



Spring 2012
Volume XXX, No. 2



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Q-Visions, 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

As Spring 2012 bursts forth, a bounty of colors and array of fragrances fill the air with not only their natural essences, but for myself the energy of hope, optimism and reflection in my thoughts and writing. Consequently as the Editor of this forum, I get the unique opportunity to share my thoughts in this space, even though I never quite know what topic or observation will take shape. Each time I sit before that awaiting screen and keyboard, it's my desire that some inspirational words will begin to flow through me onto the page. My source of inspiration for this outing evolved from a series of conversations and discussions that have occurred over the last few months and beyond. I determined that within these conversations I discovered that there were several core issues such as strategic planning, revenue streams and organizational structure that sent me into my "thinking man's " position. Before beginning the process, I pondered. "Haven't such discussions occurred previously and why does it seem that there's been only incremental improvements? Have any of my past musings set in motion in an uptick in interest or fueled any membership tangibles? Why do I feel so compelled to revisit these issues? Ultimately I surmised that each of these issues are vital to the overall survival of NABWMT now and into the future.

I fully understand that NABWMT is a "volunteer" entity and many of those involved have many other interests, life mates, family, as well as full time jobs that take a toll on anyone's time and treasure. This dilemma befalls many organizations yet there has to be firm decisions by its Board of Directors and members as to the importance of the vision and mission. Taking this direction will determine the distinct courses of action needed to give the organization some forward momentum. As we speak to survival tools for NABWMT, I looked to "Strategic Planning in Public and Nonprofit Organizations," by John M. Bryson who states that the organization must begin to adhere to some strategic planning that will help the organization do a better job of focusing its energy while ensuring that members are working toward the same goals, while assessing a changing environment. In short, strategic planning is a disciplined effort to produce fundamental decisions and actions that shape and guide what an organization is, what it does, and why it does it, with a laser focus on the future. NABWMT has the necessary governing elements such as Bylaws and Standing Rules, however, none of this framework matters if

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■ Editor's Q (cont)



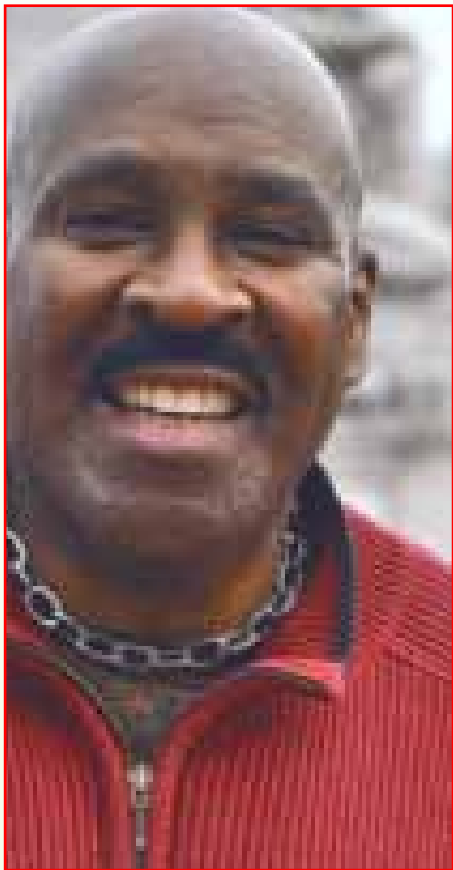
there's no strategic thinking revolving around the question: "Are we doing the right thing," that will fulfill our purposes or strategic management of the organization to keep it relevant in changing circumstances. After three decades of existence, it's becoming vividly apparent that NABWMT has somehow lost its sense of purpose and niche of continuing to leverage its noted history as the first gay organization to address HIV/AIDS in people of color communities.

Crafting health modules and presenting them across the country to organizations that duplicated them for their areas. Meanwhile providing numerous White Papers on bar discrimination and its effects, featuring celebrated authors such as Lambda Literary Award nominee Randy Boyd and published manuals on resisting racism used as evidenced based demonstrations of issues impacting the LGBTQ community.

