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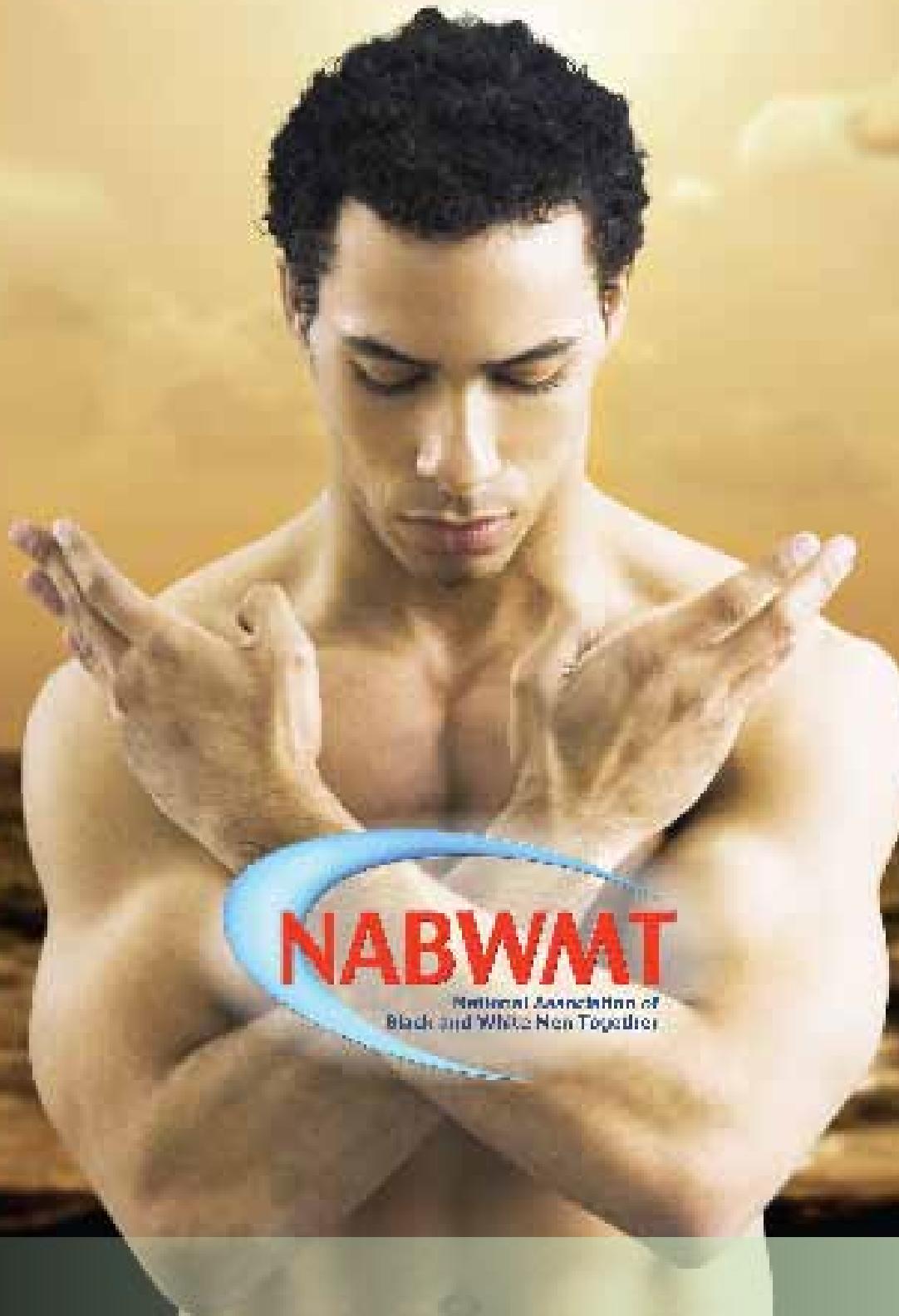
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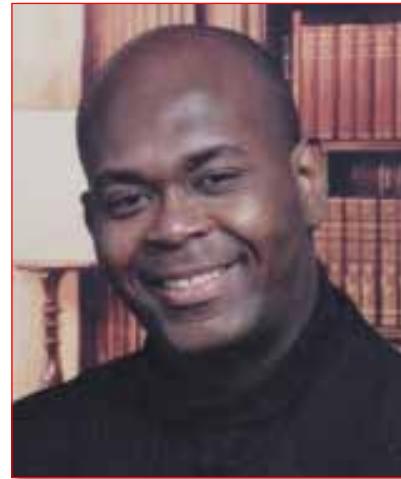
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## ■ Editor's Q

