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Pictured (L to R) Norbert, Ollie Mario, D.A. Leonard, Scott and Daryl



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The Quarterly, the official newsletter of the National Association of Black and White Men Together, is published four times per year and is a benefit of NABWMT membership.

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## ■ Editor's Q

Usually, as I begin creating the story board for each edition of Q-Visions, I attempt to find some common theme or direction that would be complimented by contributions from our roster of contributors. For the record, even though I assemble, edit, and act as a pseudo information conduit, this production appreciates all those who share their talents, voices, and interest within our pages. Especially an insightful editorial team that creates the "synergy" to deliver each quarterly volume. Originally, I had completed this section with an editorial that was broad in scope, but seemed to send mixed signals that needed refinement. In that version, I used verbiage that was considered "unclear" or even perhaps counterproductive to the spirit of this publication. Therefore I was charged with the task that all writers at one point or another must face. It was time for a "re-write," to effectively communicate my message, meanwhile keeping it uniquely real. With the 30th Anniversary convention rapidly approaching, teeming with meetings, workshops, presentations and reunions of both new and old faces, I believe that we should engage a robust dialogue concerning an honest assessment of our existence as well as the future of NABWMT. As a long withstanding gay, multi-cultural volunteer based organization, our legacy has been established with many notable accomplishments, ranging from a cadre of formal chapters, 1988 AIDS activism via the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention, Bush-Mallon Institute seminars, 2005 Silver Anniversary Capitol Hill reception with Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes and our signature mission to thwart racial and cultural barriers while developing supportive environments.

Ultimately our sojourn began with our originator and benefactor, Michael Smith whom envisioned gathering like minded individuals to explore their mutual attractions as well as discussing the complexities of such couplings within the gay community. However as three decades have past with our triumphs and tragedies in tow we can proudly state that we have much to crow about. But as new crossroads approach while facing tumultuous head winds we must begin addressing six issues affecting volunteer based organizations such as time poverty, personal economics, responsiveness, technology, finances and changing expectations of current and future stakeholders.

Each of these caveats are the spokes in the wheel of change that will challenge this organization's viability and it's membership dynamic to the fullest. Our forward momentum will greatly depend on the full throated support from our membership and the energy of committed individuals prepared to take NABWMT to new heights. With 30 years in the rear view mirror, we must adhere to defining our destiny and determining a direction to guide us there. Join us in Fort Lauderdale for the camaraderie and enjoy this edition of Q-Visions as we seek to enlighten, empower and entertain within the pages of our Spring issue. Your feedback, suggestions, comments and contributions are always welcomed. Let us hear from you today as we continue our pursuit for communication excellence. ■

## ■ Q Chapter News



(left) Kirk Gile (forefront) BWMTS

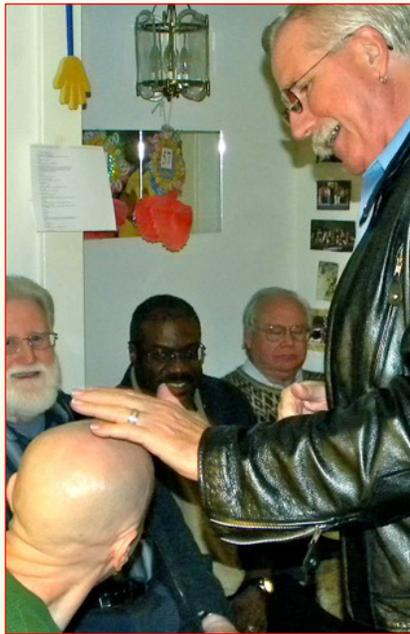


Photo courtesy of Margus

**NABWMT** and its affiliate of chapters across the country provide a variety of opportunities for local members to connect in educational outlets, group travel as well as staying vibrant with on line platforms or communities. The NA has prioritized it's communication efforts with local chapters through it's monthly conference calls, proposed updated links within the national website and supportive materials from the national office. It's recognized that local chapters are a vital life source and integral part of the NABWMT network. In surveying our affiliates, we highly encourage those memberships to update

communication mechanism such as newsletters, websites, social platforms or information portals to which you share your news. Refreshing your sites with your current activities, ongoing mainstays or upcoming programming serves a means to generate interest, fund raise or spurr growth. The NA is open and available as a source to assist your local chapter with your media deficiencies or skill building capacities. There are new tech gadgets and mashup's that can make putting your chapter on line in minutes without purchasing software or understanding HTML. Congratulations on your local outreach and accomplishments. Let's share some spotlight on those making waves across the land!

**BWMTSC: The Low Down**, the official newsletter of BWMTSC launched April 2010 and edited by Kirk Gile with a team of contributors. This new media piece covers news and views from a uniquely Southern California prospective and cites that it will be on the cutting edge of "what's really going on". It's no secret that this chapter is staying busy with activity including a stimulating web presence, weekend getaways to hot spots such as Palm Springs and Las Vegas. Plus Chairitable theme night events for local service organizations. BWMTSC has had a consistent contingency from it's chapter in attendance to the National convention. <http://www.bwmtsc.org>

### **BWMT-GULF COAST:**



We welcome our latest chapter established in Mobile, Alabama under the flagship of BWMT Gulf Coast. Originating in 2010, this chapter has positioned itself on line with a FACEBOOK page under the administration of D.L. Rice and followed with other Internet connections such as the rainbowconnection.com. According to founding members, this chapter is aggressively seeking core members to facilitate growth and social planing.