Our statement of purpose boldly states that the organization seeks to foster supportive environments as educational opportunities for the public to be engaged about racism, sexism, homophobia, HIV/AIDS discrimination and other inequities in our communities and in our lives. As I survey the landscape I find that there's a tremendous need for such work, however, this organization's programming to these tenants has been severely limited or none. In my opinion, although addressing our core philosophy during our national convention is essential, it is what lies afterward and throughout the year which is paramount. Therefore, NABWMT must ask itself those defining questions of are we about social justice issues or just a social group masquerading in an illusion of making a difference in our communities.

The revenue streams and overall structure can't function appropriately unless more dynamic energy and viable resources are applied. It is imperative that the organization subscribe to some capacity building mechanism and or consultants that can assist with helping lay the ground work for sustaining the organizations future. Subsisting on the laurels of a meager endowment has its limitations and beckons for a fortified revenue generating committee armed with a fund raising plan to solicit grant making foundations, but also prepared to execute all levels of giving ranging from special events to major donor gifts. Such activity is not just regulated to that committee but should be the priority of all committee chairs, board members and those at large who believe that our mission must be brought to fruition. Its no secret that many past administrators, despite good intentions, failed to assure the organizations trajectory to achieve a greater level of prominence or financial security. However, we must undertake a more active role in understanding how our federation of chapters have been impacted from a variety of angles and economic circumstances. We can no longer accept the position that because we have not significantly cultivated more direct relationships with key opinion leaders within these chapters that somehow they will continue to exist. We can't invigorate these local chapters of the national apparatus is impaired and hell bent on staying on a repeating loop of marginality that results in no definite outcomes such as acquiring grants to support our mission, creating or collaborating on programming both internally and externally or being regarded as experts in the racial justice field. Let's face it, if there are no chapters, then there's no reason for a national entity, and if there's no national embodiment then most likely there's no reason for a national gathering. So just where are we going with this? ■

■ Wyatt O'Brien Evans Interview



What motivated you to found *Nair'BoUniversal*, and what successes have you had since its founding?

Mr. Mabin, thanks for introducing me to *The National Association of Black and White Men Together* (NABWMT). Much appreciated.

Now, to your first question. I founded *Nair'BoUniversal* as a vehicle to communicate my true, authentic, unfiltered voice and vision to the public—and particularly to the LGBTQI Community. That in itself is my company's most important and major success.

Nair'Bo published my first novel, *Nothing Can Tear Us Apart* (NCTUA), after I experienced the rather exasperating and daunting process of shopping the manuscript around to so-called “mainstream” publishers — small, medium, and large. I did receive two offers; however, the editors wanted to radically change my vision and concept. So I said, “Thanks, but no thanks.”

The editors in question wanted to put *Nothing Can Tear Us Apart* in a “certain box,” if you will. To be honest, they couldn't appreciate the freshness, uniqueness and diversity of the story, which features as its protagonists Wesley and Antonio, two openly-gay, masculine, accomplished, upwardly mobile men of color. Wes and 'Tonio must confront outside forces that throw their monogamous relationship in serious jeopardy. The novel addresses and examines various issues/themes including partner abuse, and ethnic/racial tensions between African-Americans and Latinos. And finally, I don't believe the publishers could

wrap their heads around the fact that NCTUA encompassed three genres: gay, ethnic, erotica.

But actually Cornelius, those publishers did me the biggest favor imaginable! I decided to form *Nair'BoUniversal* to retain my undiluted voice and vision. And I'm so glad I did because I'm proud and happy to say that *Nothing Can Tear Us Apart* has been well-received.

Another of *Nair'BoUniversal's* successes is that it's beginning to open the door for other authors who want their unique voices heard in print. After the release of *Nothing Can Tear Us Apart—Uncensored* this May, and *Sinnin' In Tha Citay*, which is scheduled to be released in spring 2013, my team and I will be hard at work considering manuscripts for *Nair'Bo* to publish. For various reasons, it's exceedingly difficult for unknown authors—particularly LGBTQI individuals – to obtain deals. This is such a travesty because there are a multitude of innovative and compelling voices out there that sorely need to be heard—and deservedly so!