I don't know about you, but the high of a NABWMT convention continues to burn within me even after I return to the rigors of everyday life. I re-live, re-absorb, reminisce and rejoice in the afterglow of an exhilarating week of workshops, activities, conversation and camaraderie which personally enriches me, as well as, taps new insights into my involvement with this organization.

Being apart of this year's 30th anniversary convention became even more momentous due to the fact that I witnessed my brothers assess our circumstances, process the needs and take action to make sure that not only this convention would move ahead but passionately insisted that "if we love it, then there should be more of it."

It's this type of generational synergy which demonstrates the immense talent pool of devoted individuals among our membership that continues to assure me that we are poised to go the distance no matter the struggle. Yet as this year's convention fades to black, I can't forget the valuable lessons and teachable moments

I discovered and uncovered during the week. Although we closed ranks to make it happen in Ft. Lauderdale, it's apparent to myself and others that this kinetic energy must also be funneled to the local chapter level. I'm extremely concerned that many of our affiliates are suffering from a lack of manpower and motivation resulting in stagnated and malfunctioning entities. It's no secret that all our chapters are facing the double edge sword dilemma of both seeking youthful members while providing intergenerational programming within this new media culture. However, despite this being seen as a barrier, it's more practical to go into "think tank" mode than taking a no approach stance. I've listened to countless examples of our affiliates experiencing dwindling attendance to functions, either overextended or marginalized leadership and a perceived disconnect from the NA. To the contrary, the NA has offered various efforts to communicate through the monthly Leadership Calls, utilization of the organizational website has been promoted and this forum has made it its business to seek out chapter news and views on all levels. The survival of the local chapters is critically vital to the life blood of the NA, especially since chapters from coast to coast act as conduits to local activities juxtaposed either negatively or positively to our statement of purpose. Case in point, our recent press release on the Prop 8 measure was prompted by the Southern California chapters interest and involvement. In short, this symbiotic relationship is paramount to the evolution of NABWMT and as far as I am concern, Priority One on the radar.

During convention, a common theme within workshops cited scheduling outreach and networking "out side the box." A emphasis on reigniting individual passion, as fuel to refresh current members while in search of new prospects, plus determine your impact strategy as you define your local revelency. Other sessions highlighted numerous useful tools designed to stimulate the lines of communication within the local chapters such as social websites, phone trees, mailings, newsletters and personal interaction. As a presenter, I touted utilizing the various resources of the NA, ranging from our media team to offer technical support to our office manager for updates, references and organizational information. All of this represents value added incentives to being a member and affiliate of NABWMT.

As we prepare for confab 31 in Las Vegas, July 25-31, 2011, I'm making a conscious effort to keep the convention connection alive all through the year. Therefore, I need to hear from each of you on your triumphs, tragedies, and "take aways," from your latest chapter activity or life pursuit. Sharing our accomplishments are essential to keeping this connection vibrant and informative. Until next time, be focused, be encouraged and by all means, be blessed my people. ■



**Congratulations** to NA Co-Chair Norbert Young on his marriage to Blair Griffith, July 31, 2010, in Washington D. C. We wish them love and prosperity on their journey together.