### **MACT-SFL: Men of All Cultures Together - South Florida (MACTsfl)**

is a multi-cultural organization dedicated to providing a supportive environment for gay men to work and play together. We strive to understand racial and cultural differences and to celebrate our diversity. A local chapter of BWMT, we are based in Fort Lauderdale - Miami and often host activities in Wilton Manors. MACT-SFL will be instrumental in hosting DIVERSE, the annual convention July 26-31, 2010. At this time, the chapter has no actual website, but utilizes MySpace as it's primary info source.



St. Patty's Day Event/ BWMTSC

## ■ Q Chapter News

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*Pictured: L to R- Dean H., Jim S., Matt D.*

## Spring Midland Regional Kansas City, Missouri May 14-16, 2010

by Doug Reynolds  
contributor(djdoug268@aol.com)

The Midland Regional affiliates chose Kansas City, Missouri, May 14-16, 2010 to kick off it's seasonal regional meetings at the Hyatt Regency Crown Center. With a striking backdrop of the KC skyline, Friday nights reception was hosted on a 35th floor suite as 20 attendees registered in a meet and greet atmosphere preparing for a weekend filled with both business and the bravado of the city.

Saturday's business meeting resulted in former NA Board Member, Doug Reynolds elected as Co-Chair and current NA Board member, Darryl Fore as Secretary. Each position will commence in fall 2010 and run consecutively for two years. Other business discussed included changes in the Regional By-Laws concerning Midland meeting revenues and incurred expenses by chapters and individuals which will be up for a vote at the Fall Midland event in October.

Saturday evening's highlight featured a banquet for participants with a catered meal as well as additional chances to network in stimulating and memorable conversation. According to Host Reynolds, the banquet is a significant element of the entire event and offers that special spark for the occasion. Sunday wrapped the weekend with an AM buffet and the traditional BMWT "good-bye" hugs and kisses as attendees prepared to return to their respective destinations until reuniting for the Fall Midland Regional scheduled for Oklahoma City in October 14-17, 2010. Shrewd planning and important outreach will allow the Midland Regional to be held simultaneously to the 2010 Black Gay Pride of OKC. Additional information on the Midland Regional will be available for download at [www.bwmtmidland.org](http://www.bwmtmidland.org) or the national website: [www.nabwmt.org](http://www.nabwmt.org) The Midland Regional is open to all NA members and non-members. Everyone is welcomed to participate. For info on BGP/OKC: <http://oklahomablackpride.publishpath.com> ■



*Pictured: L to R - Darryl F., Carnell C., Khameron C., Doug R., Brian S.*

## ■ National News and Comments



### American Airlines Receives Elizabeth Birch Equality Award

American Airlines the official carrier for NABWMT's DIVERSE 30th Anniversary convention, will receive this year's Elizabeth Birch Equality Award, announced by co-chairs of the 2010 Black Tie Dinner. Airline executives will attend the 29th annual Black Tie Dinner to receive the prestigious award being held on Saturday evening, November 6, 2010, at the Sheraton Dallas Hotel.

To honor national leaders, and in recognition of the inspirational leadership of former Human Rights Campaign Executive Director Elizabeth Birch, this award is given by discretion, no more than yearly, to an individual, organization or company that has made a significant contribution of national scope to the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community. Elizabeth Birch received the first such award, as well as the distinction of having this recognition renamed in her honor. Past recipients of the Birch award include Showtime Networks/Robert Greenblatt, Alan Cumming, Sharon Stone, Bishop V. Gene Robinson and, last year, Judy Shepard. "We are deeply honored to accept this special award and look forward to this year's Black Tie Dinner so much," said Denise Lynn, American Airlines' Vice President of Diversity & Leadership Strategies. "There is no greater embrace than that given by your hometown, and receiving the Elizabeth Birch Award will only magnify the pride we take in being part of the inclusive and welcoming fabric that makes up the people of Dallas and Fort Worth and the lives of all our employees."

For over a decade, Fort Worth-based American Airlines has been a pioneer in implementing fair-minded policies and practices for its lesbian,

gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) customers and employees. American Airlines has consistently held the highest possible ranking on the Human Rights Campaign's Corporate Equality Index and is the only airline to achieve this distinction every year since its inception in 2002. "The Dallas-Fort Worth market is fortunate to have so many choices when it comes to travel," said Black Tie Dinner Co-Chair Ron Guillard. "American Airlines consistently proves that they want the loyal business of gays and lesbians, bisexuals and transgender people — and they work to earn it." "American Airlines doesn't just talk the talk," Guillard said. "American established an entire gay and lesbian national marketing and sales team, called the Rainbow TeAAM. The team consists of travel specialists working with gay and lesbian community groups and national and local organizations to expertly handle our community's travel needs."

American Airlines boasts a long list of industry firsts: the first major airline to implement same-sex domestic partner benefits; the first to implement both sexual orientation and gender identity in its workplace nondiscrimination policies; the first to endorse the Employment Non-Discrimination Act; the first to have a company-recognized LGBT employee resource group, GLEAM; and the first to launch a dedicated LGBT-specific website, [www.aa.com/rainbow](http://www.aa.com/rainbow). "American Airlines is one of the leading corporate members of the International Gay and Lesbian Travel Association and is a founding corporate member of the National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, as well as the first and only airline today to include LGBT-owned businesses in its supplier diversity program," said Black Tie Dinner Co-Chair Nan Arnold. "American Airlines remains the most gay-friendly of all U.S. airlines through its generous partnerships with the LGBT community, as well as its loyalty and respect for customers, employees and shareholders," Nan Arnold continued. "We're pleased to honor American Airlines for its unflagging commitment to diversity."

