

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**Larry Deschenes**

Well here goes my first attempt at a president's report. Let me start with the day before I left to drive to our meeting. I was happily going to the meeting as a lowly ole board member. (No disrespect intended) Happy to try and make AANR-East better with a little thought and work on issues important to our organization, that is until the phone rang that beautiful summer's day. On the other end of that phone call was fellow Director, Mac Fleck. My cohort was concerned that we needed to elect a new president at the meeting as our President, Gloria Waryas, was going to term out. Compounding the issue was that as far as Mac could tell, nobody was coming forth to run for the position and he wanted to know if I'd be interested. A discussion ensued and I must have said no about 10 times during the conversation. I did not feel I had enough experience and knowledge to take on the position. I would win the Presidency and in the end, Mac would leave the Board of Directors. Hopefully it is all behind us now and we can proceed forward. I will miss Mac's advice, exuberance and drive. There was nothing Mac wouldn't do for this organization and his work will be missed.

Shortly after the meeting I attended the AANR Annual Meeting in Stroud, Oklahoma at Oak Lake Trails. Arriving early was, fortunately for me, a great idea. I had time to tour the grounds, get to know where everything was and meet some wonderful people. The property was amazing, the facilities top notch and the brand new community hall was fabulous. While preparing for this trip I was informed that I was to host the Regional Presidents Council and present the Presidents' Council Report at the meeting. Well here we go again. I had never attended an AANR meeting before, never attended a Presidents' Council before and here I was hosting and giving a report. It went off without a hitch, mainly due to a few good friends taking notes for me. Thanks to Cindy for the notes and to Gary for taking over the report when I got lost. Items that may be of interest to us were: the possibility of online membership renewals, the return of Club Happenings to the Bulletin and the printed Bulletin should be issued first before the 'E' copy comes out. Both the silent and live auctions that occurred at this meeting were a huge success, raising funds for AANR.

Shortly after my trip to Oak Lake Trails I met with Gwen Bradshaw, President of Naturist Rochester and presented her with a special award for their Membership Increase. Still on my desk is an award for Bare Oaks in Toronto for articles they wrote however it has been difficult to find a mutually agreeable time for us to meet. This one is high on my priorities and I hope to have completed it before our June Meeting.

A By-election had to be called to replace director positions left vacant when I became President and when Marcus was unseated due to absence. The result of that by-election was that Marcus was able to retain his seat by being re-elected and Sandra Cordell was elected to serve the balance of my term as Director. Welcome back to you Marcus and congratulations to Sandra in your success as well.

Shortly after this was completed Mac Fleck resigned and we again had to hold another by-election. In this election our former President and my predecessor, Gloria Waryas was elected as our newest Director. Congratulations Gloria as now I feel a little more comfortable knowing I have someone with a great deal more knowledge and experience than me, close by, to lean on

from time to time.

Recently we had an application for a new provisional club in Dover, Delaware. The club is called Black Naturists Association and they will be a non-landed club welcoming all naturists to join, although they do have an age restriction to those over 21. Welcome to Black Naturist Association.

Business wise I hope we can get settled on a KRA Coordinator (or two even) to draw the KRAs together and get them up and running again. We need to fill the KRA Team Leaders as so many have left us and not been replaced and we need to encourage volunteers to join the KRAs. The more hands involved the lighter the work. This is important work that we started and it has slowed to a crawl. With new volunteers, Team Leaders and a coordinator or two I am sure we can again get the KRAs moving in the right direction. Toward this end Gloria has put together a presentation on the KRAs to refresh and maybe restore some of that enthusiasm.

Please remember I am still learning and dumb as a brick sometimes, but with the support of the Board, some good old team work and a little help from our friends along with some good luck, we should be fine going forward.

**VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT**  
**Robert Roche**

It has been very quiet since June of 2017 with not much official business being transacted.

Our conference calls started in November of 2017 with the President, Vice President and Secretary.

