

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

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TENNESSEE STATE CONFERENCE

*17<sup>th</sup> Annual*

# **RACE RELATION/ADVOCACY SUMMIT**

ADVOCACY TRAINING WORKSHOPS

March 5~6, 2021

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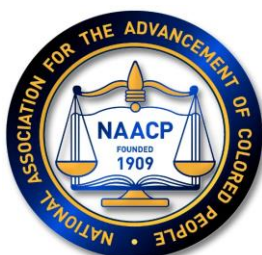
***Justice – Equity - Opportunity:***  
*Addressing and Working to Close the Racial Divide*

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***Virtual Event***

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*Health Advocacy Forum  
Youth & College/Community Town Hall Meeting  
Education Advocacy Forum  
Criminal Justice Forum  
Conversations with the National President/CEO – Derrick Johnson*



*Mrs. Gloria J. Sweet-Love, State Conference President*

# RACE RELATIONS/ADVOCACY SUMMIT

## {BACKGROUND}

2004-2020

The Race Relations Summit (**now the Race Relations/Advocacy Summit**) was initiated to take a close look at the progress of race relations in every aspect of life across Tennessee. The 1<sup>st</sup> Summit was hosted on February 27 & 28, 2004 in Jackson, Tennessee. The Summit looked at “50 Years & Beyond Brown v Board of Education” and focused on the progress made in the last 50 years and the challenges that still remain.

The Summit annually brings together advocates and representatives from major corporations, public & private agencies, community based organization to rekindle the discussion and further explore the strategies identified the 2004 Summit. Summit topics have ranged from a discussion relative to obesity, drugs and STD in the youth community, to discussions relative to Diversity in the workplace; Disparities in Health Care for the Poor & Minority; Strategies, Challenges & Best Practices for Narrowing the Educational Divide; and Strategies of Exclusion in Government & Politics. The summit has also focused on Criminal /Juvenile Justice by discussing the evidence of a cradle to prison pipeline in the African American Community as well as presented information about the State of AIDS/HIV in Black America, How Politics Affect Economics and discussed best practices for Voter Education, Voter Registration, Election Protection and Get-Out-The-Vote Strategies.

In the past 15 years, we have been honored with the presence of numerous exemplary speakers for the summits including: the late **Rev. Dr. Benjamin L. Hooks**, Executive Director Emeritus NAACP; **Mr. Harbert Alexander**, noted Author and Historian, **Attorney Robert T. Hill**, Hill Boren Law Firm-Jackson Tennessee; **Honorable Harold Ford, Jr.**, U.S. Congressman-District 9; **Dr. Jocelyn Elders**, former U.S. Surgeon General; **Dr. Raymond A. Winbush**, Director of the Institute for Urban Research at Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland; **Dr. Daniel J. Wooten**, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, East Tennessee State University; **Mr. Peyton T. Hairston**, Senior Vice President-Communication, Tennessee Valley Authority; the **Honorable Judge Earnestine H. Dorese** of Memphis, TN; the **Honorable John S. Tanner**, Congressman for the 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District; **Dr. Fred Zuker**, President of Lambuth University-Jackson, Tennessee, **Rev. Keith Norman**, Pastor of First Baptist-Broad, Memphis, Tennessee, **Ms. Beverly Watts**, Director of the Tennessee Human Rights Commission, **Representative Johnny Shaw** [District 80-TN] **Rev. Tommy Vallejos**, Director of HOPE (Hispanics Organization for Progress & Education) and the **Honorable Lyle Reid**, retired Chief Justice of the Tennessee Supreme Court, **Ms. Mary Jane Oatman Wak-Wak**, President of the National Education Indian Education Association, **Ms. Tomeka Hart**, President/CEO of Memphis Urban, **Rev. V.H. “Sonnye” Dixon**, Pastor of Hobson United Methodist Church, **Mr. Hilary Shelton**, Director of the NAACP Washington Bureau, **Ms. Kelly Harden** Associate Dean, Graduate Nursing Programs, Chair of DNP Program Associate Professor of Nursing Union University School of Nursing, the late **Dr. Wesley C. McClure** President, Lane College, **Attorney Jim Emison**, retired West Tennessee Lawyer & Historian and **Rev. Dr. Randolph Meade Walker**, pastor of Castalia Baptist Church and Moderator of the West Tennessee Baptist Missionary & Educational Association, **Dr. Logan Hampton**, President of Lane College, **Dr. K.B. Turner**, Associate Professor of Criminology & Criminal Justice for the University of Memphis, **Dr. Andre Johnson**, Pastor of Gifts of Life Ministries and Associate Professor for the Dept. of Communications at the University of Memphis and **Attorney Van Turner, Jr.**, partner for Hagler, Bruce & Turner, PLLC, **Honorable Howard Gentry**, **Criminal Court Clerk** -Metro Nashville and **Honorable Senator Brenda Gilmore** (District 19 -TN General Assembly) have served as our keynote speakers.