As the official carrier for DIVERSRE, all attendees can receive a discounted fare using our code:6770AS and booking online at [www.AA.com](http://www.AA.com) Our co-travel partner, AVIS will also offered discounted car rentals during convention week. You can reserve your car by contacting 1.800.331.1600 refer to code: B136001 ■

## ■ National News and Comments



### Gill Foundation and Weber Shandwick Release 'Business of Change'

The Gill Foundation and Weber Shandwick have released "Business of Change," a resource guide focused on corporate-nonprofit collaboration to promote equality for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community. The 104-page guide, available free to download, is a first-of-its-kind collection of best practices with actionable and practical ideas to help nonprofits and corporations advance LGBT equality. This resource guide could be an instrumental tool for chapters to utilize in both capacity and skill building among its membership.

The Business of Change guide includes: - Overview of the changing landscape of corporate philanthropy - 2009 Business of Change survey results - Glossary of terms - Information on organizations that provide indices rating LGBT equality - 110 questions nonprofits should consider prior to partnering - Case studies of innovative collaborations between LGBT nonprofits and corporations "Given the rapidly changing dynamic between the private and public sectors, we hope to challenge both nonprofits and corporations to seize opportunities to drive change on LGBT initiatives," says Patricia Evert, Gill Foundation's vice president of Donor Resources. "Taking action and partnering together is not just the right thing to do, it is the smart thing to do." "Weber Shandwick believes in the power of collaboration between nonprofits and corporations. We're proud to author Business of Change with the Gill Foundation, and hope this unique publication empowers organizations to develop more effective partnerships to promote LGBT equality," said Chad Boettcher, Weber Shandwick's senior vice president of Social Innovation.

The guide is a product of Gill Foundation's Donor Resources team in partnership with Weber Shandwick's Social Innovation team.

The 2009 project included a summer fellowship program for LGBT student leaders, and an advisory board made up of expert nonprofit and corporate professionals working toward LGBT equality.

To download a copy of the Business of Change guide, log on to [gillfoundation.org](http://gillfoundation.org) or [webershandwick.com](http://webershandwick.com). For more information or to receive a free copy contact Patricia Evert at [patriciae@gillfoundation.org](mailto:patriciae@gillfoundation.org)

Gill Foundation Established in 1994, the Gill Foundation's mission is to secure equal opportunity for all Americans, regardless of sexual orientation or gender expression. In its 15-year existence, the Gill Foundation has become one of the nation's largest private foundations focused on lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) civil rights. During these years, the Foundation has invested more than \$162 million to support programs and nonprofit organizations across the country that share its commitment to equal rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Americans. The Foundation works to engage and educate donors to provide the effective, large-scale financial support necessary to achieve equality, and joins with like-minded organizations and individuals to put forward a shared vision for doing so. The Foundation works to broaden the base of LGBT and allied supporters—individual, institutional and corporate—that are knowledgeable about local, state and national LGBT nonprofits and the importance of their work. Today, as ever, the Gill Foundation remains invested in equality. For more information, visit <http://www.gillfoundation.org/>.

**About Weber Shandwick** Weber Shandwick is a leading global public relations agency with offices in 77 countries around the world. The firm's success is built on its deep commitment to client service, creativity, collaboration and harnessing the power of Advocates - engaging stakeholders in new and creative ways to build brands and reputation. Weber Shandwick provides strategy and execution across practices such as consumer marketing, healthcare, technology, public affairs, financial services, corporate and crisis management. Its specialized services include digital/social media, advocacy advertising, market research, and corporate responsibility ■

## ■ National News and Comments



### A Need for the BMI? Gay Legal Group Sues Gay Sports Group

by Mark Behar and Soda Nobuhle

The National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR; <http://www.nclrights.org/>) filed suit in federal district court against the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Association (NAGAAA; <http://www.nagaaasoftball.org/>) for alleged discrimination based on sexual orientation against bisexuals (*Apilado v. NAGAAA*).

The suit claims violation of the Washington State law against sexual orientation discrimination in public accommodations, by imposing a rule that teams participating in the 2008 Gay Softball World Series in Seattle could have no more than two heterosexuals per team. NCLR is representing three men who played on a San Francisco team that competed in the World Series, each of whom were asked “intrusive questions” about their sexual orientation and their private lives in front of a room of over 25 people, that queried whether they were “predominately attracted to men” or to women, without an option to claim attraction to both.

After the interrogation, a panel voted on whether the player was “gay” or “non-gay.” The NAGAAA panel voted that all three of the men, who were men of color, were voted as “non-gay,” whereas two additional white men on the same team who were also questioned about their predominant attractions were voted as being “gay.” Responses by two of the players, one white and one black, were reported to be almost identical, although only the black player was disqualified.

The NCLR claims that the NAGAAA refused to consider that the athletes could be bisexual, and responded, “This is the Gay World Series, not the Bisexual World Series.” The NAGAAA’s policy is that no more than 2 players from any team be “heterosexual.” The Atlanta Mudcats challenged the San Francisco D2s after losing during the 2008 series. The NCLR has “tried very hard” to settle the case and to have NAGAAA change its policy, to no avail.