## **SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT**

**Mary Williamson**

As part of the daily office work required, minutes have been posted on the AANR-East Web Site.

The Budgetary Team will soon begin working on the 2018 budget and it will be completed and approved at the Interim Board Meeting. Once again this is a difficult task as our membership has dropped - this affects the availability of funds for our various KRA teams.

All written reports for the 2018 Interim Board Meeting were due December 18th and will be posted on our web site. Financial information is available to any member that requests it along with copies of the spreadsheets showing the current status of our savings accounts and the Capital Assets Report.

AANR-East is always looking for volunteers with professional backgrounds to work on our Key Result Area teams or to come up with new ideas for furthering AANR-East, AANR and nude recreation in general. If you know of anyone that would be interested in helping our association, please encourage them to contact any of the officers, directors or simply call the AANR-East Office.

If anyone has any questions or concerns, I can be reached by e-mail, [secretarytreasurer@aanr-east.com](mailto:secretarytreasurer@aanr-east.com), or by calling the office at 256-657-7497.

## **MEMBER TRUSTEE REPORT**

**Fred Van Nest**

The good news is that AANR membership is definitely increasing. At the end of August, membership was up 0.27% compared to the beginning of the year. That may not sound like much, but it is a significant reversal of the previous long-term trend of losses in the 2-3% per year range. Much of the credit goes to Jeff Baldassarre, the new Marketing Director who comes from the hospitality industry, who has created phenomenal increases in social media responses and translated them into membership gains.

The Membership Issues Committee, that promised to move AANR into the 21<sup>st</sup> century if the members approved the emergency ballot last summer (which they did), has now declared a one-year suspension of its work while AANR considers updating its antiquated membership database program.

An ad hoc committee has prepared a job description and performance appraisal guide for the Executive Director position. Both are well done and the best in recent memory, although in my opinion, they tend to focus more on office manager duties rather than executive director duties. The Trustees are expected to approve both at their next meeting.

Much work has gone into correcting the problems that occurred with the voting process for last summer's emergency ballot. Many of those problems resulted from having to make a hasty last-minute selection of a new vendor when the previous vendor unexpectedly discontinued its operations. This year's process will include online, postal mail and telephonic options. The voting process will be explained in a series of Bulletin article that will begin in early 2018.

There will be two ballot propositions on this year's ballot. The exact changes in the ruling documents have been omitted due to their length, but I will provide them to anyone who is interested.

### ***BALLOT PROPOSITION #1***

*"I move to amend AANR Bylaws Section II, Article V, Paragraph A.1.d) to remove the Philippine Islands from the area served by AANR West. (Exact wording follows.)*

*Maker: Legislation Committee by request of AANR West.*

*Rationale: The Philippine Islands are no longer a territory of the US and, therefore, should be eliminated.*

*Fiscal Impact: None*

*Pro Statement by Gary Mussell, AANR-West President:*

*For some reason nobody can remember now, the AANR-Western region was assigned the Philippine Islands years ago in the By-laws. We looked it up, and there are no AANR members living there at present. It seems more appropriate that AANR International take over stewardship of this since they already handle a few scattered members living in France, Italy, and other countries. We ask for your vote to remove this from our regional territory.*

*No Con Statement was offered.”*

This proposition removes an obvious relic and I recommend approval.

## ***BALLOT PROPOSITION #2***

*“I move to amend AANR Bylaws and Governance Manual to reduce the number of AANR Trustees from 14 to 7. (Exact wording follows.)*

*Maker: AANR Planning Committee*

*Rationale: To decrease the cost of doing AANR business. The pro statement will clarify this.*

*Fiscal Impact: +\$14,000 or more annually*

*Exact wording:*

*Pro Statement by Kathy Watzel, AANR Trustee:*

*I am in favor of changing the number of trustees for the AANR board from 14 to 7. A smaller board will improve communication between members and facilitate better participation allowing for quality decision-making improving board effectiveness. The reimbursement cost of a trustee for a year is \$2,030. Reducing the board by 7 members would save AANR \$14,210.*

