

KANKAKEE COUNTY BRANCH #3035

NAACP

2023

You're Invited!

Freedom Fund Banquet
"THRIVING TOGETHER"



**SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 28, 2023**

Rev. Dr. Wendell Anthony, Speaker
Member, National Board of Directors, NAACP

Quality Inn & Suites
800 North Kinzie Avenue
Bradley, Illinois 60915
Cocktail/Networking Hour: 5:30pm
Banquet: 6:30pm

THRIVE

MOVEMENT • CULTURE • COMMUNITY



The Kankakee County Branch of the NAACP has a rich history, having been chartered 78 years ago as Branch Number 3035 on September 10th, 1945.

At the heart of the Kankakee Branch mission is our shared belief that all people, of every color, are entitled to dignity and respect as human beings. We have always held to the use of peaceful, democratic means in the pursuit of that mission, even in the face of violent hatred and oppression.

As fighters for freedom, dignity and equal justice under the law, we need not ask ourselves "why is ours a lofty mission," for we know. Many of our ancestors lived without freedom, as indentured servants, in what was to become known as the "peculiar institution of American Slavery."

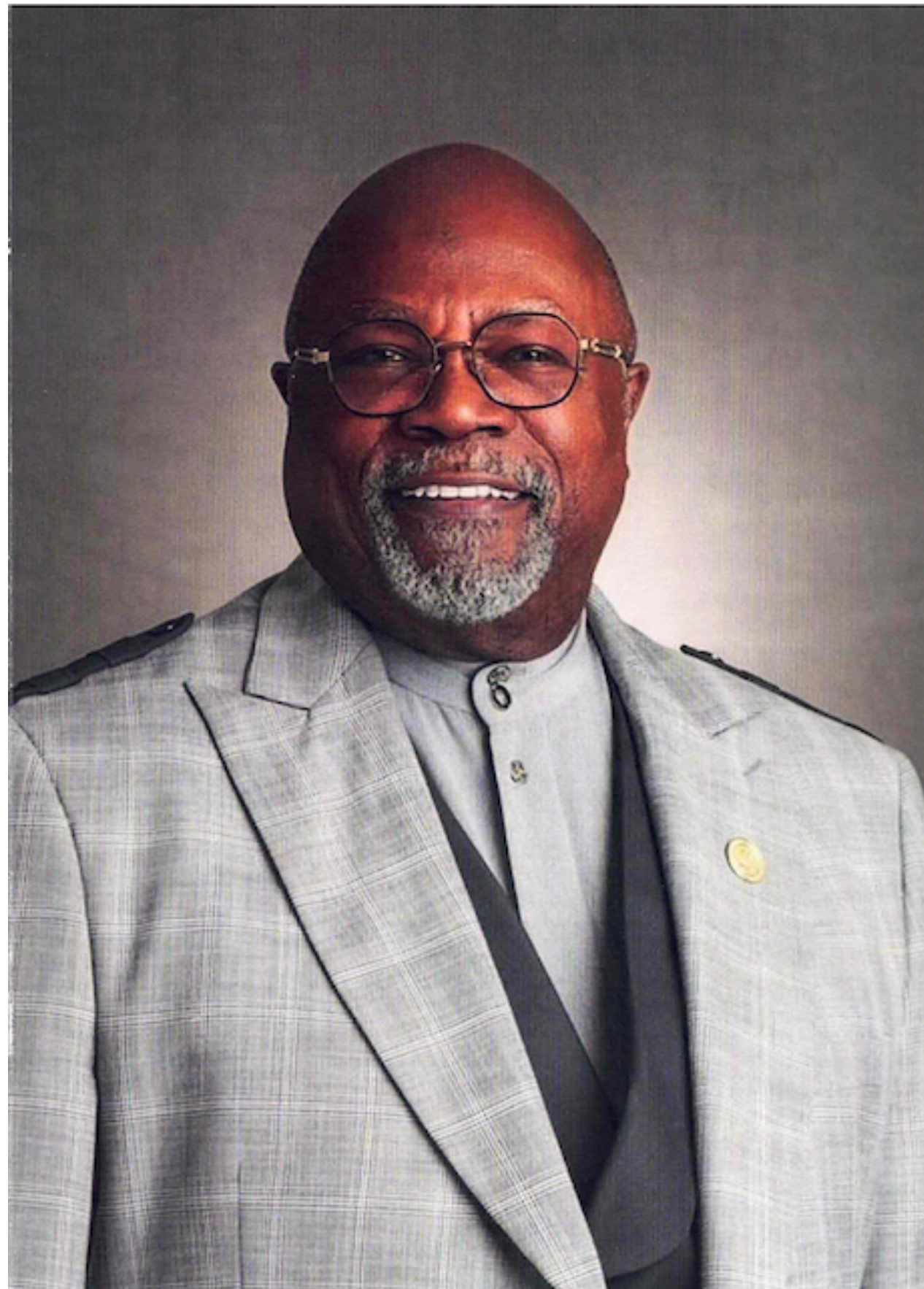
We learned the hard way that emancipation did not necessarily mean the end of oppression. Many of us grew up in the other America, forced to see firsthand the signs that read "for white only", and made to live under a system that resulted daily in the denial of rights and the disallowing of liberties.