NAGAAA’s response to the suit: “At its core, NAGAAA is a grass roots organization dedicated to providing a safe environment for gays and lesbians. We have no paid staff; we so not have large sums of money, nor a pool of talented lawyers. It saddens all of us that the NCLR, who we view as members of our community, have chosen this destructive path. NAGAAA represents a diverse population, and as such there are legitimate differences of opinion among us. However, the action by the NCLR has forced these differences into the court system, rather than allowing our members the right to define who and what we are. One thing is clear. If NCLR is successful, the enormous monetary damages they seek will put our very existence in jeopardy. Regardless of the outcome, everyone loses here. There are no winners. We are just at the beginning of this difficult saga. The Board is committed to representing our organization to the best of our abilities. We are guided by the framework of our organizational charter, as written by you, our members. We commit to keeping you informed as this process continues. We believe that once the facts are discovered, a very different story emerges from that which has been reported, and we hope that NCLR will join with us.”

How could the NABWMT’s Bush Mallon Institute serve to arbitrate a positive outcome? Is this a case of “nitpicking” or “sour grapes” by the losing team? Is it a case of “eating our own” jealousies among two teams and two organizations? Or, is this a very fundamental issue of discrimination that highlights the very internalized racism and sexism within our culture and our LGBT community?

Regardless of the perceived self-destructive infighting of these two organizations, each provide valuable opportunities geared toward voice and visibility for our community. The Bush Mallon Institute as a first step strategy is in a unique position to host NCLR and NAGAAA to an onsite guided dialogue to share their respective missions and processes in a manner that engages the LGBT community and encourages us all to hold ourselves accountable to the call of solidarity. Divisiveness is often an unfortunate derivative of fear-based thinking and/or the inability to capture or sustain our common ground. When we lose our way along the journey of likeness, it is helpful to gather the support of those who are able to remind us that our sameness is what brought us together in the first place. ■

## ■ National News and Comments



### DIVERSE 2010: NABWMT 30th Anniversary Surf's into Ft. Lauderdale

All roads lead to the Sunshine state, July 26-31, 2010 as the National Association of Black and White Men Together convenes its Pearl Anniversary convention marking a 30 year odyssey as one of the largest multi-cultural groups in the United States. The Convention Planning Committee in conjunction with MACT South Florida and the organizations Co-Chairs, Norbet Young and Scott Duty, have been strident in developing event programming embodied in a "wave" concept as detailed by the committee below:

**Wave 1:** Traditional Board and Organizational activities, including Board and membership meetings, elections, candidate forums, etc. In addition, there are some enrichment workshops that are designed to improve local chapter activities. These will include, but are not limited to: newsletters, web pages, membership, sharing information about social, political, cultural enhancements to improve the marketing and development of each chapter. These will be workshops facilitated by members of the Board of Directors and/or members from local chapters that have demonstrated exceptional skills at building those particular components in their local chapters.

**Wave 2:** Traditional educational and "edu-tainment" activities, plenary sessions, workshops and caucuses, including targeted sessions on racism, ageism, sexism, cultural/political awareness, health & HIV, relationship enhancements, etc. Re-vamped Bush Mallon Institute will be unveiled as a series of antiracism and diversity workshops.

**Wave 3:** Expanded social and networking activities, whereby registrants may participate in any of the scheduled activities, but may have to pay extra for special activities or transportation. Social and networking opportunities with fellow registrants may help immerse registrants in cross cultural/ethnic/racial/age/gender opportunities that will "unwittingly" contribute to awareness and personal growth that the other two waves were designed to impact. Less structured and more relaxed than the other two waves. Will include opportunities for cruises, beach and pool parties, shopping, dining out together, etc. Will also include a Diversity Day Ft. Lauderdale to involve local community in activities of the NA. The Talent-No Talent Show will highlight talent from chapters members from around the country, and will also introduce attendees to local Ft. Lauderdale talent. A total of 88 out of 467 people responded to a SurveyMonkey that was circulated online in January and February, 2010 to solicit input and interest from members about proposed activities. The final report will be posted to the NA website.

According to projections, this years convention could anticipate participation from the entire region which consists of Ft. Lauderdale, West Palm Beach and South Beach which has hosted numerous high profile events and conventions in the last decade. The epicenter of this year's activities will be the North Fort Lauderdale Marriott featuring its stunning multi-million dollar make over and stylized amenities awaiting attending delegates. Concierge service, dual pools, workout facilities, and state of the art technology access will be available 24/7 during the entire week and beyond for those continuing to enjoy the Florida hospitality after the official proceedings have come to an end. American Airlines is the official carrier for DIVERSE, offering a 5% discount through its website portal at [www.aa.com](http://www.aa.com) using the code 6770AS and car rental service from partner AVIS at 1.800.331.1600, using reference code: AWD#B136001. The Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention & Visitors Bureau boast that the city rolls out the rainbow carpet with hot beaches, exhilarating activities and sizzling nightlife, including The Manor, site of the No-Talent Show, (July 29) in the Epic Room. This multi-concept complex has something for everyone and will certainly be a destination for conventioners throughout the week. Across town, is PJ's Corner Pocket ([www.pjscornerpocket.com](http://www.pjscornerpocket.com)) which will host the annual Midland event that has also become a staple event during the convention. If you haven't registered, go to our website ([www.nabwmt.org](http://www.nabwmt.org)) and get ready to catch the wave!! ■

## ■ Q Networking

### “DIVERSE 2010” Workshops Have Something For Everyone

By Bruce Menapace

It's that time of year again when I start getting really excited about convention! This year there is a lot to be excited about—we have a great setting in Fort Lauderdale with shopping, the beach and tours all available in what is one of the country's gayest cities. Of course, we also have been developing an excellent program of workshops. Here's a sneak peak of some of the programs in the works:

**Interracial Relationships, Part 1** - What challenges have you faced in interracial relationships? What do we need more of or less of?