*Con Statement by Ricc Beiber*

*Proposition 2: Creates major change in how we effect self-governance, and not in a good way. This presents some issues. By my understanding, it opens the door for candidates that may have not only a conflict of interest, but can ‘load the court’ in favor of one region of the country. The money savings against this very real issue becomes negligible, as the labor replacement would go from volunteer to paid staff needed to fill the void.*

*There is also the issue of representation being reduced in actual number, not a good thing for a national organization of this size and type.*

*The amendment change is a “Trojan Horse”, the purpose appearing to weaken the Board of Trustees and increase the power of the President.*

*In short, it reduces the democracy of the organization.”*

This is an example of the devil being in the details. AANR could obviously benefit from a smaller carefully crafted board composed of people experienced in governing non-profit advocacy organizations. As can easily be surmised from the pro statement, which is written by the chair of the Planning Committee [and also declared 2018 Presidential candidate] that proposed it, no such thoughtful considerations went into this proposition.

The major impact of this proposition is to reduce the size of the Board by eliminating the Club Trustees. Some of the Association’s best leaders have been Club Trustees, so I cannot imagine how depriving the Board of their talents it will ‘...facilitate better participation allowing for quality decision-making improving board effectiveness.’ To the contrary, I expect the change to reduce the quality of the Board’s decisions and likely reduce the Board’s effectiveness.

One of the very serious problems with this proposition is that it perpetuates the concept that AANR is so unique that only people who “have come up through the regional system” are qualified to be AANR leaders. That leads to a “the way we have always done it” type of thinking that stifles creativity and change. What is even worse is that it excludes members who may have extensive professional experience in areas that are vital to AANR’s governance. It totally ignores the extensive study done by a prior Planning Committee that recommended qualification be based on competency in areas that are important to AANR’s governance rather than on regional experience.

AANR-East removed its residence requirement for officials years ago when it recognized the “brain drain” that occurs when some of its members retire and have time to become active volunteers, but move to Florida. AANR-East trusts its members to elect Trustees who will serve them well regardless of where they have their “official residence”. This proposition re-imposes a residency requirement for Trustees.

The proposition is also poorly crafted and contains many ambiguities such as the use of “official residence” whatever that may mean.

I oppose this proposition and encourage you to do the same, not because a smaller board could not be beneficial, but rather because the proposition is woefully inadequate to implement the needed changes.

As you have probably noticed, impressive improvements in the appearance and formatting of the Bulletin have occurred over the last year or so. As you may also have noticed, the Bulletin’s “non-nudist related content” has also increased over the same period. Both are the result of hiring an experienced editor who is not a nudist.

I chair an ad hoc committee that is attempting to improve the Bulletin’s content by making it more relevant and beneficial to members. The committee is well aware of what certain individuals and groups like or dislike about certain features. What the committee really needs to know is *why* members like or dislike those features and *how* they utilize the information they provide. Your input would be greatly appreciated if you can help us understand the *why* and *how* aspects.

**GOVERNANCE KRA**  
**Submitted by Mary Williamson, Temporary KRA Leader**

**ANNUAL MEETINGS & FACILITIES**

**Submitted by Mary Williamson**

The 2018 AANR-East Annual Summer Meeting will be held at White Tail Resort June 17th through the 20th. If no bids are submitted for the Board to consider, the 2019 Interim Meeting will be held January 25th through the 27th at WTR.

**INTERNAL ADMINISTRATION**

**Submitted by Robert Roche**

We have two ongoing investigations that are still under investigation with no conclusive results at this time.

**LEGISLATION**

**Submitted by Mary Williamson**

There were three things that the Board had considered since we met at White Tail Resort in June for the Annual Summer Meeting.

