

The Q-Visions Newsletter

Published by the Media and Communications Committee



**NABWMT is a Gay,
Multiracial, Multicultural
Group for ALL**



On the Web

Facebook

Twitter

Videos

Podcasts



CHAPTERS WITH FACEBOOK



Whats New in this Edition

- Chapter and National Facebook Links
- A refreshed Quick Look page with easier reading and thumbnails
- Improved borders
- Subject sorted pages
- Articles featuring race and blogs/podcasts
- New Contributors (Wendell Reid and Robert Graham)


QUICK READS

Click on Links for More





[New Board Members](#)

My name is **Robert Graham** and I am a L...
Rejoining the NABWMT Board is **Wendell Reid**




[SOCIAL](#)

All the News from our Chapters
Rick Creque
3rd. West Coast Regional

[NEWS](#)


Different Potluck
Patrick Carron
Contributing Editor



There is a new cookbook on the best sellers list called, "Thug Kitchen: Eat Like You Give A F#ck!"


[Thank You](#)

We would like to thank the BWMT-Atlanta chapter for their \$250 donation to the B. Chambers Scholarship as a result of the NABWMT 35th Anniversary shirt sale



[SOCIAL](#)

3rd. West Coast Regional




[COCHAIR'S CORNER](#)

Mark Behar
As you know, the NABWMT Board of Directors has embarked on our own strategic planning, and have recently developed a draft of a unifying belief statement

[BMI](#)


Updates
Wendell Reid



At our Board meeting in October, Board members developed and discussed action plans for the coming year.

[NEWS](#)

Thanks SFO
Ken Scott Baron




Some 40 years ago I emigrated from England to the Bay Area of California and witnessed the "Free Love" and "Peace" movements and the rise of San Francis-

[PREJUDICES](#)

A TED Talk
Wendell Reid
TED Talk on Stereotypes and Prejudices (A TED Radio Hour on NPR re-podcast, October 29, 2015)


[NEWS](#)

Racial Road Trip
Wendell Reid
Racial slurs are woven deep into the American landscape





[Race in America](#)

Robert Graham
With the recent events going on in this country the past couple of years, I decided to share my opinion




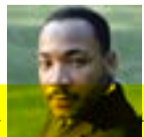
[FACEBOOK](#)

Trends
Gavin Morrow Hall
Members of NABWMT know that there are variety of ways that we seek to communicate

[CONVENTION 2016](#)

Like Lots of Memphis' Good Stuff, 2016 Is Just Around the Corner
by Paul Hawkins & Neal Holmes, 2016 Convention Co-Chairs

Starting back in August, many of the 12,000 fans of NABWMT's Facebook page probably noticed a [redacted] ck then we counted 46 weeks leading up to the Memphis convention dates of July 13-16, 2016, and decided we would come up with a list of 46 reasons to attend. Thus the pattern: At the start of every week we have posted to Facebook a new, specific reason to register for NABWMT'S 2016 convention.



NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Editorial Staff



[BACK TO QUICK READ](#)



Robert Graham



My name is Robert Graham and I am a Licensed Professional Civil Engineer from Atlanta, GA. I am a member of the BWMT-Atlanta chapter and have been an active member of the chapter since 2004. I've served as a Co-Chair, Recording Secretary, and Member-at-Large. Outside of BWMT, I am an active member of the Alumni Associations of both my undergraduate and graduate school alma maters. I am big into sports and fitness. I try to mix weight lifting, cardio, yoga, and meditation into my weekly routine. In order to be a balanced person, I have to be healthy in body, mind, and spirit. In my free time, you can find me reading a good book, watching football and basketball, or traveling the world. I decided to join the board of the National Association of Black and White Men Together because I felt that there has not been any representation of men under 40 in a while. I know I do not speak for every individual within my generation, but maybe I can add a different viewpoint. I always try to speak based on the information I have been provided in an educated and objective manner. I hope to aid the organization move forward with our mission statement and continue to make a difference in this world. I am excited about being a part of guiding the organization into the future.



Wendell Reid

Rejoining the NABWMT Board is Wendell Reid of Fort Washington, Maryland. He formerly served on the Board in 2010 and 2011 as co-chair of the Bush Mallon Institute. He was also co-chair of NABWMT from 2002-2004. His interests in rejoining the Board includes strategic planning, the BMI, membership, finance/fundraising, and media/communications. He has an educational and career background in financial management and internal auditing. Other LGBT organizations that Wendell has volunteered for include the Gerber/Hart LGBT library and Archives of Chicago, International Mr. Leather Weekend and Leather Archives and Museum in Chicago, and the Point Foundation for national LGBTQ scholarship funds.



