

“On the Shoulders of Our Ancestors, Forging Our Legacy for the Future”

February theme: “The Greatest Love of All” | Whitney Houston | (1985)

February Dates

February is Black History Month. Its precursor, Negro History Week, began the second week of February 1926. The first Black History Month took place at Kent State University in 1970.

- **February 10** = Chinese New Year
- **February 12** = Abraham Lincoln's birthday
- **February 14** = Fredrick Douglass' birthday
- **February 14** = **Valentine's Day**
- **February 19** = Presidents Day
- **February 22** = George Washington's birthday
- **February 29** = Happy Leap Year!

Registration + Hotel

Registration for our 43rd NABWMT Convention, to be held in Albuquerque, NM, the first week of July 2024, is now **\$275/person** through April 30:

<https://www.nabwmt.org/na-conventions/>

For **hotel reservations** (at \$125/night for 1-4 persons) at our overflow hotel, Hilton Garden Inn/Homewood Suites by Hilton Downtown, 222 Central Ave. SE, call **Kari Bryan** (M-F, 8am-4pm): **505-808-1038** (for group “NABWMT”).

ABilly S. Jones-Hennin

Tributes to **ABilly S. Jones-Hennin**, who died Jan. 19, are on page 2.



Find us on FB, Instagram, and X.



THE CPC LOVES ABO!

Perspectives from Your CPC Team

by Tim Wilson, CPC Co-Chair

Five of our seven team members from the NABWMT's Convention Planning Committee (CPC) for our 43rd annual convention, to be held the first week of July in Albuquerque, made 1-2 trips each to ABQ in 2023, as did members of the NA Board this past November. Our individual and collective experiences have been wonderful. The HOSPITALITY and top-quality service have been remarkable! ... from EVERYONE we have encountered in our networking and planning process, making our work joyous and fun.

Michelle Hale and her team at Hotel Andaluz have delivered an exceptional level of service, time and time again. **Kari Bryan** from Hilton Garden Inn/Homewood Suites seems thrilled to be able to welcome us to our overflow rooms there. **Marshall Martínez** from Equality NM and **T. Michael Trimm** from the Transgender Resource Center of NM have been most generous with their time in sharing quality local referrals.

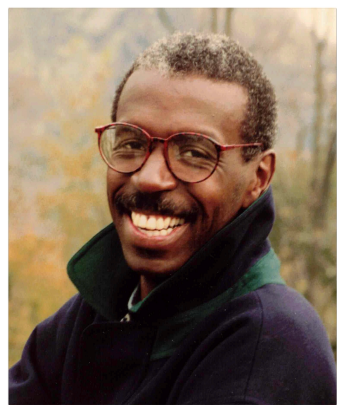
My best example is this: After meeting with **Mara Saubers** from the city's convention and visitors bureau, better known simply as Visit ABQ!, I needed to determine where to catch which bus (all city buses are FREE, by the way!) to the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center. Mara simply said, “**I'll just drive you there.**” Believe me when I say that this would never have happened to someone visiting Denver (or probably any big city in this country)! I was blown away by this level of service and **genuine hospitality!**

Our CPC team sincerely hopes that you will have many similar kinds of experiences when you join us in Albuquerque in July!

There is a very high level of commitment to the NABWMT among our CPC team. We have received some financial support for these trips, adding to the overall convention budget, but the majority of the costs have been in-kind donations from individuals. That being said, in next month's convention newsletter, we will be asking our readers, members, and allies to step up — in the form of sponsorships and individual/group ads in our printed program — to help us raise necessary funds for a successful convention.



Ken and Mack Scott-Baron discovered Yummy's Mini Donuts and Ice Cream, located between our two hotels. Paul Cloutier, Mack, and Tim Wilson with proprietor Obj Aget, star center for Univ. of NM Lobos college basketball team (2013-2017).



Ancestor: Reggie Williams

Reggie Williams, born in Cincinnati, OH, on April 29, 1951, was destined for greatness as one of our country's most important AIDS activists, profoundly impacting in positive ways and on multiple levels the response of African-American communities to this disease.

Reggie moved from Cincinnati to Los Angeles in the early 1970s and to San Francisco in the early 1980s. In 1988, he was co-founder and founding Executive Director of BWMT's National Task Force on AIDS Prevention (NTFAP), a platform from which he "worked his magic" in networking and grassroots organizing and as a dynamic and inspiring leader. After stepping down from that position in 1994, he moved to Amsterdam to be with the love of his life, Wolfgang Schreiber, because Wolfie was not allowed to move to the US because of the restrictive anti-HIV laws in place at the time. Reggie died in Amsterdam on Feb. 7, 1999 (also James Credle's 55th birthday).

