

NAACP

WE THE PEOPLE

117TH NAACP NATIONAL CONVENTION

LABOR AWARDS LUNCHEON

WEDNESDAY | JULY 22 | 1PM

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LABOR AWARDS PROGRAM

Emcee

Angela Wells

Director of Human Rights, Education and Health and Safety, CWA

Invocation

Rev. Wendell Anthony

Member of the National Board of Directors, NAACP

Welcome & Opening

Jalen Vince

Member, NAACP Board of Directors; Chair National Youth Work Committee

Greetings

Illinois AFL-CIO

Working America 250 – Labor Lightning Talks

Host: Wendy Raquel Robinson—Producer, Philanthropist, Actress & Director

– **Derrick Johnson** – President & CEO, NAACP

– **Brandon Johnson** – Mayor of Chicago

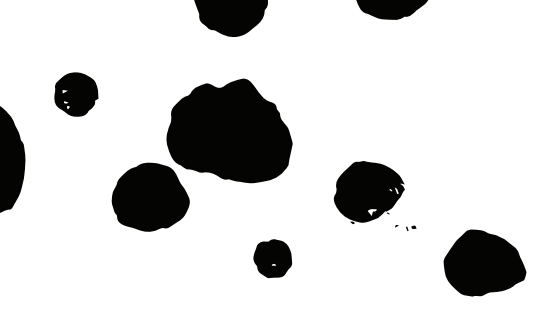
– **Stacy Davis Gates**

President, Chicago Teachers Union; President, Illinois Federation of Teachers

William “Bill” Lucy Legacy Award Presentation

Presented by: Robin Williams – Chair, National Labor Committee

Recipient: Everett Kelley – President, AFGE



LABOR AWARDS PROGRAM

Dr. Annie B. Martin Leadership Award Presentation

Presented by: Robin Williams – Chair, National Labor Committee

Recipient: Eizabeth Powell – Secretary-Treasurer, APWU

Benjamin L. Hooks Keeper of the Flame Award Presentation

Angela Wells – Director of Human Rights, Education and Health and Safety, CWA

2026 Recipients:

- **James Felton Keith** – Founder, InclusionScore
- **Joseph Maceo George** – President, North Florida Central Labor Council
- **James Mapp** – Civil Rights Leader (Accepted by Brenda Hackett)
- **Donna Waddell** – Vice President & Central/ Southwest Virginia Regional Director, UFCW Local 400
- **André Washington** – Special Assistant to the Executive Director, OAPSE / AFSCME

