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Western Wayne County

77TH

WESTERN WAYNE COUNTY ANNIVERSARY

FREEDOM

BUILD & THRIVE

FUND *Dinner*

October 20 2024

5 PM

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700 Town Center Dr, Dearborn, MI 48126**



Greetings from the President

Good evening everyone,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to our 27th Annual Freedom Fund Dinner. On behalf of the Freedom Fund Committee, members of the Western Wayne County NAACP Branch and our Sponsors, we extend our sincere appreciation for your generous support of our branch. Our branch agrees that this year's theme is appropriate, 'Build & Thrive'. We have been working with so many great people throughout our region as we continue to fight for the civil rights to ensure that all people have equal political, educational, social and economic rights and to eliminate racial discrimination.

I am grateful that Andrea Hunter, President of the A. Philip Randolph Institute (APRI) Detroit/Downriver Chapter has agreed to be our keynote speaker this year. She has been a leader in Southeastern Michigan for years and serves in many capacities where she can utilize her love for community activism. We were excited when she made the decision to become a member of the Western Wayne County Branch over a year ago and she has been active ever since.

Our branch has been consistently building partnerships with municipalities, police departments, school districts, local businesses, elected officials, religious and non-profits organizations and the Devine 9 members throughout our region. We are growing and we believe that there is strength in numbers. During the 115th National Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada, the Western Wayne County Branch won the Ella Jo Baker Award - 1st Place in Membership Growth.

One of our main goals is to be intentional about reaching out to young people to build the next generation of Freedom Fighters. We have worked to charter NAACP chapters at Ecorse and Romulus High Schools. We will focus our efforts to charter several more high school and college chapters in our region. We realize the quote by Coretta Scott King is still relevant today. "Struggle is a never-ending process. Freedom is never really won, you earn it and win it in every generation."

In this time of turmoil and divisiveness in our country, we must all work together to assure that the world realizes that all of our lives matter. By either litigation, mediation or agitation, the NAACP will continue to fight and advocate for all of those who are denied their rights and are disenfranchised.

Your support at our Annual Freedom Fund Dinner helps us to continue to stand for others and fight.

Lastly, we are encouraging everyone to use their voice and vote in the upcoming election and every election. You have the Power. Use it!

Please enjoy the evening and my God bless you all.

Gina Wilson Steward

NAACP Western Wayne County

Branch President



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Greetings from the 2024 Freedom Fund Dinner Committee Chair



Dear Members, Supporters, and Friends,

Build and Thrive!

The time to act is now, and I commend each of you for taking steps toward personal and collective growth. As we embark on a journey of recovery and healing, I encourage you to invite your family, colleagues, and friends to join us in our mission to create a stronger, more inclusive community for ourselves and future generations.

Our communities need economic recovery from the impacts of systemic racism. To truly heal and rebuild, we must unite in our efforts to invest in critical areas such as education, housing, workforce development, environmental sustainability, business growth, health care, and justice reform. These investments must reflect conscious policies aimed at eradicating injustices and fostering inclusivity.

The Wayne County Freedom Fund event is important because we are working to help our communities thrive. The community recognizes the necessary work and action in each honoree **Honorable Judge Lisa Martin** – Freedom & Justice, Exceptional Organization Service to the Community - **Delta Sigma Theta - Inkster Chapter**, Exceptional Service to the Community - **Ruby Richards**, Trailblazer, – **Pastor John Hearn Jr**, Great Expectation, – **In'Dia Harris**, Lifetime Achievement – **Vicki Dobbins** and – Outstanding Elected Official Service Award **Stephanie Chang**.

To our gracious Master of Ceremony, **Pastor Bernard Jackson**, thank you for giving us your precious time and voice to commemorate this event. To our friend **Andrea Hunter**, we thank you for sharing your intellect, talent, exceptional skills, voice, advocacy, and wisdom at this moment in history.

Furthermore, this event could not have happened without a team, our freedom fund committee members who have given themselves unselfishly to coordinate this event. To **Gina Wilson-Steward**, president of the Western Wayne County Branch, thank you, you are a gift to us all.

As always, I am grateful to be in the moment with our courageous members, supporters, and sponsors who have given your commitment to making this event happen today.

Together, we can make a meaningful difference. Thank you again for your continued support!

In closing, we thank you, and I hope you enjoy our event.

Dakima Jackson
2024 Freedom Fund Chair



Freedom Fund Dinner Honorary Chair
Warren C. Evans, Wayne County Executive

FOCUSED LEADER WHO GETS RESULTS

Wayne County Executive Warren C. Evans is a lifelong public servant. From leading Michigan's most populous and diverse county through dual health and economic crises, to restoring fiscal responsibility following the Great Recession, Executive

