District's longest-serving teacher to retire after 47 years

**Channell Hill**

**TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER**

A beloved educator in the School District of Philadelphia will retire at the end of the school year after nearly 87 years.

Frances Wilson started with the district on Sept. 1, 1934, as a classroom teacher. She is the district’s longest-serving teacher.

Her last day at school will be June 15.

“I’ve had some amazing teachers from elementary school to high school. When I think of them, I get teary-eyed. I think to myself, ‘my kids gave me love,’” Wilson said.

“I truly believe what someone has taught me as an educator is the most important thing, but the outcome,” she added.

“Knowing that the kids I taught over the years are successful, reaching their full potential, and inspiring the next generation,” Wilson, 63, became a teacher in 2008 at the Henry H. Houston School in Mount Airy. After five years at Houston, she would eventually become a teacher at Chester A. Arthur School in the Graduate Hospital area of South Philadelphia. She is currently the dean of students for the school.

“As the dean of students, Miss Wilson supports students and teachers who are having trouble adjusting,” said Chester A. Arthur School Principal Amy Libby. “She also supports students’ parents and teachers who are struggling with anything emotionally, physically or academically.

“She also helps people who Wilson for over two years, she said that she’s enjoyed collaborating with the school’s accomplishments, she added. “She’s not only taught generation after generation after family of fami- lies, but she also made an impact in their lives,” Libby said. “She’s part of so many people’s families and that’s just phenomenal.”

Wilson is currently employed at the School District of Philadelphia and at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. She is currently the dean of students for the school.

“Her last day at school will be June 15,” said Libby. “It was a public relations offer- er.”

Wilson said. “I was one of the kids that went out and spoke at educational confer- ences. I wanted to be either a public relations officer or a manager of a professional football team.”

The closeness I got to that was part owner of a women’s professional softball team, but we’re not around any- more,” she added. “Being an educator was never part of my original plans.

Wilson became a classroom assistant at the original Amy School in Rittenhouse Square before transferring to Albert M. Greenfield Elemen- tary School in South Philadelphia. She later got an associate’s degree from Community College of Philadelphia and

**Ayana Jones**

**TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER**

Efforts are underway to welcome tourists back to Philadelphia as the hospitality industry seeks to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The region’s tourism and hospitality leaders gathered with Mayor Jim Kenney on Wednesday to outline strategies designed to aid in the industry’s recovery.

“More people are ready to travel and we are ready to welcome visitors back,” Kenney said during a press conference held at the Independence Visitor Center. “To support the long-term survival and revival of our restaurants and retail, arts and cultural institutions, hotels and other hospitality businesses we need to welcome back our visitors.”

He noted that before COVID-19, tourists spent $7 billion in the region and the tourism industry generated nearly $1 billion in city and state tax revenue and supported 70,000 hospitality jobs in Philadelphia.

“COVID has impacted all of these businesses and it’s going to take several years to fully recover from the impact of COVID,” Kenney said. “How- ever, Philadelphia has a competitive advantage in this industry and this summer we start the beginning of our tourism comeback.”

Visit Philadelphia, the region’s offi- cial tourism marketing agency, has launched a $2 million “Pack Light. Plan Big. Fear Free.” summer campaign to boost day and overnight visitation.

“It’s about hooking holiday travelers, buying tickets at museums and at attrac- tions, encouraging people to dine out- doors and indoors and to take tours and day trips or staycations,” Kenney said.

**Sharon Wilson, dean of students at the Chester A. Arthur School in the School District of Philadelphia**

She says she enjoyed collaborating with students to help them see their future and strive for their goals.

“She helps them see beyond the lines of a civil rights issue and not just getting by but being successful,” said Libby. “She’s not only taught generation after generation after family of fami- lies, but she also made an impact in their lives,” Libby said.

Wilson came back to Phil- adelphia, she said. “It was part of my original plans.”

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The Philadelphia NAACP will help the local branch change leadership according to new leadership and revival of our restaurants and retail, arts and cultural institutions, hotels and other hospitality businesses.”

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**Leader’s fate uncertain as local NAACP election nears**

Michael D’Onofrio

**TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER**

Embattled Philadelphia NAACP President Rodney Muhammad said he has not been barred from voting in next month’s election near the city branch’s upcoming election for president, after sparking outrage over sharing on Facebook an anti-Semitic meme.

Muhammad was appointed adminis- trator of the branch by the national NAACP officer.

D’Onofrio said he was overseas when the election, said all mem- bers of the branch’s current leadership step aside to run, including Muhammad. Whether Muhammad will run for any lead- ership position remains unknown. Muhammad did not respond to a request for comment.

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Rodney Muhammad