SOCIAL

News from our Chapters

Rick Creque

3rd. West Coast Regional

35 Members of the West Coast Chapters meet in Palm Springs to celebrate their chapters achievements`



BWMT/Milwaukee

Anniversary Halloween Costume Bowling..



Different Potluck

Patrick Carron

Contributing Editor

[BACK TO QUICK READ](#)

There is a new cookbook on the best sellers list called, "Thug Kitchen: Eat Like You Give A F#ck!" The dirty little secret about this book is that all the recipes are vegan, but you could not tell from the photos or from the types of dishes included in the book. Numerous dishes like "Creamy Ravioli with House Marinara" or "Sweet Potato Squash and Black Bean Enchiladas" were easy to make.

While the recipes are very healthy, the book is styled in a very Hip-Hop fashion and the directions use urban language. One recipe for Chickpeas and Dumplings starts this way: "First thing, make the fucking dumplings." Lots of urban slang like "Grab the shit and put it in a bowl."

Ki Garvin, Co-Chair of MACT South Florida, is always looking for new cooking adventures. He discovered Thug Kitchen and put a chapter potluck together around it.



Ki gave the chapter two months to buy the book or get it from the public library. Each attendee needed to bring a dish from the book. After selecting a dish they registered the dish with Ki so no dishes were duplicated. One could not attend the potluck without making a dish from the book. No exceptions!

Over a dozen people attended the potluck and quite honestly, I did not miss the meat! The stuff was really tasty. We had salad, pasta with marinara, stir fry, enchiladas, peanut coleslaw, pozole rojo (stew), and beer and lime tacos. Even the Cesar salad dressing was made from the book.


One member dressed like a Caribbean thug. The event was hosted at a married couples' house who actually are vegan. It was a fun night.

Try it in your chapter! You won't be sorry.





THANK YOU

We would like to thank the BWMT-Atlanta chapter for their \$250 donation to the B. Chambers Scholarship as a result of the NABWMT 35th Anniversary shirt sale. This money will go towards aiding a young LGBTQ student in pursuing their dream of a college education. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication to the NA. 


~~This money will go towards aiding a young LGBTQ student in pursuing their dream of a college education. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication to the NA.~~

Brains etc.!


[BACK TO QUICK READ](#)


Ken Scott Baron



You may have listened to my previous blog and QVisions articles on digital versus human contact. Today I want to add to the series and talk about the skills needed to cope with adversity and rejection related to this topic, 

As we all know there are youths that are being bullied in school and society, and for sure in the LGBT community. How to deal with it effectively requires the skills to understand and manage their feelings, and overcome.

As an educator I hear the expression “computers will soon be able to do many of the cognitive tasks in many jobs”. Life skills are mostly relational and being part of a team. Also empathy becomes a more important workplace skill, the ability to sense what another human being is feeling or thinking. 

In addition, the ability to function in a group also becomes more important — to know how to tell stories that convey the important points, how to mix people together. Amazingly, there is an app for that to 


use technology to better articulate, understand and control ones emotions. So far so good. Research shows that people communicate more often with family and friends because of technology, but the quality of that communication may be weaker.

However, kids who spend more time engaging with a screen than with other kids or adults can struggle to understand emotion, create strong relationships or become more dependent on others. If all you’re doing is using Facebook, you’re not getting the interpersonal connection that you need.

For adults, reliance on the quick text or Facebook message is mostly about saving time. But for children, the overuse of technology to communicate affects the brain as we show below. Technology can be a big hindrance on interpersonal relationships, and can rewrite a child’s brain pathways in a very different way than how they would normally develop.

The problem is that the more people and children interact with a person or the real world through a screen rather than in real life, the less emotion is attached to the exchange. The way we talk, our body language and tone are all fundamental to establishing human relationships. And they’re all missing with most forms of modern technology.

Back to LGBT bullying. In a study, 85% of LGBT students reported being verbally harassed, 40% reported being physically harassed, and 19% reported being physically assaulted at school in the past year because of their sexual identity. To counteract this we need to


- Debunk misperceptions about digital behavior;
- Build empathy and understanding;
- Teach online safety skills;
- Equip young people (and some adults) with strategies to reject digital abuse in their lives. 