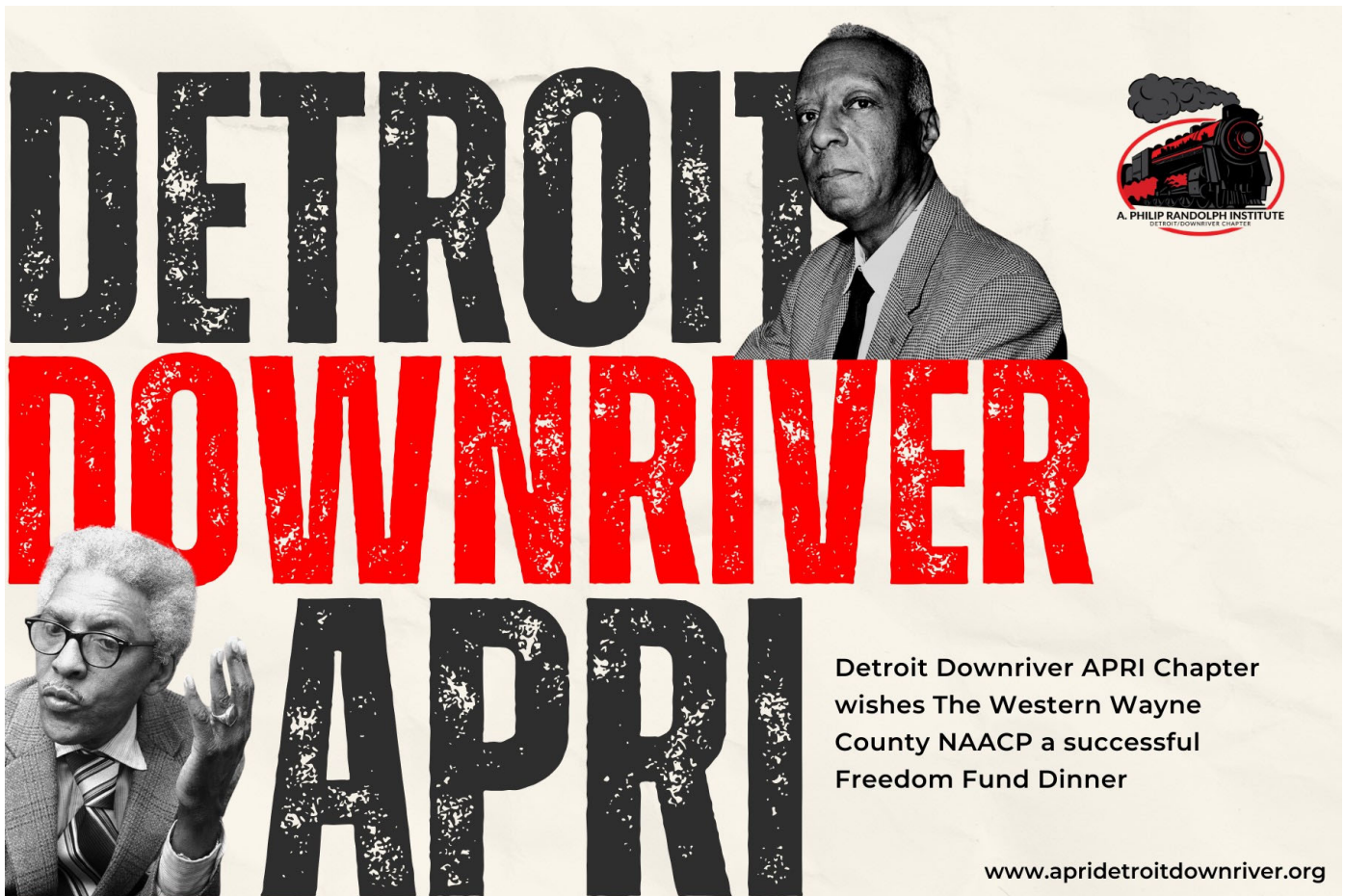
Evans is a proven leader who does not shy away from a challenge.

Evans' effective, no-drama approach to governing in the state's largest county serves as a strong model for ethical leadership and fiscal responsibility. In his first term, Evans prioritized restoring fiscal stability to Wayne County, eliminating its \$82 million accumulated deficit and \$52 million structural deficit. With the budget balanced, Wayne County was able to exit a consent agreement with the state in just 14 months despite many thinking the County was headed to bankruptcy. That progress continues today as Wayne County has produced consecutive budget surpluses, increased funding for the County's pension system, and reduced unfunded health care liabilities by nearly \$1 billion. Wayne County's financial turnaround has earned repeated credit rating upgrades from three Wall Street credit agencies: Moody's, Fitch Rating and Standard & Poor's.

Throughout Evans' service, Wayne County has also streamlined operations to better serve its residents, including the consolidation of the Department of Health, Veterans and Community Wellness to ensure our most vulnerable residents can access the resources they need easily and efficiently.

Executive Evans earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Science from Madonna University, a Masters of Arts degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Detroit and a Juris Doctor degree from Detroit College of Law. Mr. Evans is a member of the State Bar of Michigan, the D.C. Bar, and the Bar of the Supreme Court of the United States. Prior to his service as Executive, Evans was appointed as Wayne County Sheriff in 2003, where he served until 2009, winning two subsequent elections in 2004 and 2008. He also served as Chief of Staff of the Wayne County Commission, Assistant County Executive, and Chief of Special Operations of the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office.

Recognized for his record of accomplishment, Evans' leadership has earned acknowledgement from the National Organization of Black County Officials, Transportation Riders United, Emgage Michigan, and mParks, earning the distinction of Local Elected Official of the Year.





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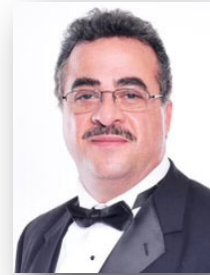
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Freedom Fund Dinner Honorary Chair Dr. Mahmoud Al-Hadidi



MAHMOUD ALHADIDI M.D. P.C.

Diplomate, American Board of Internal Medicine
And Pulmonary Disease

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Mahmoud Al-Hadidi, M.D., P.C. (1992-Present)
Stockbridge Enterprises and Stockbridge Foundation (1995-Present)
Chairman of Michigan Muslim Community Council (2018-Present)
World Peace Association Founder (2022)
MJAC Detroit Co-chair (2019-Present)
Arab American Chamber of Commerce Board Member

Self-Biography:

Dr. Mahmoud Al-Hadidi is a board-certified physician in Internal Medicine, Sleep Medicine, and Pulmonary Critical Care. He graduated from the Wayne State University Residency Program in Internal Medicine and completed training in Pulmonary Critical Care in 1992. His passion for medicine began in childhood inspired by his late father Subhi Al-Hadidi and was fulfilled by the thrill and satisfaction of saving hundreds of lives throughout his career as a physician and teaching students and resident from Michigan State University as a clinical assistant professor.

In 1995 Dr. Al-Hadidi established Stockbridge Enterprises with investments in and outside of the state of Michigan with special interest in reviving distressed projects and transforming them into profitable and sustainable enterprises through cost-effective management. He also established Stockbridge Foundation to fulfill his passion in community service and charity work, helping people in need around the world. He also sponsored and organized many fundraising events for the purpose of disaster relief, community service, and expansion of hospitals and religious/educational facilities including Ascension Macomb Hospital.

