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## AANR-SW REGION PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE September 2024

My fellow naturists, August is ending, and September is just about here. As a nudist, I always have mixed feelings about this time of year. September usually brings a little relief from the summer heat, but it also brings a reminder that winter is coming. The Hill Country Nudists will be holding their annual Boat Party on Lake Travis on September 7<sup>th</sup>. For more information, click here: <https://hillcountrynudists.com/events>. Oak Lake Trails will have their annual Fall Festival on Saturday the 21st. I will be there sharing a table with fellow nudist author Will Forest with a greater selection of books than we've ever had before. More info about the OLT Fall Festival is here: <https://www.oaklaketrails.com/2024-fall-festival-vendors>. Just as a reminder, Bluebonnet will not be holding their Bare as You Dare 5K this year, so the next race in the series will be the Chilly Cheeks 5K at Star Ranch on October 5<sup>th</sup>.

I did attend the AANR Convention at Shangrila Ranch in Arizona this month. The Southwest region was well represented, with our current AANR Southwest Trustee

Heather Cheney, outgoing AANR President (and former AANR Southwest President) Mitch London, former AANR Southwest president and trustee Ted Peck, and me in attendance at all the meetings. Former AANR Southwest Vice President Minnie Carr won AANR Woman of the Year, and Bob Morton received a President's award from Mitch. Bare Necessities Tour and Travel also won an award (I remember Mitch saying he would deliver their award to them since they were in Austin). The 2025 AANR Convention will be at Oaklake Trails next August.

One of the items of business passed by the Board of Trustees was an increase in the cost of Life and Elite Life Memberships, based on both inflation and longer life expectancies, with the increase to take effect on October 1, 2024. So, if you've been contemplating buying one of those Life Memberships, do it now before September ends.

Other business conducted at the AANR meetings included the installation of new officers and trustees, with Linda Weber as President and Patty Faber as Vice President. The outdated forms for AANR Convention Bids and the AANR Convention Contract were replaced with updated and modernized forms. A motion that would raise the cost of an AANR membership by one dollar each year until a future Board of Trustees acted to alter such raises was defeated. Instead, the Board voted in favor of a one-time one dollar increase that, if I remember correctly, goes into effect on January 1, 2025.

Host club Shangri-La Ranch organized a few programs about the surrounding area that were both entertaining and informative. During the Welcome Reception, several non-venomous snakes were brought in with a few other critters (a tortoise, a scorpion, a tarantula, and another animal that I don't remember how to classify) along with a short presentation about each one. I made friends with a very active Kingsnake that proceeded to wrap itself around my body up, down, and all around. Thursday evening was the Naturist Education Foundation fundraiser with burgers and drinks. ShangriLa members gave a presentation on the iconic saguaro cactus which grows only in the Sonoran Desert. The tequila tasting event on Saturday also saw a visit from a couple of desert burros, two donkeys brought in for photo ops, etc.

I sat down on Saturday afternoon with Evan Nix of Planet Nude, the Naked Age podcast, and The New Nudist Podcast for an interview that ran almost an hour. Look for it on a future episode of The New Nudist Podcast. Evan is also the new chair of the AANR Public Relations committee.

The AANR-Southwest Mid-Winter Meeting will be held January 25, 2025, at Star Ranch. All AANR-Southwest members are welcome and encouraged to attend. I hope every one of our members has a great September. Until next month...

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