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AANR-SW PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE SEPTEMBER 2023

“For over 75 years, the American Association for Nude Recreation has introduced people to the joys of nudism and has been instrumental in

making nude travel an accepted mainstream vacation choice enjoyed by thousands of people each year. Nudism is refreshing, invigorating, and rejuvenating to the body and spirit.”

The above quote was taken from the back of the club brochure for Oaklake Trails – one of the nine AANR-Southwest landed clubs my husband and I have visited in the past 12 months as part of my Presidential Visit program. Last Fall, we began with Indian Hills in Slidell, Louisiana, and continued last spring with a trip that included Star Ranch, Freedom RV, Nature’s Resort, and Sandpipers. Most recently, we have made trips to Houston to visit with Healthy Hides of Houston and Emerald Lake Resort. That trip was followed by a tour of Wildwood, Bluebonnet, and Oaklake Trails. Along the way, we talked to members of travel clubs such as the Bexar Recreation Society, the Gulf Coast Nudist Yacht Club, and the North Texas Christian Naturists. We have had invitations to go sailing on Galveston Bay and to attend the Hill Country Nudists Boat Party. We had to take “rain” checks on the sailing trip and the boat party (but we WILL visit those clubs next spring if all goes as planned!). Everyone has been very welcoming and I feel that the “face-to-face” meetings have been very valuable. I have been able to answer questions about the Region and how we can help the Clubs grow. Several folks have asked for help with Membership concerns. We were excited to be able to see some long-time friends and to make some NEW friends along the way.

Our most recent trip (we were away from home for nine out of eleven days this month) took us to Houston and then up to Wildwood and Bluebonnet, both northwest of Dallas and within a short distance of each other. Our final club visit was at Oaklake Trails outside of Oklahoma City, just off the historic old Route 66. In Houston, we attended the monthly Healthy Hides of Houston party, which was held at the home of the HHH President and our 2023 AANR-SW Man of the Year, Wayne Kircher and his sweet wife, Sylvia. While there, we were also able to recognize one of the two recipients of this year’s Presidential Meritorious Service Award – Sandy Truxillo – who will celebrate 19 years of continuous service as a member of our Board of Directors next summer.

When the Gulf Coast Nudist Yacht Club heard we were headed for Houston, several of the members contacted us – they very graciously offered to provide accommodations for us and to take us out on Galveston Bay for a day of sailing. Unfortunately, we had already made plans to meet up with some AANR members for an early dinner that day, but we promised to return to Houston next spring to visit with the club. We have known several of their members for many years and it will be a real treat to see them again.

On our way out of Houston, we stopped by Emerald Lake Resort for a tour of the grounds and facilities and were able to meet the on-site Manager, Wayne. We

were very impressed with all the improvements to the property, how nice and neat everything looked, and especially the warm and friendly welcome we received from Jan in the office. Wayne invited us to come down anytime to hold a Membership Drive to help the club increase its number of AANR members.

We spent two days at home, then headed West to the Dallas/Ft. Worth Metroplex and up into Wise County where our next two clubs are located.

At Wildwood, we confirmed with Connie Taylor (one of the club owners) that the club is for sale. The owners are ready to retire and spend time just enjoying the beautiful club they have worked for 25 years to build.

Yes! – 1998 to 2023 means that this year is the 25th Anniversary of Wildwood. Congratulations are in order! The owners definitely plan to sell to folks who will maintain the club as a Nudist Club. Wildwood has two beautiful pools, pickleball courts, and an extremely beautiful clubhouse, not to mention the very friendly people! (A group of about 30 of us all went out for a catfish dinner on Sunday evening – thank you all for including us!) By the way, Connie has an interesting article in the September edition of *The Bulletin* – a different perspective on what different people consider the “Good Ole Days.”