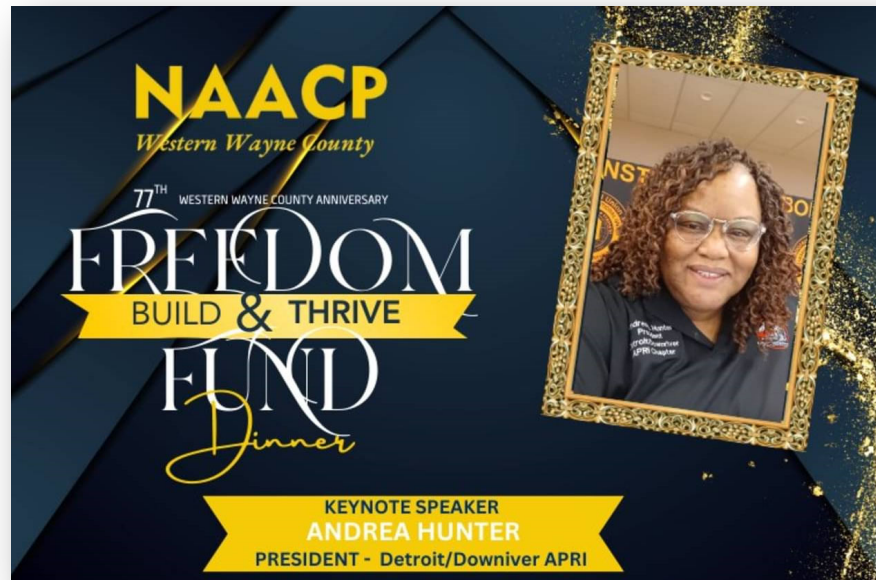
Dr. Al-Hadidi joined the Michigan Muslim Community Council Board of Directors and was elected as a chairman in 2018, an umbrella organization seeking to improve human rights and relationships in the United States.

Using his capacity and energy in all these entities, Dr. Al-Hadidi has dedicated the last few years during the COVID pandemic to help treat patients on the frontlines and save lives with best medical practice. He also purchased and donated scarcely available and needed personal protective equipment to physicians and nurses across many health systems in the state of Michigan. He also collaborated with other organizations to deliver meals to the health care providers and police officers on the front lines. As the chairman of MMCC, he coordinated with many non-profits and hundreds of volunteers to distribute over 500,000 boxes of produce and food supplies to those in need during the pandemic.

Recently, Dr. Al-Hadidi founded World Peace Association, a non-profit organization to expand his work in community service, bridge building and promoting peace.

Dr. Al-Hadidi is a recipient of many congressional awards, state and city awards and awards from law enforcement agencies including the TSA and the FBI, along with many other awards from local community and non-profit organizations.

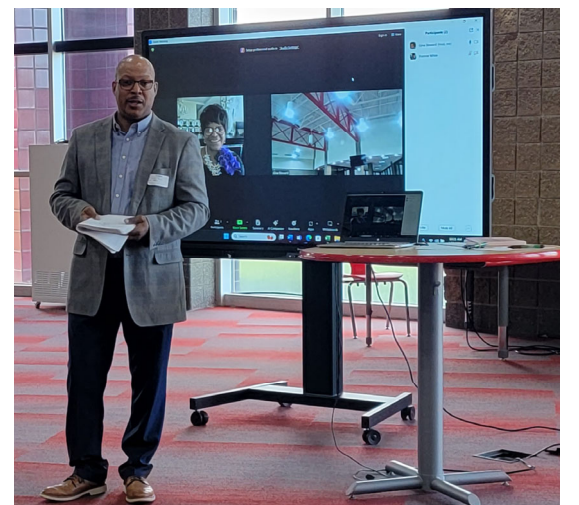
Dr. Al-Hadidi attributes his success to the blessing and mercy of God, to his beautiful supportive family, amazing community and many friends and partners he had throughout his career, and mostly to the freedom and opportunities granted to him as a citizen of this great country, the United States of America.



Sister Andrea A. Hunter is a proud mother of 3 children and resides in the city of Detroit. Ms. Hunter joined the National Steel Corporation on June 27, 1994, which in 2003 became U. S. Steel Corporation. She later would leave her position in production on the infamous Zug Island to enter the Electrical Apprenticeship to become an electrician in 2003. Ms. Hunter began her United

Steelworkers (USW) Local 1299 Union leadership career as Civil Rights Representative in 2010, then became elected to the position of Treasurer in 2012 which she served two terms. In 2018, she became the 1st African American and female to be elected President at USW Local 1299. This position also made history in her being the very first female elected President in the basic steel division of the United Steelworkers Union. As an amalgamated local leader, she has successfully negotiated 4 contracts within a year of her first term as President. In 2022, President Hunter continued to negotiate lucrative contracts for her members working at major corporations such as DTE Energy, United States Steel Corporation and Praxair. President Hunter successfully began her second term as USW Local Union President in April of 2021. She retired after completing her rule of 85 from the United States Steel Corporation. Sister Hunter began to work for AFSCME Michigan as a Staff Organizing/Representative in May 2024 where she continues to negotiate contracts and service her membership, now for both public and private sector represented workers of Michigan.

Ms. Hunter is also a community activist who takes pride in advocating for equality and justice for all. She joined the A. Philip Randolph Institute (APRI) - Metro-Detroit Chapter in 2010 to later start the Detroit/Downriver Chapter in 2012 which she is serving her 4th term as President. APRI is the senior constituency group of the AFL-CIO and hosts over 130 chapters across the United States. She is also a member of the constituency group (CLUW) the Coalition League of Union Women, (CBTU) Coalition Black Trade Union and LCLAA the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement. Ms. Hunter is also a proud member of the Western Wayne NAACP and serves as the Political Coordinator for the Wayne County Democratic Black Caucus. In addition, Ms. Hunter is serving her 2nd term as Trustee of the Metro-Detroit AFL-CIO, elected in January of 2019. Ms. Hunter teaches various labor studies courses at both Wayne State University and the University of Michigan Labor Studies Program. On September 26, 2024, Sister Hunter was appointed to the Michigan Women's Commission (MWC) by Governor Gretchen Whitmer. The MWC was commissioned in 1968, its duties include reviewing the status of women in Michigan, directing attention to critical problems confronting women and recognizing women's accomplishments and contributions to Michigan.



As we worked to be intentional about training the next generation of Freedom Fighters, we reactivated our Youth branch. The Young Adult, Education and Youth Committees worked together to charter High School chapters at Ecorse High School and Romulus High School.



Two students attended a Black College Tour as a result of the successful Golf Outing held by the Education Committee in 2023. Chairperson Marvin Franklin and many volunteers held then 2nd Annual Golf Outing this year



and plan on sending two students on a Black College Tour next year.