**Interracial Relationships, Part 2** - Couples Going Deeper (Bring your sweetheart to this one)

**Everyday Interactions that Anger, Annoy and Divide People Racially** - As persons who are open to people from all races/cultures, we can all make comments or do things that have an unintended affect. We'll have a discussion about what ruffles feathers across the color line.

**De-stress with Massage, Meditation, Yoga and Progressive Muscle Relaxation** - Bring pillow, towel & lotion and wear comfortable clothing for this deeply relaxing time. Try out some easy techniques in a safe hands-on (or hands-off, if you prefer) environment.

**Making the Most of Chapter Socials Using Web Page and Newsletter Communications** - Choosing social

opportunities (home parties & potlucks, bowling/softball, dinner outings, and more!) and how to effectively market them using a Newsletter, Web Page Communication, and Social Networking Connections (Twitter, FaceBook, etc.)

**Embracing Multiple Identities of Race and Culture** - The diaspora is comprised of multiple identities of race, ethnicity and culture. Our conversation encourages us to ponder origins and perspectives of race and how they influence the relationships we have with ourselves and others.

**Busting Stereotypes of Aging: the Troll, the Auntie and the Daddy** - Are Troll, Auntie or Daddy the only roles for gay men as we age? Of course not, but the stereotypes are out there. How do these stereotypes affect younger, older and mid-life gay men?



**Ask Your Q-Doc Anything!** - An open discussion allowing participants to ask any questions about anything having to do with gay, lesbian, bi, or transgender health and wellness. Important tips to stay well, including information about healthy eating, exercise, vitamin D.

**The Generational Communication Divide - Is It New Technology Use vs. Old Sexual Customs?** Join us as we extend our conversation from last year's NABWMT Philadelphia convention on what we need to better connect across generations.

**Effective Collaboration with Diverse Organizations - Overcoming the Trust Deficit** - When predominantly white organizations interact with people of color organizations, history sometimes gets in the way. How can relationships be built so that organizations can trust each other?

**Hope to see you in Fort Lauderdale!**

## NABWMT Seeks Award Nominations

Recognize a person or organization that has contributed to the NABWMT Statement of Purpose NABWMT is currently seeking nominations for its annual awards to be presented at our national convention in Fort Lauderdale, July 26-31, 2010. Forms can be obtained from the National Office or downloaded from <http://www.nabwmt.org>.

Completed forms may either be submitted by U.S. mail, by using the "Submit By Email" button on the PDF, or by sending as an attachment to an e-mail. Please use the guidelines on the forms for nominating that deserving person or organization that has made contributions in support of the NABWMT Statement of Purpose. Please note that the deadline for nominations is June 30, 2010.

- Fillable PDF\*
- Word 2003 Document

\* Completed PDFs can be printed and emailed (with the "Submit By Email Button") but not saved if you are using Acrobat Reader.

**In just a few short years**, the Age of Aquarius has exploded into the 21st Century with buzz words such as "bandwidth, SEO's ( search engine optimizer), interfacing, FACEBOOK, YouTube and the ubiquitous "click" that is destined to rule the internet landscape as well as the connections we make in our lives. NABWMT is in the new media mix across the digital spectrum including Twitter, LinkedIn and our own user friendly website undergoing updates and future re-design to communicate our mission as well as messages to our network affiliates and supporters. The NA's use of the "net" has become a vital tool in our arsenal to outreach and promote our activities coast to coast. We encourage our membership to visit our site and share your renewed internet presence, dilemmas, inquires or victories with us. We are always looking to hear from our members.

## ■ Q Networking

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# DIVERSE 2010 Convention Scholarships Available

Due to the generosity of NABWMT contributors, limited funds are available to help those in need to attend this year's DIVERSE convention. There are two types of assistance available with completed applications submitted by June 15, 2010. Award notifications are processed and forwarded 10 days from the deadline. Applications can be requested from the national office (800- NA4-BWMT) or from our website at <http://www.nabwmt.org>

The Michael John Smith Scholarship Fund (named in honor of NABWMT's founder) helps individuals with demonstrated financial need attend the annual NABWMT convention, particularly so the recipient can take advantage of the educational programming at the core of the convention's purpose. Applicants may apply to have some or all of the convention registration fee covered by this fund. This award also requires individual to provide an additional 4 hours of light duty volunteer time during the convention as directed by the Convention Planning Committee Chairs.

The Wendell Roberson Fund (named in memory of the late Wendell Roberson of Chicago) serves a purpose similar to the Michael John Smith Scholarship Fund insofar as it helps individuals with demonstrated financial need attend the NABWMT convention. Whereas an award from the Michael John Smith scholarship fund covers some or all of the convention registration fee, an award from the Wendell Roberson Fund may be used to cover some portion of the key expenses normally incurred to attend the convention. Examples include transportation, lodging, and/or meals. First priority for Wendell Roberson Fund awards is given to persons living with HIV who also have a demonstrated financial need. Second priority is given to persons not living with HIV who nonetheless have a demonstrated financial need. Wendell Roberson Funds are disbursed directly to the vendor (i.e. to the hotel or airline) or on a reimbursement basis for approved purposes (i.e. meals) upon furnishing valid receipts. The ability to offer assistance primarily depends on the amount of funds available. Other factors are described in the application cover letter. <http://www.nabwmt.org>



**NABWMT welcomes American Airlines as our official DIVERSE 2010 Convention carrier to Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, July 26- 31, 2010.**

As an attendee, chapter or group you can get a 5% discount on scheduled fares when booking on-line at [www.AA.com](http://www.AA.com) Enter the code **6770AS**. (rates are effective July 19 thru August 10)

**Need a rental car?** AVIS will offer a discounted rate to those booking with American while attending the convention. Contact Avis at 1.800.331.1600 refer to code **B136001** to reserve your car. Haven't made your reservation for DIVERSE? What are you waiting for! Call or Click to catch the convention wave TODAY!

