

Roundtable hopes bylaws will provide an anchor

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The thought had been entertained to give a joint endorsement to Eddie Knox and Rufus Edmisten, since those candidates' stances were so similar and since two of the group's most active members, Victor Johnson and Larry Womble, were prominent figures in the Knox and Edmisten campaigns, respectively. But some members argued that to do that would be a cop-out, says Graves, and that the Roundtable shouldn't start a practice of fence-sitting.

An analysis of a questionnaire presented to the candidates by the Roundtable also showed that gubernatorial hopeful Tom Gilmore stood head and shoulders above both Knox and Edmisten, says Graves. Members of the group, including Larry Little, the Rev. Carlton Eversley and Allen Johnson, voiced strong arguments for Gilmore.

When the smoke had cleared, says Graves, the Roundtable had endorsed Gilmore, with Victor Johnson and Womble hotly contesting the outcome, Johnson more so than Womble. Victor Johnson has since resigned from the group and declined to comment on its new course.

Womble, however, is still an active member of the Roundtable and says he will support whatever guidelines the group's general membership approves.

"We realized a long time ago that we needed some structure," says Womble, "but we don't want to have

too much. ... Whatever the Roundtable decides to do, the membership will abide by."

Regarding the Knox-Edmisten primary endorsement affair, Womble says that's behind the group now and it's time to move ahead.

The bylaws the group will take to its general membership encompass the group's purpose and criteria for membership, the establishment of eight standing committees and the duties of the convenor. Graves says the criteria for membership and the subsection regulating a member's involvement in deciding Roundtable endorsements if that member is active in a political race or holding a high campaign post, are especially important aspects of the document.

According to those bylaws, which now must be approved by the Roundtable's general membership, a prospective member must be in good standing in the community, active in civic and community affairs and a registered voter in Forsyth County. He or she also must be nominated by two members in good standing.

Once the nomination is submitted, it will be forwarded to a membership committee, which will screen the applicant and recommend to the general body its decision within one month. Once the membership committee makes a recommendation, the entire membership will vote on each application, with a two-thirds majority re-

quired for new member approval.

Not only do the bylaws limit the Roundtable's membership to 40, they also render any member who is a candidate for public office or serving as campaign chairperson, vice chairperson or treasurer for another candidate ineligible to vote on Roundtable endorsements.

In addition, only members in good standing will be allowed to vote on matters coming before the group. Good standing is defined as having paid the annual dues of \$24, having attended three-fourths of all scheduled meetings and not having been absent for two consecutive meetings.

"We plan to put to rest once and for all that we're a secret society and a group of self-appointed leaders," says Graves. "But we're not the NAACP. You can't just pay your dues and you're a member."

Still reflecting on the snag over the gubernatorial endorsement, Graves says it has been said that how the matter was resolved would make or break the Roundtable.

"People have been spreading rumors that the Roundtable was through as an organization," says Graves, "but the fact of the matter is that we're as strong as ever."

Alderman Virginia Newell differs with Graves' assessment and says the organization has lost what "little clout it did have."

"Anything that's ill-conceived has no good end," she says. "One thing I don't like about it is that it's an exclusive group trying to tell others how to vote."

"It's a self-appointed group of people trying to lead others. I don't care what kind of bylaws they get, they won't have any clout."

Newell says the Roundtable should dissolve and start anew, and solicit the involvement of the people with varying viewpoints -- including the old, young and middle-aged -- and move forward from there.

"But for them to jump up and try to create something was just ill-conceived," she says. "And they still won't have any clout because people will still be skeptical of

them.

"How can anybody support Gilmore and then turn around and endorse Edmisten (in the runoff election)?"

William Tatum, a Roundtable member and school board candidate, says the group's credibility is not lost. In fact, he says, if requests for membership are any indication, the Roundtable is drawing more interest than ever.

"I don't see that the Roundtable is falling apart over the Larry Womble-Vic Johnson thing," he says. "And the bylaws will make us a stronger organization with a stated purpose. They will show that we are people who are working and dedicated to the black community and that we are knowledgeable about what we're doing."

"Our credibility is not lost -- I can assure you of that," he says.

Tatum says the Roundtable didn't follow Knox, as Gilmore did, because the group felt blacks and Winston-Salem stand to benefit more from an Edmisten administration.

"We aren't going to apologize to anybody for anything," he says. "We aren't holding any grudges, but we aren't going to seek anybody at this point."