Cornelius, within eight years (Eight's my favorite number!)-or perhaps sooner – my goal is to build *Nair'BoUniversal* into a full-fledged communications/media company, encompassing these areas: books (with a particular focus on LGBTQI authors of all races/ethnicities), television, film, voice-overs, and motivational speaking.

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■ Wyatt O'Brien Evans Interview *(cont)*

As a writer who has focused on the racial element in the LGBTQI community, what is your current view vs. what you've documented from past writings? Are matters better, same, or non-progressive?

Cornelius, this is a thought-provoking Q to say the least! First, let me say that "thought-provoking" was a major label given to my in-depth, multi-part series on racism within the LGBTQI community I penned for *QBliss*, an influential print/on-line news, features and lifestyle destination for the Community and our allies. My series was entitled, *The Cancer That Slowly Consumes Our Very Souls: Racism*, and was later syndicated in a number of venues, including *Bilerico*. The series was very popular, and individuals from "all walks of life"—gay, straight, male, female, Black, white, Latino, Asian, etc.—weighed in, and quite heavily I must say.

My view on whether or not race relations in our great nation is better, same, or non-progressive is fluid—depending upon what's happening in our society. Unquestionably, we have made tremendous strides in this area...I mean, look who's President of the United States!

And now having said all that, we still have a long way to go. We are NOT, by any stretch of the imagination (or reality, for that matter), "post-racial." This country continues to be affected, effected, and infected by/with institutional racism.

Allow me to provide you with just a few examples. Melissa Harris-Perry, the brilliant and distinguished scholar, author, and MSNBC broadcaster states the following: "Segregation is no longer the law of the land, but America's children continue to be educated in separate and unequal

schools. Vastly predominantly black schools have fewer resources, fewer extracurricular activities and fewer experienced teachers than their white counterparts."

She continues, "African-Americans continue to suffer from extraordinary employment discrimination at every stage of hiring and promotion and in every sector of the job market."

Harris-Perry adds, "For example, my Princeton University colleague, Devah Pager, has demonstrated that white men with criminal records are more likely to be considered for a job than Black men with no criminal past."

We continue to experience racial stereotyping/profiling (the deceased Trayvon Martin). And then there's President Obama, who has been disrespected like no other commander-in-chief in history. You have certain groups of individuals in this country (far too many), who are actually trying to turn him into some kind of "unpatriotic, other-worldly socialist who's trying to topple this country." Although I'm paraphrasing, I'm pretty much detailing their intent and feelings.

And even though I didn't personally care for former President George W. Bush, I would never have the temerity to label him "stupid," as Iowa Republican Senator Charles E. Grassley recently called President Obama. Nor, would I get in President Bush's face and wag my finger at him like Republican Governor Jan Brewer did to our current president.

I am an optimist, and believe we can "all get along." We just have to put forth a truly concerted
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"My view on whether or not race relations in our great nation is better, same, or non-progressive is fluid—depending upon what's happening in our society. Unquestionably, we have made tremendous strides in this area...I mean, look who's President of the United States!"

■ Wyatt O'Brien Evans Interview *(cont)*

effort to do so. That includes understanding and embracing our differences—which have made America such a vibrant, rich, strong country. Besides, by the middle of this century, we will be more ethnically and racially diverse than ever—a “melting pot” such that we’ve never imagined. So in other words, “If ya ain’t down wit dat, you’re in trouble—‘cause the ship left the harbor a longggg time ago!”

Even though you may not have learned or considered the works of *The National Association of Black and White Men Together*, what would be your overview of the organization and its significance or lack thereof in the gay community?

Cornelius, as long as there is racial injustice and a need for racial awareness, organizations like yours are crucial and significant. As you’re aware, racism continues to exist in both the LGBTQI and straight communities. The Association should be commended on its philosophy and mission for inclusiveness, and for taking concrete action to help combat racism.