### **Marriott Hotel**

6650 North Andrews Avenue - Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309

Phone: 954-771-0440

[www.marriott.com/hotels/hotelinformation/ travel/flcc-fortlauderdale-marriott-north/](http://www.marriott.com/hotels/hotelinformation/travel/flcc-fortlauderdale-marriott-north/)

**Mention "Diverse/NABWMT"** for Special Rates before June 25th: \$69/night + tax

For more info call 800.NA4.BWMT or [www.NABWMT.org](http://www.NABWMT.org)



# Gay Icon Sylvester Funds Charities

Before Boy George, RuPaul or Adam Lambert there was the one and only, Sylvester! Although gender bending has become common place in the 21st Century as well as many ground breaking shows such as Will and Grace, The "L" Word and Queer as Folk have continued to break barriers. During the go-go 70's decade of sexual revolution there were only a handful of performers that were causing sensations and boldly coming out to the world. Performance artist Sylvester James burst onto the early 70's scene sporting over the top costuming often adorned with outrageous head gear to match and a falsetto voice ripping the airwaves. During his peak his influence reigned across the bay area then and has come full circle in 2010 with the announcement of unclaimed royalties being distributed to two local San Francisco charities.

His career spanned two decades and included stints with the infamous Cockettes, Pointer Sisters, Two tons of Fun Izora Armstead Rhodes and Martha Wash and numerous producers of the high energy music world known then as Disco. After early struggles and sought after acceptance, Sylvester ultimately broke through obscurity with such international hits as "Disco Heat," "You make me feel mighty real," and his mainstream crossover tune, "Someone Like You." A multiple Billboard Award winner, Sylvester toured the world and enchanted audiences with his unique styling on songs ranging from Billie Holiday classics to Broadway show stoppers such as Summer Time.

According to a 2005 biography, "The Fabulous Sylvester: The Legend, The Music and The Seventies in San Francisco" by sociologist Joshua Gamson, Sylvester lived life along the razor's edge as well as all

spectrum's of the rainbow. James was seen many times strutting the streets of Castro in a full length fur coat during summer with his two dogs, living in grandiose apartment style often without paying leases and showing tremendous generosity during prosperous times. He was a driven showman basking in the hot fame spotlight, yet concern about his San Francisco community where he found his audience which propelled his prominence. Numerous times he appeared at the Castro Street Fair, local fundraisers, political rallies and on the FOX network talk show with Joan Rivers until his timely 1988 death from AIDS complications.

The artistry of Sylvester has found new life and legions of fans, admirers and music soundtracks, including making a cameo appearance in the Academy Award winning film, MILK, which chronicled the life of slain Supervisor Harvey Milk. Gamson details the relationship between Milk and Sylvester as the "Mayor and First Lady of Castro."

Unfortunately at this death, the singer's estate was in a indebted disarray including a \$350,000 advance negotiated for his personal use. Yet, under the guidance of Tony Elite and his wife serving as executors, Roger Gross as legal consult plus biographer Gamson, it was revealed that his music catalog now owned by a music publishing entity had generated revenue. During the past 21 years, usage of the music song book through downloads or licensing produced enough royalties to retire his outstanding debts and fund the bequeath from his will. After accounting was completed, \$140,000 was released to be divided between Project Open Hand and AIDS Emergency Fund of San Francisco. Additional funding streams supported by his music have also been discovered that will be also used to support these agencies. The magic and music of his career thrilled dancers everywhere and years later his essence continues to sprinkle joy and hope to survivors in his memory. ■

## ■ Relationship Q

### Living and Loving In Color

by Cornelius Mabin

In an age of Sex in the City, social networking and “knock knock booty calls”, many of the lovelorn are still pondering the question, will I ever find the partner of a lifetime? And once that partner, life mate or lover lands four square into your life, then there’s the dilemma of building a lasting relationship and dealing with the multiculturalism of your union. There’s been limited empirical research concerning same gender loving interracial relationship. However, NABWMT and affiliates have served as an outlet for surveys and data gathering for case studies for academics. Yet coupling of this nature has been subject to a variety of viewpoints ranging from taboo and exotic to a challenging statement of love within the gay community. Despite the lambda liberation movement, often those observing from the outside continue to have perceived notions about such relationships with much discussion, debates and dissension still viable in the 21st century. Numerous attempts to deconstruct multicultural relationships has resulted in some stimulating verbiage. Including a 2002 prospective listed on Allexperts.com expressing that such unions have evolved because of the “legacy of slavery, or because they want money and believe they will get it from white men, or because they lack self-esteem and being with a white man whom they perceive to be better than their own race somehow makes them feel that they are better than the average black man, or because of a previous bad experience with black men, etc.” Recently, the Justice for All forum sponsored by the Chicago Gay Men’s Caucus featured author/ activist Keith Boykin whom stated that “I think the biggest issue we face today is our our internalized prejudice. The most important thing we can do is to come out ... and be open and honest about who we are.” He further encouraged attendees to overcome a “fear-based society” with love and self-empowerment to face their biggest challenge: Themselves. What’s a couple to do while navigating these mixed signals and multiple message streams while attempting to define your relationship? It’s not rocket science, but it does take work and here’s a Top 10 list of some possible guidepost to keeping it real.

