

## The "Wednesday Word"

Feb. 23, 2022

### "All Because it's Carnival Time...and Conference Time"



Everywhere else it's the middle of winter, with sub 20-degree weather, snow may still be on the ground, and crazy wind chills. Or maybe it's the 20-degree Monday followed by a 60-degree Tuesday followed by the 20-degree Wednesday. Back and forth you go from coats to shorts to coats again. But, down here in south Louisiana (yeah, I know a few other places too, but that's another story), it's "**Carnival**" Time. It is time to celebrate life and "**pass a good time**" with family and friends. I'm sure many of you think Mardi Gras is just a single Tuesday of drunken debauchery in the French Quarter. To be sure, some of that goes on, but that is just a tiny, tiny slice of what it's all about. It is so much more than what MTV used to portray.

In truth, for more than two weeks leading up to Mardi Gras day, there are day (only on the weekends) and night parties, parades, balls, coronations, debutantes, and so much more. Family gatherings by "**ya Mama and dem**" always include ridiculous amounts of food, fun, and extra friends. Very few strangers can be found as we "**Laissez les bons temps rouler**".



Everywhere else next Tuesday is just another Tuesday. But for us it's Mardi Gras day which is the pinnacle of the season's celebrations. Parades, "second lines", cookouts and seafood boils are found all day long. "Fat Tuesday" is the best of days as we start early in the morning lining the "neutral grounds" for one of the oldest, biggest, and best Black Mardi Gras "Krewes", the Zulus. That's often followed by finding the "Mardi Gras Indians" who every year make a brand "new suit" of intricate beadwork and feathers that usually take a full year to complete. Midnight Tuesday, New Orleans Police Department officers ride through Bourbon street on horseback and clear the remaining revelers to signal the official end of Carnival. And then comes Ash Wednesday and atonement in the form of Lent. Ah, but what a good time we have until then.

*Commercial Break: Now is also **AABHE Annual Conference** time so please make plans to join us March 14-15 for our second virtual conference. We have wonderful presentations and panels scheduled with the highlight being an all-star panel featuring the amazing Abram sisters. [Click Here to Register!](#)*

So, in the true Mardi Gras spirit, here's a little "lagniappe" for "y'all" to help get your toes tapping in that Carnival Time spirit. (*I do not have rights to this music.*) Enjoy:

"Carnival Time" by Al Johnson [https://youtu.be/ccu2\\_MRMF5Y](https://youtu.be/ccu2_MRMF5Y)

"Big Chief" by Professor Longhair <https://youtu.be/PbolafCdcqY>

"Roll With Me, Knock With Me" by the Lil Rascals Brass Band: <https://youtu.be/T9pd8VWYibA>

Stay well, stay safe, stay COVID smart, continue to do good work, and we'll see you at the conference.

*DR*

### **New Orleans Glossary:**

**Carnival** – Mardi Gras

**Pass a good time** – Have a good time

**Ya Mama and dem** – y'all already know that one

**Laissez les bons temps rouler** – let the good times roll

**Second lines** – spirited dance processions done at weddings, parties, carnival, and yes, even at funerals where the custom originated

**Fat Tuesday** – Mardi Gras Day

**Neutral Ground** – the median or the ground between two sides of the street

**Krewes** – Parade organizations

**Mardi Gras Indians** – African Americans dressed in feathered and beaded suits that pay homage to our historical relationship with Native Americans

**New Suit** – the attire worn by the Mardi Gras Indians

**Lagniappe** – a “lil somethin” extra

**Y’all** – y’all already know this one, too

## **AABHE Notes:**

- Join us for our 2022 Annual Conference ...  
[Click Here to Register!](#)



The poster features the AABHE logo in the top left corner, which includes a stylized map of the United States. Below the logo is a small image of a modern building interior. The main text is centered and includes the organization's name, the conference title in a script font, a circular photograph of four people, the conference theme, the subtitle, and the dates. The design uses a color palette of maroon, white, and yellow.

**aabhe**  
American Association of Blacks in Higher Education

**American Association of Blacks in Higher Education**

*2022 Annual Conference*



**TRANSFORMATION, TIMING, AND TALENTS:**  
Uncovering the Experiences of  
Blacks in Higher Education

**March 14-15, 2022**