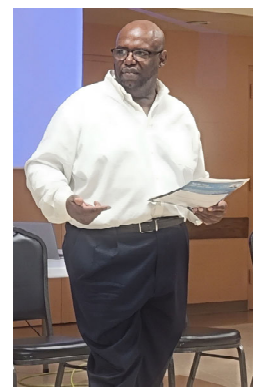
In June 2024 at the National Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada, six Delegates were in attendance. During the Annual Membership Luncheon, Western Wayne County NAACP won 1st Place in the Ella Jo Baker Category with 53% increase in Membership from 2023 to 2024.

The resolution to increase the number of Health Workers submitted by our Health Chairperson, Gary Ringer, was voted on and accepted by the full delegation during the National Convention.

The Scholarship Committee awarded four students with scholarships this year and continued helping to fund the scholarship recipients from the past four years. During the recognition celebration, two of the scholarship recipients from 2021 announced that they will be graduating in 2025.

Throughout the year, we increased our relationships with numerous Devine 9 Fraternities and Sororities by partnering with them on several projects and having them as speakers during our general membership meetings.

The Political Action Committee under the direction of Lawrence Biggs geared us up for the 2024 Election. He and Geri Biggs held several educational forums throughout Wayne County on changes within the Voting Process. Throughout the year, the Committee partnered with several organizations and held numerous Candidate Forums and other GOTV activities.



Opportunity, access, equity, justice and service are the core values driving Senator Stephanie Chang, the first Asian American woman elected to the Michigan legislature. She worked as a community organizer in Detroit for nearly a decade before serving two terms in the Michigan House of Representatives and then as the Democratic Floor Leader for her first term in the Senate. She is currently serving her second term in the Michigan Senate and is the Senate Democratic Policy and Steering Chair.

Sen. Chang has built a strong track record of getting things done. In the state legislature, she has led on air quality and environmental justice, criminal justice reforms, affordable, safe drinking water, and immigrants' rights issues. She has passed bipartisan legislation on a range of issues including sexual assault education and prevention, an address confidentiality program for survivors of domestic violence, the COVID-19 water shutoff moratorium, female genital mutilation, nitrous oxide "whip-its", reentry services for wrongfully convicted individuals who were exonerated, improving Michigan's maritime economy, support of community crisis response to mental health emergencies, and establishing Fred Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution. She is proud to have helped secure a historic community benefits agreement for Southwest Detroit residents near the Gordie Howe International Bridge and is active in her district advocating for the community's needs. She cofounded the Asian Pacific American Legislative Caucus in Michigan and served as the chair of the Progressive Women's Caucus in 2017-18.

She served as state director for NextGen Climate Michigan, alumni engagement and evaluation coordinator for the Center for Progressive Leadership in Michigan, deputy director for the Campaign for Justice and as an organizer for Michigan United/One United Michigan. She also worked as a community engagement coordinator for the James and Grace Lee Boggs School and assistant to Grace Lee Boggs, an activist, writer, and speaker. The senator is a co-founder of Asian and Pacific Islander American Vote-Michigan and Rising Voices; she also serves on the board of the Southwest Detroit Community Justice Center.





On December 19, 1959, nineteen members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. chartered the sorority's Inkster Alumnae Chapter. The chapter quickly earned a reputation for its innovative programming and generosity.

The chapter has instituted many programs designed to boost the academic achievements of Inkster area students. Since the chapter's earliest days, its members have awarded hundreds of scholarships to

high achieving students. The chapter has also mentored girls through its Delta Gems program (formerly known as the Peppermints Youth Group). Recently, the Delta Academy has been formed. The chapter's innovative, "Book and Blanket," program which encouraged parent-to child reading, was featured in an educational textbook in the 1990's. The chapter also sponsored Black College Tours and tutorial programs designed to boost the standardized test scores of Inkster area high school seniors. In recent years, the chapter has partnered with other Greek-Letter-Organizations and community groups for the Super Saturday program.

The major programs of the Sorority are based upon the organization's Five-Point Programmatic Thrust:

- Economic Development
- Educational Development
- International Awareness and Involvement
- Physical and Mental Health
- Political Awareness and Involvement

Our partnership mission is to connect and engage with community partners to continue the legacy of global service that will empower our communities. The Inkster Alumnae Chapter has been a Golden Heritage Life member of the WW NAACP since October 1, 1981, engaging in activities and events of voter education and engagement with voter registration drives, phone banks, and candidate forums.



Then comes the COVID-19 Pandemic in early 2020 and life as we knew it has changed. As we followed the guidelines of the National office of the NAACP and the Michigan department of health, we learned how to use ZOOM. Our general membership meetings, Executive Committee meeting and events were all held on ZOOM. We learned to always have a mask handy.

The Health Committee and the Religious Affairs Committee held numerous events on living with Covid and dealing with Mental Illness

The partnership with Conference of Western Wayne for the Partnership for Progress Listening Tour started in person, but had to move to virtual meetings. The relationships with the Police Chiefs and Mayors in 13 of the cities in our region helped to create more of a proactive approach to building community policing relationships.

The Freedom Fund Event in 2020 was a virtual event with actress Lonnie Love as our keynote speaker. This was exciting as the branch experienced a different way of still having an impactful evening and honoring people from our communities.

Living through the pandemic, the branch held their monthly general membership and executive Committee meetings via ZOOM. They held several sessions on Mental Health, living through the pandemic with Faith.

The Youth Branch held their annual Founder's Day Trivia Competition with local youth church groups.

In 2022, twelve members of the branch stepped out and ran for political office in one form or another.

They participate in National Voter Registration Day to increase the number of people participating in the Democratic process.

In 2022 the branch officers elected were; Gina Wilson Steward – President, Pastor Velma Overman – 1st Vice President, Pastor John Hearn, Jr. - 2nd Vice President, Ruby Richards – Secretary, Gwendolyn Patrick - Treasurer and TeeAnn Townsend- Assistant Treasurer.

In March 2023, the branch held their first in-person meeting since the pandemic at Christian Faith Ministries in Garden City. They also resumed their quarterly off-site meetings with one held in the City of Taylor and City of Inkster.

The branch focused on building relationships with, community leaders, elected officials and clergy in the area and increasing youth involvement. They began to hold community mixers and meet at local businesses. This helped to increase the membership and partnerships.

