News from the Western Region of the American Association for Nude Recreation

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AANR-WEST BOARD MEETS& APPROVES 2019 BUDGET

By Gary Mussell, AANR-West President

The Board of Directors has passed the 2019 budget at the annual Fall Board Meeting. This year's budget includes about a 30% increase over last year's numbers to cover many of the new projects being implemented next year. The regional by-laws require a budget for the following year be approved at the November meeting. The November meeting is traditionally deemed the budget meeting as this is where the ideas suggested from the annual convention are reviewed, prioritized, and given a budget.

This year, the fall meeting was held at Mira Vista Resort in Tucson on November 2nd. There were many exciting ideas discussed and approved including the following:

Scholarships:

The entire scholarship program is being revamped. We have seen a marked decline in college-bound applicants these last few years, so the July convention approved expanding the program to include adults over age 25 and those who need reimbursement for vocational or technical training that does not involve a college degree. Details will be announced in our January newsletter and on our web site.

Youth Summer Camps:

While we support the need for summer camps for AANR kids, we are re-thinking the program to attract a younger pre-teen market. Instead of doing the camps ourselves, we will instead work with local clubs who want to host these activities themselves by making materials and financial support available.



Photo of 2018-19 AANR-West board was taken at summer convention

Club Liaisons:

The Board agreed it is essential communication be improved between the clubs and the regional board. The Liaison Program assigned each club to a member of the board so they can talk frequently about the club's activities and to solve any problems. One of the region's responsibilities is to promote its clubs' activities (i.e. like a Chamber of Commerce) so we urge clubs to take advantage if this service. A Board member should be in contact with each club at least each quarter. Clubs can also contact us more frequently at information@aanrwest.org.

Monthly "Western Sun" Newsletter:

There are about 1800 AANR members in the region not affiliated with any club. We send the newsletter directly to these "Associates." Clubs managers also receive the newsletter and we encourage them to forward it to their club members.) We're striving for a consistent publishing date earlier in the month.

The goal is to keep everyone informed about the social nudist movement at the local and regional level to supplement what the AANR Bulletin magazine provides on an international level.

We have been publishing this for the past 14 months and the feedback continues to be very positive. We look forward to more contributions from clubs about their events and stories from individuals who want to share their own nudist experiences, whether at a club, beach, hot springs, etc.

AANRWEST.ORG Website:

The other way we communicate with our members and with the world is through our website. This is constantly changing as more people make contributions of articles and photos.

The home page now has a **What's New** section to highlight changes and seasonal promotions. For example, we recently created a new menu section for First Timers that is getting a lot of visitors. The Scholarship and Passport programs will cycle into the website after the first of the year. We are also starting to collect Videos submitted from clubs and individuals under Activities. The Directory will soon have a map and directions to each club.

We will need to update the Calendar section with 2019 events soon, so please get your club's info submitted to us ASAP.

Regional Passports:

We announced the creation of the Regional Passport program several months ago but decided to postpone it until we got some improvements added.

AANR members are encouraged to visit as many clubs as possible and become eligible for a raffle drawing where some nice prizes will be awarded. Clubs can sell the books (recommended price \$5) or it can be purchased online at our website starting January 1. Details will be given in the January newsletter and online.

Trade Shows:

Following our success at several trade shows this past year, we look to expand to new locations in 2019. These include more Earth Day and Women's events that seem to have a higher percentage of people curious about nude recreation.

Next year we will be returning to the LA Travel Show, California Parks & Recreation show, the Earth Day Fair in San Diego, and the Avocado Festival in Carpinteria. The board decided to not attend the January Quartzite RV show in Arizona but do something else in that state which would provide more "bang for the buck." We are looking into the AZ Women's Expo as a possibility Let us know if you can recommend a show or similar event.