- 1. Keep Things Interesting:** After you discover your soul mate, don’t get caught up in the same old routine or rut that can lead to boredom. Make time for each other, see each person for who they truly are and not a fantasy created persona that they may never live up to.
- 2. Talk, Don’t Wish:** Wishing things would change is rarely effective. If a problem keeps raising it’s head in your relationship talk about it. Avoiding problems may mean a lack of conflict in the short term but generally could lead to some resentment, which could impact your long term relationship goals.
- 3. Mind Reading:** Trying to mind read what your partner is thinking can be frustrating. Simply ask for

clarification. Especially if you been sharing your lives together for some time or newlyweds, it’s easy to assume that we know what the other is thinking or feeling, but often we get it all wrong. Don’t make assumptions about each other but remember assuming could lead you to conclusions that could be cleared up with concise conversation.



**4. Taking Time with and without your partner:** Everyone deserves their “space” and “zone” for time to make personal assessments or pursue passions away from your partner. Ultimately, you will then have more things to talk about, share and discover as your relationship grows and during the time you spend together.

**5. Deal Breakers:** Don’t fall into the situation that your position on a task or decision with you partner becomes a trap door to a serious misunderstanding or argument. Multicultural couples often find themselves in heated conversations about family outings, holidays and friendship dynamics within their relationship.

**6. What’s Love Got to Do with It:** This can be a sobering question, when you are really wanting to know from your partner, “what’s it like to be in a relationship with me?” Don’t forget that you should be open to hearing what your partner is saying and not hearing what you want them to say. Consider what you are bringing to the relationship table.

**7. Does my butt look big in this?:** Compliments are relationship builders and designed to make each of you feel good. Be honest, sincere and non-manipulative. Be specific and find the right words to deliver the message that you are trying to convey.

**8. Asking for what you want:** If’s not working for you, then directly ask for what you want in your relationship. If you want to listen to some hip hop during drive time, then do so. If your partner desires to hear NPR, then be capable of sharing that understanding of their need. If mix in the bedroom is not taking you to new heights, then make them aware of it and try something new. Getting defensive or feeling rejected should be tempered with being open to discussing the issues and finding a win-win decision for each.

**9. Listening to your Partner:** Often partners can get distracted and find themselves unengaged during conversations. Take the time to stop and actively listen to what’s being said and let them know that they have your attention. When your partner feels that they are being heard and understood, then they are likely to be more open to hearing your viewpoints as well.

**10. Killing with Kindness:** Don’t fall into the habit of taking your partner for granted and not treating them with the same kind of respect that you seek. Interracial couples some times find that others may not be open to their relationship but making sure that you are totally supportive of your partner in those situations is vitally important to the stability of your union. Show that affection publicly while defining your relationship as productive and positive. ■



# Getting Ready for Spring, Summer, and the Rest of the Year

By Mark P. Behar, PA-C  
Health and HIV Committee

## GLBT & HIV Health Updates

Medical folks have long known that there are many things in our lives we can control to positively affect our health. And the following won't even mention "safer sex!" This isn't magic... it is really common sense!

1. Increased triglycerides and cholesterol increases your risk for early heart attack. So does tobacco use, poor nutrition (high sodium/salt, high fat, high rates of eating/drinking high fructose corn syrup and other sugars), inadequate exercise that affects more as we get older. Think of taking a trip to a modern grocery store with your great, great, great grandmother, and buying foods that she recognizes as real food. No junk food! No soda! Nothing canned or bottled! Fresh fish, meat, grains, vegetables, fruit. Okay, maybe she'll recognize fried chicken, but THAT SHOULD BE YOUR ONLY FOOD VICE—and in moderation!!
2. "Visceral Adiposity" which is med-talk for abdominal fat, not necessarily waist size or body mass index, or obesity, per se. Being severely overweight makes your heart get bigger and floppier, which increases the risk of heart failure. It also affects how your body produces insulin to handle absorption of simple carbohydrates. It is amazing to me that younger adults in their 20-50s already are so obese!
3. Vitamin D deficiency, especially in people with darkly pigmented skins who live in northern latitude cities without a lot of year round overhead sun light (north of a line from San Francisco to St. Louis to Baltimore, for the most part). Overdoing sun exposure means danger of sun burn and ultraviolet induced changes that may increase your risk for skin cancer and melanoma, even in darkly pigmented skins. Using SPF based UV screens prevents your skin from manufacturing the



vitamin D needed to keep you well. Natural vitamin D is really a hormone made in the skin during exposure to direct, overhead sun light. Vitamin D enriched dairy products don't give you enough to be helpful. EVERY ONE of my patients who have vitamin D levels checked are below the healthful level.

