

QVisions

The National Association of Black and White Men Together

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Memphis Convention Summary

Ollie Lee Taylor and Wendell Reid

The NABWMT staged its 36th annual convention this July in the historic city of Memphis, Tennessee.

The Authors

Ollie Lee Taylor is the NABWMT contract assistant and Wendell Reid is a Board Member

Educational highlights included a session exploring the future relative to the meaning of marriage. David and Tre'Darrius Anderson, natives of Memphis, TN were present to share what it is like to be the USA's "youngest married same-sex couple" after they met on Twitter in 2010.

Novelist Jayce Baron, creator and executive director of LGBT's Kiss & Tell Networks, shared personal impressions of being an openly gay black man raised in the first family of a Baptist church. Baron uses the motto "people are my passion" to broaden the mindset of society and moderate the personal journey to self-discovery.

Plenary sessions tried to link historical social justice actions of NABWMT with current social action, particularly Black Lives Matter movement. University of Florida sociologist Kendal Broad-Wright, who has studied NABWMT history in social justice action, noted that NABWMT was successful in taking on anti-gay racism including helping to create an integrated gay community with Afro-centric sensibilities and helping to develop anti-racism consciousness building. Memphis-based social activist Tami Sawyer, who has an affiliation with the Black Lives Matter, cited a current shooting of a LGBTQ youth in Memphis, and how it has galvanized the black and LGBT communities. Sawyer made us aware of a community meeting that was to take place Saturday afternoon, and several NABWMT members attended.

The annual co-chair's luncheon provided for an enlightening report from Mark Salva, a Senior Community Specialist for Gilead Sciences. He told of "Understanding Hepatitis C."

Social activities included a tour and dinner at the National Civil Rights Museum. We also viewed the documentary, King, A Filmed Record: Montgomery to Memphis. The tour and film elicited emotions, with tears, in a few cases.

We also toured the Memphis's Rock 'n' Soul Museum just off of historic Beale Street. The museum displayed Memphis role in developing and influencing the blues, soul and rock and roll. Cool memorabilia and hands on updates and on-demand recordings were featured.

A buffet Memphis-style barbecue lunch was served for a two hour cruise along the Mississippi on the Island Queen Riverboat. The facsimile of the old river steam crafts set sail from the Beale Street Landing, and we enjoyed the river sights and sounds played by a DJ.



Thursday evening's focal point was the Madame X "No Talent/Talent Show." The festive, feel good fund raiser welcomed any to show off their talents. Twenty acts were offered from drag to singing, and the tunes ranged from gospel, soul, country, contemporary pop, R&B, and even classical!

Awards for service included Founder's Awards given to Darryl Williams of BWMT Detroit and Robert Renfro of MACT Denver for their work and energy towards maintaining and building chapters during the past year. A Special Achievement honor was bestowed on Greg Kane of BWMT Atlanta, who wrote to the Governor of Georgia, Nathan Deal (R) relative to opposition to a religious freedom bill which had passed the Georgia legislature. Gaston Djomand, BWMT Atlanta, was awarded for his education to the LGLBT community on health issues through his work with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control. In addition, BWMT Atlanta, was given awards for its Newsletter and a Chapter Action Award for its work involving 1,700 Lost and Found LGBT homeless youth.

The B. Chambers Scholarship Program was offered to Corey Murphy Heldcamp, who received a bachelor's degree in 2014 from Portland (OR) State University. He specialized in studying human rights and has worked with a gay/lesbian archives in the Pacific Northwest while surviving child rape and physical violence. The B. Chambers Scholarship program has given scholarships totaling \$10,000 since its inception.

The NABWMT's highest honor, Lifetime Achievement Awards, were given to Douglas K. Reynolds of Kansas City, MO, who has served as a co-chair for the old Kansas City chapter and for the Midland region, and to Dr. Bruce Menapace (Cleveland Heights, OH) for his work over more than a quarter century has projects dealing with diversity, inclusion and anti-racism, including the Bush-Mallon Institute and LGBTQ support services at Cleveland State University.