Singles:

Jeff Tendick, our Singles Chair, is working to set up a network of "Meet and Greet" cocktail parties and dinners at local restaurants through Meetup.com. By meeting outside the clubs we will provide a safe environment for first timers curious about social nudity. This Meetup program is proving successful with other outside service organizations (Rotary, Parents Without Partners, church groups) so we will try it also. Information about this will be announced soon.

Social Media:

We have made a huge impact on Twitter thanks to Board member Andy Walden who posts there every day. Links in every tweet are helping direct people to our website and helping drive up our visitor numbers. Our Facebook page has had challenges because of the strict "no nudity" policy of that social media service. We will be redesigning our "Official Page" soon, and adding pages on both Tumblr and Pinterest, thanks to our Board secretary Danielle Smith.

Upcoming meeting locations:

The Board also agreed to hold its March 2, 2019 Spring Board meeting at Lupin Lodge near Los Gatos, California and its Fall Board meeting on November 2, 2019 at Shangri-La Ranch in Arizona.

The annual summer convention has already been announced for July 25-28, 2019 at Mountain Air Ranch in Colorado.

The Board meets in person three times each year and by telephone conference call monthly. Any AANR-West club officer or member may attend one of the meetings or listen in on the call. Contact us at information@aanrwest.org if you are interested.

IMPORTANT! CO-OP ADVERTISING DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER 30 THIS YEAR.

AANR clubs can have their advertising in non-nudist publications partially reimbursed by both AANR and AANR-West if receipts for these ads are submitted to us by Nov. 30 (these include invoices for December for ads not yet published). Please note this deadline was moved back a month from Dec. 31 starting this year.

To qualify, the advertisement must specifically refer to the AANR West website home page showing the hyperlink "www.aanrwest.org." The logos of AANR, or AANR Western Region, or both, should be displayed in the ad, space permitting.

AANR West clubs may be reimbursed either 50% of the cost of an ad, not to exceed \$400.00 per year per club, or 25% of the cost of multiple ads not to exceed \$1,000.00 per year per club. Clubs where 100% of their membership are AANR members can qualify for double these amounts.

Copies of receipts or bills, which are certified as having been paid, and advertising or a description of the event must be submitted to and approved by the AANR Western Region Treasurer no later than the deadline.

Advertising in the AANR Bulletin or other AANR publications are not eligible.

Any questions? Contact us at information@aanrwest.org.

AANR OFFICE SELECTS NEW MEMBER MGMT SOFTWARE

Nov 6, 2018 - Karen Lahey, AANR Technology Committee Chair announced that AANR has selected a new membership management software for the main office. The current program is over twenty years old and quite out of date by current standards. The new program by Impexium has the following advantages over the old system:

- The data entry screens are much easier to use for entering new club members and status changes.
- Members will be able to set up automatic renewals instead of being billed each year.
- It integrates with QuickBooks accounting.
- It integrates with AANR's online store.
- It handles Canadian currency.
- It will give regional officers a way to look at their membership and send emails to their members.
- A wide variety of analysis reports can be setup to run whenever needed.

Lahey said over sixty software packages were researched and this is the one that came closest to meeting AANR's criteria. The funding for this initial purchase was included in this year's budget. The new software is expected to be online in about six months

Club News



AANR-West President is flanked by Kim (left) and Kathy (right) Windfeather

OUR VISIT TO SUNNY SUITE VACATION RENTAL

On Nov 4, AANR-West President Gary Mussell and board members Rolf Holbach and Ricc Bieber dropped by the Sunny Suite Vacation Rental to welcome this affiliated business to the AANR family.

Co-owners Kim and Kathy Windfeather couldn't have been more charming as they gave us a brief tour of the charming and spacious property. We discussed how we could better direct interested AANR members to this clothing-optional getaway spot just north of Tucson, Arizona. Persons interested in more information, please contact:

Sun Suite Vacation Rental at (520) 833-2483 or email at: windfeatherresort@gmail.com.