There is an incredible and engaging resource for "everything Reggie," the website that was created by Wolfie:

www.reggiwilliams.net

Fun Fact: *Playgirl* magazine featured Reggie as one of the "Guys Next Door" in its June 1979 issue.

Fun Fact: In Dec. 1998, Reggie visited the San Francisco AIDS Office, where he was shown their client registration system, named REGGIE in his honor.

The website is well organized: 1950s and 60s Cincinnati, 1970s LA, 1980s SF, NTFAP The Early Years, NTFAP 1991-1994, 1990s SF, Friends in the Struggle, 1990s Amsterdam, Amsterdam - Strange Fruit, 1990s Travel, and Reggie's Legacy.

Tributes to ABilly S. Jones-Hennin

ABilly S. Jones-Hennin (born March 21, 1942), NABWMT's 2nd Black Co-Chair (1983-1984) and recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award (2018), died Jan. 19, 2024, while with his partner/husband of 47 years, Christopher Jones-Hennin, at their winter home in Quintana Roo, Mexico. ABilly dedicated his whole life to human rights and social justice. He was actively involved and prominent in leadership in numerous causes and organizations nationally for many decades. As a result, there have been many tributes written to honor him and his work.

Gil Gerald, himself a well known and admired activist nationally, who was the banquet speaker at our 2018 Reno convention, wrote a very personal tribute to ABilly on his Facebook page. He ended with this perspective:

"In 1978, he [ABilly] was my living Che Guevara. Yes, he struck me that way the first time we met, after I responded to his leafletting in DC and Baltimore in the spring of that year, calling on Black gay men, lesbians, and transpersons to organize separately in a Black-led organization. To me, **Billy was a visionary leader** who inspired many to organize autonomously as people of color in the LGBTQ community, rather than be tokenized within national and local LGBTQ organizations of the period."

[Note: If you are not on Facebook and wish to see Gil's full tribute, contact Tim Wilson: tkwdco@icloud.com.]



On Jan. 24, the *Washington Post* published an in-depth look at ABilly's life and many years of activism, written by Harrison Smith: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/obituaries/2024/01/24/abilly-jones-hennin-dead/>.

CPC Team Member First-Person Spotlight #6

by **Kelvin McAdory (NA Treasurer, 2019-2023)**

I was born in Los Angeles in January 1963, the youngest of six children. I went through the LA City school system and some college. In the summer of 1980, just before my senior year of high school, I started working for Los Angeles County, and I retired in 2022 after 41 years of service there.

I tiptoed into being active in the gay community in 1986 by going to Mike's Coral in Long Beach on a regular basis, and I joined gay groups stemming from the bar community. At Mike's Coral I met Bill Jennings and began my first long-term relationship of 16 years. Bill passed away in December 2006. I started a new relationship with Keith Smeltzer in 2007. Keith led me to join non-bar related gay groups Men Over 40 from the Long Beach Gay and Lesbian Center and the Southern California chapter of Black and White Men Together (BWMT-SC). We went to our first NABWMT convention in Philadelphia in 2008. I joined the NA Board as Treasurer in 2019, serving through 2023, but I have remained on the Board as a Director.



Kelvin McAdory on Election Day, Nov. 5, 2023. — photo from Kelvin

Keith and I were together for 12 years until his passing in April 2018. Shortly thereafter, I was lucky to start a new relationship with John L.

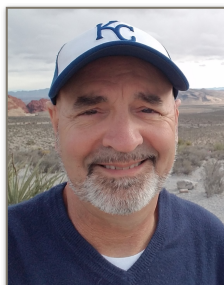
I have always enjoyed working in the yard and watching plants that I've started grow. I thoroughly enjoy traveling and am often asked, "Do you ever stay at home?" Being on the NA Board takes me to a new city in the US twice a year. Over 10 years ago, as a part of BWMT-SC and in conjunction with People of All Colors Together-Phoenix, I initiated an Annual Western Regional event in Palm Springs during the city's Pride celebration. This November the attendance will be as strong as ever.

Forging Our Legacy for the Future — Featuring Doug Reynolds

(This is the 2nd in a series focusing on the 2nd half of our convention theme.)