October was the national bullying prevention month. There is no federal cyberbullying law in the U.S.

and efforts at creating the culture of empathy, on the other hand, receive far less public attention. One bright light is The Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence’s partnership with Facebook aimed at helping the company to foster empathy among its users.

While public attention seems to be overwhelmingly focused on punishment, education on cultural values to foster a different pattern of social relations and concern for others is just as important. Framing online behavior as symptomatic of larger cultural narratives is a much neglected view in the public debate around cyberbullying.

So why do I perseverate on this when the average age of the NABWMT is 52 (or so)? The answer is we need to realize that the current traits of young adults in empathy can become (at least in part) ours. We need to balance our online and offline persona.

After all the NA has a proud history of emphasizing people skills especially at the margins of society. So, after you have friended one of our thousands on our Facebook, practice being their and friend someone face to face. 

CO CHAIR'S CORNER

Black Fire on White Fire

Mark Behar

[BACK TO QUICK READ](#)

As you know, the NABWMT Board of Directors has embarked on our own strategic planning, and have recently developed a draft of a unifying belief statement that [is discussed elsewhere in this issue of Q-Visions](#). This is only the first major overhaul of how your all volunteer Board can work together more efficiently! Thank you for participating in this process in Newark! Additional changes will be reported over the coming year.

Part of our Board's recent work meeting in Ft. Lauderdale was to discuss what we would like each of our existing 16 committees ~~would be able~~ to accomplish over the coming year. At a subsequent executive committee meeting, we decided that this current structure of 16 committees (yes, I had to say it again!) was inefficient and overwhelming. Perhaps a restructuring may be in order. Remember, we have only 14 Board members along with a handful of non-Board members who also participate in committee activities. Consolidating committees into a more manageable number based on complementary interests seemed reasonable, and might help us cut down on the scores of things we'd like to see each of these committees accomplish into something much more manageable and doable.

Here's a summary of the proposal, and is certainly flexible, subject to change, and has not yet been approved by the Board. The 1st of the six proposed new committees is the Executive Committee, which is designed for developing a "road map for the Board," and includes strategic planning and the Bylaws and Standing Rules committee. The 2nd is Finance and Fundraising, and will also be in charge of anything having to do with resource development. The 3rd is Chapter Development, Membership and Recognition, which will also include the Awards Committee. The 4th is Media and Communications which is designed to effectively communicate with all of our multiple constituencies—members, chapters, external organizations. It includes the former web page, PR, Q-Visions, Wikipedia, Face book components. (By the way, have you seen our Wikipedia entry: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Association_of_Black_and_White_Men_Together?) The 5th new committee is Programming and Logistics, and includes our former nominations & elections, scholarship, ad hoc committee on convention attendance, and convention planning committee, especially managing the logistics associated with program implementation. Our final 6th committee is Education, and includes the BMISJ, Health & HIV, and the Ad Hoc Committee on African Homophobia, expanded to include other global concerns.

This is one of the major ways we can demonstrate continued relevance to our members, local chapters and outside constituents. We are always looking for your comments and feedback, and will certainly update you with how we are evolving into a leaner and more effective Board. We hope these changes will keep you interested and involved! Happy holidays!

BMI



UPDATES



[BACK TO QUICK READ](#)


Wendell Reid

**BMI updates and other happenings**

At our Board meeting in October, Board members developed and discussed action plans for the coming year. Some of the possible actions and activities that the BMI committee will work on include -

- Publishing the **Reflection of a Shatter Mirror** literary project, in coordination with former Board member  Cornelius Mabin Jr. and LINQ for Life Inc. of Arkansas. This purpose of this project is to spur a creative dialogue on LGBT social justice issues, challenges and barriers, with a particular focus on HIV and AIDS. Cornelius has completed a draft of the literary project which the BMI is currently reviewing.
- Developing new initiatives on racism, homophobia, health disparities, and other social justice issues.
- Seeking and nurturing new collaborations with other organizations with similar social justice missions.
- Disseminating the message across a wide range of communication and media outlets including social media.
- **Active participation**  in the 2016 Memphis convention.