Closing Charge

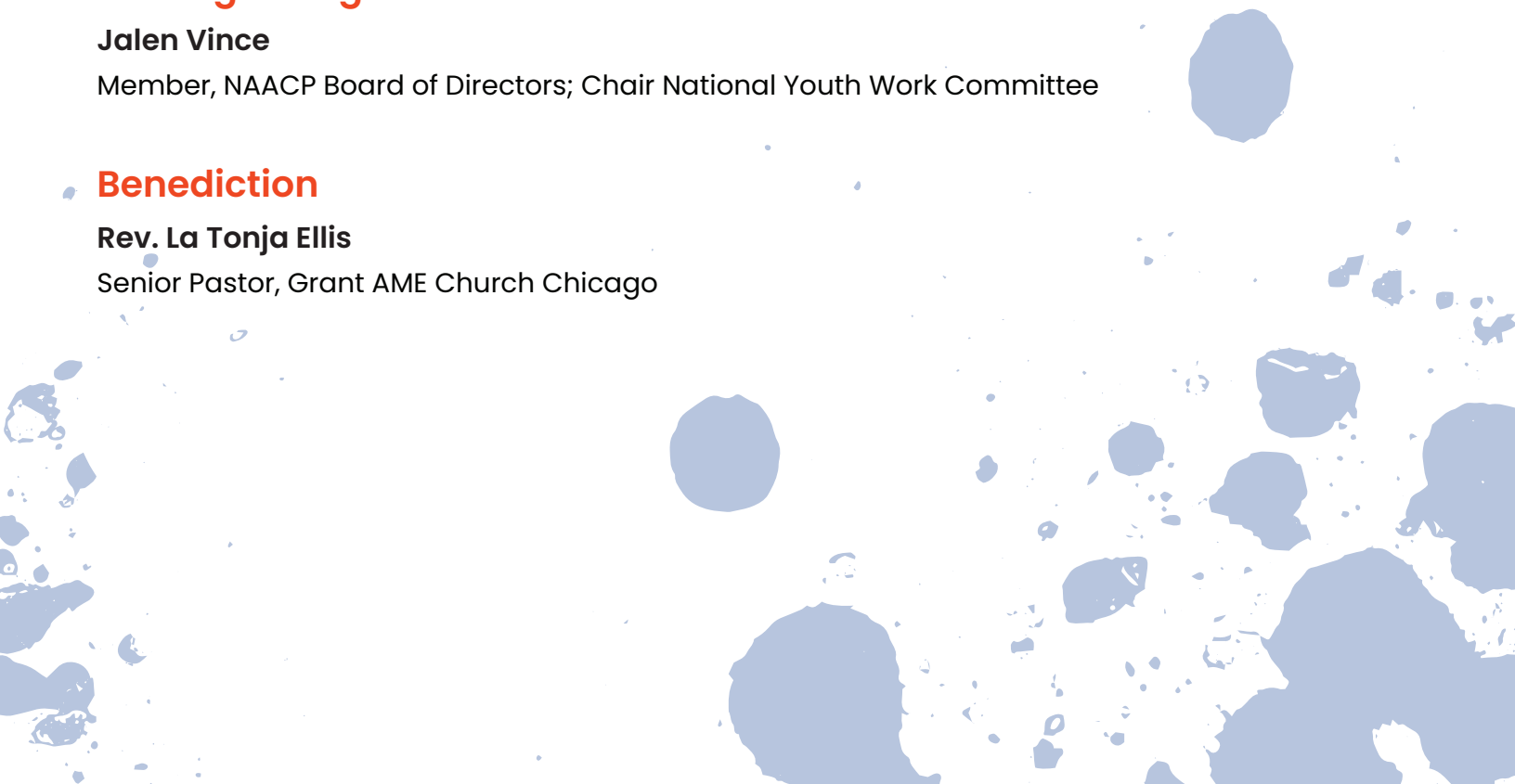
Jalen Vince

Member, NAACP Board of Directors; Chair National Youth Work Committee

Benediction

Rev. La Tonja Ellis

Senior Pastor, Grant AME Church Chicago



WENDY RAQUEL ROBINSON

Producer, Philanthropist, Actress & Director



Wendy Raquel Robinson is a two-time Emmy Award-winning producer, philanthropist, actress, director, and NAACP Image Award recipient, known for her groundbreaking portrayals of ambitious, dynamic women across television and film. A cum laude graduate of Howard University, where she honed her artistic skills in acting, directing, writing, producing, and choreographing, Wendy is widely regarded as one of the most talented and respected artists in the entertainment industry. She continues to pursue excellence as an artist, scholar, and mentor, while serving as Co-Founder and Artistic Director of the NAACP Theatrical Award-winning non-profit organization, Amazing Grace Conservatory (AGC).

Now in its 29th year, AGC remains a cornerstone of arts education in Los Angeles, providing performing, media, and digital arts opportunities for youth and young adults.

Wendy is best known as the no-nonsense diva principal 'Regina Grier' on The Steve Harvey Show for six seasons. She made television history as the first African American actress to portray Disney's iconic villain Cruella De Vil in Descendants, directed by Kenny Ortega. She also made history portraying the feisty, savvy mom-manager and mogul 'Tasha Mack' on the groundbreaking dramedy The Game for an unprecedented 11 seasons.

Continuing her dynamic presence on screen, Wendy is featured on Uncensored, where she offers a candid and deeply personal look at her life, career, and journey in Hollywood. She also returns in the final season of the cultural phenomenon The Chi, recurring as Riley Dalton.

Wendy is no stranger to television, having been a series regular on ABC's Grand Hotel, executive produced by Eva Longoria, and TV One's Here We Go Again, along with recurring roles on the CBS sitcom Poppa's House, ABC's The Mayor, HBO's Insecure, and Netflix's Family Reunion and Dear White People. Her additional film credits include Flatliners, Miss Congeniality, Something New, Rebound, We Can Play That Game, and Remember Me: The Mahalia Jackson Story. Expanding her creative footprint behind the camera, Wendy made her directorial debut with the BET film Who's Cheating Who and followed it with Operation Aunties for ALLBLK.

With her incandescent personality and vivacious spirit, Wendy has received numerous national awards and honors for her philanthropy, community impact, and entrepreneurial leadership through AGC, which was named one of California's Nonprofits of the Year. For nearly three decades, AGC has touched, moved, and inspired thousands of young people, including notable alumni such as Issa Rae, Ashton Sanders, and Aldis Hodge.

A dynamic force both in front of and behind the camera, Wendy Raquel Robinson continues to build a legacy defined by excellence, cultural impact, and a steadfast commitment to uplifting the next generation through storytelling and the arts.

EVERETT KELLEY

William "Bill Lucy" Legacy Award Honoree



Everett Kelley is the national president of the American Federation of Government Employees, which is the largest union representing federal and D.C. government employees. He began his first term of service as national president in February 2020, was elected to another term during the 42nd National Convention in June 2022, and was reelected during the 43rd National Convention in August 2024. Everett Kelley has been a member of AFGE since 1981. He worked at Anniston Army Depot and retired from there after 30 years of service.