BUFF-A-TEERS CLUB HOSTS PIZZA NIGHT AND SWING DANCING IN PLANE HANGER

About 30 members of the Buff-a-Teers club in Tucson held a Pizza Night on November 2 at Jim and Raija's airplane hangar. Dancin' Dan and the Kat provided a free lesson in East Coast Swing for those interested in learning. AANR-West's President also addressed the group, giving a brief summary of the activities the AANR-West board will be planning to support the clubs 2019. AANR-West Board members Ricc Bieber, Mike Glinzak, and Rolf Holbach, also attended.

TWO AANR-WEST NUDIST PARKS REDUCE VISITORS TO NON-MEMBERS FOR WINTER

Mountain Air Ranch, located in the mountains above Denver, and. The Sequoians club in the Castro Valley east of Oakland remain open to their members with a full schedule of seasonal activities. However, neither club is accepting <u>non</u>-member visitors now through March. The Sequoians offer a discounted, seasonal Associate and Millennial membership with limited "in-season" visiting. Email the club at sequoians@wildblue.net for further details.

BREAKING NEWS: MEMBER EVACUATIONS IN HUGE L.A. FIRES

As we go to press, the Woolsey and Hill fires are ravaging the western Los Angeles area where many AANR members live.

Radio and TV stations on the morning of Saturday Nov 10 report the two local fires have burned over 100,000 acres with an estimated 250,000 people evacuated and 150+ homes destroyed. Unfortunately, at least 27 people have lost their lives so far statewide.

Our AANR-West PO Box/office is on the edge of the mandatory evacuation zone and roads there are closed, but it is okay. The electricity and Internet services are off in most of the affected areas, so it is hard to reach the members we know live there to be sure they are okay.

Of the members we have reached, all say they are okay although quite a few have left to live with friends or other members who are outside the disaster zones.

The skies over north and western L.A. are covered with tall smoky clouds that are being blown by steady winds of around 30 mph with gusts as high as 50 mph causing the fires to move through neighborhoods faster than the firefighters can keep up. Big tanker planes and helicopters are doing their best to drop their loads of fire retardant where it will do the most good, but they can't be everywhere

This will all be resolved during the next several days of course, but we wanted everyone to know we are watching the skies and listening to radio and TV reports and trying not to use the freeways or other roads, so they can be used by police and fire personnel and those thousands who are evacuating. More about this in the next newsletter.

Have a club event happening? We want to know about it! Send your email or text to us at information@aanrwest.org.

Government Affairs

HOW DID THE 2018 MIDTERM ELECTIONS AFFECT NATURISTS?

By Gary Mussell and Ron Weimer, GAT Committee

The Government Affairs Team (GAT) is still assessing the effects of all the various state changes that occurred as a result of the November 6 midterm elections.



Some interesting factoids from this year's election:

• With Idaho and Utah voting yes, it is finally the law in every state that mothers can legally breastfeed in public.

- With the defeat of Gov. Scott Walker in Wisconsin, local nudists have emailed me they are hopeful the new Democrat administration will be more open to the restoration of the clothing-optional area at Mazo Beach, which Walker closed several years ago.
- "Trifecta states" (where one party controls the governorship and both houses of the state legislature) saw a net gain of six states for the Democrats. The current count is Republicans have 22 trifectas and Democrats hold 14. This means essentially "one party rule" in those 38 states.
- The only state left with a divided legislature is Minnesota. The remaining 49 state legislatures are all controlled by one political party or the other. Of those states, Democrats control 18 legislatures while Republicans control 31.

Some of the new legislative sessions will begin in December and others in January or even later. We will be watching for bills that affect nudists and we will report these to you in future newsletters. Here is more election information about our region's individual states:

CALIFORNIA

This state remains the "bluest" of the "blue" states, with Democrats holding all statewide elected offices, and holding a 2/3 majority in both the State Assembly and State Senate. New bills can be introduced starting December 1.

Fifty-three members of Congress come from California. The election flipped four of these seats from Republican to Democrat, so the count is now 40 Democrats, 13 Republicans, depending on if there will be any recounts.

