

Q-VISIONS FALL 2017

EDITOR'S NOTE:

“May you live in interesting times” is purported to be a traditional Chinese curse . . . and these days it fits! This edition focuses on two things: RESISTANCE to the current administration, and our family being Together and Strong at our gatherings.

PRESS RELEASE

The National Association of Black and White Men Together condemns the white supremacy that claimed three additional lives this weekend and the terrorism that engulfed a community and a nation.

As gay men committed to social justice, we are also appalled by the lack of moral leadership and lack of empathy for the targets and victims of domestic terrorism by groups and individuals motivated by hate and bigotry at the highest levels of our national leadership.

As men against racism we condemn the agenda on which President Trump ran as a candidate and is pursuing in office—an agenda so clearly racist and xenophobic that it has once again been endorsed by David Duke, a man President Trump has never repudiated.

We as Black and White men committed to fostering supportive environments where in racial and cultural barriers can be overcome and the goal of equality realized we call on the President to:

- Denounce in unequivocal terms white supremacy and white nationalist movements.
- Declare that racism is a national crisis and declare a state of emergency to address the crisis.
- Call on white Americans to take the lead to confront racism in their communities.
- Fire White House aide Steve Bannon.
- Convene a series of meetings with leaders of social justice organizations to confront the topic of racism.
- Mr. President, subtlety is not your strong suit. The days of tolerance of racism, bigotry, and hate are over and the response of the President should not be subtle.



I know you are tired... Injustice is not new and it's not going away.

By Ken Scott Baron Editor and Media Committee Co Chair.

At our 2017 Convention my husband and I showed a slide suggesting a pathway from “White Guilt and Black Pride”. The concept was a hope that a new generation would not be burdened with the history of US racism and allow this passage. We are seeing new gems of movements that can do this.

However, nowadays we still here in a dominant culture where another unarmed Black man has been shot or killed by the police. We live in a political culture with an establishment about to rescind the safety of undocumented immigrants brought here by their parents when they were young.

The evidence is in: Blacks and whites are treated differently, from young to old, from profiling to frisking, and from sentencing to paroling.

Some would like to take a rest, sleep as it were. However, we are a progressive organization that should be in the moment and we cannot forget this. Whether you have been with us for 30 years or 30 years, you must stay the course.

Perhaps you have faith, and I respect that, but resigning yourself to a God that will fix everything in a new life is not in the moment. Some people want to divert the conversation on this issue to attacking the “messenger”, thus:

- BLM is anti police (wrong)
- BLM is racist and means they matter more (false)
- BLM forgets Black on Black crime (wrong)

Let it be known that BLM fights for “justice for Black people and, by extension, all people.

Back to the moment, Matthew 25:45 “whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you do not for me”. This will only change when all of us, especially those with the weight of white privilege, demand the current system change.

An analogy is useful here, Racism is not like an infection, where antibiotics can “cure” it. Racism is chronic, like HIV or diabetes, it need not be debilitating, it can be addressed. Go out and address, testify and fight racism.

NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

“Together Strong”

JOIN US!



Board of Directors



THE NEW NA BOARD MEMBERS

From Left to Right

Top Row: Scott Duty and Gavin Morrow Hall (Co Chairs) and Colin Gibson

Second Row: Mark Behar, Doug Reynolds, Demetrius Mack and Preston Schumaker

Third Row: Ken Scott Baron, Del Korte, Darry Fore, and Christopher Bates

Fourth Row: Michael Boone, Olle Lee Taylor, Kelvin McAdory, and Robert Graham.

Newark Pride Alliance

Submitted by

James Credle, Founding Member of Newark Pride Alliance and Lifetime Achievement Awardee

Trump hijacked the scene in 2008 spouting his birther racist rhetoric regarding Presidential Candidate Barack Obama. Given the state of racism within the Republican Party and this nation during President Obama's era, at best, there was a tepid rebuke of Trump's ludicrous remarks and their attendant history. We must remember that even in most troubling days, when his cries of racism directed at Muslims were loudest, the outcry against him by most Americans remained low key or nonexistent. Now, only after the racist attack, why than should we only say where were you? Did you not see this man for who he is? Did you not believe his racism extended to Jews and others whom he believed did not go along with his world view? We can not wait until the Klansmen pull off their robes and openly march, or when Nazis openly seek annihilation of the Jews or when the Alt Right marches in white supremacist arrogance in shirts and ties or t-shirts and jeans to join the march against them. For over eight years the Republican Party and many (white) so called Americans with lukewarm responses allowed this man to spew hatred against Obama. Even now that the response has grown louder, Republicans are still allowing the "Justice Us" department to selectively act on issues that negatively impact African Americans and other racial groups. Let us add to the chorus our response that we will fight harder and more vigorously against all aspects of the Trump administration's racist actions by also reminding the Republican Party that they can no longer hide behind him or his rhetoric by condoning actions that will keep them in power.