NABWMT has endured the perception that the organization promotes itself as a conduit of a dated concept of a group dedicated to multi-racial and multi-cultural issues and environments. What’s your view or perspective?

Cornelius, I disagree with that perception. And, the concept is not “dated.” As long as racism persists, we need to continue engaging in a

meaningful dialogue and to provide concrete solutions to combat this issue. Racism truly is a “cancer of the soul” which needs to be treated and eradicated. I encourage the Association to continue “fighting the good fight.”

“...as long as there is racial injustice and a need for racial awareness, organizations like yours are crucial and significant. As you’re aware, racism continues to exist in both the LGBTQI and straight communities. The Association should be commended on its philosophy and mission for inclusiveness, and for taking concrete action to help combat racism.”

In your current book, you address the issue of “partner violence” which for your characters intersect with their multi-racial composition, what drove you to create this premise and what message(s) / values are you promoting for your readers as a take away?

Cornelius, I designed the Nothing Can Tear Us Apart series to address and explore relevant issues and themes that would resonate with a universal audience. Domestic violence/abuse—or Intimate Partner Violence/Abuse (IPV/A), as it’s generally referred to in the LGBTQI Community—is one such issue/theme.

And, I decided to tell the story of two openly-gay, upwardly mobile, masculine men of color who fall deeply in love and eventually find themselves in this situation. I wanted to demonstrate that anyone can become a victim—regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, age, size, strength, or economic status. New research suggests that a greater percentage of LGBTQI individuals are living in fear of an abusive partner than previously thought. Each year, between 50,000-100,000 lesbians (or more) and as many as 500,000 (or more) gay men are battered, and about one in four LGBTQI relationships/partnerships are abusive in some way—about the same as in heterosexual relationships.

As an author, I work at not being “preachy”—my goal is to get my readers
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■ Wyatt O'Brien Evans Interview (cont)

to think. As well, my job is to weave a realistic, relatable story that resonates, and to clearly show what motivates my characters/what "makes them tick." And ultimately, my job is to entertain.

Now, after reading *Nothing Can Tear Us Apart—Uncensored*, I'd hope that the reader would ask himself/herself the following: "What would I do if I became a victim of domestic violence/abuse or IPV/A?;" "Is it worth staying in the situation?;" "If I choose to stay, what steps can/will the abuser take to end his/her violent/abusive behavior?;" "What assistance/resources can I obtain in order for me to stay and to facilitate my healing?;" "Is my love for my abuser strong enough such that *Nothing Can Tear Us Apart*?"

Cornelius, my national workshops/seminars on domestic violence/abuse (IPV/A), which I'll begin conducting this summer in conjunction with *QBliss*, will help answer these and other-related pressing issues and concerns.

If you had a "bucket list," what are some items you believe are priorities or fantasies that you would like to pursue?

Very interesting, Cornelius! Hmmmm...let's see (this might not be the exact order).

- To be number one on both the New York Times and Publisher's Weekly best-sellers lists.
- To build *Nair'BoUniversal* into the company I envision it to be.
- To use my workshops/seminars on domestic violence and abuse

(IPV/A) to empower

survivors and those trying to escape this tragic, horrendous cycle.

- To pilot a plane!
- To travel to an alternate Earth and meet a communicative, masculine and sensitive, superbly-muscled, totally ethnically/racially blended guy for...you know what!

If you could describe your life in six words, what would they be?

Cornelius, as Mr. Spock from *Star Trek* would say, "Fascinating!" Well, here goes: Spiritual, Faith, Conviction, Passionate, Perseverance, and Adventurous.

Cornelius, thanks for allowing me to share my professional endeavors and a little bit of me with the Association.



As an author, I work at not being "preachy"—my goal is to get my readers to think. As well, my job is to weave a realistic, relatable story that resonates, and to clearly show what motivates my characters/what "makes them tick." And ultimately, my job is to entertain.

■ NABWMT Convention

Living and Loving With Pride!