## NABWMT Elects New Leadership Introducing Mack and Ken Scott-Baron “Co-Chairs and Husbands”

It was a warm and beautiful Southern California evening when Ken and Mack traveled to the Los Angeles area from Long Beach for a book club reading among a same gender-loving men of African decent group. Halfway through the meeting, the facilitator approached Ken and informed him that the meetings were for men of African decent only. This was a shocking and eye opening experience for both Mack and Ken.

After this negative experience at the book club, Mack remembered that he had attended a meeting for black and white gay men long ago in Los Angeles. They decided to find about starting their own black and white gay men's group. Ken searched the Internet and located the National Association of Black and White Men Together site. Paul Sears sent a chapter start-up booklet. Ken designed a web site for the group with the new name: Black and White Men Together of Southern California.

That was in November of 2003. By the beginning of 2004, the group expanded to well over thirty members. Almost seven years later, the group has over fifty paid members and over seventy-five on the chapter email list. After the 2004 convention in Atlanta, Ken and Mack wondered if they could help the National in some manner. Ken and Mack both felt that the National had enormous talent, with a pool of wonderful and inspiring men. They had decided they should begin planning to host their own National convention someday. Little did they realize that they would be asked to host the convention within the next two years! That experience proved to be a labor of love. The Long Beach 2006 Convention was a hit.

So, fast-forward to 2010 and the next calling for Mack and Ken would be to become more formally involved in the National organization. They wanted to replicate what they had done in the past. Ken and Mack nervously put in their names for not one but two positions for co-chairs of NABWMT. Ken's words exemplify both his and Mack's " This is our family and we want to honor our past and revive the Bush Mallon Institute, use our present human and financial assets wisely, and finally, we want to grow our NABWMT family with new leaders as we move into the future." ■

## NABWMT Promotes National Academic Scholarship Program

by Daryl Fore

The NABWMT Scholarship committee is seeking GLBTQ qualified applicants for its 2011 Student Scholarship award to be presented during the 31st Convention in Las Vegas, July 25-31, 2011. The \$500 award includes a complimentary registration to the convention and certificate of recognition. Applicants are required to be attending an approved college or university programs, submit an application and complete a set of essay questions related to the organizations statement of purpose. According to committee member Darryl Fore, "it's imperative that as an organization that we offer assistance and support the growth of future leaders from the GLBTQ community and beyond. Especially those involved in disciplines that address our mission to address racism and homophobia on all levels." Each chapter is encouraged to publicize this effort within their college communities including non-traditional student networks. The winner will be required to supply verifying GPA and transcript information. For more information contact nabwmt@nabwmt.org or 800-NA4-BWMT ( 800.624.2968). ■

## NA's BMI Takes Flight

The Bush-Mallon Institute, the primary program initiative of NABWMT designed to assist individuals and organizations address and understand racism is retooling as facilitators prepare to unveil new direction under the guidance of Board of Director, Ms. Soda Nobuhle. Launched in 1996 as a cooperative effort of long term members Dr. John Bush and Dr. Gerald L'Mallon, the institute is both a reflection of the organizations continuing journey as a grassroots interracial entity as well as a formal educational program created to meet the needs of a variety of audiences. Since it's inception the program also used source material from Resisting Racism: An Action Guide edited by Mallon. The workshop can be modified from a week long retreat to a one day program that explores the complexities of racial issues as well as the impact of racism on the community and personally. The ultimate goal of the workshop is to empower the participants with effective tactics to deal with the effects of racism meanwhile offering capacity building techniques on how and why an individual organizes for social justice. A centerpiece of the institutes resurgence will result in committee members attending the 2011 National LGBTQ Equality Conference, Creating Change in Minneapolis, Minnesota (February 2-6, 2011). BMI facilitators Scott Duty and Soda Nobuhle will craft a 90 minute workshop focusing on race, class and gender relations. Creating Change is sponsored by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force which offers attendees a plethora of training sessions, plenary sessions and networking opportunities. Furthermore, BMI co-chair Nobuhle will submit a proposal for acceptance to facilitate a 3 hour workshop "S.O.A.R." in partnership with S.O.A.R. co-facilitator, Garrod McFadden. S.O.A.R. is the acronym for "Symbolism of a Relationship," designed to analyze the numerous intergrated relationships formed within our life cycles. McFadden and Nobuhle present the monthly workshop locally in Philadelphia. Additional facilitators and committee members are sought to join the group. Contact Ms. Nouhle at BMI@nabwmt.org for more information. ■