Let's watch each others' back by making sure our supporters actively join the struggle.....

First time NABWT Convention Experience: Ft Lauderdale 2017

Submitted by Kelvin Scruggs

Picture it, Ft Lauderdale... 2017 when I attended my first NABWMT convention..." I cannot resist channelling Sophia from the Golden Girls as I write about my first NABWMT convention. My best friend that I haven't seen in a few years talked me into making the trip from the West Coast. I truly didn't know what to expect. After all, I know my friend all too well.

Everyone was welcoming. I was bombarded with smiles and warm greetings. Throughout the convention I met people that shared laughs, stories of their life experiences and previous conventions. I didn't feel like a stranger trying to break through the ice. Instead, I was among friends that I haven't met before.

The schedule was a balanced mix of social and informative events. I enjoyed hearing about NABWMT's rich history of civil activism and current activities. There was a moving excursion to the World AIDS Museum and Educational Center, breakfast on the beach, No-talent Talent Show, motivational speakers, and time to make individual or group plans. Local chapter members hosted a BBQ along with other events and helped provide transportation. There were many events to attend and something for everyone.

If you enjoy fine cuisine or getting your hands covered in BBQ sauce, there were some amazing meals. The BBQ with sides of collard greens, mac & cheese, and corn bread was so good I wanted to go "slap my mamma." I didn't of course. My mom is ole school and holds the key to time travel. She would have knocked me into the middle of next week. The luncheon and dinner hosted by NABWMT were elegant and the menu was far above my expectations.

The Golden Girls theme song sums up the friendship and camaraderie that I experience at the Ft. Lauderdale convention. I'm looking forward to the upcoming conventions in Reno, NV (2018) and Washington, DC (2019). Hope to see you there. Thank you all for being a friend.



Evolving and Investing to Create New Brave Spaces for Action

It has been both an honor and a joy to serve as your national co-chairs this past year.

While there is much work to do, there is much that we all can feel good about being part of the National Association of Black and White Men Together.

When we decided to run for chair at the Memphis Convention, our first goal was to reinvigorate and recommit the organization to social justice. In an era where interracial meeting is as easy as turning on your phone, we had to ask a question what relevancy does an organization called Black and White Men Together have, if not for a commitment to social justice?

To that end, we engaged and partnerships with both local and national organizations who share a commitment to equality by reintroducing and in some cases introducing our organization to organizations like Black Lives Matter, Equality Pennsylvania, Southern Poverty Law Center, and the Human Rights Campaign.

Re-concept BMISJ for today. How will our messages be consumed in today's environment? To that end, with the leadership of the committee, we developed an app called Resist Racism that ask participants how would they respond when confronted by racist behaviors.

We also created environments to begin and continue dialogues wherein members can supporters of the organization can discuss the intersectionality of race and sexuality in our lives.

We also wanted to reconnect with members who have drifted away. One way of doing this was created a database of members and supporters of the organization so that we could engage in more frequent and hopefully more meaningful discussions. Please take a moment and email your: name, address, mobile phone, email address and birthday to nabwmt@nabwmt.org.

Speaking of members, we are re-conceptualizing what it means to be a member of this organization by honoring those who have been support-

ive of our organization through attendance at national meetings or through their financial contributions. Previously to be a member required a \$30 specifically towards membership. If you take your time and energy to be part of NABWMT your commitment will be recognized as a member. In our second year, we will focus on evolving and investing in our organization and in our membership. For example, invest in leadership development to seed the next organizational leaders. We have a Board that is dynamic with some new energy and new faces as well as some seasoned folks who have recommitted to our cause. Evolve and invest in NABWMT roles. We have hired a convention manager that will work with the Board in developing our annual conventions.

We will also look to consultants to assist and

guide with our media initiatives, including the launch of moderated personal ads on our website.

While we have always tried to provide safe spaces for us to explore and grow, Now is the time to build on our momentum by being a brave organization.

An organization committed to resisting racism and fighting for social justice. Join us: Be bold, be Brave, Be part of the NABWMT



Co Chairs Gavin and Scott

NABWMT Convention: Ft Lauderdale 2017 Summary

Christopher Bates, formerly of BWMT Washington, DC keynoted the event at the Saturday evening climactic banquet. He focused on the need for “Activism in the Post-Obama Era”.