Dr. Sarah Burgin recently published her Ph.D. Thesis at the University of Leeds, England ***"The Workshop as the Work: White Anti- Racism Organizing in the 1960s, 70s and 80s US Social Movements."***  She received much support from NABWMT, originally contacting us in 2011, attending the 2011 Philadelphia, and interviewing several members. The work uses talks with John Bush and James Credle. She had presented results of her study of NABWMT's racial justice efforts in the early 1980s at our July Newark convention, and has kindly provided us with the abstract and slides of her planned presentation. They can be downloaded on our **website store or contact the webmaster** . We also thank Dr. Burgin and congratulate her on getting her Ph.D.


The National Civil Rights Museum of Memphis, Tennessee held its 15th annual Freedom awards this past October 22, 2015 (<http://civilrights museum.org/2015-freedom-award/>). Since 1991, the Freedom Award has served as a symbol of the ongoing fight for human rights both in America and worldwide. One of the three recipients was Ava DuVernay, acclaimed writer/director of the award-winning movie *Selma* (2014). **The NABWMT 2016 convention in Memphis will include an exclusive tour and reception at this museum, formerly the Lorraine Motel, site of the April 4, 1968 assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. The BMI is also planning an interactive workshop at the convention.** 

Thank you San Francisco.
Ken Scott Baron




[BACK TO QUICK READ](#)

This is an article from a Podcast on NABWMT.ORG



Some 40 years ago I emigrated from England to the Bay Area of California and witnessed the “Free Love” and “Peace” movements and the rise of San Francisco as a gay city. I was in awe at the excitement, freedom and **vi-brance** of the area to which I owe much. 


This city was once called the “Paris of the West” for its corruption and wildness but I am proud of the recent past and current history that San Francisco brings to the HIV/AIDS community and doing much in these issues to write the rules. And let’s not forget San Francisco is the birthplace of our NABWMT.


Today an HIV infected person can go to a San Francisco clinic, get tested quickly, see a doctor, get 5 pills and a prescription and, if needed, file for public health insurance. This program is called **Rapid** and is a great success. 

The city, once the HIV epicenter has turned the tide on this dreaded epidemic like no other. Infection has plummeted and the World Health Organization has used their programs as models. So patients are encouraged to be treated with antivirals as soon as possible. Some data: 1992 had 2,332 infected now it is 302. The same trend is with deaths, 1641 down to 177 (and the latter includes deaths due to natural causes).

Why is the city so successful? Factors include: wealth from the tech companies, politics, doctors with history of HIV, and a large LGBT population. San Francisco has made up for losses in federal and state funding for HIV.

San Francisco has always, for **good forbad**, always gone first in pilot programs and clinical trials. In 1987 it opened the first HIV hospital ward, followed by the first use of AZT **anti retroviral** drug and clean needle distribution.  

And the latest thrust **tis he PrEP** (pre-exposure prophylaxis) drug program with Truvada. At once the heralded (the FDA approved) and vilified program, since it has been shown to prevent infection in HIV naive persons but evoked criticism of its use as inviting casual sex. Some gay men called others “Truvada Whores” for avoiding condoms. But San Francisco clinics, doctors and officials don’t apply blame or shame to patients. 

 Which brings me to the Bay Area communities at the margins. The city now is mostly well educated whites and **asians** as apposed to black and brown, the latter group has left because of high rent. The former group is more likely to be aware of can afford to be treated. Still, the lessons learned in the city can be applied to the nation where 63% of HIV infected people are black or brown.

The main rest of this great commitment is the loss of fear of this, one time, “dreaded” disease. In the ‘90s it crippled the gay population but now young LGBT and straight people are without fear. Let us learn lesson from this as our NABWMT brothers did and now are able to tell the tale.

Wendell Reid

“Playing with Perceptions” A TED Talk on Stereotypes and Prejudices (A TED Radio Hour on NPR re-podcast, October 29, 2015) - summary by Wendell Reid

When Sarah Jones and her friend were stopped by police while crossing the street in Hollywood, California in the middle of the day and asked, “are you girls working tonight”, her first instinct was to “not be herself” and “try to elevate her status somehow,” perhaps by speaking high British. After all, this women of color playwright impersonates other personalities as part of her regular stage performance. But Sarah realized that if she did so, she would be playing into how the police saw her as a women of color who is “low on the ladder of who requires respect”. Sarah decided not to internalize how the cops saw her. Sarah believes that we need more honest conversation about stereotypes, even if it is “messy.” We should avoid assigning moral judgment, oversimplifying, or marginalizing racial and other differences in people.

