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AANR Convention—Number 2

Regional Presidents' Meeting

Before her election as AANR-SW President, Lucy Heide already had plans which precluded her from attending the AANR Convention, so she asked me to fill in at the Regional Presidents' meeting. I was pleased. It's been 4 years since I was AANR-SW president, and I've missed these meetings. I always felt that the Presidents' meeting had more "soul" than the Trustees' meeting. There are no motions, no votes. The Presidents just talk about what is important to them and their regions.

1. One concern was about clubs which have been provisional for longer than allowed and clubs which have fewer than the minimum number of AANR members: 25 for landed clubs and 15 for travel clubs. AANR does a lot for clubs. Both travel clubs and resorts get free advertising through AANR. Whenever I'm planning a trip to a new destination, I go to the AANR.com to see what clubs may be on or close to my route. I stay at AANR resorts when possible and look for travel club activities I may be able to join. The *Bulletin* carries articles about clubs written by *Bulletin* staff, like the recent article about Emerald Lake. The *Bulletin* also carries articles written by club owners or members or others about their club. With all the articles submitted from Wildwood, mostly written by Connie, I can't imagine that anyone who reads the *Bulletin* is not familiar with Wildwood. Also, AANR provides clubs with legitimacy—AANR members, when they go to an AANR club, know they can expect a wholesome experience. AANR provides interest free loans to clubs for improvements. AANR protects us from adverse legislation. Every bill proposed in any of the state legislatures, the provinces of Canada or the two federal governments gets examined by the Government Affairs Team (GAT) to see if there's anything that could affect nudism. There are insurance companies that insure campgrounds that give a discount to AANR clubs. In at least two states there are laws or ordinances against strip clubs or sex clubs, which explicitly say that AANR clubs are not affected by the law. So, a resort that has been receiving AANR benefits for years and has 7 AANR members is freeloading, like an affluent person receiving welfare benefits. Suwannee Valley Resort is listed as a 100% club, which means that every member of an AANR club is also a member of AANR. In reality, Suwannee Valley is more like a 120% club. They sell AANR memberships to many people who come to their club, but who live so far away that club membership doesn't make sense. For the last 4 or 5 years, Suwannee Valley has been the fastest growing club in AANR. From zero not many years ago, Suwannee Valley now boasts over 600 members. As part of a conversation about the SVR, BG Parkes, owner of the park, said you'd be hard pressed to find someone on SVR grounds that wasn't AANR. She said maybe when I asked about the FedEx guy. And Suwannee Valley is in the middle of nowhere—it's about 30 miles to a restaurant. Also, SVR makes so much money that they spend about \$50,000 each year for dental

for veterans in the nearby counties. The Trustees responded to the Presidents because the Trustees already had this concern. In the Outboard Meeting, the Trustees revoked the charters of 5 clubs. I think this is the wave of the future—if you're an AANR club receiving the benefits of AANR, get serious about supporting AANR. If you've been willing to read through all this, thanks and amen.

2. There is a brochure developed by AANR-NW, "Know Before You Go," which clubs can send to people before their first visit to a club. You can get this Brochure from the AANR-NW website.
3. The presidents agreed that the main job of AANR right now is protecting nudist rights, so there should be a concerted effort for PR and Marketing to focus on nudist rights.
4. There is an app or site called Swimply for a special kind of air bnb which rents out backyards with swimming pools, including for nudist parties. This may be a resource for travel clubs. One of the hubs for this is Houston.
5. Because of Zoom, it's easier and much cheaper to have a meeting. The presidents proposed that the AANR Trustees also meet on Zoom between the two in person meetings that presently exist. They added to the proposal that the presidents meet before the Trustee meeting. This became a motion which was passed by the Board the next day with the provision that all AANR members would have access to the Trustees' meeting. (There were as many as 37 people taking advantage of Zoom to participate in the meetings this week.)