# ■ 2010 NABWMT Convention Review

## By Ollie Lee Taylor

NABWMT observed its thirtieth anniversary, DIVERSE 2010: Pearls of Wisdom convention, July 26-31, 2010 with the Marriot North serving as host hotel. Conventioneers arrived from all points across the country representing various affiliates and chapters from coast to coast.

Former co-chair Robert L. Williams, offered opening plenary remarks with personal reflections he gained from former co-chair John Eric Teamer. His comments set the tone for the beginning of the convention as delegates prepared for a week of workshops and conscious raising exercises. Concluding his remarks, Williams said, "what I've learned here, are "pearls of wisdom" relative to the struggles our board, members and chapters and families undergo... Still alive, pray and hope. Move forward."

A proclamation by Broward County Mayor Ken Keechel was read at Thurdsay's co-chair's luncheon declaring July 26-31 as NABWMT week and the featured speaker was sociologist Emeritus Dr. John E. Bush whom addressed the subject "Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow...Putting It Together."

Dr. Bush lauded NABWMT's work to advance civil rights and noteworthy efforts in addressing discrimination in the GLBTQ community. However, cited concerns on both internal and external activities of the organization as well as offered suggestions of methods such as charitable linkages to gain a higher profile level within the community.

Friday's luncheon featured author Deon Davis(Coral Springs, FL), her son, Reshaud and his spouse, Marco. She read passages from her book, "I'll Find A Way..A Mother's Journey of Love and Acceptance for Her Gay Son", and shared a compelling account of her daily interactions with his coming out process and it's impact on there family. She profoundly stated, "I love telling my story. I love my son. I love to proclaim my love, my life with hopefully my son-in-law, Marco."

Davis is Executive Director of the I'll Find a Way Foundation, an outreach for gay youth and parents in the Greater Miami area. NABWMT has agreed to form a co- partnership with the foundation for additional supportive programing in 2011.

The climatic awards banquet on Saturday evening featured Nadine Smith, Executive Director of Equality Florida.

She was one of the four national co-chairs of the 1993 GLBT March on Washington. She was a participant in an historic, first-ever meeting between GLBT leaders and then President Clinton. She successfully managed the effort to retain a GLBT civil rights ordinance in Tampa and reached the run-off stage of a Tampa city election.

In her address, Ms. Smith noted goals to be achieved for the GLBT movement such as ENDA and the abolition of DADT. She called for an end to fear, isolation and marginalization. She expressed a future hope that the day would come when one was born they'd "be welcome for whom they are. You could let family, friends and co-workers know when you fall in love. Fear, heartbreak, imagination and being married in a faith community? "Anyone can embrace that."

Ms. Smith stated Equality Florida has taken a multi level approach on the Florida political scene including keeping a presence in Tallahassee with a watchful eye on Florida's anti-gay adoption law, anti-bullying statute and upcoming general elections. She concluded the address with recollections of addressing the group at the 95 Key West convention and expressed her appreciation for the initial support from the organization.