Business highlights included the election Gavin Morrow-Hall (San Francisco, CA) and Scott Duty (Odenton, MD) to as 2 year terms as co-chairs beginning October 1, 2016. Morrow-Hall is a thirty-year member and has served a decade on the board of directors. Duty is a member of ten years and has previous service on the board and as a previous co-chair. Directors elected included: Mark P. Behar (Milwaukee, WI), Darryl G. Fore (Cleveland, OH), Delmore Korte (Issaquah, WA) and Demetrius Mack (Milwaukee, WI). The Membership meeting included an update of the NABWMT strategic plan which will be revised and disseminated later this year. A financial summary and membership report were also provided.



2017 Convention Details

Pat Carron

The Author

Pat Carron is a former Board member and 2017 Convention Planning committee member”

The core dates of the convention, are August 3-5 (Thursday-Saturday).in Ft. Lauderdale, FL This is in response to an extensive survey conducted that indicated our members wanted a three day Convention. However, if you are in town Wednesday you can (at no extra cost) you may attend the meeting of the Board of Directors and, or join early arrivals and the Board at dinner..

The host hotel is the Gallery One – A Double Tree Suites Hotel. Every room is a suite with a bedroom, living room, dining room, kitchen and a balcony. Nicely situated on the Intra-Coastal Waterway at Sunrise Boulevard, the hotel, is a few blocks from the beach and oceanfront.

Davis and Tre’Darrius were married in 2013 and possibly America’s youngest African Americans to wed.

Program highlights include a beach breakfast/swim, a second visit from **David and Tre’Darrius Anderson**, a reception at the World AIDS Museum, and a barbecue pool party.

For those extending their stay in Fort Lauderdale, contact Patrick Carron about Kayak tours, Everglade air boat tours (very close-- less than a 20 minute drive), and South Beach excursions on August 2 and 6. He can be reached at (954) 565-2887. You can register for the convention at nabwmt2017.org

Thursday-Saturday features plenaries with lunches Thursday and Friday and a banquet Saturday evening. Other events include an evening Regional reception, and a visit to the World AIDS Museum in the LGBT oriented suburb of Wilton Manors.

Other possible events are:

- The Stonewall Museum
- P.J.’s Interracial Lounge
- The Fort Lauderdale African American Library.

Our theme, **Together Strong: All Hands on Deck!** was chosen with twin thoughts in mind. There is a need for the LGBTQ community and allies to join in opposition with forces to oppose legislation and movements that seek to undermine and counter recent hard won gains made through gay/lesbian marriage, societal respect and recognition. We need to accomplish additional goals with respect to employment discrimination, public safety and public health.

Our strategic plan seeks to build the membership base and offer chapter and community support for the well being and fiscal stature of NABWMT in accordance with the statement of purpose. In other words, we must enhance our critical mass.

[Register for Convention 2017](#)

[Hotel Information](#)

If you wish a print copy of the Registration form, contact:
kbaron@nabwmt.org



Creating Our Future, New Cochairs

Scott Duty and Gavin Morrow-Hall

We are both excited and thrilled to serve as Co-Chairs of the National Association of Black and Men Together at this critical juncture in our organization and in our country. We will be Creating Our Future **Together**.



Our organization was created to form “supportive environments where in racial and cultural barriers can be overcome in the goal of human equality realized.” We, as an organization and as a country have made great strides towards those goals. Marriage equality is the law of the land and deemed constitutional. Gay men and lesbians can serve openly and proudly in our military. More people in the United States have access to healthcare than ever before. New rates of HIV infection are a fraction of what they were just 10 years ago, and there are treatments that extend the lifespan of those living with HIV that are nearly equal to those who are HIV negative. There are now common medications taken by hundreds of thousands around the world that effectively prevent 99.99% of new HIV infections. The CEO of Apple is openly gay. Yet with all of these strides, one need only look at today’s headlines to realize that our work is not done, and our mission has not been achieved.