Bates recalled that in 1984 there were legislative filings relative to anti-GLBT Events. Five filings claiming discrimination were made. Three were won. The cash awards from the successful claims resulted in the funding of a discrimination response system. “This organization caused that to happen. I’ll always be thankful for that.”

As several in the audience groaned, Bates stated that “Good things don’t last forever.

We’ve got a fight ahead of us folks! You never miss your water until the well runs dry.” Reaching a closing crescendo, Bates referred to Simon Nikole. “Do all you can do with what you have and do all you can. Wave you hand, lift your voice. Shout out...Change! Change! Change! Peace out!”



Reinventing Black and White Men Together is the workshop **Colin Gibson** presented. It was developed based on a similar model used in the Episcopal Church. Gibson began by asking “What does a rich, white protestant congregation formed in 1835 have in common with NABWMT?” He identified four points.

1) A history of conflict; 2) a membership in decline; 3) relying on an endowment principal to cover operating costs; and 4) anxiety for the future.

As for the optics of NABWMT, Gibson described them as “good and bad”. Recent pictures show us all as old. Like GMCLA, our brotherhood goes back decades.” He stated that NABWMT “wasn’t (and isn’t) structured to offer services to individuals.” Gibson noted the decline at the chapter level akin to a “Sisyphean task in which the rock ultimately gets the better of Sisyphus.”

The chapter model was seen as viable. How can we help chapters serve their traditional functions? “Historically, chapter social events have been important both to meet new friends, lovers and sex partners and socialize with existing friends. Are we still comfortable with sexual attraction as energy behind interracial community? Could chapters be reinvented around re-imagined social events? Continuing, Gibson explored organizational ‘nuts and bolts’. “There is no substitute for excellence. There is no excuse for mediocrity. For reinvention: Get the right people”.

Convention Summary (Cont.)

James Law, a historical fiction author, told of Homosexual Relationships from the Civil War to Now.

He focused on interracial homosexual relationships, past and present; slavery and its impact on Intimacy between black men and white men: and, challenges facing present-day homosexual Interracial relationships. Law's presentation outline touched upon theories on race relations, early examples of sodomy laws, the concepts and characters of his novel, Wilmington Manor, and a comparison and contrast of historical and current events developing

A Thursday luncheon featured former co-chairs **Mack and Ken Scott-Baron** (Long Beach, CA). This pair of educators are founders of Black and White Men Together Southern California and told of how teaching and learning interactions of children and adults have changed through the years and how movements have developed. Guidance was offered on moving away from "white guilt" and "black anger."

The Scott-Barons told of African-American exhibits in Los Angeles with perspectives on where we are today and changes that need to occur to unify ourselves. They exhorted the need to "learn and listen. Mistakes are inevitable. So, enjoy making them. Its the only way to learn.

The Friday luncheon was the co-chair's luncheon. The core program features during this meal was the revealing of the new NABWMT Anti-racism APP. (Yes, there's an APP for that!)

Key persons working on getting the APP in service include former co-chair **Mark P. Behar, Director Demetrius Mack (both of Milwaukee, WI), co-chair Gavin Morrow-Hall** and Emmy Award winning actor **Tim Carter**.

An annual membership meeting takes place at NABWMT conventions. On Thursday afternoon 3 August co-chairs Scott Duty (Odenton, ND) and Gavin Morrow-Hall (San Francisco) reported "an active and eventful year" since the previous year's convention in Memphis. With much work remaining, the Board of Director had "been active in fulfilling our Statement of Purpose big and small."

The "Madame X No-talent/Talent Show" is a festive time of joy. It also acts as a feel good fund raiser for the organization.

Editor's Note: This article is abstracted from a complete summary by **Ollie Lee Taylor**. The complete document can be found at the following link:

nabwmt.org/docs/NABWMT-Convention-Summary.pdf

TEN WAYS TO FIGHT HATE **From the Southern Poverty Law Center**

In these times of dealing with the daily trauma of racism many have asked, what can an organization like NABWMT do to resist the rising tide of white supremacy that plagues our nation. Our friends at the Southern Poverty Law Center have given us some timely reminders and strategies to combat the temptation of complacency.