The 32nd NABWMT Convention
July 16-21 2012



All roads again lead to San Diego, California for the 32nd National Association of Black and White Men Together Convention, July 16-21 2012. Organizers have worked over the past 12 months to amass an interesting mix of presentations, empowerment sessions, receptions, guest speakers and local activities to entertain attendees. Under the banner theme of "Living and Loving with Pride," the convention planning committee anticipates celebrating the organization's historical significance as a multi-cultural, multi-racial group within the LGBTQ community. This year's host hotel is the Double Tree by Hilton-Mission Valley will serve as ground zero for many of the activities during the week long event. This section will highlight scheduling, participants and other vital convention information and updates.



Convention 2012 Engages Empowerment Speakers



◀ **W. Michael Ross** lives in Glendale, Wisconsin with his husband of 28 years, D.A. Leonard. Michael holds a Bachelor of Arts Double Concentration in Africology/Sociology with a minor in Criminal Justice from the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee and a Master of Science in Management from Cardinal Stritch University in Milwaukee. He retired from Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office as a Captain of Corrections in June of

2009 after being diagnosed with Pancreatic Cancer in May of 2008 and given just weeks to live.

After receiving this news, Michael being a BELIEVER, went directly to the Saints and asked for prayer. With the help of the Lord, Michael endured eighteen months of chemotherapy and thirty days of radiation therapy with his husband at his side. In May, 2010, Michael was told that the pancreatic cancer tumor had shrunk and necrotized and that in all probability he could lead a normal life.

In July of 2010 his health was attacked again, this time while in rural Georgia caring for his ailing/aging mother. He had a gall bladder attack and was told that the gall bladder would have to be removed immediately. The physicians stated they could not guarantee that he would survive this condition or the surgery. Thank God for technology, again! Michael requested the prayers of the Saints, telephoning, texting and e-mail soliciting the effectual fervent prayers of the righteous. When instructed by the anesthesiologist to count backwards from one-hundred, he began to recite the Twenty-Third Psalm. Needless to say, prayer worked for him! He IS a LIVING witness.

Michael joined BWMT-Milwaukee and the NABWMT in the fall of 1984. Michael has performed as his alter-ego, Echo Chambers in fundraising talent shows locally and for the NABWMT. (Lady Echo Chambers was and remains the first Miss Gay Black Wisconsin). Michael is a member of the Awards and BMI committees of the National Association of Black and White Men Together.



The Schmitt-Young Investment Group of Wells Fargo Advisors

◀ *Steven W. Schmitt, and Kyle D. Young, CFP®*

Accredited Domestic Partnership Advisors focus on Financial Planning and Asset Management Services for the LGBT Community.

They have built a fully integrated practice centered around providing unbiased advice specific to those within the community. Kyle and Steven have made it a priority to work closely with other professionals such as estate planning attorneys, CPA's and insurance consultants who are knowledgeable regarding the unique needs of the community.

Their client base currently consists of more than 95% LGBT couples and individuals from all corners of the country in addition to several international clients. Steven and Kyle have presented across the United States for countless LGBT organizations ranging from Employee Resource Groups and corporate trainings to nonprofit community and religious groups. Their team currently practices in Short Hills, NJ.



◀ **M. Joycelyn Elders M.D** A native of Schaal, AR., Dr. Elders is the oldest of eight children. Now a Professor Emeritus of pediatric endocrinology, at the University of Arkansas School of Medical Science. Dr. Elders never saw a physician prior to her first year in college. At the age of 15 she received a scholarship

from the United Methodist Church to attend Philander Smith College in Little Rock, AR. Upon graduation at age 18, she entered the U.S. Army as a first lieutenant and received training as a physical therapist.

Dr. Elders attended the University of Arkansas Medical School (UAMS) on the G.I. Bill. After graduation in 1960, she was an intern at the University of Minnesota Hospital in Minneapolis and did a pediatric residency and an endocrinology fellowship at the University of Arkansas Medical Center in Little Rock and she ascended the academic ladder to full professorship after her fellowship and board certification in 1976. She also holds a Master of Science degree in biochemistry.

