

# NAACP NEWS

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Francys Johnson, President

Georgia NAACP

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## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### GEORGIA NAACP IN ATHENS FOR 74TH ANNUAL STATE CONVENTION

*State's Oldest and Largest Civil Rights Organization focused on Police Accountability and Voting Rights*

The Georgia NAACP encourage the public to attend and participate at the upcoming 74th Annual Georgia NAACP Convention. Hosted by the Athens Clarke County Branch and the University of Georgia Collegiate Chapter of the NAACP, delegates from across Georgia will convene under the theme "Our Lives Matter | Our Votes Count". The Convention is October 6-8, 2016 at the Holiday Inn Conference Center in Athens Clarke County, Georgia.

"We will not tolerate voter suppression or the lack of police accountability. In these fights, the NAACP will mortgage every asset to defend unfettered access to the ballot and ensure our public reflects that Black Lives Matter" said Francys Johnson, Statesboro Attorney and Georgia NAACP State President.

The Convention opens on Thursday, October 6, 2015 with a Faith and Values Luncheon at Noon followed by a round table discussion on the topic "An Engaged Church: Bridges to Truth and Reconciliation". An ecumenical round table will explore the civil rights/social justice efforts within our respective work and broader questions of how we take specific steps of unified action to heal the racial divide in the nation. It is my hope that the conversation leads to concerted efforts to construct reconciliation events that focus on shared commitment to education reform, civic engagement, community outreach and service, marriage and family, criminal justice reform and economic development. That evening at 7 pm we are having a community mass meeting at the First AME Church in downtown Athens.

The program on Friday and Saturday features workshops and sessions aimed examining the critical threats to democracy including police accountability in face of the long string of deadly killings of unarmed African Americans by police and voter suppression. Moreover, delegates will discuss policy solutions aimed at ensuring a high quality and accessible education; a sustainable economy; organized labor; lifelong health and wellness; a vibrant democracy with expansive voting rights; affordable housing; and a fair criminal justice system.

In each public session, we have dedicated seats for students and community members to learn and share. The session are held in the Holiday Inn Conference Center unless otherwise listed below:

#### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2016

**Noon - Faith and Values Luncheon** - Leaders representing the major faith and religious movements in Georgia will break bread; review this past year's pertinent issues; and hear a message from the Rev. Dr. R. L. White, Senior Pastor of Atlanta's Mount Ephraim Baptist Church hosted at the First AME Church, 521 N Hull St, Athens, GA 30601.

**2:00 PM - Religious Leaders Round table** - An ecumenical round table will explore the civil rights and social justice efforts within our respective work and broader questions of the responsibility of an Engaged Church moderated by Rev. William Flippin, Jr. Hosted at the First AME Church, 521 N Hull St, Athens, GA 30601.

**7:00 PM - Community Mass Meeting at the First AME Church** - a power packed night of praise, worship, and reflections on where we are in the quests for a just society. Elected, civic and community leaders will give remarks and the Rev. Lee May, CEO of Dekalb County will deliver the Ralph Mark Gilbert Lecture.

#### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2016

**7:30 - 8:45 AM - Armed Services and Veterans Affairs Breakfast (Ticketed Event)** - The NAACP has long drawn its leadership from those who have defended this nation through the armed forces. This breakfast aims to honor both

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veterans and active military personnel along with highlighting the state and federal resources designated for this community. The Hon. Frank McClary, Mayor of Andrews, South Carolina will give the morning talk.

**9:00 - 10:00 AM - Opening Business Session**

**10:00 - 11:45 AM - Political Participation Discussion:** Our Rights Matter | Our Vote Counts: The Good, Bad and Ugly - A Review of Post-*Shelby* Voting Rights. This panel features leading lawyers and activist among others discussing the struggle to protect and expand the right to vote.