A native of Goodwater, Ala., Kelley attended Sylacauga High School and enlisted in the U.S. Army after graduation, serving in active duty for three years and as a member of the Army Reserves for eight years. Following his enlisted service, Kelley completed an Associate in Arts degree at Central Alabama Community College, matriculated to Selma University, and earned a Bachelor of Theology and Master of Theology at Rushing Springs School of Theology.

For his unyielding commitment to social justice, civil rights, and workers' rights, Kelley was awarded the AFL-CIO's Eyes on the Prize Award during the 2022 AFL-CIO Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Civil and Human Rights Conference.

Kelley has received numerous awards recognizing his leadership and commitment to AFGE members and the labor movement, including the AFL-CIO's Eyes on the Prize Award during the 2022 AFL-CIO Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Civil and Human Rights Conference, and the Alabama AFL-CIO's prestigious Labor Person of the Year Award for 2022.

In August 2022, Kelley was appointed by President Biden to serve on the Federal Salary Council, an advisory body that provides recommendations to the administration on the federal employee locality pay program.

Kelley is a published author and has served on numerous boards, including the Alabama Habitat for Humanity; the Economic Development Council of Calhoun County, Ala.; the East Alabama Planning Commission; and the Association of the United States Army. He served as the senior pastor of St. Mary Missionary Baptist Church in Lincoln, Ala., for nearly 32 years before retiring in February 2019 and being appointed pastor emeritus.

Elizabeth "Liz" Powell serves as Secretary-Treasurer of the American Postal Workers Union (APWU), where she oversees the union's financial operations, governance, and member services while providing leadership on constitutional compliance, officer training, scholarships, and organizational development. She made history as the first woman elected to serve as a national executive officer of the APWU, continuing a career defined by breaking barriers and advocating for working people.



A postal worker since 1970, Powell began her career as a clerk in Hempstead, New York, and quickly became active in the union. She served as Chief Shop Steward, Secretary-Treasurer, and later became the first woman elected President of the Hempstead APWU Local. In 1983, she was among the first women elected as a full-time National Business Agent for the Clerk Division, and in 1989 became the first woman elected to the APWU National Executive Board as Northeast Regional Coordinator, representing postal workers across the Northeastern United States and Puerto Rico.

Throughout her decades of leadership, Powell has been a steadfast advocate for workers' rights, collective bargaining, public postal services, and social justice. She has played a key role in contract administration, organizational governance, and strengthening the APWU's capacity to serve its more than 200,000 active and retired members. Her leadership reflects a deep commitment to empowering workers, promoting equity, and ensuring a strong future for the labor movement.

Powell's contributions have been recognized nationally with numerous honors for her leadership in labor and social justice, including the Labor & Social Justice Leadership Award from the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation, the Addie Wyatt Award from the UFCW Minority Coalition, and the World Peace Prize for Labor Leadership.

EIZABETH POWELL
Dr. Annie B. Martin Leadership Award



Benjamin L. Hook "Keeper of the Flame" Award Honorees

James Felton Keith

Founder, InclusionScore

James Felton Keith is an award winning Mechanical Engineer, Labor Economist, and Serial Entrepreneur. Most recently, he Founded InclusionScore, a venture backed InsurTech and lectured on Inclusion Insurance at the University of Georgia's Terry College of Business. As an enterprising international relations leader, he established the first international diversity & inclusion standard under ISO-30415:2021. This effectively reshaped commercial insurance underwriting to incentivize organizations across 163 nations to be culturally inclusive by connecting their employment insurance to an "inclusion score".

Working across government and business, James believes solving real-world challenges requires "the mind of a CEO and the heart of a social worker." After founding the LGBT Chamber of Commerce and launching Pride Nights across the NBA, NHL, MLB, and NFL, he transitioned into public service. He has served in elected officials' cabinets, advised CEOs, academics, diplomats, and nonprofit leaders, and is an elected member of the New York Democratic Committee. James is also a frequent keynote speaker at global events, including the United Nations, Future Tech Congress, Data Protection World Forum, and World Pride Human Rights Forum.



Benjamin L. Hook "Keeper of the Flame" Award Honorees

Joseph Maceo George

President, North Florida Central Labor Council

Joseph Maceo George is a labor leader, civil rights advocate, and champion for working families. Throughout his career, he has dedicated himself to advancing worker protections, strengthening communities, and ensuring that the pursuit of economic justice and civil rights remains inseparable.

George has spent decades advocating for dignity, fairness, and opportunity for working people. From his service in the United States Navy to his groundbreaking leadership as the first Black President of the North Florida Central Labor Council, he has consistently broken barriers and created pathways for greater inclusion and representation within the labor movement.