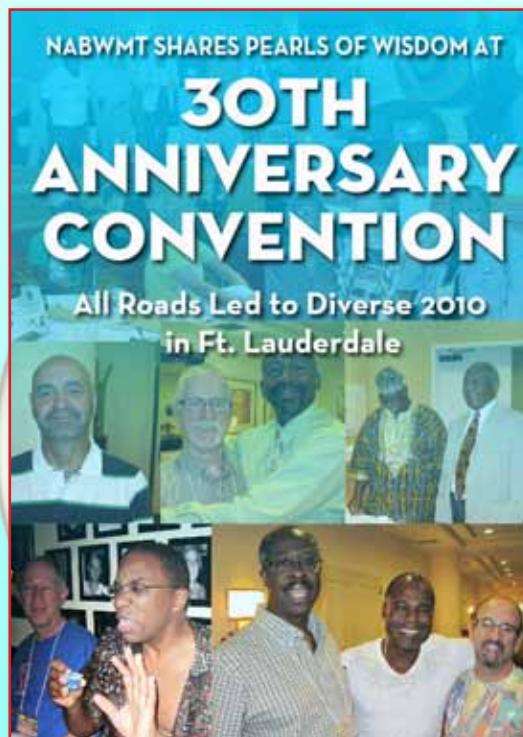
Fourteen workshops were presented during the convention, covering a spectrum of topics and issues derived from pre polling prospective attendees. Each workshop was designed to empower local chapters with resources and brainstorming sessions to enhance their operations.

The NA media group offered information on developing newsletters, websites or other communications devices to share chapter news or activities.

"New Regionals: NE, SE, and West to Join Midland" was facilitated by Darryl Fore (Cleveland, OH). Regional were developed to help chapters to foster contacts and interactions both prior and post national convention. During the session the idea of revitalizing chapter liaisons was considered an additional option to the current structure.

Interracial Relationships for /singles and Couples were explored by Dr. Bruce Menapace and Cornelius Mabin. The core of the session focused upon getting participants to reflect and respond to both personal and societal interpersonal relationships.

Father John J. McNeill offered pearls of wisdom with a spiritual theme. He praised the ideal of a committed relationship. He stated; "No human being has the right to make moral decisions on others."



# ■ 2010 NABWMT Convention Review



Father McNeill viewed the Old Testament's Song of Songs as being given to sexuality. "What is the loving thing? It is Christianity at its heart," At times, it is an experience of one with God, a union with God and a union with a fellow human. McNeil cited spiritual views relative to many GLBT and faith communities have started with some being subjected to "suicidal guilt and shame. You have to advance to liberate everyone else. Churches that are homophobic are losing authority."

Former co-chair James E. Credle's workshop In "The House Community: A Tribute Long Past Due" revisited the realities and lives of those who actually led the seminal Stonewall

Rebellion are shared and explored. This segment of the GLBT community has, until recent times, been largely rejected and set aside from the "Mainstream" of the GLBT movement not to mention society as a whole. Alternatives and challenges were specified to structures that continue to oppress all who do not conform to lifestyles and expressions that appear to be routine and ordinary.

The Broward County Florida Sheriff's Department has a special task force dedicated to work on criminal issues involving bias and hate crimes. These consider racial, ethnic, spiritual, gender and sexual orientation concerns.

Richard F. Wierzbicki, Commander in the Department of Law Enforcement in the Sheriff's Office, heads the task force. Previously, Wierzbicki was a ranking member of Wilton Manors, Florida police force.

During the workshop, illustrations of reported national incidents were provided. Also, posters for hate crime reporting were on hand. Wierzbicki noted that in Florida 50% of hate crimes are classified as having a racial origin. 17% had sexual orientation as a triggering factor.