Hate in America has become commonplace. A presidential candidate wins election after denigrating Muslims, Latinos, women and people with disabilities. A young white man opens fire and kills nine African Americans who welcomed him into Bible study at a church in Charleston, South Carolina, telling his victims, "I have to do it." A Muslim woman is seated on a bench in front of a coffee shop in Washington, D.C., when a woman begins screaming anti-Muslim epithets. A swastika and other anti-Semitic graffiti appear at an elementary school in Stapleton, Colorado. A lone gunman carrying an assault rifle and a handgun storms a well-known gay club in Orlando, Florida, killing 49 people and wounding 53 others. What can we do to STOP THE HATE?



1 ACT

Do something. In the face of hatred, apathy will be interpreted as acceptance by the perpetrators, the public, and — worse — the victims. Community members must take action; if we don't, hate persists.

2 JOIN FORCES

Reach out to allies from churches, schools, clubs, and other civic groups. Create a diverse coalition. Include children, police, and the media. Gather ideas from everyone, and get everyone involved.

3 SUPPORT THE VICTIMS

Hate crime victims are especially vulnerable. If you're a victim, report every incident — in detail — and ask for help. If you learn about a hate crime victim in your community, show support. Let victims know you care. Surround them with comfort and protection.

4 SPEAK UP

Hate must be exposed and denounced. Help news organizations achieve balance and depth. Do not debate hate group members in conflict-driven forums. Instead, speak up in ways that draw attention away from hate, toward unity.

5 EDUCATE YOURSELF

An informed campaign improves its effectiveness. Determine if a hate group is involved, and research its symbols and agenda. Understand the difference between a hate crime and a bias incident.

6 CREATE AN ALTERNATIVE

Do not attend a hate rally. Find another outlet for anger and frustration and for people's desire to do something. Hold a unity rally or parade to draw media attention away from hate.

7 PRESSURE LEADERS

Elected officials and other community leaders can be important allies. But some must overcome reluctance — and others, their own biases — before they're able to take a stand.

8 STAY ENGAGED

Promote acceptance and address bias before another hate crime can occur. Expand your comfort zone by reaching out to people outside your own groups.

9 TEACH ACCEPTANCE

Bias is learned early, often at home. Schools can offer lessons of tolerance and acceptance. Host a diversity and inclusion day on campus. Reach out to young people who may be susceptible to hate group propaganda and prejudice.

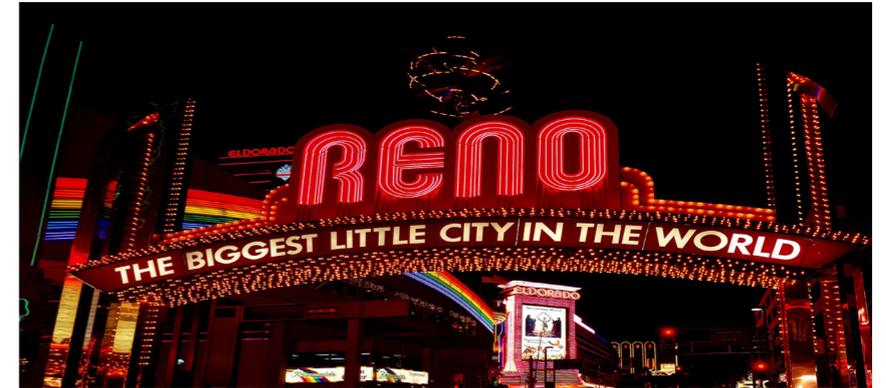
10 DIG DEEPER

Look inside yourself for biases and stereotypes. Commit to disrupting hate and intolerance at home, at school, in the workplace and in faith communities.

TO REGISTER FOR EITHER
CONVENTION OR BOTH
PLEASE VISIT
OUR NEW [WEBSITE](#)

Rockin' our Relationships in The Biggest Little City in the World!

The Eldorado Resort in Reno, NV will be the host hotel, July 18 – 21 of our 2018 Convention. The convention theme is Rockin' our Relationships – relationships with each other, relationships with other social justice organizations and relationships with the gay community.



Work has already begun on the program! We will take advantage of the feedback related to the highly successful – Together Strong – All Hands on Deck in Ft. Lauderdale to make the event even more memorable.

The registration rate is \$175.00 until December 31st.

The guest-room rate at The Eldorado is \$72.00 Sunday through Thursday and \$130.00 Friday and Saturday nights.

Join us in Reno for exciting speakers, insightful workshops and a celebration of our relationships!

2019 Convention is in DC!

At the closing banquet in Ft. Lauderdale, we were so pleased to announce the location for our 2019 convention in Washington, DC!

The Hilton Crystal City (across the river from DC) will be the host hotel, July 31 – August 3, 2019. Come to the nation's Capital to see the new African-American Museum and many other attractions. A great time will be had by all!

