he said last night.

Mrs. McMillan was elected to the board six years ago.

Representative Parren J. Mitchell (D, 7th) described the news as "fantastic."

"She is a very hard-working, dedicated woman. She got the local chapter involved in every major discrimination case," he said.

Mr. Mitchell's brother, Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr., a former director of the NAACP's Washington bureau,

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NAACP names president

MCMILLAN, from A1

praised Mrs. McMillan's "long history of working for civil rights. . . . This is a nice pinnacle of her career in the organization."

A whole new slate of officers was elected yesterday in hopes of clearing the air after last year's power struggle between Mr. Hooks and Margaret Bush Wilson, the former board chairman, Mr. Watson said.

Mrs. Wilson, a St. Louis lawyer, had charged Mr. Hooks with insubordination and blamed him for a decline in membership. The board of directors officially muzzled Mrs. Wilson and in July reaffirmed its support for Mr. Hooks, saying the charges against him were unfounded.

Mrs. Wilson did not seek reelection as chairman. Kelly M. Alexander, Sr., of Charlotte, N.C., previously vice chairman, was elected to succeed her.

Mrs. Wilson did run for one of eight at-large seats but came in ninth, right behind Mr. Kemp.

She accused the board of illegally "electing a dead man" and said she was considering suing over what she

said was an illegal attempt to block her reelection to the organization's board.

Mr. Hooks said most members of the organization had already cast their ballots before Mr. Kemp's death December 5 and that he had been properly elected. Mr. Kemp's seat is now considered vacant, Mr. Hooks said.

Mrs. McMillan was first elected president of the Baltimore chapter of the NAACP in 1969. She was 65 then and a retired vice principal of Dunbar High School.

Her 1969 election was something of a coup. She defeated, 101-77, Juanita J. Mitchell, whose mother, Dr. Lillie Jackson, had held the post for 34 years without opposition.

Mrs. McMillan, who said at that time that the civil rights group was "filled with old people," vowed to appeal to "black militants who feel left out."

She also was the first president of the Maryland state conference of NAACP branches.

Other NAACP officials elected yesterday include Dr. William Gibson, a dentist from Greenville, S.C., who was elected to succeed Mr. Alexander as vice chairman, and six vice presidents, Edward Hailes, of Washington; Hazel Bukes, of New York City; Mrs. Rupert Richardson, of New Orleans; John Gwynn, Sr., of Peoria, Ill.; Dr. Charles Butler, of Coatsville, Pa., and John Johnson, of Louisville.