In 2023, six members were voted to represent the branch as delegates at the National Convention in Boston, Massachusetts and the State Convention in Auburn Hills.

Derrick Johnson, NAACP President/CEO, was the keynote speaker for our Annual Freedom Fund Dinner. We had over 600 people in attendance at the SOHO Banquet Center in Westland.



New officers were elected in April 2013 with the assistance of Michigan State Conference President Yvonne White and officially sworn into office by the Honorable Hilliard Hampton, mayor of the city of Inkster. The new officers were Bishop Walter Stargill, Jr. - President; Lucille Flint 1st Vice President; Daisy Truss 2nd Vice President; Gina Wilson Steward – Secretary, Rev. John Hearn – Treasurer. Executive Committee members included Lori Parks, Richard LeBlanc, Sherita Thomas, George Williams, Julie Claypool and Robert Wilson.

The branch’s goals were to have a presence throughout all the 18 cities that the branch serves. The branch designated that once a quarter, the General Membership meetings will be held offsite in one of the four quadrants to help increase the awareness of the branch in other communities.

President Starghill and the branch hosted a Town Hall in Westland that consisted of the Police Chiefs from twelve of the cities that we serve. The branch also hosted the 4th Quarter State meeting at Wayne County Community College in Van Buren Township.

In 2017, the new officers elected were Gina Wilson Steward - President, Daisy Truss – 1st Vice President, Lisa Robinson Martin – 2nd Vice President, LaDarla Morris – Secretary, Shirley Hankerson – Assistant Secretary and Evelyn Clark Treasurer and Judy Neal- Assistant Treasurer. The branch won the LayDown from the State of Michigan for the most new members in 2017. The youth branch was reestablished.

In 2018 the branch hosted a Candidate Forum for the 13th Congressional District Candidates in the City of Inkster. The seat was vacant after the resignation of Congressman John Conyers, Jr. The GOTV efforts of the branch resulted in a 100% increase in voter turnout in the targeted areas. Michigan State Conference President named the Western Wayne County NAACP as the Branch of the Year. The Branch partnered with the Delta Sigma Theta Inkster Chapter and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sororities on the GOTV efforts.

In 2019 the officers elected were; Gina Wilson Steward – President, Pastor Velma Overman – 1st Vice President, Vicki Dobbins – Secretary, Shirley Hankerson – Assistant Secretary, Evelyn Clark Treasurer and Judy Neal- Assistant Treasurer. They fulfilled the National MOUs with Delta Sigma Theta, Zeta Phi Beta and the NNPA. The membership doubled in size from 2018. The attendance at the monthly meetings reached a milestone of 72 members at the December meeting. It was also the Census Kick Off meeting- I Matter. Count Me In.

The Economic Sustainability Committee began hosting a Series of Financial Workshops in the community with various partners.

Other projects they worked on were an Expungement Fair with the Delta Sigma Theta Alumni Chapter and Voter Registration Drives with various school districts.

The Freedom Fund Dinner was held at the Prestige Banquet Hall in Allen Park. Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist was the keynote speaker. There were a record 30% of attendees were Millennials

The Religious Affairs Committee created the first Champion of Faith competition. The winner was Christian Faith Ministries whose church had the most members in 2019. They received the trophy during the sold out crowd at the Freedom Fund Dinner.

The branch hosted the 4th Quarter State meeting at Wayne County Community College at the Downriver location in Taylor. It was the most attended State meeting in 2019.

The branch kicked off their Street By Street Campaign to connect with more people for the election and the 2020 Census. They partnered with the State of Michigan to reach more people in the region.



Vicki Dobbins worked at Chrysler Corporation for many years before she started her own businesses; Northwest Travel, Inc., Dobbins Demolition Service, LLC and Dobbins Gloves and Accessories. She also worked at MGM Casino in Detroit for 10 years. She left to pursue her education at Marygrove College.

Vicki graduated from Marygrove College with a Bachelor’s Degree

in 2012. She enjoys helping to mold young people in their educational quest as she works as a substitute teacher.

She enjoys serving her community and city.

She served two Elected terms on the River Rouge School Board.

She was elected as a Precinct Delegate and has served for over 15 years. She has been a member of the Western Wayne County NAACP for over 10 years and served as its secretary for 4 years.

She is a member of the 13th District Democrats and serves as a Statutory Member for over 10 years

Vicki has been an active member of the Sierra Club Member (Michigan Chapter). Where she is known as an advocate for Environmental Justice. She is a charter member of Just Transition Team – Michigan serving the City of River Rouge and surrounding areas as they fight for clean air, soil and water. She was honored with the Bunyan Bryant Environmental Justice Award.

She was appointed to the River Rouge Planning Commission by Mayor Michael Bowdler and has served in that capacity for over 12 years and continues to serve under the current Mayor William Campbell.

Vicki has served as President of the Campbell Street Block Club for over 15 years and is training up her replacement.

Most recently, Vicki’s new venture is an author, writing, “The Bachelor and the Bachelorette” where she speaks on numerous talk shows.

Vicki enjoys writing, walking, bike riding and ballroom dancing.

Her motto has always been, LIVE! LOVE! And LAUGH

Vicki’s life is complete because of her daughters Rhonda, Roslyn, brother Sam, son-in-law Vernon, Detroit Idlewiders, special friend and partner Ronnie Dupree, grandchildren and the community members that she loves.



In'Dia Harris, a driven and accomplished individual, is in her senior year at the University of Michigan's School of Kinesiology, majoring in Bachelor of Science in Movement Science, maintaining a commendable GPA of 3.5/4.0. Her academic dedication was recognized with the Jean Fairfax Scholarship Award, with her studies being deeply rooted in human physiology and movement, enriched with comprehensive knowledge in biology, chemistry, anatomy, physics, and biomechanics, aimed at

expanding her understanding of musculoskeletal and genetic disorders. She has been accepted with a scholarship into multiple top chiropractic universities and will attend the top university, Parker University in Dallas, TX, next September. Her endeavors include opening the first of many holistic medical spas after graduating and tending to the general public and professional athletes.