Jamila Lyiscott boasts that she is trilingual but was miffed after a woman congratulated her for being ‘articulate’ on an academic panel. A poet and scholar, and West Indian-American from Brooklyn, Jamila realized that this comment was made because coming, from Jamila’s body and skin color, Jamila’s carefully worded proper English is suddenly considered impressive. Yet Jamila points out the English language is multifaceted and transforms itself constantly, and articulate American English can sound foolish to the British. Jamila challenges the notion that it is ignorant to speak broken English. And yes, she is proudly trilingual - she has one tongue for her university colleagues (‘hello’), for her friends (‘what’s going on’) and for home (‘what g’wan!’). Asked about the impact of stereotypes on the African-American community, Jamila cites W.E. Dubois, who spoke about this double consciousness. She said “you have this lenses where you are looking at yourself through the lenses of other people the way they are looking at you” and “that’s deeply historical to black people”. She talked about the pressure to straighten her hair when she was growing up and said the pun on the words ‘kinky roots’ were scarring to her. She said that by not appreciating and respecting differences by trying the blend in completely, we rob each other of the beauty of our differences.

Don’t tell Paul Bloom that stereotypes are always bad, but let him explain it and it’s not that clear cut. A Professor of Psychology at Yale University, Paul said that the mind uses assumptions to makes general judgements about new situations as a matter of survival. The big three assumptions we make are about age, sex, and race. We make these assumptions in a fraction of a second and unconsciously. And we make these assumptions early as babies – babies like to hear their own language, and look at familiar faces and races. But while a baby raised by white people prefers to look at white faces, a baby raised by a multi-ethnic bunch will show no preference. Paul tells us that, of the three factors of age, sex and race, race is the ‘odd man out’ because it is a modern novelty. Our focus on race is less determined than our focus on sex and age, and studies of children support this. Paul said that studies show that children are sensitive to sex and age, but pay attention to race after they have learned that race matters in a world we live. And flat out racial prejudice is wrong. He found it incredulous that in 2008, people interviewed rated that British Prime Minister Tony Blair as more American than Obama, even though they knew Blair was British. And Biden rightly received major flap when he stated that Obama was articulate. Paul said that to combat stereotypes and prejudice, we have to appeal to people’s empathy through personal stories and people have to make a conscious decision to actively expose themselves to real world situations where biases are mitigated. For example, many orchestras audition musicians behind screens to avoid judging the performer by race, sex and age. Paul concluded that prejudice and bias reflect the duality of human nature. He said our gut feelings and emotion can affect judgments and actions for good and evil. But we are also capable of rational deliberation and careful planning, which we can use to create a better world.

TED has a large collection of talks on race, including 9 video podcasts on racial justice, 9 video podcasts on racism in America, 18 specific talks on racism, and five exclusive opinions on race. To learn more, go to: <https://www.ted.com/topics/race> Sarah Jones, Tony Award-winning monologist, assumes as many roles offstage as on, and has many TED Talks showcasing her talent. Jamila Lyiscott’s TED Talk “3 Ways to Speak English” was presented February 2014, “and Dr. Paul Bloom’s talk “Can Prejudice Ever be a Good Thing?” was filmed January 2014.

This is an article found by **Wedell**, here is the [link](#):

Racial slurs are woven deep into the American landscape



Racist Road Trip

To get an idea of what an offensive landscape looks like, Vocativ took a road trip through Arizona, the most **toponomically** racist region in America. For historical context on each location, we met with Arizona's official state historian, Marshall Trimble.

"Things that were more acceptable before aren't anymore. What's politically correct—that all really started growing in the '70s or '80s and you wonder sometimes where it's going to stop," Trimble said, before referencing a concept coined by historian William Manchester. "He called it 'generational chauvinism', where each generation likes to judge and condemn the past historical people and events by the standards or by the wants and needs today, and they reinterpret history."

Trimble pulled out a large sky-blue book from his shelf, Arizona's Names: X Marks the Place. "That's the Bible of place names," Trimble said. That particular version of the book, published in 1984, has many derogatory terms that weren't listed in the GNIS—including N-----head Mountain, N-----Wells, Chinaman's Canyon, Redman Mountain and nearly 30 listings with "squaw".

In the morning we visited Negro Head Spring, named after a nearby dark rock and Negro Ben Peak, named after the miner. By noon we were at the sloping domes of Squaw Tits. All of these stops were in wilderness areas that required a bit of hiking or off-roading. All of them took us through some of the most scenic, remote areas of the state.