U.S. Senator Diane Feinstein (D) easily won reelection to her sixth (and probably her last) term. At age 85 she is the oldest and the longest current serving member of the Senate.

In Carpinteria, one of our nude beach supporters was defeated for reelection to the City Council, to be replaced by someone who is "open to discussion" about it. The council challenger who was vocally opposed to the beach was defeated and came in last.

ARIZONA

Arizona remains a Republican "trifecta" at the state level. Republicans control the state Senate with 16 seats to Democrats' 13 seats. Republicans control the state House with 28 seats to Democrats' 26 seats with two not yet decided.

Republican Rep Martha McSally was slightly behind Dem Kyrsten Sinema for the U.S. Senate seat, but with only one half of a percent separating the two, they are probably headed for a recount.

The state's nine U.S. House seats remain split between five Democrats and four Republicans, a net gain of one for the Democrats.

COLORADO

The Democrats flipped the Governorship back to their column and they also picked up a Congressional seat

making that count now four Dems and three Republicans, with one not yet decided. Congressman Jared Polis will be the country's first openly gay man to serve as governor.

Colorado's State Senate also flipped with 18 Dems and 17 Republicans, while the state House now has a Democratic majority 37-23, a net gain of four for the Democrats.

HAWAII

Hawaii has been a Democratic trifecta for many years, controlling all state elected offices, and both state houses by wide margins. The party won the single US Congressional seat by a 50% vote margin, and Sen. Mazie Hirono was re-elected to the US Senate by a 71% margin over her Republican opponent.

NEW MEXICO

The Governor's office flipped to the Democrats this year, and all the other statewide elected officials are also now Democrats. Democrats control the state Senate with 26 seats to Republicans' 16 seats. Democrats regained control of the State House in November 2016 and increased their six seat margin to 22 with two still undecided.

The U.S. Senate seat remained in Democrat hands by a 54% to 30% margin. New Mexico has three U.S. Congressional seats and the Democrats now hold all three after flipping the last one.

NEVADA

The Democratic "blue wave" hit was never more evident than in Nevada this year, with Democrats taking the Governorship for the first time in two decades and toppling the incumbent Republican U.S. senator.

However – only in Nevada! - a brothel owner and reality TV star, Dennis Hof, who died a month before the election, still won his race for Nevada's 36th Assembly District. Hof, who ran as a Republican and calling himself "The Trump of Pahrump" defeated Democratic challenger Lesia Romanov by more than 7,000 votes, proving the old cliché that some people would rather vote for a dead man than for someone from the opposition party. According to state law, county officials will now appoint a fellow Republican who also resides in the district to take Hof's seat.

UTAH

Utah remains a Republican trifecta, controlling the governorship as well as a majority in both the state Senate and state House (58-17 seats) although the Democrats had a net gain of two seats in the lower house. Former Republican Presidential nominee Mitt Romney won election to the U.S. Senate with 62% of the vote.

WYOMING

Wyoming is also a Republican trifecta, with that party holding the governorship and a wide majority in both the state Senate and state House. The Republican U.S. Senator was re-elected easily, as was the state's sole member of Congress, Liz Cheney, daughter of the former U.S. Vice President. The state's legislative session starts February 12.

Other Nudist News



INA delegates (l-r) Hector Martinez from Mexico, Dao Moller (front left) from Thailand, Lins Van Wambke (Belgium) and Claudia Kellersch (right).

AANR-WEST BOARD MEMBER ATTENDS INF WORLD CONGRESS MEETING

AANR-West Board member Claudia Kellersch attended the International Naturist Federation (INF) meeting in Portugal last month. She said she got to meet and speak to leaders of many of the representatives of countries from around the world. "It was a very positive experience," she wrote us, but not everyone felt that way. Posting on their blog after the conference, "Naked Wanderers" Nick De Corte and Lins Van Wambke, who also attended, had a different opinion. [Editor's Note: we wrote about the Naked Wanderers in out May 2018 newsletter]. With their permission, here is an edited version of the article on their blog. To read the full article, go to https://www.nakedwanderings.com/blog/2018/10/18/that-time-at-the-inf-world-congress/.