In'Dia's professional journey began with Camp Inspire - STEAM Camp, where she has been a Camp Counselor since June 2015. In this role, she has worked closely with children aged 5-16, fostering their interest in science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics. She has taught various science classes, focusing on environmental studies and the intersection of neuroscience and mental health. Her innovative spirit shone through during the COVID-19 pandemic when she became Creative Director and Facilitator for Camp Inspire's "Be Kind to Your Mind" initiative from June 2020 to August 2021. Here, she implemented a psychological approach to help girls maintain their physical and mental health, facilitating virtual activities that combined STEAM education with social interaction, creating a supportive community during challenging times.

In'Dia's leadership skills are further exemplified in her involvement with the EnspIRED Modeling Organization, where she has been an active member since October 2021 and currently serves as Vice President. Her participation in weekly rehearsals has helped build a sense of community, confidence, and beauty among members. She also volunteers weekly, teaching underprivileged children the art of modeling and confidence-building, thereby giving back to the community. Additionally, as an active Black Undergraduate Medical Association member since September 2022,

In'Dia is also committed to social justice and equity, actively engaging with the NAACP's initiatives to promote civil rights and education within her community. Her involvement with the organization has deepened her understanding of systemic issues and enhanced her advocacy skills as she works to uplift marginalized voices and create inclusive spaces for all.

In her leadership roles, In'Dia has shown exceptional organizational and collaborative skills. As the Vice President of the EnspIRED Modeling Organization since March 2024, she oversees the selection and management of non-profit beneficiaries, establishing connections between EnspIRED and potential collaborators. She serves as a secondary point of contact for all committees, acting as a bridge between the executive board and committee members. Her role as Chapter Relations for the Black Undergraduate Kinesiology Association, starting in March 2024, involves facilitating chapter-wide events and building rapport with other university chapters, demonstrating her ability to foster connections and lead effectively in diverse settings.



History of NAACP of Western Wayne County

The branch was chartered as the Inkster Branch of the NAACP on June 28, 1947.

Joseph Davis, who served as Mayor of the city of Inkster served as President.

Mr. William Clark served as branch President in the 1950s. Mr. Clark was well loved in all the branches throughout the state, often attending events hosted by other branches. He always wanted people to know that the Inkster Branch was "in the house."

On June 11, 1959, the branch's name was changed to Inkster - Wayne Branch.

From 1961 - 1970; Mr. Roy Wilson served as President. During his tenure the branch negotiated with NBD bank to hire black employees. The bank, which served a primarily black population, did not have any black employees at that time.

In 1993, Karen Williams was elected President. At this time, she was the youngest person, and only female to be elected branch president. During Ms. Williams presidency efforts were made to reestablish the youth council. Mr. Earl Truss served as youth adviser and was awarded the Adviser of the year award from the Michigan State Conference. Daisy Truss served as the youth council president.

From 1995 - 1996, Reverend George Williams who was a member of the Inkster School Board of Education was President.

In 1997, Attorney Leonard Mongo served as President. During his presidency, the name of the branch was officially changed to Western Wayne County. This was part of an effort to grow the branch outside of the city of Inkster and stimulate membership throughout the other cities the branch served.

Attorney Mongo resigned from his position early and the branch's 1st Vice President Minister Earl Truss became President. Minister Truss was later elected President in 1999. During his presidency meetings were held at Smith Chapel AME Church in Inkster and Waynecorse Church of Christ in Romulus. During Mr. Truss's presidency Western Wayne County was the 2nd largest branch within the state.

Reestablishing the youth council was again seen as a high priority. The youth branch finally became its own entity with its own unit number of 3911.

From 2003 to 2009 former branch treasurer Lucille Flint was elected President. Highlights of Ms. Flint's presidency include hosting civil rights activist Dick Gregory for a Freedom Fund Dinner and starting a Women in the NAACP (WIN) committee. Two highly successful ACT-SO competitions were also held with Attorney Raymond Mullins serving as the ACT-SO chair.

Aaron Sims, former 1st Vice President and youth adviser was elected President in 2009. In 2010, the branch won 2nd Place in the Lucille Black Award in the Class 1-C Division at the 101st Annual NAACP National Convention. The award was presented to the branch that had the highest total membership production from January 1, 2009 - December 31, 2009.

NAACP WESTERN WAYNE COUNTY LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

Golden Heritage

Art Thomas	Inkster Delta Alumna	Jess Sanders
Smith Chapel	AKA Sorority	William Ezell
Dolga Patterson	Ann Chisholm	Minnie Anderson*
Eugene Thompson	Top Ladies of Distinction	Dorothy Cooper*

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

Ruth Anderson	Joseph A. Flint, Jr.	Nancy Landingham
Edmond Beverly	Clifford Ford	Leo Carroll
Pauline Hampton	Karl Abrue	Ina Jane Ezell
John Jackson	Henry Ballard	Paul Ezell
Howard Mitchell	John Franklin	WCHB Radio Station
Rev. David Murray	Edna Parker	The Citadel
Edith Allen	Paul Young	St. Clements AME
Joe Davis	Sarah Young	Lafayette Allen
Daryl Williams	Delos Raymond	Callie Hester
Karry Coats	Lucille Flint-Johnson	Crystal Deyampert
Steven A. Flint	Hattie Prince	David Deyampert
Joseph A. Flint Sr.	Billy E. Baker	Min. Earl Truss*
Sedalia Dennis	Baynton Milton	John Hearn Sr. *
Joseph Davis, Jr.	Daisy Truss	Reasther Everett*
Mary Ross	Pauline Milton	

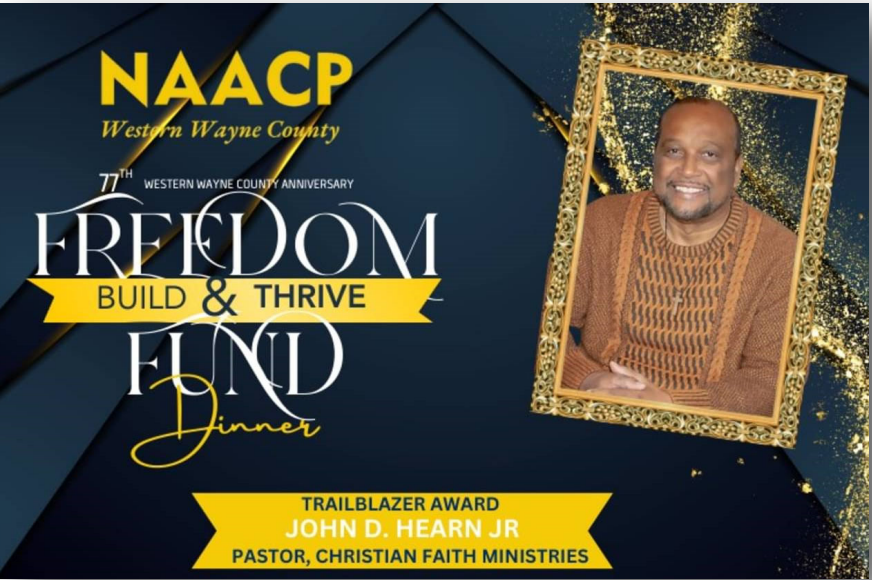
SILVER LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