4. Tobacco use (note I did not specify "smoking," "rolling your own," etc.), alcohol overuse, and substance use (especially cocaine/crack, methamphetamines). We don't say these things because we're part of some vast conspiracy against these products. They really do shorten most people's lives and screw up your quality of life, no ifs, ands, or butts!!
5. Poorly controlled chronic illnesses, like diabetes, hypertension, chronic kidney disease, hepatitis C, and HIV. Note that you generally feel absolutely fine, even though these diseases are terribly out of control. Specifically about HIV, the goal of treatment with antiretroviral medications is to keep the viral load "undetectable," and to maintain absolute CD4 to greater than 500. Too many younger men are in stages of denial or minimization (or whatever other psychological defense mechanisms you may think of), and are not seeking medical treatments. This is disastrous for their health and may best be approached by peer support groups in your local communities, sort of like in the proven 12 step approach. As an older white guy in my community, I cannot create or run such a group, but I can help empower and support by brothers of color to do what needs to be done. Unfortunately, most local AIDS Service Organizations aren't well connected to these guys either. Persons must be plugged into decent health care services to have routine laboratory tests and good proactive medical and nursing advocacy care. If your community doesn't have these resources, either fight to get them, or encourage those people to move to cities that have these resources.
6. Post-Menopausal women (or transmen) as well as HIV positive people are at increased risk for "fragility fractures" of the bones of the wrist, hip, and spine. Avoiding traumatic injuries (slipping, falling, vigorous contact sports without prior conditioning, etc.) is preferred to suffering from the delayed healing that may occur should such a fracture occur.



*(continued on the next page)*

7. Exercise doesn't mean turning into a gym bunny and living at the bar bells and other available toys. Of course, it is more fun to do it with a partner that you can rely upon!

## HIV Stuff

It is important to remember that many of us infected with HIV are living and surviving pretty darn well with or without medications—at least in the short term. HIV is definitely like other chronic conditions, including hypertension, diabetes, and others. Signs and symptoms of advancing illness do not occur for quite awhile, but when they do, it signifies a severity of disease that cannot well be treated with medications. Medications are expensive, but that is what insurance and public health programs such as the federal ADAP (AIDS Drug Assistance Program) funded through Title II is for. Remember the goals of medication therapy is to reduce your viral load to UNDETECTABLE, and to enhance your absolute CD4 t cell count to greater than 500. This will maximize your health, until the next great advances in treatment are forthcoming.

## “ObamaCare” vs. “Obama Cares”

It will take awhile for the dust to settle on the most monumental piece of legislation since Lyndon Johnson's Medicare in the 1960s. “Change is never easy, but always possible,” according to the Prez. Perhaps we all should take his message back to our individual chapters! We should rely on some of the progressive organizations for their take on Health Care Reform, and how it will specifically affect our LGBT family. I'm not sure if there are any progressive conservative organizations, however, so this will have a decidedly politically left analysis.

According to our friends at the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association, several things may be expected over the several years of reform implementation.

1. Over 95% of all Americans should be covered, including the 32 million currently not covered.
2. Medicaid coverage is expected to be expanded to offer health insurance coverage to an additional 16 million low income people (not known is if this number is part of the 32 million, or an additional, meaning total affected 48 million.)

3. No denial of coverage or continuation of coverage for prior medical conditions, or during an acute illness.
4. Several competing plans with lower premiums will be available for those unable to afford to purchase insurance on their own. However, everyone will be required to have insurance, and will be fined possibly through increased taxes for willful nonparticipation.
5. Young adults under age 26 may remain on their family's insurance plan, rather than face loss of insurance. I do not know if such young people must be enrolled in college.
6. New tax credits and subsidies will make health care more affordable for families and businesses. This is expected to be paid for largely by taxing insurance companies, Big Pharma, and the very wealthiest of Americans. (Unless loopholes will be discovered. It is not known if these costs may be passed on to consumers.)
7. People on Medicare will pay less for prescription drugs as the “donut hole” gap in coverage will be closed.
8. More than 2.5 million jobs will be created or saved over the next decade by reducing health care costs for employers, however it is not known if these will be wage sustaining jobs, or minimum wage/part time.
9. Reform will cut the federal budget deficit by almost \$150 billion in the next decade, and an estimated \$1.2 trillion in the following ten years.
10. Reform is expected to cut the federal deficit by almost \$150 billion in the next decade, and an estimated \$1.2 trillion in the following decade. (A single US Air Force F-22 Raptor jet costs an estimated \$133-339 million.)
11. Community Health Centers are supposed to receive an additional \$11 billion, doubling the number of patients who can be treated, regardless of their insurance or ability to pay. What about shortages of primary care providers? How will quality of care be maintained and improved?
12. A 10% tax on tanning salon services will begin July 1st. OH MY!!
13. The whole process will be well underway by 2014, but some changes may not be fully implemented until an additional several years afterwards.

What's your take on this? Q Visions would love to hear from you! ■

# ■ Membership Application

This application is also available as a fillable PDF file on the national web page at [www.nabwmt.org](http://www.nabwmt.org) and payment can be made there on-line.

Name:

Date:

Address:

City:

State:  Zip:  Country:

Phone:  Fax:

Email:

Local Chapter Affiliation<sup>1</sup>:

This Application is:  New  Renewal

Membership Amount<sup>2</sup>:  \$30 annual renewal  
 \$30 new member dues,  
*if joining between October 1 and March 31*  
 \$15 new member dues,  
*if joining between April 1 and September 30*

Additional Gift Amount<sup>3</sup>:

Total Amount Enclosed:

1. If not affiliated with a local chapter, you will be identified as an "at-large" member.

2. Annual memberships are from October 1 to September 30 of the following year.

3. You can enclose an additional amount to support the NABWMT (tax deductible)

**Mail** forms with check or money order to: NABWMT, P.O. Bx 241968, Milwaukee, WI 53224-1968