



American Association for Nude Recreation

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Memorandum

To: AANR Officers, Trustees, Region Presidents, Clubs, and Members
From: Erich Schuttauf, Esq. AANR Executive Director and General Counsel
Date: January, 2024
Re: 2023 Annual Report

I look forward to joining you at Lake Como Family Nudist Resort for the 2024 Midwinter Meeting of the AANR Board of Trustees. AANR deeply appreciates the work that the club, staff, and volunteers are putting into hosting this meeting.

Below, please find a report with updates on a range of developments, from upcoming Association elections to Government Affairs and much more.

Deepest Thanks to AANR Budget Committee

AANR and I appreciate the considerable efforts of the AANR Budget committee in preparing the draft 2024 annual budget. President Mitch London, Secretary / Treasurer David Levine, Finance Committee Chair and AANR West Trustee Kathy Watzel, Strategic Planning Chair BG Parkes, and AANR Office Finance Director Judy Mason put in many hours reviewing drafts, budget requests, then traveling and attending preparation meetings. The Committee has delivered a draft with realistic projection that is balanced despite economic challenges.

2024 Election Reminder

March 15, 2024 marks the deadline for submitting candidate nomination forms in advance of the 2024 election of AANR officers and trustees. Please review qualifications information, arrange to submit your applicable forms, and encourage others to do so. Collectively, you help enrich the leadership with diverse skills and background.

AANR Mourns Passing of Visionary Horst Kraus

AANR learned that Horst Kraus passed away on January 3, 2024. Horst and his late wife Gigi purchased Shangri La Ranch on January 1, 1997 and took a resort that was on the verge of bankruptcy to a roaring

success with double the number of RV & mobile home sites. Horst was a strong advocate of AANR and its mission. He served on the regional board as a director and helped on several committees on both the regional and national levels. Horst could be found at the Annual Convention enjoying a bottle of Single Malt Scotch and solving all of the world's problems with many of the original SMS Society members. Horst & Gigi were great advocates for the AANR Youth Camps and Leadership Programs. Contributions to the AANR Education Foundation Scholarship Fund in his memory are appreciated. His legacy lives on at Shangri La Ranch with his family who will follow in his footsteps to offer the best possible experience in nude recreation for a short visit or long-term stay.

Thank You to Chair Ronna Krozy Solair Recreation League for an Outstanding 2023 Convention

In August, 2023 Solair members welcomed us to Woodstock, Connecticut for an outstanding gathering of nudists from throughout North America. Noteworthy events included a tour of the American Optical Museum in nearby Massachusetts, boat rides, silent and live auctions that raised thousands, plus a highly enjoyable evening meal featuring the film, "I am Big Bird" with a special appearance from the long loved actor's family. Meals catered by the Bistro café, trivia nights, and karaoke courtesy of AANR President and DJ Mitch London helped round out the program. Interest in convention activities and efforts by the club helped boost Convention Program advertising too. Special thanks to Convention Chair Ronna Krozy, who also serves as AANR Public Relations Chair.

2024 AANR Convention at Shangri-La Ranch

Make plans now to attend the 2024 AANR Convention at Shangri-La Resort. The Kraus-Faber family (including daughter Cyndi Tendick, region President of AANR West), invite all to what is sure to be a memorable celebration.

Bi-Monthly Zoom Calls

Bi-Monthly Zoom calls take place, regularly drawing between 100 and 150 attendees each session. A wide variety of topics---from Women in Nude Recreation to Astronomy to Nudist Advocacy generate animated conversations. The sessions are also an opportunity to explain what AANR is doing on behalf of members. Thanks to Trustee Karen Lahey and past Trustee Walt Stephens for spearheading the efforts to make this happen.

Government Affairs Report

January 2024 Government Affairs Issue of *The Bulletin*

AANR started the year with an issue of *The Bulletin* showcasing AANR's work protecting nudist rights. This included specially-prepared pages by Government Affairs Chair Tim Mullins and President Mitch London and various region chairs as well. The issue added numerous "did you know" snippets noting expenditures and providing other factoids.