Tonya Melton	Rashida Tlaib	Miriam Poe
Gina Wilson Steward	Joseph Gause, Jr	Velma Overman
Rhoda Littles	Juanita Singleton	Telegram Newspaper
Now & Forever Flowers	Natalie Mosher	Paschal Eze
Patricia R. Williams*	Ruby D. Richards	<u>Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc.</u>
Diacia Price		

SUBSCRIBING SILVER LIFE MEMBERS

Keith B. Steward	Helen Anderson-Williams	Robert Kenney
Albert Ward	Victor Marsh, Sr.	Operation Refuge
Rev. John Hearn, Jr.	Ashanti Bell- Patterson	Mable Stroman
William Anderson	Inkster Ministerial Alliance	Carmen Mitchell
Daisy Truss	Bishop Walter Starghill	Danny Van Scholack
Carl Johnson *	Te'Anne Townsend	Donna Wilson
Amiri Townsend	Monique Ferranto	

* Denotes deceased member



First Baptist Church of Perryville Kentucky. His oldest brother Reverend David S. Hearn served as senior pastor of Christian Faith Ministries for 8 years until graduating to his heavenly home in March of 2012.

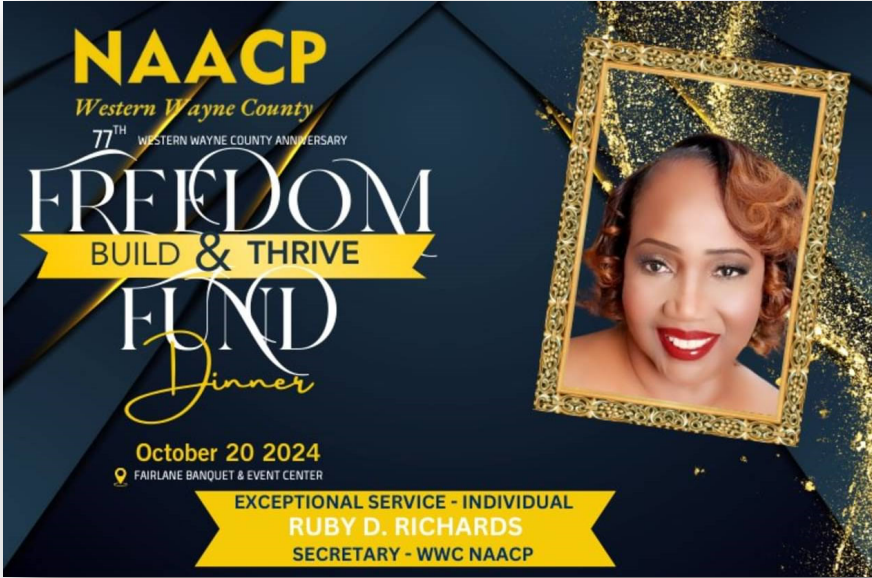
For our beloved pastor, the call to Christian service was seeded over 160 years ago. The seeds continued to germinate as he worked tirelessly alongside his late brother, Reverend David and choir Maestro Cedric, from the very establishment of Christian Faith Ministries of Garden City.

However, unlike his two brothers (Reverend David Hearn and Reverend Gerry Hearn), who heeded the call to the Ministry during their teen years, Reverend John Jr. was resistant at first. Very much like Jonah, he had to be swallowed up, transported and languished in the belly of the Fish!

He preached his trial sermon in May of 2005 at People's Community Baptist Church, it was titled "The way of Thomas" taken from John 20:24-26. In August 2006, he received his certificate of License to preach the gospel. Then, on November 30th 2010, he received his certificate of Ordination upon the authority of the Corinthian Missionary Baptist Church in Hamtramck, under the authority of the Reverend Dr. Joseph R. Jordan.

Reverend John D. Hearn Jr. is the 4th of five children born to the late Reverend John D. Hearn Sr. and Juanita R. Hearn. He matriculated through the Westwood Public School System in Dearborn Heights he studied Business Administration at Franklin University in Columbus Ohio. He also received Christian Education from Baylor University Truitt School of Theology. He serves as a Chaplain for the Inkster Police Department as well as the Wayne County Sheriff's Department, he is the President of the Inkster Ministerial Alliance and Vicinity, he is a member of the Baptist Pastors Council of Detroit where he serves on the Political Action Committee, he is 2nd Vice President of the Western Wayne County NAACP, he also serves with the Western Wayne County Democratic Black Caucus as Vice chair, He is also a member of Michigan United, and his also President of the Western Wayne Urban Community Development Corporation just to name a few, he's has faithfully served as Pastor of Christian Faith Ministries of Garden City, Michigan for ten (11) years.

Reverend John D. Hearn, Jr. descends from a long line of pastors. His maternal uncle Ned Rushing of Carthage, Mississippi founded the Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church after the emancipation. His Earthly and namesake Reverend John D. Hearn Sr., founded People's Community Baptist Church of Inkster (later Westland), Michigan. His older brother Reverend Gerry K. Hearn served the Lord at the



Ruby D. Richards was born and raised in Detroit Michigan. She’s a mother of 4 children, 2 living (2 deceased), Grandmother of 2. She was married, husband passed a few years ago. She attends Impact Church in Detroit.

She is a graduate of Macomb Community College with a degree in Auto Body Design and an Associate Degree in General Studies. She graduated “Summa Cum Laude”. She works at AM General TEC in Auburn Hills, MI.

Ruby’s been a resident in the City of Westland for 15 years now. Within that time, she’s become very involved in her community. She volunteers at different events within the community

Why does she volunteer? She gets that connection to the Community, and it keeps her very busy. I think it’s important to help others and participate in my community. For her, it’s a great experience overall. Feeling a sense of meaning and appreciation, both given and received is awesome. It gets her out of my comfort zone.