- 1: To fill a vacancy on the Board –Marcus Barbosa will fill the position until June 2019.
- 2: To fill a vacancy on the Board – Sandra Cordell will fill the vacancy until the Ballot election in 2018.
- 3: To fill a vacancy on the Board – Gloria Waryas will fill the position until June 2019.

Currently there is one motion that will be brought before the Directors at the Interim Board Meeting.

**MOTION:** To amend section 4.00.07 of the Procedure Manual.

4.00.07 Nominees for AANR-East office shall submit a short statement (not to exceed 400 words) and photograph, both to be included with the election material. The photograph shall be a recent uncropped full-face digital color image that clearly shows the eyes and hairline. These must be received by the Secretary/Treasurer no not later than March ~~1st~~ ~~15th~~ of the year the election is to take place.

**PURPOSE:** Since our Annual Summer Meeting takes place in June, the Ballots need to be completed by the AANR Office in time to get them into the April Bulletin.

**GOVERNMENT & LEGAL AFFAIRS**

We have no volunteers for this category.

**NOMINATIONS**

We have no volunteers for this category.



**ADVOCACY AND ALLIANCES KRA**  
**Team Leader**

We have no volunteer for the team leader

## **BRAND KRA**

**We have no volunteer for the team leader KRA Leader**

### **MEMBERSHIP/MARKETING**

We have no volunteers for this category.

### **PUBLIC RELATIONS**

**Submitted by Gloria Waryas**

Nothing to report since the last report

**FINANCE KRA**  
**Peg Lane, Team Leader**

No report submitted

**BUDGETARY COORDINATOR**

Robert MacGregor will have a proposed 2018 budget completed to be presented to the Board at the Interim Meeting,

**LINKAGE KRA**  
**Submitted by Mary Williamson, KRA Leader**

**AANR-EAST YOUTH CAMP**

We had a great Youth Camp this past summer in Georgia. We had 10 campers with ages between 9 and 15. The Camp Committee will be meeting soon to decide the theme of the 2018 camp which will again be in Georgia.

On another note, the campers decided that they wanted to have a winter campers' reunion again in 2018. It will take place at White Tail Resort during the AANR-East 2018 Interim Meeting. I will have a full report on this, this summer.

**EDUCATIONAL GRANTS**

It is too early to report on this now.

**LANDED CLUB GRANT**

This year we had 1 submission for the Grant. The Selection Committee's recommendations will be discussed at the Interim Meeting. The Selection Committee consisted of 3 Non-Landed Clubs, Sunchasers, Niagara Naturists & Northern Exposure.

**AANR-EAST HISTORIAN/ARCHIVIST**

We have no volunteers for this category.

**AWARDS**

It is too early to report on this now. If you know of anyone that is deserving of either Member, Man, Woman or Family of the Year Award, the form is available on our website.

**YOUNG ADULT NUDIST ENHANCEMENT**

**Submitted by Marcus Barbosa, Regional Liaison**

**WEBSITE**

**Submitted by Gloria Waryas**

Our website has been functioning on a consistent basis, however there are some errors that need to be corrected and hopefully those will be done shortly.

If anyone has any pictures that you think would be appropriate for our website, please forward them to me at [directorgwaryas@aanr-east.com](mailto:directorgwaryas@aanr-east.com) I would love to see more pictures so that they can be swapped out periodically. We would prefer not to have pictures of people due to the issues with permission. However, if you have a picture where no one is identifiable that would be great.

I have asked in the past and will ask again, please send me your comment for the website. We are in need of comments and it only enhances our website if we have more than three people. This website belongs to AANR-East and at the very least our directors should have comments about their experience with social nudity on the website.

## **SOCIAL MEDIA**

**Submitted by Gloria Waryas**

We continue to have a great presence on both Twitter and Face Book. If you have not gone to our FB page I, encourage you to do so. Become our friend, engage in conversations or even start a conversation.

Twitter is also a positive presence for us and helps spread the word about social nudity. Once again, please participate.

The more we as directors contribute in our social media platform will continue to support our core beliefs and also inspires others to join us.