

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

April theme: “(Get Your Kicks on) Route 66” | King Cole Trio | (1946)

April Dates

April Showers Bring May Flowers!

We hope you're having a great Spring!

- **April 15** = Tax Day
- **April 22** = Earth Day
- **April 30** = LAST DAY for **\$275** convention registration

Registration + Hotel

Registration for our 43rd NABWMT Convention in Albuquerque July 1-7 is now **\$275/person** through April 30:

<https://www.nabwmt.org/>

From the home page, select “2024 Convention” in the menu bar.

>>>> **NOTE:** Starting **May 1**, registration will be **\$325/person**.

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”).

Convention Newsletter Team

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Find us on **FB, Instagram, and X.**



Route 66/Central Avenue runs through the Nob Hill Neighborhood east of downtown, where one of ABQ’s most popular LGBTQ+ bars, Sidewinders Bar and Grill, is located. — photo credits: (L) Visit ABQ! and (R) Jeff Greenberg (via Visit ABQ!)

ABQ’s Central Avenue IS Route 66

Hotel Andaluz, our convention home base, is one block from Central Avenue, and our overflow hotel, Hilton Garden Inn/Homewood Suites by Hilton, is right on Central Avenue. Route 66, from Chicago to Los Angeles, was established in 1926, and New Mexico has the longest section at 487 miles. Today, nationally, the longest urban stretch of Route 66 — 18 miles — runs through the heart of Albuquerque, and we’ll be at ABQ’s center. There are numerous places to eat all along the downtown section of Central Avenue. We’re also investigating Karaoke Night at Sidewinders Bar and Grill, on Central Avenue in the Nob Hill Neighborhood east of downtown, for those in town by Tuesday, July 2.

ABQ 2024 Convention Program Booklet: NABWMT Chapter and Member Highlights Needed

This year’s program booklet will include updates from NABWMT chapters and members. We ask that chapters provide us with a very short (50-75 words or 3-4 sentences max) summary of highlights of activities from the past year, along with 2-4 photos of events. We also encourage members to send a short update (25-50 words or 1-2 sentences max) on anything noteworthy they would like to report, with 1-2 photos. Of course, if you have something truly special, such as an anniversary, why not celebrate it with a Program Ad with lots of pictures, which we strongly suggest!

Wendell Reid will be leading this project. Please send him your updates at wgreid@yahoo.com with subject, **NABWMT Highlights**, or call him at **240-305-2585** if you have questions. Due to space limitations, we may edit your summary and may not be able to include all photos, but we will try our best to include everything. **Deadline for submission is May 27.**

You have been an important part of NABWMT’s history, and you continue to be, which is why we want to read all your stories!



Ancestor: Scott Duty
(Sept. 7, 1969–Oct. 19, 2021)

Born in Jacksonville, FL, **Jeffrey Scott Duty** was the youngest of seven children. He was educated in the Queen Anne’s County (MD) Schools system and attended the University of Maryland Baltimore County and University of Maryland University College. He had a 24-year career in sales automation technology. Before starting his own company, Sales Technology Solutions, he was Director of Sales Information Technology for eight years with the Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company.

From 2005 to 2011, Scott was a member and then served as Co-Chair of BWMT-Baltimore. He attended his first national convention in Pittsburgh in 2005, and he remained active nationally from that point on. Scott served as NABWMT Co-Chair twice — with Norbert Young 2009-2011 and with Gavin Morrow-Hall 2016-2021— longer than any other individual. With his background in both technology and the hospitality industry, Scott greatly elevated the level of professionalism for our organization’s convention planning process, and he had his CPC teams working three years in advance!

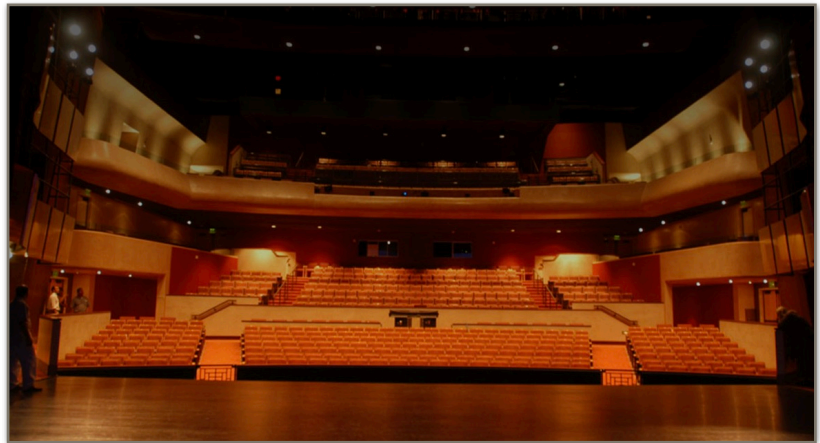
Reflections from Gavin Morrow-Hall:

“Scott’s contributions to NABWMT are immeasurable... Scott inspired [our] organization to think beyond ‘what has been’ to ‘what could be.’ During Scott’s tenure ... [he] was most proud, and deservedly so, of the success of the 40th Anniversary Convention... no one worked harder to make the convention a success than Scott Duty. Both in front and behind the scenes, Scott worked tirelessly to make it ‘Perfect,’ as one long-time member put it.”

