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Suwannee Valley Resort—AANR Convention, part 1

Most striking thing the first couple of days was an impassioned report by Erich Shuttauf, Executive Director and Legal Counsel, speaking as Legal Counsel. He said that whatever a person's feelings about abortion, the court's overturning of Roe V Wade may have far reaching consequences. In the past, the high court has sometimes eaten away at some of the provisions of a previous decision, but with a strong history of following precedent, the complete reversal of a precedent is unusual. As I understand it, this makes it more likely that the court may overturn other precedents, particularly with Justice Thomas's concurring opinion.

Abortion is not mentioned in the Constitution, but neither is privacy. Could some privacy precedents be next? Erich referred to a demand in the 1950s by the Attorney General of Alabama that the NAACP turn over a list of all NAACP members in Alabama. Yesterday, the Trustees voted, by what I thought was a surprisingly close 4-3 margin, to restrict the list of AANR members so a state Attorney General can't get at the list. In the future a full list will not be supplied to the regions' president or credentials person at our Convention General Assembly. The credential person at convention can go into Impexium, put in a person's name, and get back a picture with only the information of whether the person has current AANR membership in the SW region, no other personal information.

So, if a state attorney general asks for the AANR membership list for that state, the AANR region can honestly say. "We don't have the list. It is in Florida."

If the region president wants to send a message to all the members for whom AANR has email addresses, the president sends the email to the AANR office, which then sends it to those members. The president of AANR-Florida shared that when he's done this, the email went to his members within hours.

Another government item. Erich and others represented AANR for the 30th straight year at the National Conference of State Legislatures. This year at least 9 legislators from Arkansas spent enough time at the AANR booth that their name was remembered long enough for the AANR person to write it down after the person left. In 1957 the Arkansas legislature passed a law making it illegal to advocate for nudity. So, I would be breaking the law if I met you on a Little Rock street and invited you to come over to skinny dip in my pool. While no one has ever been arrested for this, the law is still there, and it intimidates. Every year Arkansas legislators are given literature and asked about the bill. This year, most of the law makers from Arkansas were unaware of this 1957 law. Erich suggested to them that perhaps they could quietly tack repeal of this law onto some other bit of legislation. Let's keep our fingers crossed.