Dr. Elders joined the faculty at UAMS as a professor of pediatrics and received board certification as a pediatric endocrinologist in 1978. She has written many articles for medical research publications and was appointed Director of the Arkansas Department of Health in October of 1987. While serving as director, she was elected President of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officers.

Dr. Elders was nominated as Surgeon General of the U.S. Public Health Service by President Clinton and served in this post until January 1995.

■ NABWMT Convention Schedule

Day	Time	Event
Tuesday July 17th	9a – 5p	Registration • Suite 202
	9a – 5p	Board Meeting • Mission Valley Board Room
	6:30p	San Diego LGBT Center Reception and showing of Movie “Brother Outsider”
Wednesday July 18th	9a – 9p	Registration and Hospitality • Suite 202
	9a – 5p	Board Meeting (if needed) • Mission Valley Board Room
	9a – 5:45p	General Membership Meeting • San Diego I & II
	1 – 3p	SINGLE MINGLE @ Pec’s Bar
	7p – 10p	Meet and Greet @ Pec’s Bar • 2046 University Ave, San Diego
	10p – Until	Hospitality Suite 202: Movie: Gen Silent
Thursday July 19th	9a – 9p	Registration and Hospitality • Suite 202
	9:30a – 11a	San Diego LGBT Center sponsors “Voices of Today” • San Diego II
		M. Riley, CMT/HHP: Body Electric School of Therapy. • Sonoma I
		TBA • Sonoma II
	12n – 1p	Co Chairs Luncheon: Mack and Ken Scott Baron • Grand Ballroom I-III
	1:30p	Kyle Young (Wells Fargo Advisors) • San Diego II
	2p – 3:30p	Michael Ross: Faith, Spirituality, and Healing • Sonoma I
	2p – 3:30p	Jeff Horton: Panel on Gay Parenting • Sonoma II
	4p – 5:30p	Candidates Forum • Brickstones
8p – 11p	Madam X No Talent/Talent Show • Grand Ballroom VI-VIII + North Foyer	

■ NABWMT Convention Schedule *(continued)*

Day	Time	Event
Friday July 20th	9a – 5p	NABWMT In Memoriam Exhibit • <i>San Diego I</i>
	9a – 9p	Registration and Hospitality • <i>Suite 202</i>
	10a – 11:30a	Dr. Carl Jepsen • <i>San Diego II</i>
		P. Sean: “Single Gents, Put a Ring On It” • <i>Sonoma I</i>
		BMI - Moving NABWMT Forward • <i>Sonoma II</i>
	12n – 1:00p	Luncheon – Dr. Carl Jepsen • <i>Tennis Patio</i>
	1:30p – 3:30p	Black Caucus • <i>San Diego II</i>
		White Caucus • <i>Sonoma I</i>
3:30p – 5p	Combined Caucus • <i>Brickstones</i>	
9p – 11p	Pool Gathering with No Host Bar	
Saturday July 21st	9a – 3p	Registration • <i>Suite 202</i>
	12p – 5p	New Board Meeting • <i>Mission Valley Board Room</i>
		SAN DIEGO PRIDE FESTIVAL BOOTH (during day)
	7p – 8p	Reception • <i>Tennis Patio</i>
	8 – 10p	Banquet Keynote Speaker: FORMER SURGEON GENERAL Dr. JOYCELYN ELDERS • <i>Catalina Room</i>

■ And the Winner Is....



Little Rock, Arkansas Awarded NABWMT 2013 Convention



From bids solicited for the NABWMT 2013 national convention, Little Rock, Arkansas was unanimously selected as the site for the 33rd convening next July 24-27, 2013. According to Co-Chairs Ken and Mack Baron Scott, Little Rock had demonstrated the willingness to meet the deadlines and formally submitted the necessary information needed by the board. "Ultimately, it's the "boots on the ground" concept that cause the group to realize that other alternatives may not be as realistic for the organization," said Baron Scott.