“..we will be reconnecting with members who have drifted away from the organization as well as reach out to individuals who share our passion and our interest who have yet to formally join us.”

In so many ways an organization like Black and White Men Together has never been more relevant or more needed in our communities.

This is why we pledge our administration to actively and consistently focus on social justice and racial equality. We want to galvanize our membership, those who are interested in the organization who have yet to join, and those who shared interest in our values to be leaders and agents of change in our communities and our nation.

We will do this both on the ground, in our chapter meetings, regional meetings and national gatherings. We will also do this online through discussions on our YouTube channel, through discussions on Facebook and on our website. We will do this by speaking up for equality and speaking out against injustice.

The entirety of work of our organization cannot be done by a 15 member board of directors alone, nor can it be done by the current existing paid national membership alone. That is why we will be reconnecting with members who have drifted away from the organization as well as reach out to individuals who share our passion and our interest who have yet to formally join us.

We are calling on all to help us make NABWMT a safe place for action for the betterment of all of us.

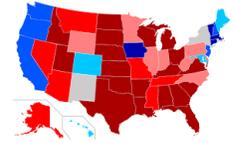
Please join us in creating our future TOGETHER.

Finance Downfall of LGBT Discrimination

Robert Graham.

The Author

Robert Graham is a NA
Board Member



According to the Williams Institute research, Mississippi's House Bill 1523, which went into effect on July 1, 2016, permits discrimination against LGBT people based on religious or moral beliefs. According to the research, the law will have a negative impact on more than 60,000 LGBT individuals who live within state, including 11,500 transgender youth and adults and 3,500 same-sex couples. This will have a drastic effect on LGBT people of color (approximately 52% of the LGBT community) and those raising families (approximately 44 percent of the LGBT community) in the state of Mississippi. The passing of this House Bill comes as somewhat of a shock considering that 75 percent of Mississippi residents support protections from discrimination for LGBT people, according to recent polls.

The State does not understand the negative effect discrimination towards same-sex couples have on the economy. A recent study, conducted by The Williams Institute, found that marriages by approximately 123,000 same-sex couples, in the last year, generated over \$1.58 billion in revenue for the national economy and approximately \$102 million in state and local sales tax revenue since the U.S. Supreme Court's decision extending marriage equality nationwide in June 2015.

"discrimination against the LGBT community can have a drastically negative effect on the whole community"

The Williams Institute study estimated the impact of those marriages on the national economy, state and local sales tax revenue, and job creation. Some key findings from their report based on an analysis done by former Williams Institute Research Director Gary J. Gates:

- The \$1.58 billion in total spending on the 123,000 marriages included \$1.35 billion in direct wedding spending by the couples and \$228 million in spending by out-of-state guests.
- The \$102 million in economic boost to state and local taxes benefited 46 states. This spending could support an estimated 18,900 jobs for one full year.

Based on this study, it's clear to see that discrimination against the LGBT community can have a drastically negative effect on the whole community. The passing of House Bill 1523 illustrates that there are still a few people out there who will cause harm to all in an effort to harm a few. Some would rather see the economy crash before they will let people be who they are and live their own lives. We need to always continue the fight toward full equality because the "war" is still going on today.

All information in this article was provided by The Williams Institute, UCLA School of Law.

To access the full report, please visit the website: <http://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/research/estimating-the-economic-impact-of-marriage-for-same-sex-couples-one-year-after-obergefell/>.

The Winds of Change for NABWMT

Ken Scott Baron

The Author
Ken Scott-Baron is a
former NA Co-Chair

We are always in the throes of change, and for NABWMT this is no exception as we are a 30 plus year old organization and undergoing change. Despite this, we have a central theme that seems to drive us slowly along.

