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AANR-SW PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

March 2024

Greetings!

It's March, so that means that things are coming back to life in anticipation of a beautiful Spring season. Here in Northeast Texas, we have lots of shrubs in bloom such as Forsythia, Pink Tulip Magnolia, Wild Plum, Redbud trees, grape hyacinth, Pear and Peach trees. There are about 400 daffodils blooming in our yard right now. The bluebirds are checking out the nesting box as well. I hope that wherever you are, you are able to enjoy the beauty of nature in Spring!

March also means that the AANR-Southwest 5K Nude Racing Series will be kicking off with the Star Ranch Bare Buns 5K on March 23rd. Accommodations are already sold out, I understand, but call the office at Star Ranch to check on the latest availability of alternative places to stay if you are interested in attending the Race. I don't think registrations are full yet but check with Star Ranch as soon as possible on that.

The AANR-SW Racing Coordinator, Rick Wall, reported to the Midwinter Board Meeting on February 3rd that the 2023 Series saw total **registrations increase by 13%** over 2022's numbers. There was also an **8% increase in the number of individual runners** and a **10% increase in the number of finishers**. In fact, 2023 was the best year in the 26 years of the series! Rick says the credit for all this success is to be given to the hard work of the Host Clubs and their volunteers who make this Series possible. On behalf of the SW Region, I say, "Thank You!" Good luck to all the participants in the Racing Series this year!

In my last Message, I presented the Agenda for the AANR-SW Midwinter Board Meeting that was to be held at Wildwood Nudist Resort on Saturday, February 3rd. The meeting was well attended and included Club owners and Representatives from not only Wildwood, but also from Bluebonnet, Freedom RV Resort and Oaklake Trails. Written reports from Officers, Committee Chairs and Special Assignments were well-received, the food was delicious, and the hospitality and fellowship were wonderful to experience.

Bob Morton, Chair of our Governmental Affairs Committee (and member of the AANR Government Affairs Team), presented one of the most significant reports at this meeting. Bob informed us of an opportunity the Region would (he hoped) take advantage of in order to assist another Region (AANR-Midwest) in its fight against a pair of Bills introduced in the Wisconsin legislature that, if passed, would have been disastrous for nude recreation. Our AANR-SW Board of Directors voted to donate \$3,000.00 from our Legal Fund in support of the AANR-hired Lobbyist to help fight these Bills. Our donation was paid directly to AANR to support that cause. Today, I am happy to report that we were successful, and those Bills were NOT passed in the Wisconsin Assembly! Thanks to Bob for bringing this opportunity to our attention! Keep up the good work!! This is an excellent example of what AANR does to protect our interests when it comes to nude recreation!

Another great report we heard at our meeting was from our Webmaster, Wayne Kircher. Wayne's report provides us with data that helps us understand who is visiting our website, how often they do, and which search engines they use to find us. Last year we had visits from 105 countries!

Wayne is always looking for ways and means to keep the website (www.aanr-sw.org)

Fresh and interesting for visitors. He solicits new photos from clubs, articles and items of interest for nudists. The website has a Club Locator for our Region and links you can check out. You can also view Regional information such as our Ruling Documents and the 5K Racing Series Calendar.

Our AANR-SW Convention will take place at Star Ranch on the weekend of June 20 – 23 this year. The InBoard and OutBoard meetings as well as the General Assembly will take place on Friday, June 21st. During the General Assembly, as usual, elections will be held, including this year's elections for President, Vice-President and two or more Directors. Last year, our members did a tremendous job of returning voting Proxies in sufficient numbers so that we had a quorum and could conduct the business of the Association. I want to personally thank all of you who took the time to send in your Proxy. It is a very important and good thing for you to do and I was proud last year to see that big stack of proxies. This year, your Invitation to the Convention with Proxy Form attached, will be mailed out to you in May, via US Postal Service AND via email. The time is coming very soon when proxies will be sent out via email ONLY, but this year we will still send them both ways. So, if you will not be able to attend the Convention in person, please be sure to fill out your Proxy form and mail it to us in time to be counted. Your Vote does count!!

Dan Hawkins, AANR-SW Director, was elected by the Board of Directors to be the Nominations Chair this year. Dan will be accepting nominations for members of the Board and also for Honor Awards (Man, Woman and Family of the Year). Honor Awards nominations MUST be submitted on the official Nominations for Honor Awards form, which can be found in the Appendix of the AANR-SW Procedure Manual, found on our website.

The Facebook Page for the 2024 AANR-SW Convention is up and running! Check it out, join, and submit your ideas, feedback from last year, requests, etc. on our FB page.

We look forward to hearing from you! Contact me at aanrsouthwest@gmail.com

Until next time,
Lucy Heide, President, AANR-SW

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