October 18, 2018 - "More than often we have been aiming our arrows towards the INF-FNI (International Naturist Federation), we complained about their inability to modernize and wondered what they are actually doing for the naturists or naturism in general.

"Those questions would probably have remained unanswered if we hadn't [attended] the 36th INF-FNI World Congress. on the coast of Lisbon.

"After being a naturist for about ten years, we think we can say that we've learned that although different naturist places around the world are differently managed, [most nudists are] open minded where people have respect for each other, listen to each other and address things in a positive way. We learned this is not the kind of atmosphere at the INF conference.

"One strange thing was that the conference wasn't held at a naturist resort but in a textile hotel. We haven't been able to figure out the exact reason for that, although approval had been given by the hotel to be naked in the meeting room. When the conference started [there was] only one naked person in the room: Gregers Moller from the Thai federation. He did encourage others and soon Hector (Mexico) dropped his clothes, and so did we and a few others, but not all.

"During the whole weekend, about 25% of the participants would attend the meetings naked. Many only took off their clothes for the group picture on the third day and quickly put them on again afterwards. Some didn't even take the effort to join the group picture.

"Naturism encourages open-minded thinking [but] it became obvious that the naturists who keep wearing their clothes seemed narrow-minded during the whole conference.

"There seemed to be two camps, which we started calling the "conservative" and the "progressive". The conservative strive to go back to the roots of naturism where the lifestyle is practiced in the form of a club based on volunteers and with a clear membership system (preferably on paper). The progressive on the other hand strive for modernized facilities and more options for naturists, agree that naturism can be interpreted in different ways to attract a broader audience. The two sides could not agree on anything at the meeting. Honestly, the little confidence we still had in the INF as it is run today is now completely gone.

"The positive side of this all is that we regained our confidence in the individual federations. Revolutionary ideas which can help naturism grow were thrown on the table and although they were all immediately criticized by the other side, they were proof that the federations are still trying to move forward.

"It still bothers us that good ideas were shot down so easily while the last decade or more has already proven that conservative thinking is not saving naturism. We believe that it's time for a change. Actually, it was already time for a change 10 years ago but it's still not too late.

"Within the board of the INF, two positions have been taken by members with progressive ideas and both got reelected. Meaning that most of the federations want to move forward.

"For many delegates, the real Congress happened outside of the meeting hours, during dinner or with a beer at the bar where like-minded people could share ideas without having to fear the negative comments. We saw how different federations were learning from each other and started building the foundations of a better framework for naturism. In that point of view, the congress was certainly a success.

"Our goal was to see how the INF works, and to meet new people who are passionate by naturism. We certainly succeeded in both.

"We hope that during the next congress progressive candidates for the board functions will step forward. Let's (finally) bring naturism into the 21st century!

"SIDE NOTE: The next congress will be held in 2020 in Slovenia, a country that has the word "love" in its name. Could that be an indication?"

[AANR is not a member of the INF – Editor.]

There's Always Something Happening Around the Region!

Below is a list of major club activities for the next several weeks from around the region. This is only a partial list. Visit the aanswest.org web site for a more complete list. Click on the club link at right to view some details about the event at the club's web site.