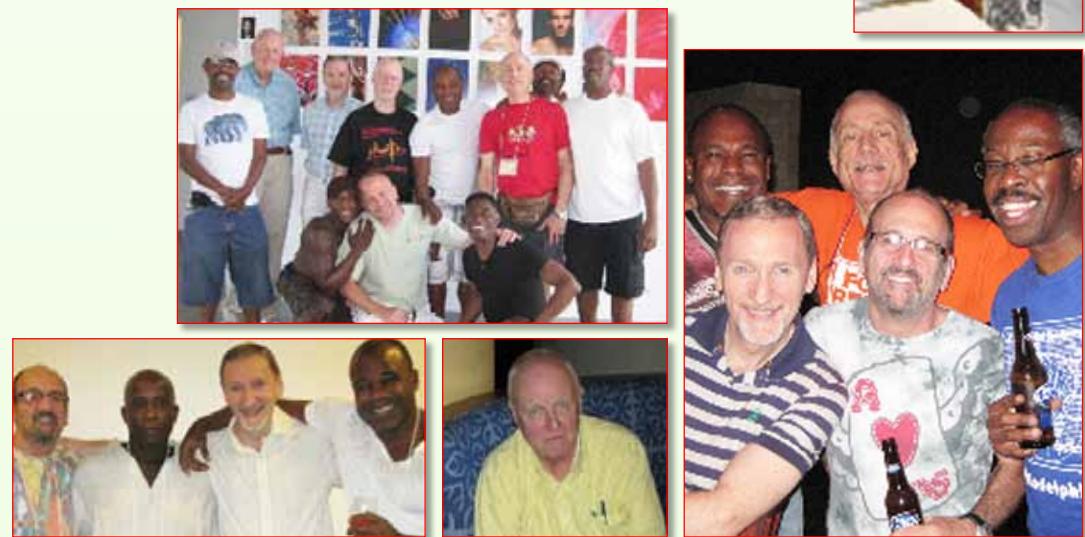
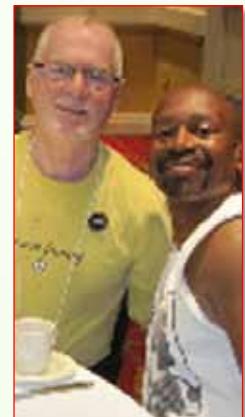
Wierzbicki recited recent legislation has added homeless persons as being covered under the hate crimes statute, which Florida governor Charlie Crist signed it into law.

Ron Savaria, long time veteran members and leader with Affiliated Big Men's Clubs (ABS), popularly known as Girth and Mirth, held a Friday afternoon session vividly describing tales of individual discrimination in lieu of recent high profile obesity related issues. He concluded that despite dealing with size issues, it's important to support social networks with "niche's that don't look down at another. We reserve the right to choose our own friends however we choose to do it."

Savaria, ended stating: "I don't care how old you are, you've never learned everything. This is especially from and about other people."

A joint community effort staged at the Pride Center at Equality Park used the theme, Connecting Multiculturally and Overcoming the Trust Deficit which assessed local perceptions juxtaposed to the mission of NABWMT and what responses will be needed for future growth.

In between the learning opportunities came the Annual Midland reception, Talent Show, and Memorial services for past members. Culminating the week were the annual awards selected from open nominations and approved by the awards committee. Each recipient will be highlighted and featured on the organizational website at [www.nabwmt.org](http://www.nabwmt.org). ■



## ■ Visions of Brothahood

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The 30th anniversary of the NABWMT is a fantastic moment in our time and history. The organization has grown and achieved much over many years and we have many things of which to be proud. As I look across the nation, we exist in many cities, and our name remains synonymous with fighting discrimination, racism and providing a safe and nonjudgmental environment for interracial friendships.

There have been many before me who have fought our battle and because of them our organization has stood the test of time. As your anniversary co-chair, I am proud and thankful for those who laid the groundwork for our existence; without them the many things we achieved during this administration would not have been possible.

I am proud of our achievements through the last two years. We have an online newsletter transformed from "The Quarterly" to its own branding as "Q-Visions" available to those sharing our vision via our website. Our new editor has been instrumental in Q-Visions' development and we are very indebted to him for creating a beautiful, informative and educational product. Our voice is now available via the internet and world wide web and distributed to anyone requesting—more than five hundred recipients nationwide. The NA's website itself was introduced during last year's convention and its varied images depicts our diversity. It includes new sections for those looking for employment, up-to-date articles on health and wellness, listings of local chapter events as well as topics of national interest.