Likewise the situation in the country is in a state of flux. African Americans used to vote with the Party of Lincoln. The GOP was for Emancipation during Reconstruction. Today, it's almost the exact opposite. The GOP seems less interested in putting people's rights before corporate rights, My husband (a proud Black man) often asks "why would a Black person even vote for a Republican?"

Today, there is more of a social and political split than ever, and the winds of change move even more dramatically. The baby boomers are being surpassed by the millennials. The former have been brought up in an era where the United States was overwhelmingly white. Yes, they were pacifists for the most part and shocked by the brutality that led to the Civil Rights Act, but today some of this group are feeling that their paradise has been lost. They are feeling battered by the headwinds of the digital era and are possibly less educated than the younger generation.



The current generation of Democrats are relatively open minded and educated but make no mistake there are many Democrats that feel the Government has let them down and distrust the Government.

So back to the NABWMT. Our membership trusts (but likes to verify) social structures including the prison industrial complex. We are for an open and bigot free society that welcomes all cultures and sexual expressions and identities. But are we ready for change?

It is true that our membership is aging and we make an effort to attract folks (heck we have over 12,000 Facebook followers!) but this is going to be a hard slog. There is a way forward; for example, I am always struck with the earnestness of our brown brothers to belong to a multicultural society, and yet we tend to focus on Black Lives. Surely we have the capacity to embrace all people at the margins.

Another example: we struggle with the question: are we a social, educational, or a political group? In my opinion, we are outwardly social nowadays, but in our soul and hearts we are all three. So here is my advice for what it is worth. Embrace the change, seek to socialize with all, educate our friends and allies about "All or None", and please dig into today's politics for it is not the politics of your father's and mother's.

As Bob Dylan said in earlier times "Times, they are a changing".

Or as Macklemore sings:

"Gender to skin color, the complexion of your pigment
The same fight that led people to walk outs and sit ins
It's human rights for everybody, there is no difference!"



Chapter and Regional News

Rick Gile-Creque

Phila Outfest/Coming Out Day

Sunday October 9 at noon

check their website for details

<https://sites.google.com/site/mactphila/>

The Author
Rick Gile-Creque is
a former NA Board
member

4th Annual West Coast Regional

Black and White Men Together of Southern California & Men of All Colors Phoenix are heading back to Phoenix for 2016 and extending an invitation to members of NABWMT. The event starts Oct 14-16, 2016. Please contact Kelvin McAdory for more detail. Calblkbear@yahoo.com.

BWMT Atlanta 35th Anniversary

BWMT-ATLANTA
35TH ANNIVERSARY

Let's Party Like It's 1981!!!

Join BWMT-Atlanta as we celebrate our 35th Anniversary.
As one of the oldest gay organizations in Atlanta, BWMT has withstood the test of time and continued to fight against the racism, sexism, homophobia, HIV/AIDS discrimination and other inequities in our community.
It's time to celebrate our longevity and accomplishments.

November 12, 2016
7:30 pm
Members: *Free*
Non-members: *\$15*

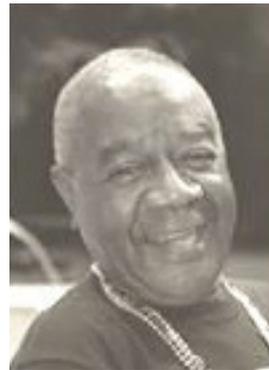
Phillip Rush Center
1530 DeKalb Ave NE
Atlanta, GA 30307

For additional information:
bwmtatlanta@gmail.com

Dress Code: Semi-formal
Special Guest Speaker:
Dave Hayward, *Touching Up Our Roots*

Memoirs of Long Time NABWMT Member

Dr. John Bush



Dr. John Bush, long-time NABWMT member, friend and leader, has published his memoirs, *The Right Season*. Dr. Bush has been involved with NABWMT since its inception more than 36 years ago. He has been an extraordinary leader and orator for our organization. As one of only two NABWMT members who has attended every NABWMT convention since the first in San Francisco, he started the MACT-Boston chapter and hosted the NABWMT Boston convention in 1988. He also served as Co-Chair for the organization from 1984-1986, and received our highest honor, the Lifetime Achievement award in 1989. He has been a keynote speaker at several conventions and also spoke on behalf of NABWMT at the March on Washington in 1987 where his speech was "From This Day Forward."