The U.S. Geographic Names Board only changes names in wilderness areas if there is a strong overriding need, so many offensive place names are in federally owned boondocks—like Chinaman Spring, where we ended the day. The spring is in the heart of Arizona's Coronado National Forest and is the setting of one of the U.S. Forest Service's recommended hikes in the area, Chinaman Trail. The name is said to have been given to the area because of Chinese workers who dug a trail, tunnel and water ditch to aid miners.

Hiking the trail it's hard not to imagine troves of poorly paid Chinese men swinging picks into the earth and lighting dynamite, clearing a path for white men searching for mine.

What's Really Going On?

With the recent events going on in this country the past couple of years, I decided to share my opinion about the social injustices and double **standards that still exists** in this county.

I've been told by various people, "If you just abide by the law and obey the officer, you shouldn't have any problems". That is a wonderful theory and I wish it were that cut and dry. As someone who works in the scientific field, I can tell you that theory and reality don't always align perfectly. It is difficult to play by the rules when the ones who make and enforce the rules sometimes live by a different set of rules. I have been questioned and harassed by police because I "fit the description" or I was "behaving in a strange way." I am the first to admit that I get nervous around law enforcement. My encounter can go either way. It really depends on the day and the mood of that particular officer. I've had individuals try to intimidate me into arguing and becoming "aggressive". When I listen to someone and I can tell they're not an intelligent person, I try to stay out your way or get away from that person. I respect the uniform and badge; I may not respect the actual person. There are too many "Barney Fyfe" type police officers today.

It is not just incidents involving police officers. We have seen over that past couple of years where regular citizens are murdered because they "seemed out of place" or "in the wrong place at the wrong time." It is not just a white murdering black or vice versa. People are being killed all over for foolishness. Despite what people will say, you behave differently when you know you have a deadly weapon. You are more likely in put yourself in a situation where there may be an altercation if you know you might have an upper hand on the other person. I was once told that if you got to be somewhere where you need a pistol, you don't need to be there.

The deaths of Michael Brown, Eric Gardner or Tamir Rice were not the first incident between police and citizens. Neither were the deaths of Trayvon Martin and Jordan Davis the first altercation between a black and a white person. There is a history of incidents happening, year after year, all over the country. And on the flip side, there are many instances where white individuals have been killed by a black individual. It is not covered by the news unless it would be good for ratings. The loss of life is sad regardless of the race of the individuals involved. It's sad it takes someone losing their life for people to start paying attention to the unbalanced justice system which now governs this nation. I never condone destroying your neighborhood or property, but in the same breath, why does it take such drastic action to get attention? Think back to your childhood. The child who acted out always got more attention than the child who behaved.

The media plays a huge role in causing hysteria, both national media and social media. They put misinformation out all the time and are not held responsible for it. Sometimes it takes the smallest spark to light the fuse of a bomb. I understand that law enforcement cannot put out too much case sensitive information. But when you take too long to put out any information, it makes people suspicious. What are you hiding? Is this really all the information? Are you trying to figure out how to spin the evidence in your favor?

Why is it that a young black male dressed in a hoodie or baggy clothes, tattoos, and gold teeth reflects a negative image of who I am as a black male? Does that same principle apply to the white community when you see images such as Honey Boo Boo, the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooter, or Ku Klux Klan? And while on that subject, the black community has been accused of always playing the "race card" in any situation involving someone of another race. When society removes that card for the deck of this poker game called LIFE, the black community will stop playing it. The same goes for the gay community always playing the "gay card". In life, we can only play the hand you are dealt.

Why is our society fearful of black men, especially intelligent ones? Why is it that if a black male is the slightest bit asser-tive or confrontational, he is considered aggressive and threatening? I was once told, "It's no big deal when a dog barks at the moon. When the moon barks back then it's becomes a big deal." Basically, you can talk to me or treat me any type of way, yet when I speak up for myself, I'm acting in an aggressive manner.

Some people may think the protestors are acting like criminals, looting and burning their own neighborhood. I guess you can say the same about the men who rioted on the streets of New York back in 1969 during the Stonewall Riots. But I guess that's a different situation. And none of the law enforcement involved were charged with any wrong doing. The riots involved people who were just living their lives but happened to be unfairly targeted by a group of people who felt they were all criminals. They had to be stopped before they had the opportunity to be involved in some criminal activity. And yes, that was sarcasm. They fought back because they were tired of being unjustly harassed. Remember, you can only kick a dog so many times before it bites you back.