Our diversity became more apparent during my tenure; the first African American woman was elected to our board, bringing a new and fresh perspective to our work. We also are proud of our first female office manager who has been instrumental in bringing us into the 21st century by uploading our history, files and databases to a centralized computer.

We have also decentralized and become a truly national organization – changing from bank accounts and offices in one location to a structure more accessible to [redacted] our many volunteers across this country - our office manager is in Chicago, our web manager in Southern California, our bank accounts in Milwaukee and our co-chairs in Baltimore.

Most importantly, during this terrible economic recession we have cut expenses and retained as much capital as possible to continue to remain viable and support our goals.

Our academic scholarship program helps support the up-and-coming leaders of tomorrow. Those who came before us laid the groundwork and inspired us to teach our younger generations to be our leaders of tomorrow.

Our local chapters are the foundation of our organization and because of this we have structured a support and outreach program for new chapters. The safe environment that our local chapters provide is vitally important in our diverse society. No one should fear persecution or discrimination solely because they wish to socialize with or date someone of a different race, class, age, sex or gender identity.

All of the things we have worked so hard to achieve in the last two years has been my labor of love. While I will miss the camaraderie of and collaboration with my fellow board members and co-chair it is time for me to step aside and allow others to step forward. Leaders must step aside to allow new ideas and fresh energy to emerge and new leadership to grow.

There is much more work to be done in the next decade. I look forward to being able to praise the wonderful work the National Association Of Black And White Men Together will do in the future.

**Norbert Young Griffith**  
NABWMT Co-Chair 2008-2010

# ■ Visions of Brotherhood



①

Well the pictures have been taken, laundry is done and folded and the plans for convention next year have already begun. The 30th Anniversary convention is complete and what a wonderful convention it was!!!



②

I am so pleased and proud of the Convention Planning Committee, Board of Directors and committed volunteers like Jerry Brown who manned the registration desk, Dr. John Bush who spoke at the Co-Chairs Luncheon and the workshop presenters who came together to make this the convention that people will wish they had attended! It may have come together with Elmer's Glue, duct tape and a whole lot of prayer, but to go by the many comments from the attendees, it did come together.



③

At our Friday luncheon we had a special speaker Deon Davis. She is the proud mother of a gay son, Rashad. Deon, Rashad and his partner Marco talked about the trials and tribulations in the school, family and church. It was very inspirational to hear a mothers love, acceptance and ultimately how a mothers love triumphs over all (Photo 1). To learn more about her or order a copy of her book "I'll Find a Way", a link to her website can be found on nabwmt.org.



④

As part of the closing banquet, we presented the 2010 Co-Chairs Award. This Award is an extra-special award considered and decided by obviously The Co-Chairs. This year's winner is the multi-talented Cornelius Mabin. When you see all of the energy, passion and work done at the local chapters, regional organizations, and the national organization or throughout the community, it is sometimes difficult to single out an individual. Due to the countless hours of service done by Cornelius, it was easy (Photo 2).



⑤

The last award of the night was the 2010 Lifetime Achievement Award to Paul Cloutier. To hear Doug Noble share the many years of service, dedication to the community and our organization was truly inspirational. Congratulations to Paul on being recognized (Photo 3).

Our Keynote Speaker was Nadine Smith from Equality Florida (Photo 4). Nadine spoke eloquently about how the struggle had changed in the years since she spoke at the 1995 Convention in Key West, FL. How today it is more important than ever to not accept anything less than full equality, to not politely ask for equality but demand equality because we deserve nothing less. I carry Nadine's charge with me every day and thank her for helping refill my tank of inspiration.

With the closing of convention also marks the beginning of significant changes in the organizational leadership. Norbert and I couldn't be more proud to be succeeded in leadership by Ken & Mac Scott-Baron (Photo 5). Their commitment to the organization is unparalleled and I look forward to the new and exciting directions their leadership will bring. Please join me in supporting them in any way needed.