His memoirs, *The Right Season*, are available at the publisher Xlibris: <http://bookstore.xlibris.com/AdvancedSearch/Default.aspx?SearchTerm=john+bush>

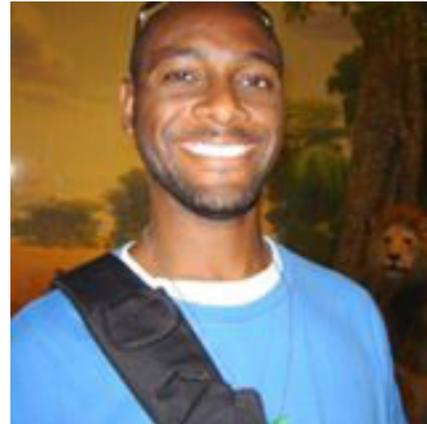
Barnes and Noble and Amazon also carry the book. In addition, Dr. Bush is eagerly offering to sell autographed copies at a much reduced price of \$10 for soft back and \$20 hard cover, and he can be contacted at: jbush79147@aol.com "I think many of you will find it to be an interesting short read, especially my friends on Facebook. I am sure members of NABWMT will find it an interesting read," said Dr. Bush on a recent Facebook post.

Dr. John Bush received a BA degree from Delaware State College (University), Master of Science in Education from Westminster College (PA), and Master of Art and PhD (Sociology) from University of Pittsburgh. He taught in the New Castle (PA) public schools, College Misericordia, Westminster College (both PA), and University of Massachusetts - Dartmouth from where he retired. He has traveled widely throughout the world, and many of the writings in this book reflect experiences gained during those travels. His other books published by Xlibris are *Changing Circumstances*, *My Father's Faith* and *Them Birds Are in Your Garden*. (Source of bio - Xlibris, <http://www.xlibris.com>).

Facebook Snippets

NA Social Media Posts

Very interesting interview. I've had people talking about how much better other countries treat people of color. Just because we don't hear/heard about it, doesn't mean it's not happening. Akala on Racism Against Blacks in the U.K. Akala stopped by VladTV to talk with us about growing up bi-racial in the U.K., the differences between police brutality in the U.S. vs the U.K., and...



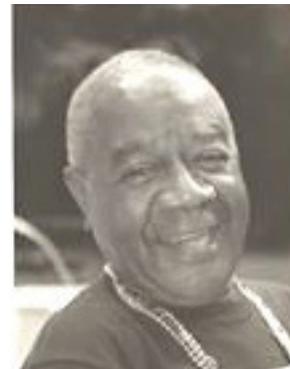
Robert Graham NA Board Member

Walked into an L.A. Beer-bust and met the brothers of Onyx, Black Gay leather men, with whom I had a dialogue about the history and advocacy of BWMT. I urged them to address the issues which face our Black gay men, out, closeted and seeking, while they represent their sexual identity and take their seat at the table among its leadership. I hope BWMT and Onyx can dialogue and ally where our concerns intersect.



Charles Stewart Post

My memoirs have been published by Xlibris. I have some copies at \$10.00 soft back and \$20.00 hard cover. I think many of you will find it to be an interesting short read, especially my friends on Face Book. I am sure members of NABWMT will find it an interesting read. You can order the book at Xlibris, Barnes and Noble and Amazon If you want a reduced copy from me send an address and I will send it to you plus postage.



Dr. John Bush

Jesus and Blacks

Or...Why Jesus is Not Enough: Black Folks, Religion and Mental Health

Anthony Carter

The Author

Anthony Carter, is a member of BWMT's Southern California chapter, is a teacher, writer and blogger.