Calendar of Major Events at the Clubs November 13-30

Date	Event Description	Host Club	Club Link
11/13/2018	Souper/Planning	Roadrunner Naturists	www.roadrunnernaturists.com
11/15/2018	National Take-A-Hike Weekend	De Anza Springs	stay@deanzasprings.com
11/17/2018	Pajama Party	Laguna del Sol	office@lagunadelsol.com
11/17/2018	Thanksgiving Dance	Mountain Air Ranch	marinfo@trynude.com
11/17/2018	Thanksgiving Dinner	Olive Dell Ranch	olivedell1952@gmail.com
11/17/2018	Pre-Thanksgiving potluck and jacuzzi party	SunTree Travel Club	information@suntree.net
11/22/2018	Thanksgiving Weekend	De Anza Springs	stay@deanzasprings.com
11/22/2018	Thanksgiving Community Dance	Glen Eden	info@gleneden.com
11/22/2018	Happy Thanksgiving!	Laguna del Sol	office@lagunadelsol.com
11/22/2018	Thanksgiving Day Potluck	Olive Dell Ranch	olivedell1952@gmail.com
11/23/2018	Full Moon Social	De Anza Springs	stay@deanzasprings.com
11/24/2018	Black & White Dinner & Dance	De Anza Springs	stay@deanzasprings.com
11/29/2018	National Pie Weekend	De Anza Springs	stay@deanzasprings.com

Calendar of Major Events at the Clubs December 1-31

Date	Event Description	Host Club	Club Link
12/1/2018	Holiday Craft Fair & Party/ NYE Sign Ups	Laguna del Sol	office@lagunadelsol.com
12/6/2018	Toy Donation Weekend	De Anza Springs	stay@deanzasprings.com
12/8/2018	Jr's Tree Trimming & Christmas Party	Olive Dell Ranch	olivedell1952@gmail.com
12/8/18	Holiday Gift Exchange	Shangri-La Ranch, AZ	joinus@shangrilaranch.com
12/8/2018	Holiday Party	Olympian Club	olympianclub@aol.com
12/9/2018	Annual Holiday Party & Awards Ceremony	SCNA	scna@socalnaturist.org
12/13/2018	White Christmas Weekend	De Anza Springs	stay@deanzasprings.com
12/14/2018	Karaoke Christmas Sing Along Dance	Glen Eden	info@gleneden.com
12/15/2018	Ugly Sweater Theme Dance	Laguna del Sol	office@lagunadelsol.com
12/15/2018	Cookie Exchange	Mountain Air Ranch	marinfo@trynude.com
12/15/2018	Texas Hold'em Championship	Olive Dell Ranch	olivedell1952@gmail.com
12/15/2018	Christmas Caroling	Olive Dell Ranch	olivedell1952@gmail.com
12/16/2018	Christmas Gift Exchange	De Anza Springs	stay@deanzasprings.com
12/18/2018	Holiday Party	Roadrunner Naturists	www.roadrunnernaturists.com
12/20/2018	Christmas Weekend Festivities	De Anza Springs	stay@deanzasprings.com
12/22/2018	Full Moon Social	De Anza Springs	stay@deanzasprings.com
12/22/2018	Winter Holiday's Festival Dance Party!	Glen Eden	info@gleneden.com
12/22/2018	Christmas Day Potluck	Olive Dell Ranch	olivedell1952@gmail.com
12/27/2018	New Year's Weekend	De Anza Springs	stay@deanzasprings.com
12/29/2018	Coco & Cookies Game Night	Olive Dell Ranch	olivedell1952@gmail.com
12/31/2018	New Year's Eve Dinner & Dance	De Anza Springs	stay@deanzasprings.com
12/31/2018	It's OUR Time! New Year's Eve Bash!!!	Glen Eden	info@gleneden.com
12/31/2018	New Year's Eve Party	Laguna del Sol	office@lagunadelsol.com
12/31/2018	New Year's Eve Dance	Mountain Air Ranch	marinfo@trynude.com
12/31/2018	New Year's Eve Dance / Midnight Buffet	Olive Dell Ranch	olivedell1952@gmail.com

Note: These activities and dates are subject to change.



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Web Site: www.aanrwest.org Contact: Information@aanrwest.org

AANR West clubs welcome all people willing to conform to its principles and standards, regardless of age, gender, marital status, religious beliefs, ethnic origin or sexual orientation.