I have to admit that I am puzzled by the fact that even in an organization such as the National Association of Black and White Men Together, there is still some hesitation to talk about race and racism. There is no problem discussing the black male body; just the black male.

Please don't mistake my frustration as being anti-law enforcement or anti-establishment. I have many friends and family who are police officers, politicians, lawyers, judges, etc., who I love and care about with all my heart. I know that there are plenty of good hardworking, decent people who are judged by the actions of a few. But perhaps they will eventually understand what my daily life of being judged by the actions of a few black men is like.

FACEBOOK

Trends

Gavin Morrow Hall



Members of NABWMT know that there are variety of ways that we seek to communicate with each other. This publication, Q-Visions is the official newsletter of the organization. Additionally we have our website: NABWMT.org, and what at times seems like dozens of Facebook pages. We have the “official NABWMT Facebook page which has 12,000 members open to any and everyone. Additionally, we have a NABWMT “members only” page, BWMT Atlanta, BWMT San Diego, BWMT Southern California, BWMT West, and BWMT 2016 Convention 2016, Memphis for all pages that are affiliated with either the national Association or local chapters. Additionally there are BWMT pages **dad** or not officially part of the organization yet members of the organization post regularly to these pages as well.

With over a half a dozen “official” pages and several other like minded pages, all of whom have both overlapping and eclectic memberships When one asked me “what’s trending on our Facebook page?”, it was tempting to reply “what’s not trending on our Facebook pages?”

Since no one page has all interested parties, I have noticed a trend that when people post on topics that are most germane to our goals and Statement of Purpose they often post on multiple BWMT pages. The result can be that people receive the same post multiple times.

Postings that are most reflective of our goals and statement of purpose generally tend to create the most discussion. The topic of race and race relations is at the forefront of these posts. The Black Lives Matter movement has galvanized the country’s attention as well as our Facebook pages. The topic has come up in various forms of late. Most recently in reference to the student protest at University of Missouri. No one has challenged the notion that black lives matter however **some post have wondered** to the degree that other lives matter to our members. While most of the attention and discussions have been on matters in the United States There have been lively and at times heated discussions on our pages with regard to other social justice movements and other oppression that happen around the world. The rights and social conditions of the people of Brazil, France, India, Israel, Jamaica, Mexico, Nigeria, Palestine, Uganda, the United Kingdom have all been discussed recently. Some discussions have **focused on racism others on sexuality others on the** intersection of both.

Gearing up for a presidential election **cycle many** posts have been about comments that have been made by the men and women who seek to become the 45th president of the United States. Many of the comments referenced immigration, race relations, women’s rights made by Hillary Clinton, Donald Trump, Bernie Sanders, Ted Cruz and Dr. Ben Carson have generated lots of discussion.

The other big issue trending on our Facebook pages have been the topic of marriage equality. While the summer’s headlines included comments and posts regarding the inaction of **a file clerk** and comparisons to other acts social justice causes, many other people took this time to affirm their love for one another and posted marriage announcements **nod** pictures on our page.

After Pope Francis’s visit to the US it was revealed that a file clerk who opposes marriage equality had met with the holy father. This too generated lots of discussions on our Facebook pages. Some took to condemning the Pope, and the Catholic Church as a whole, others affirmed the Pope’s actions and comments addressing income inequality, incarceration in the United States, climate change, homelessness, as well as his helpful role in reestablishing relations between the United States and Cuba. It was interesting that some of the people who critical of The Pope were silent when it was revealed that the friends he reached out to join him for a meal was a happily married male couple.

One issue that has been discussed amongst the Facebook administrators, is the topic of personal ads posted on our Facebook page.

Our official Facebook pages are dedicated to the vision, goals and statement of purpose of the organization. Comments and posts reflective of those are most welcome.

While some people have been critical of posts that place an exclusive emphasis on race it should be noted that people are free to post on any topics.

It would be disingenuous to not acknowledge that attraction to people of different races is one of the factors which draws people to our Facebook pages. **We welcome the disbursed to be of the member and member expression.** What is not welcomed are ads that may be more appropriate for dating websites. The fact that one is a “bottom” from Baton Rouge, “verse” from Venice or a “top” Toronto seeking dates, husbands or hookups may be interesting or entertaining on a certain level, the advertisement of such is not appropriate for our Facebook pages. The same goes for posts of people looking to sell their merchandise.