The 2011 Convention location will be Las Vegas, NV at the Stratosphere Hotel. Congratulations to Bob Williams for putting together an excellent convention package. We thought the convention hotel rate of \$69 per night for this year was excellent. Little did we know that Bob was working his magic in Las Vegas and was able to secure a \$35 per night rate! That was not a typo, the guestroom rate at The Stratosphere will be \$35 per night plus applicable taxes. Bob is putting his Convention Planning Committee and Program together with an excellent registration rate schedule. Go to nabwmt.org to learn more about the plans and register now for next year's convention.

Let me conclude with my thanks. It has been an honor to serve as your Co-Chair, to have an impact on the legacy of this fantastic organization and ultimately to stand along with the giants who have led this organization for 30 years. To 30 more!

**Scott Duty**

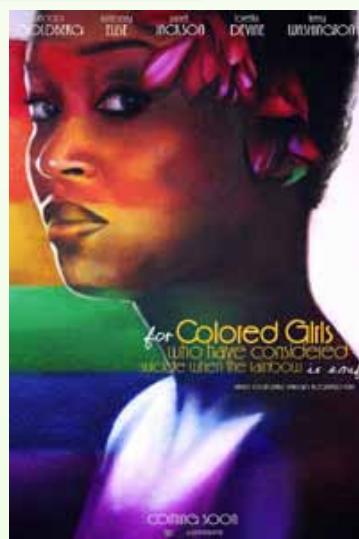
Co-Chair



## Tyler Perry's Rainbow for Colored Girls

Fresh from scoring positive reviews for his co-producing the film Precious, media maverick Tyler Perry launches into tackling another serious subject matter based on the poetry within the award winning and acclaimed play For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow Is Enuf by Ntozake Shange. The play has been previously produced for Broadway in 1976 with 700 performances, later earning a Tony award for Best Play and was showcased on PBS in 1982 resulting in a Emmy nomination. The essence of the play which is structured as a series of twenty prose poems delivered by women has caused some intense chatter as to whether this material can be mastered by Perry who has been berrated for his gimmick hook films featuring his alter ego character known as

"Madea." The project also encountered great speculation on it being adapted, produced and directed by not only Perry but from a male perspective since the material is female centric. Despite those bemusing including some echos from Perry's media partner Oprah Winfrey, Perry's wish list of actors has been realized into an A-List assemble cast led by Janet Jackson, Thandie Newton, Whoopi Goldberg, Kerry Washington, Phylicia Rashad and Macy Gray. Male counterparts feature Hill Harper, Richard Lawson, Omari Hardwick and TJ Hassan who escalate the melodrama meanwhile providing the backdrop foils for the female characters. Although the reputation of the play is steeped in the Black women's experience, it's the richness as well as depth of the poetic expression of those experiences that serve as the platform for the work. However, there's been much discussion



concerning Perry's character approaches which have cast Black men in less favorable circumstances, often times have been seen as broadly stereotypical and recently pegged as "coonery," or regressive color politics. Such industry heavy weights as Spike Lee have openly debated Perry's images even referring to them as "Amos and Andy" rehash, yet loyal fans of the Perry brand continue to fill theaters with each film premiere. Ultimately, within the industry no matter where one finds themselves on the spectrum, its vital the stories of African Americans continue to be developed and delivered. The movie is being distributed by Lionsgate, serves a project for Perry's new 34th Street Films and will go into wide release November 5. ■

## Signature NA Head Gear Available

Convention 2010 offered many value added incentives for attending but the fashion statement of the week was the NABWMT branded caps featuring our newly designed logo. The caps were included in welcome bags provided by the convention planning group as both a souvenir and organizational marketing element. Conceptualized by Mark Behar, the khaki colored cap features an adjustable tab on the rear and is washable. The caps are still available for purchase at \$10 each plus shipping and handling. For more information contact Mark Behar at mpbehar@wisc.edu. ■

MIDLAND REGION CHAPTERS

B-W-M Together

Join us in Oklahoma City  
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Crowne Plaza Hotel  
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# ■ 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