National Hispanic Cultural Center

The **National Hispanic Cultural Center** (NHCC) in Albuquerque, NM, is the only such center in the United States. The NHCC is dedicated to the preservation, promotion, and advancement of Hispanic culture, arts, and humanities. The Center presents exhibitions, book readings, lectures, performing arts, and educational programming that are meaningful to the local community. It offers Hispanic, Chicano, and Latinx artists a place to present their work and bring it to the national stage. NHCC is committed to making a cultural home for the diverse identities that shape the community.

The National Hispanic Cultural Center is a division of the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs and is further supported by the National Hispanic Cultural Center Foundation. NHCC’s campus is located at 1701 4th Street SW (18 blocks south of our convention home base, Hotel Andaluz). It includes a Welcome Center & Torreón (tower), Art Museum, Performing Arts Theatres, History & Literary Arts Library & Genealogy Center, Education Building, and La Fonda del Bosque restaurant.



NHCC Executive Director Zack Quintero is arranging a special tour for NABWMT members on Tuesday afternoon, July 2. Details will be shared in a future convention newsletter. The **Baila! Baila!** Mexican dance troupe, which performs at NHCC and throughout the area, will be entertaining us with a performance at our convention’s opening Welcome Reception on Wed., July 3.

Zack Quintero, NHCC Executive Director

Zack Quintero is a proud New Mexican from Mesilla, NM. Zack has served in his role as Executive Director of the National His-



panic Cultural Center since March 2023. Zack is a graduate of the University of New Mexico School of Law. He previously worked in the Office of Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham.

Early History of the Midland Region

By Al Benvenuti (formerly BWMT/Detroit)

When the NABWMT was created, they decided to divide the country into three geographic regions for equal representation for elected board members and officers. The regions were East Coast, Midwest, and West Coast. The Midwest Region was made up of the following chapters: Chicago, Cleveland, Columbus, Indianapolis, Milwaukee, Pittsburgh, and Youngstown. All these chapters belonged to the NA. During one of their early meetings (around 1983), they decided to break up the Midwest Region into two groups. Remaining in the Midwest Region were Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Columbus, and Youngstown. In the new Heartland Region were Chicago, Indianapolis, and Milwaukee.



We in the Detroit chapter (not a member of the NA) did not take sides in the separation, but rather participated in all the chapter anniversaries and other events of both regions. At a few Detroit anniversaries, we made space for each group to have a meeting, and we asked if they would like to have both groups meet together — and they did not! In 1989 at the Tallahassee convention, however, Al Benvenuti and Paul Sears got all the representatives of the Midwest

and Heartland Regions to meet in Mike Warner's and Ed Dillard's motel room to discuss the unification of the region. After much discussion, the reps voted Yes for unification and agreed to bring the information to their respective chapters; if the chapters voted Yes, they would send a rep to the Chicago anniversary weekend in October ... which then became the first official meeting of the combined group.

In picking a new name, we kept the 'Mid' from Midwest and 'land' from Heartland to become the Midland Region. We met twice a year, spring and fall, usually during a chapter's anniversary weekend. Our inaugural officers were Matt Downing (Detroit) and Al Benvenuti (Detroit) as Co-Chairs, Secretary D.A. Leonard (Milwaukee), and Treasurer Don Moses (Youngstown).

The following spring, the bylaws, written by Don Moses, were presented at the meeting and accepted by the membership. In 1996, the Midland Region hosted the NA convention in the Cleveland suburb of Independence, OH. For many years, the Midland Region hosted receptions during our NA conventions. At our peak of membership, these were our chapters; Chicago, Cleveland, Dallas, Detroit, Indianapolis, Kansas City, Louisville, Memphis, Milwaukee, Pittsburgh, St Louis, and Youngstown.

Reading Spotlight

Racial Erotics: Gay Men of Color, Sexual Racism, and the Politics of Desire

by C. Winter Han and Chong-suk Han
(University of Washington Seattle Press, July 2021)

Sexual desire, often understood as personal erotic preference, is frequently seen as neutral, natural, or inevitable. Countering these commonplace assumptions, *Racial Erotics* shows how sexual partnering within communities of gay men is deeply embedded within larger social structures that define whiteness as desirable and normative while "othering" men of color. In queer erotic economies, this othering may take the form of sexual rejection or fetishization of men of color, but C. Winter Han argues that the real danger of sexual racism is that it creates a hierarchy of racial worth that extends outside of erotic encounters into the everyday lives of gay men of color. In this way, sexual racism perpetuates a larger project of racial erasing that equates gayness with whiteness to secure acceptance for gay white men at the expense of queers of color.

With vivid examples from interviews, media representations, and online dating sites, Han highlights the creative means through which gay men of color, cordoned off in spaces both gay and straight, produce alternative frameworks to combat dominant narratives. *Racial Erotics* offers a new paradigm for understanding the connection of race and queer desire, demonstrating how race profoundly shapes sexual desires among men while racialized notions of desire construct beliefs about belonging.

[source: <https://uwapress.uw.edu/book/9780295749099/racial-erotics/>]



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Program Ads are: \$250 **Full-Page** ad, \$125 **Half-Page** ad, \$75 **Quarter-Page** ad, \$50 **Business Card** ad, and \$500 **Inside Cover/Back Cover** ad. Program book editor **Mark Behar**/Milwaukee would like to receive as many ads as possible by May 1 — but June 1 is the absolute deadline.

To support YOUR convention, click here:

<https://www.nabwmt.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/CPC-ABQ-Sponsorship-Opportunities.pdf>