Most black folks who love, respect and need the approval and validation of their families don't spend much time challenging the wisdom and insight of their elders. When we are depressed, Big Moma-isms tell us to get something in our stomachs (let big mamma make you a cake); pray to Jesus (turn over all rational thought and decision making to an outside source who will fix it for you) and attend church more often.

I have heard black folks quote bible verses and spout the always popular: God doesn't give you more than you can handle. I have seen folks suffer for years because they refuse to step outside church and family rhetoric and realize that (1) Nobody's coming and (2) They better switch up the way they handle their affairs.

For many years, I honestly believed Jesus would fix it all. And if that didn't work, I could always go for the big guns, Jesus' daddy, God. While I have nothing against Christianity, I have seen it used to justify all sorts of foolishness and mistreatment of humans.

When something bad happens, I often see black folks say Satan never sleeps or we're being tested. When something wonderful occurs, we often trot out the immensely popular, blessed and favored.

What Christianity and several religions fail to point out is the common denominator in all situations both good and bad: the man in the mirror. While I have experienced all kinds of life challenges, I've only learned and made better choices when I've owned my part of the situation.

Once I stopped waiting for Jesus to fix me, things began to change. At 14, I began attending a very prestigious all boys high school. I knew nothing about studying, social codes and rigorous academic achievement. My first year's grades were abysmal. After failing history and being ordered to attend summer school, I had a choice to make. I could continue to think the instructors would change what they were doing or I could change what I was doing.

Miraculously, I figured out how to study history and my grades began moving into high B status. Within weeks, I was heading towards A status. I have watched family members and friends suffer needlessly. I have watched people endure awful relationships and then pray that the other person gets their mind right.

What if God and Prayer aren't enough? This world is full of wonderful emotional and mental resources. What if we prayed to find a great mental health expert, then started looking for and then found one? Mental Health must be as important to our community as church, tithing and making sure our pastor has what he needs.

It is time we stand up in our faith and demand more from those who say it is their "calling" to alleviate suffering and uplift the community.

You cannot be black in this culture and not have been psychologically, emotionally and spiritually attacked,



violated and diminished at some point. The very existence of this culture depends on it.

As a result, it is imperative that all black folks seek some type of ongoing spiritual and emotional uplift. If we are lucky, we will unearth an individual who encourages a blend of spiritual understandings with emotional and psychological tools for well being.

Hopefully, we will find a therapist who believes in prayer and action. Community and solitude.

We must remember that the Black church has been extremely pivotal in our survival. We must refuse to use it as a crutch and instead tap into the strength it can and should provide which will allow us to take on personal and communal challenges.

During the Civil Rights era, people prayed then marched. We are not in a position to choose one over the other. We must have both: a strong spiritual base and an ability to take powerful, determined well thought out action when needed.

When depression hits, a warm batch of cookies and bowl of ice cream won't eliminate it. I know; I've tried. What you will need is an ally whose purpose is to remind you of dormant skills and any source of unused personal power.

Religion and therapy should encourage everyone to become self reliant. It is time we stopped hiding behind Jesus and the pulpit and instead used these entities along with a great therapist to face our personal and collective crap.

HPV (Health Update)

