

## CELEBRATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS

*Georgia Barkley  
Mary Broadway  
Eugenia Browning  
Rhonda Farrell Butler  
Karen Cork  
Sharon Floyd  
Joyce Harvin  
Ruth Ann Knapp  
Sylvia McAfee  
Debbie Mack  
Terry Pruitt  
Fontella Smith  
Rubie White  
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.,  
Saginaw Alumnae Chapter*



# THANK YOU



## President Leola Wilson

**20 Years of Leadership Excellence  
50 Years in the Fight for Equality  
NAACP Saginaw Branch  
NAACP State & National Family  
And  
The Greater Saginaw Community**

**Sunday, January 13, 2019  
Appreciation Reception - 1:00 P.M.  
Celebration Program - 2:30 P.M.  
Horizons Conference Center  
6200 State Street - Saginaw, MI**



## About the Honoree

Leola Wilson served as president of the NAACP Saginaw Branch, second largest in the State of Michigan for twenty years. A Saginaw native, she's been a member of the nation's oldest civil rights organization for 50 years, serving as assistant secretary, secretary before becoming Branch president in 1998. Leola's legacy in the fight for equality led the local branch to partner with local churches; the National PanHellenic Council, League of Women Voters, UAW and other organizations who pursue the mission of the NAACP to ensure the political, educational, social, economic equality and to eliminate racial discrimination. To this end, Leola Wilson has been a strong advocate for those who were discriminated against, fought for those who suffered injustices, educated voters in the political process and fought to enforce the laws that secure the civil rights of all persons. She is Diamond Life Member of the NAACP. Her commitment to the organization led her to serve as area director of the Michigan State Conference and as Michigan State Treasurer. She received Michigan's NAACP President of the Year Award and served on the nominating committee of the National Board of Directors. Mrs. Wilson was instrumental in organizing and leading a delegation of Saginaw's youth to compete in the NAACP National ACT-SO (Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics).

Mrs. Wilson is a member of Zion Missionary Baptist Church where she is active in a member of church ministries including the Sunday school department and the Caring Hands and Quality of Life Ministries. She received an associate degree in Social Work from Delta College and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Community Development from Central Michigan University. Leola is a retired Social Worker from the State of Michigan and during her career she was a union steward and was also a charter member of the Saginaw Black Social Workers.

She's the mother of seven children (five sons and two daughters), fifteen grand-children and eight Great-Grandchildren.

Leola Wilson's activism, knowledge, service and compassion for education led to her appointment by former Governor Jennifer Granholm to the Board of Control (2005-2013) at Saginaw Valley State University. She served on former Lieutenant Governor Cherry's Statewide Task Force on the Future of Higher Education in Michigan. In 2016, she received the Distinguished Service Award, Saginaw Valley State University's most prestigious award for a community member and she remains involved as a member of the SVSU Diversity Council.

Wilson's involvement, other achievements and honors are numerous, but include:

- 1975-Present, First African American and second woman to serve on the Saginaw Intermediate School Board as a trustee and past president
- ISD board representative for the Parent Policy Committee of the ISD's Head Start Program
- Serves on the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Regional Scholarship Committee
- Serves as member of the Saginaw County Community Mental Health Board
- Member of the Saginaw City Human Planning Commission
- Member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Saginaw Alumnae Chapter
- Member of the League of Women Voters & AAUW (American Association of University Women)
- Charter Member, Saginaw Habitat for Humanity and past chair of the Family Selection Committee
- Recipient of the Delta College "Spirit of Willie E. Thompson Multicultural Community Service Award".
- Recipient of Wolverine State Baptist Convention United Sisterhood for Religious Community Service
- Recipient of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Zeta Omega Zeta Chapter — Woman of the Year Award
- Recipient of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Eta Upsilon Omega Chapter - Mother of the Year Award
- Recipient of SAVALT Leadership Institute Lifetime Leadership Award



## PROGRAM

### LEOLA WILSON APPRECIATION RECEPTION

January 13, 2019

Judge Terry Clark & Joyce Seals, Masters of Ceremonies

#### OPENING PRAYER

*Dr. Roosevelt Austin, Pastor Emeritus Zion Missionary Baptist Church*

#### WELCOME

*Vanessa Guerra, 95<sup>th</sup> District Michigan State Representative*

*Floyd Kloc, Mayor City of Saginaw*

*Michael Webster, Chair Saginaw County Board of Commissioners*

#### REMARKS

*State and Regional NAACP Representatives*

*Pastor Rodrick Smith, Zion Missionary Baptist Church*

*Eric Gilbertson, Ph.D., President Emeritus Saginaw Valley State University*

*Kathy Stewart, Superintendent Saginaw Intermediate School District*

*Karen L. Lawrence Webster, President*

*Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated Saginaw Alumnae Chapter*  
*Odail Thorns, Chair Freedom Fund Program NAACP Saginaw Branch*

*Carl Williams, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President NAACP Executive Committee*

*Rasul Abdullah, Brother of Leola Wilson*

*Susann Wilson Moody, Daughter of Leola Wilson*

*Alliecia L. Butler, Granddaughter of Leola Wilson*

#### PRESENTATION

*Terry Pruitt, President NAACP Saginaw Branch*

*Ruth Ann Knapp, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President NAACP Saginaw Branch*

#### APPRECIATION

*Leola Wilson, Honoree*

#### BENEDICTION

*Reverend Roy L. Manning, Pastor Corinthian Baptist Church*  
*President Wolverine State Missionary Baptist Church Convention*