Thanking Bare Necessities for a Top Shelf GAT Challenge Prize to Start 2024

AANR deeply appreciates the generosity of Bare Necessities Tour & Travel, which recently donated a balcony level cruise aboard the Carnival Pride, which sails in late February, 2024 to benefit the Government Affairs Team (GAT). Each five dollar donation made provides a chance to win this trip!

Wreaths Across America Helps Raise GAT Funds *with Thanks to BG Parkes and SVR.*

2022 saw the successful launch of AANR's participation in Wreaths Across America, a fitting way to honor veterans and the fallen for their service during the holiday season. In 2023 Wreaths Across America once again worked with AANR so that members had the option of sponsoring a wreath to be placed on a service member's grave at several national cemeteries. Each wreath sponsored also helps to fund GAT. Thank you to BG Parkes and the volunteers at Suwannee Valley Resort for their work to make this program possible. More information on the program is available at www.wreathscrossamerica.org/FL0995P

National Conference of State Legislatures – Indianapolis



AANR attended NCSL in Indianapolis immediately following the AANR convention at Solair last August. The theme for 2023's souvenir pin featured a happy topless driver and roadster with the aanr.com web address. Thank you to past AANR President Kathy Watzel, AANR Secretary Treasurer David Levine, and my son Max who joined me in staffing the booth. This year marked the thirtieth (30th) year of consecutive attendance and the 29th year offering a pin to help draw visitors. AANR looks forward to attending the NCSL in Louisville, Kentucky next year.

Nirvana Baby Lawsuit Revived by 9th Circuit – In late 2023 the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit reinstate the suit brought by the former (and famous) “Nirvana baby” who appeared naked and chasing a dollar bill on the cover of the band’s *Nevermind* album. The circuit court noted that the question of whether the photo constituted “child pornography” was not being addressed by the decision – only whether the suit is barred by applicable statutes of limitation. The court ruled the case was not time-barred given that the band had re-released the cover as part of a thirtieth anniversary commemorative...renewing any alleged damage to the plaintiff. The case was remanded for a determination as to whether the image violates federal pornography law.

Arizona—In June, AANR West Region President Cyndi Tendick and AANR West GAT Chair Steve Schubert prepared an urgent call to action with AANR West members... asking their help to stop AZ Senate Bill **1698**, which proposed restrictions on “performances” with nudity. AANR distributed President Tendick’s message throughout the region, asking members to contact Arizona State Governor Hobbs. AANR is very pleased to report that over 2,000 AANR West members opened their message to learn more, and that many took further action. The collective efforts of nudists and many other groups convinced Governor Hobbs to veto SB 1698 and other measures later that month.

California—When the state budget bill passed including provisions mentioning “nudity” in sexually oriented businesses along with restrictions on such businesses receiving state funds, some highly qualified legal professionals, courtesy of the Swallows club, provided their expert opinion. They have expressed that the law is unlikely to be used against nudist clubs as written and in practice.

Canada- AANR is deeply grateful for the work of volunteer Georgina Schurman, who brings her experience and skills as a former provincial-level government employee of many years, helping to review pending Canadian developments that may affect nude recreation in the AANRWC region. AANR also provided guidance to a nudist cited for enjoying a remote piece of land in a rural location immediately adjacent to his home. Proposed charges which originally came with significant penalties were eventually reduced to a much lower level that did not directly involve nudity. AANR also provided information on contacts made with Canadian lawmakers at the NCSL to Sunny Chinooks club.

Colorado - HB 23-1135 increases the penalty for indecent exposure in certain cases. AANR attempted to help stop HB 23-1135. Jerry Krummel, a current state resident, a former lawmaker from a different state, and member of the AANR Government Affairs Team personally contacted lawmakers and the governor to express concerns. AANR’s communications also mentioned that the American Bar Association disfavors penalties in criminal matters that “force” plea bargains. They also mentioned our work last year in Denver at the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Florida - AANR has obtained recognition for the association in an exemption to state's massage licensing bill. Note, if the bill is ultimately successfully passed, it will also assist in a number of important ways that go well *beyond* massage.