George's impact extends beyond the workplace through his decades of civic and political engagement. As the first Black President of the North Florida Central Labor Council, an Executive Board Member of the Florida AFL-CIO, and President of the North Florida Labor Caucus, he has worked to strengthen collective power, advance equitable labor practices, and amplify the voice of working people in shaping public policy.



Benjamin L. Hook "Keeper of the Flame" Award Honorees

James Mapp

Civil Rights Leader

James R. Mapp became active in the NAACP in 1941, beginning a lifetime of service to the fight for racial justice. As a young man, he quickly emerged as a leader within the organization. From 1945 to 1947, he served as President of the Coordinated Youth Councils of Chattanooga, helping mobilize young people in the struggle for equality.

Mapp served on the first Mayor's Bi-racial Committee (1960–65) and the Tennessee Court Modernization Committee (1976–78). He was a founding member of the Tennessee Voters Council and the Unity Group. He ran for several county offices, including County Council, County Registrar, Trustee, and County Commissioner. He also held the 33rd Degree in the United Ancient Free and Accepted Scottish Rite Masons.

Mapp served 16 years as an Agent and Assistant Manager with North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company and one year as Manager for Union Protective Life Insurance Company. In 1964, he opened the James R. Mapp General Insurance Agency, which operated for many years. He later worked as a Housing Planner, where he played a key role in passing Chattanooga's Open Housing Ordinance. In 1990, he opened Mapp and Associates Realty, which continued until 2015.



Benjamin L. Hook "Keeper of the Flame" Award Honorees

Donna Waddell

Vice President & Central/ Southwest Virginia Regional Director,
UFCW Local 400

Before coming on staff at Local 400, Donna worked as a quality auditor for one of the largest Textile companies in the United States: Dan River Mills Inc. in Danville, Virginia. Donna was the chief steward in her Department for 18 years. Seven of those years were with Textile Workers Union Local 248 before they merged with UFCW Local 400 in 1995.

Donna is an active member of the community in several organizations, including the Danville local chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) and the Pittsylvania County NAACP, where she served as the Freedom Fund Chair for several years. Donna is also an elected member At-Large for the Virginia State Conference of the NAACP and serves on the National Board of Directors for the SCLC. Donna is the Vice President of Faces of Our Children, where she oversees the headquarters in Danville. Donna is also a member of the UFCW Minority Coalition.

At Local 400, in addition to her role as Vice President, she serves as Regional Director for Plants & Central & Southern VA. Before her current role, Donna served briefly as the Representative for Southern Maryland. Donna loves God and enjoys singing, cooking, and planning events. Her motto is "LOVE is an action word!"



Benjamin L. Hook "Keeper of the Flame" Award Honorees

André Washington

Special Assistant to the Executive Director, OAPSE / AFSCME

André J. Washington started his labor career at the University of Michigan Medical Center, AFSCME Local 1583 where he worked for 13 years before being hired as an organizer for AFSCME Council 25 in Detroit, Michigan. He helped organize the Detroit Medical Center's hospitals. In 2000, André was hired by the Ohio Association of Public School Employees as a Field Representative in the Toledo area where he negotiated for 17 locals. In 2012, André received a promotion to OAPSE Field Representative/Special Projects Coordinator in Columbus, Ohio, representing over 3,100 employees of the Columbus City School District, where his primary focus is on labor arbitration and being the Chief Negotiator. André attended Wayne State University for the labor study two-year program and is a graduate of the George Meany National Labor College with a Bachelor's Degree in Labor Studies. André Washington has been a member of many community and labor organizations during his labor career. In January of 2021, Mr. Washington was elected Vice Chair of the Ohio Democratic Party. He is a lifetime member of the NAACP and was recently elected to serve as the NAACP Ohio State Conference 2nd Vice President. André is an active member of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU), the League of Women Voters, pride@work, Ohio State Voice Table, the Central Ohio Labor Council, Labor Council for Latino American Advancement, and the Ohio Unity Coalition. André is the father of two sons, Chris and Derick. He attends the Travelers Rest Missionary Baptist Church in Columbus. He is passionate about working with minorities and underserved communities, educating, encouraging, and empowering people to be the best they can possibly be. His passion and dedication have him involved in many organizations. He currently serves as Midwest Regional Representative and Ohio State President of the A. Philip Randolph Institute (APRI), overseeing 10 states.

NAACP National Labor Committee

Robin Williams, Chair
Claude Cummings, Vice Chair
Joseph Cotton
Rev. Dr. Theresa A. Dear
Kenny Diggs
Fedrick Ingram
Kyra Mitchell
Elizabeth Powell
Rebecca Pringle

Fred Redmond
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Regena Thomas
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Randi Weingarten
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