Other cities vying to be the host city were Austin, Texas and various cities in the Orlando, Florida area. However, organizers in Little Rock forwarded significant "Request for Proposals" from local hotel properties, subsequent snapshot of an overview of possible programming and activities and followed up with a live report during a teleconference held during the Board of Directors meeting in April. During the teleconference, NA directors directed questions to co-board member, Cornelius Mabin, who will serve as the project manager for the event. Mabin said, "I gave much thought to the process and I believed that Little Rock needed to be apart of the NABWMT convention city legacy. Furthermore, I wanted to share with all our members the experience of our growth and emergence as a modern southern city with much civil rights history." Even though Little Rock was cited earlier in the year as a one of the Top 10 Gayest Cities, the decision was based on positive response and accolades the city received as a host to the 2011 Fall Midland Regional that played a pivotal role.

Through a developing community based organization partnership, the scope of the programming will be focused under the theme: "NABWMT: Building Bridges of Diversity," in which we want to explore how NABWMT can stimulate the process of significant outreach and mutual collaboration with organizations and entities addressing racism, sexism, homophobia, and HIV/AIDS discrimination. These sessions will be facilitated from an array of experts, consultants and long term professionals in their respective fields and academia both within the NABWMT structure and beyond. Additional details and confirmations will be updated during scheduled monthly conference calls commencing in June 2012.

Simultaneously to the empowerment sessions and other presentations, the Little Rock Host Committee is planning to offer a variety of unique features such as:

- A proposed on site micro Wellness Expo featuring area vendors and participants
- Our Welcome to Little Rock Reception with invited dignitaries and special guest.
- NABWMT Jeopardy Game Show Night (Do you know your NABWMT history?)
- Live Streaming to the NABWMT Facebook Family At Large (Q & A)
- Tentative Community Service Project (TBA)
- The Testimony Video Project (What does NABWMT mean to you and why?)
- Assorted Sightseeing Opportunities and Tours

Currently two local property RFP's in response to Little Rock being selected as the convention site for 2013 are under review. "Each of those bids represent two distinct properties with various amenities and facilities, said Mabin. "It was our desire to assess the nature of these bids and their respective offerings to meet the expectations of attendees." Although attendance has varied from year to year, the host committee is projecting to increase attendance 25% and will be establishing a suggested registration fee tier to commence with early registration at \$150.00 with subsequent increases maxing at the \$250.00 level. Our on-line registration system RegOnline will be utilized for data gathering and administrative management. The system is being updated and will be deployed by June 1, 2012. (For those needing assistance otherwise, additional registration methods will be available, including on-site.) A complete budget is being formulated and will be forwarded to the NA board for review. Mabin continued, "We seeking to discover a myriad of possible funding sources including, personal contributions, corporate sponsors, possible grants, ad sales and in-kind solutions to assist with meeting our budget. It is our goal to maximize our resources and leverage our contacts to meet our target." he concluded.

Also during the week, the traditional elements of each NABWMT convention including the Madam X No-Talent Show, Pool Party, Caucuses, Elections and Midland Regional Reception will be apart of our scheduling utilizing either facilities on-site or partnership with local venues and outlets. ■

■ Solicitation For Awards Nominations

DEADLINE: JUNE 1, 2012

Dear Chapter, Member, or Friend of NABWMT:

On behalf of the National Association of Black and White Men Together, we invite you to nominate individuals, chapters, or other groups to be recognized for their noteworthy contributions at the upcoming 32nd annual NABWMT Convention to be held in San Diego, CA, July 16 – 21, 2012. Your help and guidance as to who to recognize would be greatly appreciated. We are requesting nominations for awards to be given in the following categories:

- FOUNDERS AWARD
- PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
- SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
- NATIONAL ACTION AWARD
- CHAPTER ACTION AWARD
- NEWSLETTER EDITOR AWARD
- WEBSITE AWARD
- CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION AS A MAJOR DONOR
- LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

We are looking for nominees who have furthered the NABWMT Statement of Purpose in a tangible way. Nominees do not have to be national or chapter officers or NABWMT board members. Anyone who has made a special contribution (within the guidelines of a given category) can be nominated. This is a special way of saying “Thank You” for a job well done!