<https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/CommitteeMeetingAppearanceListing?billnumber=0197&termid=90&sessionid=103&billid=78787&committeeid=3246&committeemeetingid=14130>

Listing of AANR on Record

[https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=PCS%20for%20HB%20197.DOCX&DocumentType=Proposed%20Committee%20Bills%20\(PCBs\)&Session=2024&Committeed=3246](https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=PCS%20for%20HB%20197.DOCX&DocumentType=Proposed%20Committee%20Bills%20(PCBs)&Session=2024&Committeed=3246)

Idaho – ID HB 314 would have significantly restricted materials containing nudity in public and school libraries and created a civil cause of action against “offending” institutions. After a letter campaign to state legislative leadership secured their assurances to help stop HB 314, the state's governor ultimately stepped in to veto the measure. Special thanks to Steve Nolen and Dave Smith of GAT for their efforts on this one.

Indiana – In addition to attending the NCSL in Indianapolis last August, AANR volunteers worked against several proposed regulations that would add convictions for “public nudity” and “public indecency” to the list of offenses that could lead to delay or denial of professional licenses ranging from cosmetology to behavioral therapy. Volunteers have already attended public hearings on the proposal(s).

Ohio – AANR reviewed proposed regulations regarding youth summer camp programs.

Hawaii -- Clothes-Free Beaches Continue to be threatened. The status of Little Beach on Maui, Hawaii, and Secret Beach on the big island continue to face changes in both their short-term and long-term futures. As many of you may know, Little Beach has long been a favorite of nudists and naturists who live on and visit the island. Short term, the beach was closed as state park authorities attempted to address health conditions and restrictions associated with Covid. Now state personnel periodically issue tickets to nude beachgoers, although local groups including the Friends of Little Beach have successfully challenged numerous citations. The state of Hawaii is also proposing to “study” beach conditions, traffic, and usage. There remains likelihood that data collected would provide fodder for further restrictions.

Texas – AANR SW GAT Chair Bob Morton and I reviewed legislation similar to that proposed in Florida hinging on the term “prurient.”

US Forest Service With thanks to AANR DC Government Affairs Chair John Hunter who shared important information from his perspective as a long time federal recreation land employee, AANR and I filed input on a proposal (reference number *RIN 0596-AD57*) to amend 36 CFR Part 261. The proposal would make some crimes on federal lands subject to state law enforcement, including some numerical “public nudity” references. *AANR submitted these comments via the official portal located at*

<https://www.regulation.gov>

Washington, Seattle – Denny Blaine Park Clothes-Free Beach Preserved. The AANR NorthWest region teamed up with local activists to challenge the City’s plans to install a children’s playground immediately adjacent to Denny Blaine beach... long enjoyed as a clothing-optional venue. The proposed project was a thinly veiled attempt to create user conflict leading to an end to nudity. Moreover, any playground would have placed children in imminent danger of wandering into and drowning in Lake Washington. Numerous emails to City leadership by AANR members who were urged to make contact, as well as moving testimony by AANR Legislation Chair Jim Lahey about the devastating injury to a family impacted by drowning during a live hearing helped lead to the city’s announcement that the project would not proceed.

West Virginia – SB 635 - would have increased the penalty for indecent exposure to felony in some cases. *AANR helped stop the bill after it crossed from the state senate to the house. AANR had contacts within the legislative leadership alerted to this bill.*

Wisconsin – House and Senate Bills – Plus Department of Natural Resources (DNR) proposed regulation. Many are aware of two back-to-back anti-nudity bills introduced in the state in late September. The first, **SB 477**, would punish parents who bring a minor child to “public events with groups of nude adults.” Nudity is defined to include intentionally exposed genitals, buttocks, or other intimate parts as well as restrictions on the photography of a child so exposed at an event. The second, SB 478, proposes to outlaw intentionally exposing genitals in a public area, regardless of whether that exposure is indecent.

The bills received their first hearing, before the Senate Mental Health, Substance Abuse Committee on October 4, 2023. During the hearing, some Wisconsin state senators offered testimony countering the bills. This guides ongoing and evolving strategy. To date, the bills have not been *formally* scheduled for subsequent hearing(s).