"We want functional people, and not somebody who's going to sit and do nothing."

Bell and Williams wed at the Hyatt House

Beverly Olivia Bell and Ronnie Gary Williams were united in marriage Saturday, June 23, at a 4 p.m. ceremony at the Hyatt House, with the Rev. James A. French officiating.

The bride, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Bell of London, West Va., is a graduate of Montgomery High School and West Virginia Technical Institute. She is employed by

Mrs. Yvonne Broadnax of Winston-Salem, the maid of honor.

Bridesmaids were the groom's sister, Miss Lisa D. Williams of Winston-Hanes Corp.

The groom, son of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Williams of 939 Moravia St., is a graduate of Anderson High School and Forsyth Technical Institute. He is employed by R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co.

Salem, Miss Renee Mason of Winston-Salem, the bride's sister, Miss Renee Bell of London, West Va., and child attendant was Miss Lisa Conbiffe, also of London.

Best man was Zira

McGriff of Winston-Salem. Ushers were Jerry Brown, Jarvis Webster and Joe Burts, all of Winston-Salem.

The couple will make their home in Winston-Salem.

Hughes and Grayson wed

Marsha Charlene Hughes and Glen Gee Grayson were married Saturday, June 23, at a 3:30 p.m. ceremony at First AME Zion Church in Brooklyn, N.Y., with the Rev. James E. McCoy officiating.

The bride, a graduate of Elon College and presently a law school student at Wake Forest University, is the daughter of the late Shirley I. Farmer and the late Charles E. Hughes.

The groom, son of Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Grayson of Brooklyn, is a graduate of Livingstone College in Salisbury and is a master's of divinity degree candidate at Hood Theological Seminary in Salisbury.

The bride was given in marriage by her stepfather, Hubert Farmer. Matron of honor was

Mrs. Ruth Jenkins and maid of honor was Miss Yvette Moore, both of Brooklyn. Bridesmaids were Miss Faith Speaks of Brooklyn, N.Y., with the groom's sister, Miss Wanda Grayson, Miss Paulette Key, Miss Mary Gonzalez and Miss Joy Moses, all of Brooklyn.

The groom's best man was his brother, Ronnie Grayson of Brooklyn. Ushers were the groom's brother, Gregory Grayson of Durham, George E. McKain of Ridgewood, N.J., Dwayne Howard of Brooklyn, Eric Lamb of Gathney, S.C., Regonald Treadwell of Greensboro and Bret A. Jackson of Buffalo, N.Y.

The couple will make their home in Winston-Salem.

Piggott

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Highsmith of Greensboro was matron of honor.

Bridesmaids were Misses Robin Debnam, Marliyn Evans, Sharon Lincoln, Kimarie Thomas, and the groom's sisters, Misses

Winston-Salem. Other bridesmaids were Miss Evelyn Owens of Fayetteville, Miss Beryl McLaughlin of Baltimore, Md., Miss Earlene Richardson of Chesapeake, Va., Miss Vera Roberts of Sunbury and Miss Katherine Umstead of Rocky Mount.

The groom's bestman was his brother, Tonnie McMillan, of Winston-Salem.

Ushers were Cedric Archie, David Beaty, James Diggs, Edwin Hall, Lewis

Pickens and Kermit Piggott of Winston-Salem. Other ushers were Darrell Piggott and Mazzini Webster of Winston-Salem, Thurman Riddick of Sunbury and Lee Phillips of Galax, Va.

The couple will make their home in Winston-Salem.

Jeffries

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Janice Jeffries, Joy McPherson, Marion Jeffries, Sherry Guye, all of Burlington, and Mrs. Gladys W. Harris of Atlanta. Other bridesmaids included the brides' sister, Mrs. Gloria J. Simmons of Durham, Miss Isabel Sykes of Pinebluff, Miss Cynthia Beasley of Atlanta and Miss Karen Evans of Burlington.

The best man was Ernest Anthony of Winston-Salem.

brothers, Edward Caldwell and Michael Caldwell of Greensboro, and Jerald Caldwell of Charlotte, Kevin Heller of Ft. Lee, N.J., Kenny Duckett of New Orleans, Melvin Collins of Roanoke, Va., Francis Winters of Mebane; the brides' cousin, Chris Jeffries of Burlington, and Reginald Smith of Winston-Salem.

The couple will make their home in Winston-Salem.

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