Since our Summit last year, our nation and the world have experienced unprecedented situations due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Yet, the presence of discrimination & injustice, as well as the lack of equity & equality did not cease. Rather, the pandemic pulled back the curtain on many of our nation’s racial problems. This year, we will be Sharing Facts about the COVID-19 Vaccine, Empowering Young Leaders for Action(promoting Economic Sustainability & discussion of Workers’ Rights), Advocating for Student Achievement Through Effective Advocacy, and addressing disparities in the Criminal Justice System. We are also elated to have our **National President/CEO, Mr. Derrick Johnson, Esquire** with us, as we discuss the path forward for the Association in addressing Race Relations and Advocacy in 2021.

Tennessee State Conference of NAACP Branches  
**ANNUAL RACE RELATION & ADVOCACY SUMMIT**  
Friday, March 5, 2021

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**Health Advocacy Forum**  
*“COVID-19 Vaccine: Facts for the Community”*  
**5:30PM – 6:30PM**

**Moderator: Rev. Neely Williams, MDiv, EdD**  
Patient/Community Engagement Strategist, Patient, Caregivers, and Patient Advocate

5:30 PM

Welcome/Overview & Introduction of Moderator

**PRESENTERS:**

**Dr. Michelle Fiscus**

Medical Director- Tennessee Vaccine-Preventable Diseases and Immunization Program -Tennessee Department of Health

**Ms. Elizabeth Hart**

Associate Director of Communication/Media Relations  
Director of Faith Based Initiatives and Community Engagement  
Tennessee Department of Health

6:10 PM Q&A

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**Youth & College/Community Town Hall Meeting**  
*“Wealth and Wisdom: Empowering Young Leaders for Action”*  
**6:30PM – 7:45PM**

**Facilitator: Ms. Paris Lee**  
Advisor – TN State Conference NAACP Youth and College Division

6:30PM  
Welcome

**Mr. Jovante Mahone, State Vice President**  
TN Youth & College Division

Invocation

**Mr. Tyler Morton, President**  
Haywood Youth Council NAACP

Greetings

**Mr. Wisdom Cole, Executive Director**  
NAACP National Youth & College Division

**PRESENTERS:**

**Financial Literacy**

**Ms. Mesha P. Norwood , Teller Coordinator**  
Truist Bank – Ooltewah, TN

Reflection: How to Save Workshop  
By Regions Bank

**Ms. Chloe Marshal, ACT-SO Participant**  
Chattanooga ACT-SO Program- Chattanooga, TN

7:05PM

Segment I - Q&A

7:15PM  
PRESENTERS:

Why Unions Matter and Stopping SJR 0002  
Mr. Wolfgang Bronner, President  
TN NAACP Youth & College Division

Special Guest: Mr. A.J. Starling, Secretary/Treasurer  
TN AFL-CIO Labor Council

7:35PM

Segment II - Q &A

Announcements

7:45PM Closing Prayer

Ms. Thessala White, Chair  
TN NAACP ACT-SO Committee

Saturday, March 6, 2021

## **EDUCATION ADVOCACY FORUM**

*“Advancing Student Achievement Through Effective Advocacy”*

**9:00AM – 10:00AM**

**Facilitator: Ms. Marjorie Vaulx**

Member – TN State Conference NAACP Education Committee

9:00AM  
Welcome/Overview

Facilitator

PRESENTERS

Reviewing of Data & Statistics  
Dr. Jerry Woods, Chair-TN NAACP Education Comm.

Sharing of Best Practices  
Mr. James Shaw, Member -TN NAACP Education Comm.

Implementing S.M.A.R.T. Goals  
Ms. Evann Turner, Member-TN NAACP Education Comm.

9:50AM Q&A

## **CRIMINAL JUSTICE FORUM**

*“Transformative Advocacy and Tennessee’s Criminal Justice System”*

**10:00AM – 11:15AM**

**Facilitator: Dr. Sekou Franklin**

Chair – TN State Conference NAACP Criminal Justice Committee

10:00AM  
Welcome/Overview

Facilitator

**PRESENTERS:**

Sentencing Reform in the Criminal Justice System  
Attorney Bradley MaClean  
Post Conviction Attorney

Addressing Prison Conditions in Correctional Facilities  
Ms. Courtney Parham  
Representative -Concerned Citizens for Justice

Preparing for the 2022 Judicial Elections  
Ms. Jackie Sims  
Executive Director- Democracy Nashville/Democratic  
Communities

11:00AM – Q&A

*~Summit Highlight Event ~*  
**“Conversations with the President”**  
12:00Noon – 12:45PM

**Moderator: Mr. David Conner**

Member – TN State Conference NAACP Youth Work Committee/NAACP NextGen (Class 2021-22)

Welcome/Overview

Facilitator

**GREETINGS:**

**SPONSORS:**

Mr. Doug Roth, Jackson Market President  
BancorpSouth Bank

Ms. Kathy Sager, Regional Director  
AT&T - Tennessee

Ms. Beverly Watts, Director  
TN Human Rights Commission

Introduction of Special Guest

Ms. Gloria J. Sweet-Love, President  
TN State Conference NAACP

**SPECIAL GUEST:**

**REMARKS/BRIEFING**

Mr. Derrick Johnson, Esquire~ President/CEO  
NAACP

12:30PM

Q&A Segment ~ Facilitator

12:45PM

Closing Remarks/Announcements

Ms. Gloria J. Sweet-Love, President

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