AANR and the AANR Midwest region take both bills *very seriously*. In addition to tracking them closely, AANR has arranged professional guidance and representation concerning both. We are presently performing data pulls to facilitate communication with Wisconsin-based members about contacting their lawmakers. Here are some basics that these professionals have recommended:

- Contact should be made by *Wisconsin residents* by those within respective lawmakers’ districts; contact from those outside the state is not helpful at this time;
- *Telephone calls* from those who live in district are preferable to email;
- A suggested message is that the caller is against SB 477 and 478 on the grounds that it would ban attendance at concerts and productions where performers simply show bare buttocks, or other nudity such as the musical *Hair* and *punish this with significant penalties (i.e. up to 9 months in jail, or a 10k maximum fine)*;
- Those who feel comfortable identifying themselves as nudists and members of AANR should consider doing so.

Please know that your donations to AANR's Government Affairs efforts are deeply appreciated and have already made a significant difference. AANR benefits from name recognition among lawmakers, in part due to many years of AANR's involvement with the National Conference of State Legislatures. GAT funds enable AANR to quickly engage the professionals lending assistance.

AANR wishes to publicly thank AANR Midwest President Amy Rollins, AANR Midwest GAT representative Gary Birk, and AANR President Mitch London for their quick action in making this possible. We especially thank Vice President and GAT Chair Tim Mullins and Bob Morton---with his extensive experience from past work in Wisconsin--- who have made themselves available on a daily (sometimes hourly) basis for defending nudist rights in this situation.

AANR Helping Members and Clubs in Specific Matters

Here are some of the specific actions in which Carolyn and I have helped troubleshoot issues for nudists over the past six months. Names and identifying information are redacted for confidentiality reasons. Note that many situations require follow-up over several weeks or months (for this reason, a season such as ""Winter 2023"" ""Spring 2023"" or ""Early Summer 2023 is indicated; those issues where a new jurisdiction becomes involved (e.g. from criminal to civil court) are given separate entries:

Winter 2023:

- Provided analysis of proposed bills to limit "performances" where minors may be present to clubs that could be affected.
- Addressed questions about an antiquated law on the books of a state regulating nudity among "unmarried persons."
- Assisted a club courting potential buyers and sellers. Provided the results of a university study outlining the strong dollar value of nude tourism.
- Responded to a club concerned about prospective changes to its county's nudity laws.
- Reviewed potential legalities associated with a new bed & breakfast allowing nudity under only certain circumstances.
- Provided data and support in favor of an International Naturist Federation initiative to obtain recognition of nudity / nudism as a cultural practice embraced by certain nations.
- Provided guidance and possible resources, including case law and information from favorable jurisdictions, to nudist parents seeking adoption.

- Addressed questions related to cameras in clubs... either on buildings or vehicles.
- Addressed questions related to mandatory nudity policies in some clubs.
- Helped brainstorm strategies for responding to issues created by a former employee(s) of a club.
- Participated in monthly Government Affairs Team (GAT) online meetings to frame strategies for dealing with pending legislation.
- Conducted moderated group conversations with members on advocacy topics during twice monthly zoom meetings.
- Addressed questions related to background check procedures.
- Provided information to government affairs professional(s) about nudity-related stories and events that could become an issue in upcoming legislative session(s).
- Addressed questions from a parent whose custodial visitation with minor child was challenged due to visits to a nudist resort.
- Provided in-depth strategy discussion to region leadership and prepared emails to state lawmakers used to help stop bills in two separate states.
- Provided legal guidance to an AANR region in an Internal Affairs matter.
- Conducted discussions with the attorneys and legislative staff who prepared bills pending within a state legislature to explain AANR concerns.
- Addressed questions from a realtor related to potential purchasers / sellers of a nudist club; note that this involved a different club than one mentioned previously above.

Spring 2023

- Addressed questions concerning written permission for minors accompanying visitors to a nudist club within the Midwest.