To nominate individuals or chapters/groups, the following forms are included for your convenience– additional forms are available on the NABWMT Website, or by emailing Bruce at BMenapace@aol.com with “Awards Form” in the subject line. To be valid, nominations must include your contact information for verification purposes. Also, please note that for a chapter nominee to receive an award, the chapter must be in good standing with its dues paid. If you have someone to nominate for an award that does not appear to fit any of the categories, you may still submit the nomination. The Awards Committee may be able to place it in a category.

Please include how you believe the nominee has furthered our Statement of Purpose (in 50-125 words). Nominations may be submitted electronically or on paper. Please return all nominations so they are received no later than **June 1, 2012** to:

BMenapace@aol.com
(Please put “Awards” In the subject line)

or to:

NABWMT
Attn: Awards Committee
PO Box 589
Hollywood, CA 90078-0589

Thank you, in advance, for your help. We hope to see you in San Diego!
Bruce Menapace & Darryl Fore
NABWMT Awards Committee

■ Solicitation For Awards Nominations *(continued)*

1. FOUNDERS AWARD. Recognizes individuals instrumental in starting NABWMT chapters, those whose consistent efforts sustain chapters, and/or those whose leadership has been instrumental in reviving chapters.

List nominee(s) and reasons:

2. PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD. Given to individuals working within the NABWMT or one of its chapters who have made outstanding internal contributions on behalf of the NABWMT Statement of Purpose.

List nominee(s) and reasons:

3. SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD. Presented to individuals and/or groups who have made outstanding external (outside the NABWMT and its chapters) accomplishments in furtherance of the NABWMT Statement of Purpose.

List nominee(s) and reasons:

4. NATIONAL ACTION AWARD. Presented to a chapter and/or individual for an accomplishment with national impact in furtherance of the NABWMT Statement of Purpose.

List nominee(s) and reasons:

5. CHAPTER ACTION AWARD. Presented to chapters that have made outstanding contributions on behalf of the NABWMT Statement of Purpose.

List nominee(s) and reasons:

6. NEWSLETTER EDITOR AWARD. Presented to a chapter's newsletter editor whose work demonstrates particular excellence as to form, content, style, and distribution. Note: To be accepted, nominations in this category MUST include a copy of the chapter newsletter and the name of the editor(s).

List nominee(s) and reasons:

7. WEBSITE AWARD. Presented to an individual or chapter whose internet presence demonstrates particular excellence as to form, content and style. Note: To be accepted, nominations in this category MUST include the website address and the name of the webmaster(s).

List nominee(s) and reasons:

8. CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION AS A MAJOR DONOR. Presented to an individual and/or organization that made a significant financial contribution to the NABWMT.

List nominee(s) and reasons:

9. LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD. Presented to an individual whose life work and achievements exemplify (or exemplified) the NABWMT Statement of Purpose. Note: Because this is the NABWMT's highest honor, nominators are encouraged to provide a detailed explanation.

List nominee(s) and reasons:

Please attach additional sheets if extra space is needed for any nomination category. If you are submitting this via regular post, please sign your nomination. If you are submitting electronically (easier for the committee :-), no signature is required. The following information is required to complete your nomination and will be used for verification and Awards Committee communications only. Thank you for submitting a nomination.

SIGNATURE DATE

NAME OF PERSON SUBMITTING NOMINATION *(please print or type)*

MAILING ADDRESS:

TELEPHONE:

EMAIL ADDRESS (If you have email):

■ Membership Application

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

Name:

Date:

Address:

City:

State: Zip: Country:

Phone: Fax:

Email:

Local Chapter Affiliation¹:

This Application is: New Renewal

Membership Amount²: \$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 Amount³:

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. Box 589 Hollywood CA 90078-0589**