**NOON - Walter C. Butler Membership Luncheon and Convention Keynote Address by the Hon. Michael Thurmond (Ticketed Event)**

**2:00 - 3:15 PM - Civic Engagement Training** on the Association's national GOTV Plan conducted by Charles Snow, National Civic Engagement Consultant.

**3:30 - 5:00 PM - Voter Empowerment Phone Banking Session** conducted by Demetrius Fisher, Georgia NAACP Civic Engagement Coordinator.

**6:00 - 9:00 PM - Life the Griot and Friends: | Morton's Theater** - The Georgia NAACP joins Life the Griot along with several of his friends to bring you a live show packed with poetry and music. All proceeds benefit Chess and Community's youth group, the Classic City Knights, as they journey to Ethiopia during the summer of 2017. While there, the Knights will visit many historical sites of global and cultural significance, engage in a chess tournament with local students, and develop a sustainable service learning project together with the guidance of program directors and community stakeholders.

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2016**

**7:30 - 8:45 AM Women In the NAACP Breakfast (Ticketed Event)** - This breakfast aims to highlight the integral role in the historical and contemporary pursuit social justice advocacy through the NAACP. Business Law expert Dr. Dawn Bennett Alexander will give the morning talk.

**9:00 - 9:45 AM - Health and Wellness Session: Our Health Matters: | CPR Anytime Training** - Program conducted by the American Heart Association allows anyone to learn the core skills of CPR in just 20 minutes using their own personal kit. The kit contains everything needed to learn basic CPR, AED skills, and choking relief anywhere, from the comfort of your home to a large group setting.

**9:00 - 10:15 AM - Criminal Justice and Legal Redress: Our Lives Matter | The Demand for Police Accountability** - In the wake of the continued killings of unarmed African Americans by police and the apparent absence of accountability; experts will discuss bold policy solutions aimed at eliminating this threat to domestic tranquility and improve community relations with law enforcement.

**10:30 - 11:45 AM - Education: Our Votes Count | The Constitutional Question on OSD** - A conversation on Education assessing the pro's and con's of Georgia's proposed Opportunity School District in quest to secure high-quality public education for all of Georgia's children.

**NOON - 80TH ANNIVERSARY YOUTH AND COLLEGE LUNCHEON (Ticketed Event)** - The NAACP Youth and College Division is marking its 80th anniversary. Its membership of people 21 years old and younger has grown to about 70,000 in some 700 youth councils and high school and college units across the country. Delegates will celebrate the occasion and hear updates on the Georgia NAACP's legislative agenda. Social Justice Activist Alethea Bonello will give Luncheon Special Address.

**2:00 - 2:50 PM - Legal Redress: Our Votes Count | Reviewing the Association's Voter Protection Plan** with Anson Asaka, Deputy General Counsel, NAACP. This session will take place at the Classic Center.

**3:00 - 3:50 PM - Economic Sustainability: Our Dollars Matter | Closing the Gap in Georgia's Housing Market** - According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, blatant acts of housing discrimination faced by people of color continue to decline, yet more subtle forms of housing denial stubbornly persist. Learn about strategies from private and government sector to close the gap. This session will take place at the Classic Center.

**4:00 - 5:00 PM - Closing Business Session**

**7:00 PM - 74th Annual Freedom Gala** - The Georgia NAACP will close the Convention with a Gala featuring live music honoring Georgia's rich contribution to soul, blues and jazz and awards at the Classic Center. U.S. Congressman Hank Johnson will deliver the Gala Keynote Address.

FOR TICKETED EVENTS, Tickets are available at <http://www.naacpga.org/74th-annual-state-convention>. For more information about the work of the Georgia NAACP, please visit our website at [www.naacpga.org](http://www.naacpga.org).

*Founded in 1909, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization. The Georgia NAACP has had an unbroken presence in Georgia since 1917. The Georgia NAACP maintains a network of branches throughout Georgia, from cities to small rural counties. The Georgia NAACP has been the most effective and consistent advocates for civil and human rights in Georgia.*

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