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AANR-SW REGION PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

February 2025

Happy February fellow nudists. We have almost made it through another winter.

The AANR-SW Mid-Winter Board of Directors meeting was held on January 25th at Star Ranch where we approved the 2025 budget, among other business. Even though we just had that mid-winter meeting, our region's summer convention is just over four months away. It'll be at Star Ranch from June 5th through the 8th, so call Star Ranch and make your reservations now.

My own January was rather eventful. On Saturday the fourth, I left home with my son and drove toward the Los Angeles area. I had been cast in a new movie tentatively called *Naked and Unashamed: The Pastor Jim Moore Story* and shooting was to commence on January 6th. We arrived on the afternoon of January 5th and settled into a naturist bed and breakfast in Altadena, California owned and run by Rolf and Cynthia Holbach. The Monday shoot was busy. My character was in every scene we shot that day. Tuesday was a bit lighter regarding my character, but the entire cast and crew were very busy.

We finished those first two days of shooting ahead of schedule. But that night we saw the fires up on the hills above us. The winds were nearing hurricane force, with gusts up to one hundred miles per hour. Some of the cast staying at the property in Altadena left, concerned about the fires reaching the bed & breakfast property. At the time, I was more concerned about getting stuck on the LA freeways, so my son and I stayed. After a couple of hours, those who had left returned to find that a rather tall tree on the property had been blown down. Luckily, that tree missed the house and the pool landing in the spacious grassy area. Our cast and crew had a prayer circle in the main house and then tried to get some sleep.

Those attempts at sleep, which were already difficult due to the howling winds, were interrupted at 3:30 AM when everyone's phones blared with the official order to evacuate. Most of the cast got in the van that the production had rented, but my son and I got in my car and drove out of Altadena. It looked and felt like we were driving out of Mordor, with fires everywhere. The production reconvened in Chino Hills, away from the fires.

Throughout the whole crazy night, I never feared for our lives, but I was concerned about Rolf and Cynthia's property (which I am happy to report did not burn) and getting the movie done. All of us on the cast and crew felt we were doing something important, that would speak to people, would change many Christians' minds about nudists and many nudists' minds about Christians. We felt that all the obstacles we were facing were telling us that our project was something we HAD to finish. And despite those obstacles, nothing that we couldn't overcome was thrown at us. We lost our lodging, but we found other accommodations. We lost our studio locations, but we found alternatives. When one of our lead actresses had to leave the production because of medical issues related to the smoke from the fire, we were

able to recast her role. And, because we hadn't yet shot any scenes with that character, we didn't have to reshoot anything.

One of the alternate locations our intrepid producer Tim Chizmar found was Shangri-La Ranch in Arizona. Shangri-La general partners Cyndi Tendick (the AANR West region president) and Patty Faber (AANR vice president) bent over backward on very short notice for the production. Cyndi even played a speaking part in the movie.

Thankfully, the movie has been shot and is now in post-production. It will probably be more than a year before it's released, and at this point, no one knows what form that release will take. But just stay tuned for it.

As I am typing this, I am preparing to hit the road again, this time to Miami. My wife, son, and I will be at Haulover Beach on Sunday, February 2nd, and then we will be getting on the Big Nude Boat cruise on Monday the 3rd. If you are also on the cruise, say hi when you see me and let me know that you're an AANR-Southwest member. I'll probably be spending some time at the AANR table on the sea days, so you can hopefully find me there.

Until next month...

Dan Hawkins

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