While at Wildwood, I spent time with Connie planning our upcoming AANR-SW Midwinter Board Meeting, which will take place at the club on Saturday, February 2, 2024. The Midwinter Board Meeting is important because we hear interim reports from our Committees and it is also the time we set our Budget for 2024, based on our plans for the year. At this meeting, our Planning and Goal Setting Committee plans to present a Strategic Plan for AANR-SW, along with a roadmap for running a successful Region. Wildwood has recently expanded its RV spaces, but accommodations are limited, so plan accordingly if you are going to attend the meeting. (Plenty of motels are located just out on US Highway 287, not far from the club.) We hope to have more members from the Dallas/Ft. Worth/Oklahoma area this time, as well. (More information about our meeting will be forthcoming in the coming weeks.)

We spent time just around the corner at Bluebonnet also, enjoying their beautiful pools and talking with some of the members. The folks we spent most of our time with were also members of the Sunbirds Travel Club based in Plano. The Sunbirds Club is growing and we were told we should explore visiting one of their house parties if we get the chance. The Sunbirds and Bluebonnet are mentioned in the “Southwest” section of the September edition of *The Bulletin*. Bluebonnet is preparing for their annual “Bare as You Dare 5K” coming up on Saturday, September 16th.

We headed up to Oaklake Trails on Sunday and got to spend time with a couple of the Stockholders in the club, which has grown considerably since we first visited

there in 2005. OLT has over 400 acres and they are open year-round. The grounds and facilities are top-notch and the on-site staff are professional and very friendly. I believe that Oaklake Trails will host the 2025 AANR Convention. (The 2024 AANR Convention will be held at Laguna Del Sol in California.)

I am going to be working on making personal contact with Sandy Bares, a travel club near New Orleans. (If you are a member of that club, please contact me at the email address below. I would **Love** to hear from you and your club!)

We are looking forward to receiving an official Trustee Report from our AANR-SW Trustee Heather Cheney who attended the AANR Convention a few weeks ago in Connecticut. Meanwhile, I am happy to report that our own Bob Morton has once again been named as the 2023 Alonzo Stephens Memorial Award for his work on the Government Affairs Team of AANR. Congratulations are in order for Bob!! (If you want to know what GAT does for YOU, read the article in the September *Bulletin*.) Karen Lahey and Mike Parker were both voted into the AANR Hall of Fame this year. As a Regional President, I served on the AANR Hall of Fame Committee this year.

While I am talking about articles in *The Bulletin*, please read Dan Hawkins' report on his walk through San Francisco during the "Bay to Breakers" event. My husband and I participated in this naked walk through San Francisco in May 2000 – it was a "Natural High" for us and I am glad that our AANR-SW Director, Dan, has been able to go more than once.

Have you had a chance to read about the "Naked as Created Christian Retreat" held recently at Cypress Cove in Florida? This article was written by a member of our SW Region! The Christian Retreat was held last summer at our own Star Ranch and I heard nothing but good things about this group of folks. I hope they come back to visit Texas very soon!

I told you that while I was visiting these clubs I had helped members with questions about their membership, the Impexium platform, and other items. One man told me he had just joined as a Premier Member and he wanted to know what the benefits of that level of membership are. I contacted him a bit later to provide him with full details. I know that AANR recognizes Premier Members at its annual meeting, but I could not remember a time when our REGION did so. That got me to thinking that we SHOULD do something to recognize and thank members for their generous support of AANR by becoming Premier Members. So, I will be getting with Dan Hawkins as he plans for our 2024 AANR-SW Convention at Star Ranch next year and see if we can come up with some ideas on how to do that. I have been told that there are about 70 Premier members in our Region, so I think it would be nice to host a little get-together for them next summer. We will work on that.

Attention Clubs: You can submit your Club Happenings to *The Bulletin* for a FREE listing of your events, etc. It is worth it if you only submit your Club website/contact information! You can also place their Club Happenings on AANR.com only the C/O can do this and it's immediate and free.

Labor Day Weekend marks the “official” end of summer, but there is still plenty of time for Fun in the Sun in the Southwest Region! I wish you all a fun and safe Holiday!

I always appreciate **Very Much** hearing from our Members. Please drop me an email with your questions, concerns, suggestions, etc. Thank you for taking the time to read this Message.

Until next time,

Lucy Heide, President
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