Pat Carron

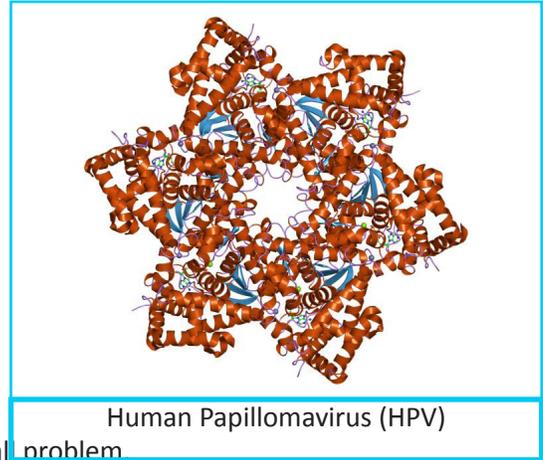
The Authors

Pat Carron is a former
NABWMT Board Member

In 2009, Farrah Fawcett died in Santa Monica, CA. She was only 62 years old. I remember having her iconic poster on my bedroom wall in the 1970's. During her decline, she made the documentary, Farrah's Story, to publicize her fight with cancer, particularly anal cancer. She wanted something good to come out of her bleak circumstance. Spreading the word about this type of cancer and the risk factors people can avoid was her parting gift to us.

Anal cancer is rare. Few people get it. Only 2 out of 100,000 are inflicted. Yet, I know three BWMT brothers afflicted with the disease. Two were successfully treated. One is in treatment now. Why is a rare form of cancer so common among my circle of friends?

The Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is the most common sexually transmitted infection today. It causes cervical cancer in women. The same strain also causes anal cancer in men and women. 75% of sexually active adults acquire HPV. The most common manifestation of HPV is genital warts. HPV is no small problem



In looking into anal cancer, I discovered that men who have sex with men (MSM) are at a greater risk of getting this type of cancer. HIV positive MSM are 40 times more likely to develop anal cancer than the general population (80 cases per 100,000 people) and the rate is increasing each year.

While highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART) has decreased mortality from HIV, it has not reduced the incidence of anal cancer in MSM. HPV is commonly spread through sexual skin-to-skin contact. Condom use only partially reduces the risk of being infected with HPV.

MSM, including gay men, as part of a thorough health check up, should discuss HPV's with their doctor. If your doctor thinks you might be at risk for anal cancer, he can order an anal Pap smear. It is used for the early detection of anal cancer.

T-Shirts as LGBT History

How T-Shirts Tell Our LGBT History – The Wearing Gay History Digital Archives
Wendell Reid

The Author
Wendell Reid is a
NABWMT Board
Member

Who would have thought the t-shirts, hats and buttons that we proudly wore were strong expressions of our LGBT identity? In the fall of 2014, doctoral student Eric Gonzaba began Wearing Gay History, <http://wearinggayhistory.com/>, as a graduate student project at George Mason University in Washington DC to bring attention to LGBT history of smaller LGBT communities in the Midwest and South. Eric said that our t-shirts “express everything from pride, disgust, humor and rage and stand in stark contrast to common perceptions of queer identity as hidden and invisible...These often provocative clothing items make up a huge part of our LGBT heritage and culture, though they too often are thrown into our closets after a protest or pride parade, or they’re found in the bottom of that ignored dresser drawer.” (From “LGBT T-shirts No Longer In The Closet: An Online Wearable Archive, Sept 14, 2015,” Mariah Rocker and Eric Gonzaba).



NABWMT general shirt from Wendell’s collection

The Wearing Gay History on-line digital archive currently includes more than 3,300 t-shirts and other items from most of the 50 states and over 25 different countries. Peering through the archive, the shirts certainly bring back some memories to me, and perhaps some of you. So I also pulled out some of my own shirts and have spoken with Eric about adding them to the collection, especially NABWMT and chapter shirts.

Some of my LGBT journey includes first coming out in the early 80s and moving to Chicago. I certainly remember my first visit to Chicago and going out when the sun went down to the near north gay strip of clubs and bars. DARK STREETS; DARK ALLEYS! I said to myself, ‘Wendell, what will it be this evening, Naughty? Or Nice?’ <http://wearinggayhistory.com/items/show/587> (Baton Show Lounge, a drag entertainment venue, hosted the talent show for NABWMT’s 1993 Chicago convention)

At this time, I and many others were drawn to burgeoning activism and social groups, including NABWMT and my local Chicago chapter.