Volunteering in the Community:

- ◆ Trustee of the Westland Democratic Club
- ◆ Endorsement Chair of the Westland Democratic Club
- ◆ Precinct Delegate for (Precinct 20),
- ◆ Election Inspector Chair for Precinct 24 (for all elections)
- ◆ Secretary of the Western Wayne County NAACP
- ◆ Asst. Secretary for NAACP Michigan State Conference
- ◆ Communications Co-chair of the MDP Senior Caucus
- ◆ Friend of the Library member at the William P. Faust Public Library of Westland.
- ◆ Volunteer for the Blues, Brews & BBQ event in Westland MI
- ◆ Helped pack meal boxes before Thanksgiving at the Wayne Ford Civic League
- ◆ Volunteering for Relay for Life (Westland/Western Wayne)

She’s Vice Chair on the Westland Planning Commission: she said being on a planning commission allows her to contribute to the future vision and direction for her community. It allows her to be a leader in the community. Being able to serve the community & having her voice heard on local issues. She’s also on the Westland Steering Committee to help work on the City of Westland Master Plan 2025

She was just recently honored and acknowledged along with other women from Westland by Brigadier General Carol Ann Fausone at the Wonderful Women of Westland (WOW) Ball.

She’s a very compassionate person who loves life, family, and GOD. She loves listening to jazz.

2024 Western Wayne County
NAACP Executive Committees

PRESIDENT GINA WILSON STEWARD	FREEDOM FUND DAKIMA JACKSON	VETERANS AFFAIRS LEKISHA MAXWELL
1ST VICE PRESIDENT PASTOR VELMA OVERMAN	HOUSING KENNETH SCOTT	EDUCATION MARVIN FRANKLIN
2ND VICE PRESIDENT PASTOR JOHN HEARN JR.	COMMUNITY VELMA JEAN OVERMAN	WIN (WOMEN IN THE NAACP) CASSY JONES MCBRYDE
SECRETARY RUBY D. RICHARDS	CRIMINAL JUSTICE JOHN HEARN JR.	ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE EBONY ELMORE
TREASURER TE'ANNE TOWNSEND	POLITICAL ACTION LAWRENCE BIGGS	MEMBERSHIP KIMBERLY CLEMONS
<u>STANDING COMMITTEES</u>	PRESS AND COMMUNICATION CASSY JONES-MCBRYDE	SCHOLARSHIP/ DR. FLEDA FLEMING
HEALTH COMMITTEE GARY RINGER	YOUTH WORKS JESSIKA KENNEDY	
RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS PASTOR BERNARD JACKSON	YOUNG ADULT XAIVER JONES	





Lift every voice and sing,
Till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the list'ning skies,
Let it resound Loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod,
Bitter the chast'ning rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat,
Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered.
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past,
Till now we stand at Last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who hast by Thy might,
Led us into the Light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,
May we forever stand,
True to our God,
True to our native Land.



Judge Lisa M. Martin was elected to the 34th District Court on November 3, 2020, making her the first person of color elected to that position. Judge Martin received her undergraduate degree from Harvard University and her juris doctorate from the University of Michigan Law School. She started her legal career as a law clerk for Judge John Foley in the

Kalamazoo County Circuit Court before returning to Detroit to represent indigent parties as an attorney with the Legal Aid and Defender Association in Detroit. From 2001 to 2018, she worked in private practice, before serving as Attorney Magistrate of the 34th District Court from 2018 to 2020.

Judge Martin remains active in the communities served by the court – Belleville, Huron Township, Romulus, Sumpter and Van Buren Township. She is President of the Association of Black Judges of Michigan and a member of Black Women Lawyers Association of Michigan, Michigan District Judges Association and the National Association of Women Judges.



NAACP Mission Statement

Our mission is to achieve equity, political rights, and social inclusion by advancing policies and practices that expand human and civil rights, eliminate discrimination, and accelerate the well-being, education, and economic security of Black People and all people of color.

NAACP Vision Statement

We envision an inclusive community rooted in liberation where all persons can exercise their civil and human rights without discrimination.

Western Wayne County NAACP P. O. Box 207 Inkster, MI 48141 - (734) 506-0676
NAACPWWC@GMAIL.COM WWW.WESTERNWAYNECOUNTYNAACP.COM

 western wayne county naacp

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OUR PURPOSE

OUR POWER

OUR PEOPLE

CONGRATULATIONS to our 2024 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Wallace Bowie III
Sophia McKay
Janae James
Xaiver Williams

27th Freedom Fund Event
Sunday, October 20, 2024 ~ Reception 4:30 - Program 5:00 pm

"Build and Thrive"

Welcome President Gina Wilson-Steward
Invocation and Introduction of Master of Ceremonies Rev. L.T. Willis
"Lift Every Voice and Sing" Ecorse High School Band
Master of Ceremonies..... Pastor Bernard Jackson
Greetings from City of Dearborn Mayor, Abdullah Hammoud

Freedom and Justice Award - LISA MARTIN

Lifetime Achievement Award -VICKI DOBBINS

Individual Exceptional Service to the Community Award - Ruby D. Richards

Blessings of the Dinner Rev. Joseph Stephens

~~~~~ Dinner is Served ~~~~~

Acknowledgement of Elected Officials/Clergy/Veterans/ Educators..... Honorary Chairs  
Wayne County Executive Warren Evans  
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Haddidi

Scholarship Recipients..... Dr. Fleda Fleming

***Great Expectations Award -IN'DIA HARRIS***

***Exceptional Service to Community Organization Award - DELTA SIGMA THETA - INKSTER CHAPTER***

Elected Official/Service Senator ..... Stephanie Chang

***Trailblazer Award - PASTOR JOHN HEARN, JR***

Introduction of Keynote Speaker ..... Crystal Childrey  
Detroit Downriver APRI Youth Chairperson  
UAW Local 51 Executive Board Trustee and Education Chair

Keynote Speaker ..... President Andrea Hunter

President's Award ..... Gina Wilson – Steward

Acknowledgments ..... Dakima Jackson

Closing Remarks ..... Gina Wilson Steward

Benediction..... Pastor Overman

Closing ..... Ecorse Marching Band