Born (1960) and raised in the Kansas City suburb Independence, MO, **Doug Reynolds** is the youngest of five children. During his last year of college, while working a summer job as manager of a large public swimming pool, he came out to two of his co-workers, who later called Doug's parents to say he was gay and that he had made sexual advances toward them. When confronted by his parents, Doug acknowledged being gay but firmly denied any advances being made. Doug also rejected his parents' insistence that he not tell anyone else in the family, clearly asserting that it was his personal choice, not theirs, to decide whom he would or would not tell about his sexuality. Although he was never kicked out or disowned by his family, this was never again a topic of discussion. Doug says, "I always tell my friends that they know more about me than my own family."

After graduating from college in 1985, Doug moved to KCMO and landed a job with Kansas City Public Schools, where he taught middle school math for 32 years. After retiring in 2017, he has been happily filling his "days off" with activities such as softball, bowling, long walks, trips to Starbucks, and volunteering for NABWMT and other LGBTQ organizations.



Doug learned about NABWMT from his first Black boyfriend, who took him to a local chapter meeting in November 1985. He quickly got involved, and over the next 15 years took on many roles from Secretary to Co-Chair. The chapter changed its name from BWMT-KC to MACT-KC, but finally dissolved in 2001. Doug chaired the National Convention that was held in KCMO in 2003. He acknowledges learning about leadership from outstanding leaders who came before, both locally and nationally, and gaining knowledge about racism and anti-racism activism via our organization.

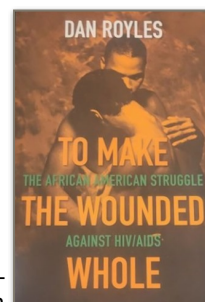
In addition to his KC chapter, Doug was actively involved in the Midland Regional Network, including a stint as Co-Chair, and he served one year as NABWMT Co-Chair after the untimely death of Scott Duty in 2021. During his three decades in the organization, Doug has served on the NA Board three different times, including currently. Doug has also brought his skill set from a side gig as DJ in the 1980s to our Madame X No Talent/Talent shows, where he has been the DJ for many years, always aiming to make the sound and shows as "flawless" as possible.

One of Doug's biggest contributions to our organization was the creation of the truly outstanding "NABWMT 40th Anniversary Legacy Book." He got the idea for it during an NA Board meeting in Long Beach in 2018. It was a labor of love for the next three years (an extra year because of the COVID delay of our 40th anniversary celebration in NOLA from 2020 until 2021). Copies are still available for purchase on our website.

Doug continues to bring an exceptional level of energy to all of his involvements, thus being dubbed by some as "The Energizer Bunny."

Reading Spotlight

To Make The Wounded Whole: The African-American Struggle Against HIV/AIDS by Dan Royles



In the decades since it was identified in 1981, HIV/AIDS has devastated African-American communities. From the very beginnings of AIDS activism, members of these communities mobilized against the epidemic and its consequences. They fought not only to overcome the stigma and denial surrounding the perception that it was "a white gay disease," but also to bring resources to their already struggling communities, which all too often were dismissed as "hard to reach."

Dan's book offers the first history of African-American AIDS activism, introducing a diverse set of activists including medical professionals, Black gay intellectuals, church pastors, Nation of Islam leaders, recovering drug users, and Black feminists. Activists discussed in Dan's book include our ancestor Reggie Williams of NABWMT's National Task Force on AIDS Prevention (NTFAP). Dan explains how activists pursued a wide array of grassroots, diverse, and creative approaches, such as NTFAP's "Hot, Horny, and Health" workshops, to slow the epidemic's spread and address its impact in communities of the African diaspora, not only in America, but around the world.

— Dan Royles is Assistant Professor of History at Florida International University. A discussion of his book can be seen on YouTube: [A Zoom Conversation with Dan Royles](#).

— Portions of this summary courtesy of Univ. of NC Press.

B. Chambers Fund

by Sean P. Shumaker

We are currently raising earmarked scholarship funds for the B. Chambers Fund of the National Association of Black and White Men Together. YOUR contribution will make a significant difference, whether you donate \$5 or \$500. Help us help LGBTQ students be able to attend college and achieve their dreams. Since 2012, nearly \$45,000 has been awarded to outstanding and deserving LGBTQ students.

Contributions to support this scholarship fund can be made here:

www.facebook.com/donate/692908129335709/

If you are not on Facebook, please mail a check payable to "NABWMT" with "B. Chambers Fund" on the memo line to:

NABWMT – B. Chambers Fund
P.O. Box 3793
Hollywood, CA 90078-3793

The Chambers Committee is comprised of **Doug Reynolds** (Kansas City), **Robert Graham** (Atlanta), **Dr. Bruce Menapace** (Cleveland), and founder and chair **Sean P. Shumaker**.