



# NAACP

## *Maryland*

### STATE CONFERENCE

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## NEW LEADERSHIP AT THE HELM OF THE NAACP MSC

**BALTIMORE, December 6, 2019:** NAACP Maryland State Conference (MSC) has elected and welcomes Willie Flowers as the NAACP MSC President (2020-2023), along with a roster of skilled community leaders poised to drive the success of the NAACP Maryland State Conference.

President Willie Flowers of Ellicott City, MD, also the current president of the Howard County Branch NAACP, was elected on Saturday, October 26, 2019 at the NAACP MSC's Annual convention. Flowers, husband and father of two, also serves as Executive Director of the Park Heights Community Health Alliance in Baltimore.

Flowers takes over for the outgoing president, Gerald Stanbury, who served for 12 years / 4 terms. Under Stanbury's leadership, the MSC successfully pressed for the abolishment of the state's capital punishment by death penalty; and the legalization of Same Sex Marriage. It also, stabilized funding for the 24 Maryland state branches.

As leadership shifts to Flowers, a mighty vision unfolds – firstly, to recruit a strong leadership team; then strengthen the Maryland State Conference through membership development, fundraising and program outreach. He also plans to increase engagement and empowerment of the Youth Councils and College branches.

*"We want to grow the NAACP in the state of Maryland so that we can be At-the-Ready – capable of protecting and defending the civil rights of MD residents!" says Mr. Flowers. "We'll accomplish these goals by growing our membership, funding and expanding initiatives in all of the communities in Maryland. We will stand up to the challenges that our communities face by being organized and demonstrating the power that is needed and expected from the NAACP."*

As NAACP MSC membership grows and expands, the dedicated men and women who volunteer their time and expertise as state leaders are instrumental to the NAACP's success. Other members elected to the NAACP Maryland State Conference Executive team include: 1st Vice President Reverend Kobi Little; 2nd Vice President Jacqueline Boone Allsup; 3rd Vice President Faith Blackburne; Secretary Betty Johnson; Assistant Secretary Neva Stansbury; Treasurer Zilpha Smith; and Assistant Treasurer William Hall III. At-Large members include Chris Blake, Charnell Ferguson, Joshua Harris, James Pinkett and Vernon Ricks. Since the election in October, the elected leadership of the MSC NAACP has assembled a list of over 50 talented organizers and activists from throughout the state who will serve as committee leaders to address issues and organize programs relevant to the growth of the Maryland State Conference NAACP. *We Win Together – President Willie Flowers*

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**About NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People)**

Founded February 12, 1909, the NAACP is the nation's oldest, largest and most widely recognized civil rights organization. Its more than half-million members and supporters throughout the United States and the world are the premier advocates for civil rights in their communities, leading grassroots campaigns for equal opportunity and conducting voter mobilization. The real story of the NAACP lies in the hearts and minds of all those who refused to stand idly while race prejudice tarnished our nation. From bold investigations of mob brutality, protests of mass murders, segregation and discrimination, to testimony before congressional committees on the vicious tactics used to bar African Americans from the ballot box, it was the talent and tenacity of NAACP members that saved lives and made change.

Today, the true movement of the NAACP lies in the faces of the multiracial, multigenerational army of ordinary men and women who stay vigilant in awakening the consciousness of a people and a nation. With a powerful base of members in 2,200 branches in the Association, together, the NAACP will remain vigilant in its mission until the promise of America is made real for all Americans.