(NABWMT general shirt from Wendell’s collection)
We had a profoundly devastating health issue come into our life that we are still dealing with – of course, this is AIDS. <http://wearinggayhistory.com/items/show/613>
We lost countless of our NABWMT brothers and sisters. We memorialized many of our loved ones in quilted displays through the NAMES project: <http://wearinggayhistory.com/items/show/619>. And we may be able view the displays virtually at our planned Worlds AIDS Museum event during the 2017 Fort Lauderdale convention.

Yet even through this calamity, I felt that we were still developing our strong sense of community, not just in our hometowns but nationwide. With NABWMT, I enjoyed traveling to other cities for chapter activities and other LGBT events, since many Midwestern cities were within a few hours of each other.



Being only 90 miles from Chicago, I traveled quite a bit to Milwaukee for BWMT Milwaukee events.

Many of you who visited Chicago always were told to go to the interracial hangout of Little Jims, and the later the better, like 2 am! <http://wearinggayhistory.com/items/show/598> It seems like every bigger city had at least one interracial pickup joint to go to!

Of course, who can forget our great family reunion conventions, where we usually got to explore new cities, see old friends and meet new ones, and recharge our commitment to NABWMT's cause. NABWMT also had international outreach, and I hope some of you can remember how we helped sponsor South Africa's LGBT activist Simone Nikoli on his US tour in the early 1990's: <http://wearinggayhistory.com/items/show/3481>

Rummaging through my T-shirts, I also found that a Human Rights Campaign shirt with the logo DuPont Circle, DC's historic Gayborhood and a shirt with the logo Church Street Toronto, that city's LGBT friendly street. They reminded me that within a few years of coming out, our Gayborhoods became more than just bars, but restaurants, retail shops and bookstores that we could explore during the day. So I enjoyed strutting down the main gay drag, although some would say 'sashaying', to shop and browse storefronts; eating at restaurants with friends; enjoying many an afternoon cocktail; flirting on the corner... all during the DAYLIGHT hours!

Since then, all of us should be overjoyed with the many victories on the legal and political front, from openly gay politicians in cities, states and nationwide, <http://wearinggayhistory.com/items/show/658> (Chicago alderman Tom Tunney's Ann Sathers restaurant in Boystown hosted BWMT/MACT Chicago's monthly meetings for years) ... to amazing civil rights progress to equality: <http://wearinggayhistory.com/items/show/2400> <http://wearinggayhistory.com/items/show/2618>

Does browsing through the Wearing History shirts bring back memories of your LGBT journey? Since NABWMT has been a key part of my journey, I am looking forward to finding a home in the Wearing History digital archives as well as in a physical LGBT archive, my NABWMT t-shirts, caps and other items, including NABWMT convention t-shirts from:

- NABWMT 2009 convention, Philadelphia – “Blueprint for Change, Yes We Can Together” with logo blue shirt
- NABWMT 1996 convention, Cleveland ‘Unity = Power = Accomplishment’ with logo white shirt
- NABWMT 2000 convention, San Francisco ‘It’s Time to Return to the Golden Gate’, with logo - black
- NABWMT ‘No to Racism, Sexism and Homophobia’ with logo white
- NABWMT Bush Mallon Institute (logo) white
- ‘Together Washington DC’ black, Black and White Men Together DC logo
- ‘BWMTSC’ with black and white logo, white sleeveless shirt, ‘Black and White Men Together Southern California’ back BWMTSC
- BWMT Milwaukee white with chapter logo
- MACT Chicago - black with chapter logo
- MACT New York psychedelic with ‘Celebrate Diversity’ on back
- NABWMT ‘RESIST RACISM’ (MACT Philadelphia), black button
- NABWMT ‘1980-2005 NABWMT 25 Years of Living Our Vision of Equality’ Square button)
- Coffee cup: NABWMT 22nd convention Miami Beach, FL 2002
- NABWMT tan colored baseball cap with current logo.