- Addressed questions about legal pros and cons of mandatory nudity policies. (This occurred in a club different from that in the Winter 2023 discussion.)
- Provided guidance to a club seeking to rent facilities for nude swim events. Addressed various legal issues including contracts, insurance requirements, etc.
- Participated in monthly Government Affairs Team (GAT) online meetings to frame strategies for dealing with pending legislation.
- Conducted moderated group conversations with members on advocacy topics during twice monthly zoom meetings.
- Drafted, then served, correspondence to social media company that suspended account over mere nudity not in violation of company's written policies.
- Provided guidance to a member seeking to enjoy his backyard in the nude.
- Provided guidance, and legal resources, and referral information about obtaining counsel to a parent with minor child whose ex-spouse filed to block visitation to nudist venues.
- Addressed issues and questions related to protection of intellectual property (e.g. copyrights).
- Met personally with a member who AANR and I assisted more than 15 years ago in a criminal investigation of the family's involvement in nudism as an "epilogue"/follow up with what worked well, take-away lessons, thanks.
- Addressed questions of grandparent rights / visitations in a nudist setting.
- Addressed questions concerning visitation / custody with a parent living in a nudist resort over summer vacation.
- Responded to a request from a club concerning basic disability act questions.
- Responded to request for guidance on issues of nudity in photography.
- Responded to an inquiry regarding nudist participation / persecution as a basis for seeking asylum in immigration proceedings

- Communications with an attorney representing an AANR member in child custody proceedings.
- Discussed potential effect of changes to law from recently passed legislation with general manager of a club.

Summer 2023

- Responding to proposed regulations that would delay or deny professional licenses for a variety of occupations if convicted of public indecency or public nudity.
- Discussed preparation of materials to be furnished to lawmakers by the government affairs professional working in that state.
- Responded to request for information on intellectual property (IP) issues in a different region involving different materials from other IP matters discussed above.
- Discussed matters with a club and member involving potential guest comfort and security issues.
- Addressed questions for an attorney concerning nude hiking laws in the US and abroad. Also discussed the legal standards used for applying those laws in a variety of scenarios.
- Participated in monthly Government Affairs Team (GAT) online meetings to frame strategies for dealing with pending legislation.
- Conducted moderated group conversations with members on advocacy topics during twice monthly zoom meetings.

Fall / Early Winter 2023

- Assisted a family in the SouthWest challenged over the custody of two grandchildren who have visited nudist resorts most of their lives. AANR has provided material including case law on the subject, as well as arranging to speak with *Guardian Ad Litem(s)* assigned to the situation.
- AANR provided guidance to a nudist from Ontario, Canada cited for enjoying a remote piece of land in a rural location immediately adjacent to his home. Proposed charges which originally came with significant penalties were eventually reduced to a much lower level that did not directly involve nudity.

- Provided guidance / interpretation of wording in the aftermath of a favorable ruling by a judge in a nudist custody matter in the Pacific NorthWest wherein AANR had assisted in obtaining that outcome.
- Helped to secure favorable procedural ruling (i.e. to compel discovery of information) for a member located in the South engaged in a child custody battle which AANR has been working and is described elsewhere in this report.
- Provided legal information to a parent in the Midwest concerning guest comfort and security.
- Troubleshooting situation with a nudist in the Midwest on a legitimate nudist site when a neighbor unexpectedly viewed his computer and called authorities. Note that the man's membership in AANR helped to demonstrate the legitimacy of his testimony to law enforcement officers, who dropped the matter.
- Provided information and a lawyer referral for member encountering legal challenges associated with grandchild visiting / living at nudist club in the South.
- Assisted in a matter related to guest comfort and security during a nudist club event.
- Provided guidance to a parent in the MidWest who is represented by counsel and facing challenge to custody arrangement over nudism.
- Provided guidance to clubs in the NorthEast concerning bill to regulate conditions in swimming pools.
- Detailed conversations with clubs throughout Florida concerning possible legal implications of proposed bill regulating nudity where licensed massage is offered.
- Discussed legal implications of effect on gatherings and events of proposed Wisconsin bills.
- Legal discussions over implications of proposed US Forest service regulations.
- Discussions on legal implications of proposed Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources regulations.
- Provided guidance to club and region on legal matter relating to guest comfort and security.
- Fielded questions related to a nudist's plans to establish a nonprofit foundation.
- Provided answers to a member's questions relating to possible purchase / sale of a nudist club.

- Provided guidance on the legal liabilities facing Seattle in creating a playground at Denny Blaine park including attractive nuisance doctrines.
- Provided guidance to a member in the West concerning appeal from a lewdness charge. (Note: The member is represented by counsel with whom AANR has previously worked on state laws and first amendment issues.)
- Provided guidance and copy of AANR's written guide to creating clothing optional parks and beaches to a member on the East Coast seeking to establish a nude beach.