One of the challenges of communication within NABWMT is to provide for a for **discussion that are relevant**, interesting, topical, thought provoking, educational all the while keeping with the values our organization. It’s a fine line but hope that you will endeavor to be part of the discussion.

CONVENTION 2016

Memphis Good Stuff
Convention Co Chairs



Like Lots of Memphis' Good Stuff, 2016 Is Just Around the Corner

by Paul Hawkins & Neal Holmes, 2016 Convention Co-Chairs

Starting back in August, many of the 12,000 fans of NABWMT's Facebook page probably noticed a pattern. Back then we counted 46 weeks leading up to the Memphis convention dates of July 13-16, 2016, and decided we would come up with a list of 46 reasons to attend. Thus the pattern: At the start of every week we have posted to Facebook a new, specific reason to register for NABWMT'S 2016 convention.

Creating a list of 46 unique reasons to register for the convention turned out to be a lot less difficult than we first thought. Having just spent three years in Memphis, we had found lots of reasons to love the city, including some of the spectacular people who live there and who will be a part of the convention program.

For instance, 42 weeks before the convention we wrote reason #42: *You can't beat Beale Street*. Those familiar with Memphis know that Beale Street, which is just around the corner from the Doubletree by Hilton Memphis Downtown (our host hotel), vies for top position as America's most entertaining street. With more live music venues than you can shake a stick at, and more libations than you can shake a drink at, Beale Street promises you a night to remember.

Meanwhile, during the day, the convention program will dazzle you, too, which is why, 38 weeks before the convention we wrote reason #38: *David and Tre'Darrius will be there!* We introduced David & Tre'Darrius Anderson, the wonderful duo from Memphis who, as teenagers, flew to Washington, DC to become the youngest gay couple to ever get married. Featured on the program as plenary speakers, David and Tre'Darrius will help us reflect on the first year of marriage equality in the United States, and what marriage might mean in the years to come.

If you have been following our weekly "reason to register" on NABWMT's Facebook page, we hope you have enjoyed our posts thus far, and we hope you will enjoy the posts yet to come. Speaking of which, we want to give you a sneak preview of reason #28, which will appear just a few days before we turn the corner to 2016: *You can still catch the early bird rate*. This article is the first reminder that the early bird rate to register for the 2016 convention ends this December 31st. When we post reason #28, that reminder will be the last. So for all the reasons we have been posting to register for the Memphis convention, and for all the reasons we have yet to post, if you have not already done so, we hope you will register for the convention before rates rise in the New Year.

For your convenience, a registration form appears on the last page of this issue of Q-Visions. You may also download the form, and learn more about the convention, by visiting our dedicated convention website: www.nabwmt2016.org. See you in Memphis!

<h1 style="margin: 0;">Yes!</h1>	Sign me up!	NABWMT 2016	Voices from our past, Voices for our future.
----------------------------------	-------------	------------------------	---

[Please use one registration form per person.]

Name: _____	Day phone: _____
Nickname for name badge: _____	Eve. phone: _____
Address: _____	E-mail: _____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Note: If you are requesting a physical needs accommodation, please check here and then describe on reverse.

1) **Yes!** I'm coming to NABWMT's 2016 convention! I have checked my applicable registration rate:

- My registration is postmarked on or before 12/31/2015, and the following person is also registering with me at this time _____: \$165.00
(Note: Please mail one form for each registrant, but both forms together).
- My registration is postmarked on or before 12/31/2015: \$175.00
- My registration is postmarked between 1/1/2016 and 3/31/2016: \$200.00
- My registration is postmarked between 4/1/2016 and 6/15/2016: \$225.00
(Note: After 6/15/2016, please do not mail this form; instead, please e-mail info@nabwmt2016.org to inquire about availability.)

2) **Yes!** I will contribute this amount to the convention scholarship fund to help an individual in need attend NABWMT's convention. \$_____

3) **Yes!** I want to win! Please send me a quantity of _____ "nifty fifty-fifty" raffle ticket books. I'll get six tickets in each book, at \$10 per book. \$_____

4) My total payment is: \$_____

Please make check or money order payable to "NABWMT" for your total amount. Your check or money order must be in U.S. funds drawn on a U.S. bank.

Please mail this form with your payment to: NABWMT
P. O. Box 3793
Hollywood, CA 90078-3793 U.S.A.

Questions? Please visit www.nabwmt2016.org or e-mail us: info@nabwmt2016.org