Thus it was both proper and fitting that the NAACP would fight for nearly a Century to procure those rights, to savor those liberties, and to insist on equal justice under the law for all people.

Progress has been made through the span of that time. We don't deny that, we celebrate it. Victories have been won and racism has been challenged, we acknowledge that. Yet we must choose to remember, so that we will never be prone to forget.

If we are to be defined, then let it be as fighters for freedom and fair play. For we remain, as we have been, the conscience of America and the manifestation of great will against overwhelming odds.

Powering the Movement for CHANGE As We THRIVE TOGETHER!



Reverend Dr. Wendell Anthony

BIOGRAPHY

Reverend Dr. Wendell Anthony is a native of St. Louis, Missouri. He was educated in the Detroit Public School system. He graduated from Wayne State University with a B.A. in Political Science and Marygrove College with an M.A. in Pastoral Ministry. He attended the University of Detroit for advanced study in Black Theology. Rev. Anthony is a Certified Social Worker with the State of Michigan. On May 12, 2007, Rev. Anthony was the keynote speaker for the Graduation Class of Marygrove College at which time the Board of Trustees conferred upon Rev. Anthony the degree of Honorary Doctor of Arts. In 2022, Wayne State University conferred upon Rev. Anthony the degree of Doctor of Laws, Honoris Causa.

He became the Pastor of Fellowship Chapel in December 1986 following the passing of Reverend James E. Wadsworth, Jr. Through the grace of God and the labor of his ministry, the church has experienced the greatest growth in its 56-year history. Through its James E. Wadsworth, Jr. Community Center, Fellowship Chapel has a full-time outreach ministry with programs ranging from health and wellness, youth mentoring and development and job training. Rev. Anthony is the developer of the Isuthu Institute (Coming into Manhood Rites of Passage Program) for boys ages 6-18, dealing with African American male responsibility. It is one of the oldest mentoring programs of its kind in the country. He also initiated its female counterpart, the Intonjane Institute (Coming into Womanhood Rites of Passage Program) for girls ages 6-18.

Currently, Rev. Dr. Wendell Anthony is a member of the NAACP National Board of Directors. In addition, he is serving his 16th term as President of the Detroit Branch NAACP, a position he has held for 30 years. The Detroit Branch NAACP is the largest branch in the country. It hosts the largest sit-down dinner in the nation, bringing at least 10,000 persons to gather every year to celebrate and commemorate the struggle for social justice, freedom, and equality. He is the founder of the Freedom Institute for Economic, Social Justice, and People Empowerment, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, which also sponsors the annual Freedom Weekend in the city of Detroit. He is also the founder of the Fannie Lou Hamer Political Action Committee, a grassroots community-oriented organization which supports issues and candidates often overlooked by those in the traditional political arena.

Reverend Anthony is the originator of the *Take Your Souls to the Polls* voter registration and mobilization program. This was initiated to bring about greater youth involvement in the electoral process. He is also the recipient of numerous awards and recognition, locally and nationally. Among them are the Samuel Dewitt Proctor Conference *How Beautiful Are Thy Feet Award* and the 2021 NAACP Image Award for *Activist of the Year*. During the pandemic of 2020, Reverend Anthony led and coordinated the Connected Futures Program with business and corporate leaders. This program raised \$23 million to provide laptop and Wi-Fi connectivity for 51,000 students, grades K-12, in the Detroit Public Schools Community District. It serves as a model for the nation.

On June 5, 2005, Reverend Anthony led his congregation, community and business leaders, government officials, supporters, and well-wishers in a procession to the new Fellowship Chapel called *The Village*, for its grand opening and inaugural worship service. The Village contains the new church and soon to be developed 140 units of multi-family homes and senior citizen residencies. This is a \$60 million-dollar project which will result in the building of a new community.

In September 2005, Rev. Anthony married Monica G. Anthony. They are the proud parents of three adult daughters (Tolani, Maia and Theresa) and in 2011 a new addition was added, young Ms. Wendelaya Adiah Anthony.



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TICKET INFORMATION

Adults: \$80.00
Children (12 & under): \$40.00

Deadline to purchase tickets is **October 14, 2023**.
Tickets must be purchased in advance through Eventbrite
using the following link.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/protecting-our-democracy-tickets-309984330477>

**Cardholder(s) will absorb fees associated w/ using Eventbrite*

Company Tables of 8 Are Available at \$600 per table

Ads

Full Page Ads: \$150

Half Page Ads: \$75

****Please email all color ad/artwork by October 14, 2023.***



**ALWAYS FIGHTING
FORWARD**

Sponsorship Levels

Platinum Level: \$5000

Reserved company table for 10
Full-page, color advertisement
Special recognition during program
One year NAACP membership for each person in your group

Gold Level: \$3500

Reserved company table for 8
Full-page, color advertisement
Special recognition during program

Silver Level: \$3000

Reserved company table for 6
Full-page, color advertisement
Special recognition during program

Bronze Level: \$2500

Reserved company table for 4
Full-page, color advertisement
Special recognition during program

Please contact Banquet Chairperson, Paulette Crank
at 815-953-2399 or Kankakee Branch President,
Theodis Pace at 815-932-0858 or at kan_naacp@yahoo.com for
more information on corporate tables, ads, and sponsorship levels
Deadline to purchase ads & sponsorship is October 14, 2023

*Vibing
&
Thriving*

