

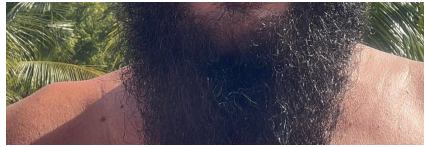
AANR-Florida Monthly Newsletter December 2024.

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AANR-Florida
President
Joe Rivas

President's Corner September 2024

Welcome to the December holiday season! I hope that you enjoy reading about the Midwinter Meeting accessibility, the importance of holiday giving, innovation by First Coast Naturists, and updates from the Governmental Affairs Team and the Board.

Midwinter Meeting Accessibility

The most frequently asked question by the membership this month has been, will the Florida Region's Midwinter meeting at [Suwanee Valley Resort](#) be streamed for those who want or need to attend virtually?

The answer is yes. The link for the meetings which start at 9AM on January 11 and 12 is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3035012318?pwd=Y1R2c3RlZVZ1K3U0UzgzdGFsRjNadz09>

Thank you to everyone who will be attending and participating in this very important meeting.

Holiday Giving

The holiday season is the perfect opportunity to give thanks to those who have made a special impact on our lives. The many clubs, participating businesses, and volunteers in AANR and the Florida Region fit the bill. They protect our rights and provide us, the over 5,100 Florida Regional members, with opportunities to enjoy family-friendly nude recreation and naturism across Florida, Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, and the Caribbean.

In giving thanks, imagine the strength and prosperity that we would bring to the Region and our host communities if we doubled our membership by each of us giving the gift of AANR membership to one person. The effects would reach far and wide. Doubling our membership would bring much new revenue to our clubs, destination resorts, and the cities where they are located.

I hope that you will join me in giving the gift of AANR membership to friends and family. When you do so, you help secure the future of nudism and naturism for years and decades to come. And did you know that AANR has discounts for children and young adults? The rates are a one-time fee of \$25 for children (birth to 18 years old), and annual rates of \$31 for students (ages 18-24) and \$46 and for young adults (ages 18-28).

For those who chose to purchase or renew annual AANR memberships online, the process is now easier with Join/Renew button on our [website](#). Enrolling children can be accomplished by contacting [AANR Headquarters](#).

First Coast Naturists

Membership growth results from passion and innovation and that is what [First Coast Naturists](#) (FCN) has done. FCN is a social and travel club serving residents of the Jacksonville Region. It was founded by Dave Berry, a retired Navy officer, in August 2013,

FCN hosts a wide array of nudist/naturist travel and social opportunities, with the latter including but definitely not limited to dances as well as wine and cheese, Bunco, and backyard pool parties. FCN's innovation and passion were expressed as it is engaged in an AANR membership drive where a portion of the membership fees were offset the club itself. And for that, I know all of us in the nudist/naturist community extend our deepest gratitude. Well done FCN!

Government Affairs

The 2025 Florida Legislative Session has begun. Elected officials returned to Tallahassee for an Organizational Session and swearing in ceremonies on November 20th. The first week of Interim Committee Meetings will commence on December 9th.

Senate President-Designate Ben Albritton (R-Bartow) unveiled the leadership structure for a number of committees, including the Higher Education Appropriations Committee, PreK-12 Education Appropriations Committee, Agriculture, Environment, and General Government Appropriations Committee, Health and Human Services Appropriations Committee, Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development Appropriations Committee, and the Finance and Tax Committee.

Likewise, House Speaker-Designate Daniel Perez (R-Miami) released a memorandum to House members that highlighted several changes that seek to improve the legislative process in his term as Speaker. Highlights include changes to the bill filing process, the establishment of combined workgroups, modification of committee deadlines, and expansion of scope for the House Rules and Ethics Committee.

Our Lobbyist, Ramon Maury reports that a possible and actionable topic is children, alcohol sales, and nudity. He will monitor the situation closely and take appropriate actions. The 2025 Florida legislative calendar is as follows:

- **January-February: Committee weeks.**
- **March 4: The regular session convenes.**
- **April 19: Motion to reconsider is made and considered.**
- **April 22: Last day for regularly scheduled committee meetings.**
- **May 2: Last day of the regular session.**

Business of the Board

Actions taken at the November 15, 2024, AANR Florida Region Board included:

- Receiving an update that AANR Executive Director Erich Schuttauf will provide redacted state and national summaries of legal opportunities and challenges that we face in our monthly newsletter. This is significant. Please join the Board in telling the AANR story to prospective members and especially when you see them at our clubs, resorts, and beaches. They need to understand that legal advocacy and protection sustain our abilities to enjoy family-friendly nudist and naturist recreation.

In doing so, I often borrow from Vice President Mac Fleck in telling people AANR membership is your insurance card to enjoy your nudist/naturist lifestyle. The number of times I get a “Oh I did not know that” response is amazing.

- Transferring to outcomes minutes, so that they along with our agendas can be posted on our website to promote Board transparency and accountability.
- Refining the FY25 Budget to be voted on at the 2025 Midwinter meeting.
- Discussing forming a special, ad hoc committee to explore insurance access and affordability given the dramatically escalating costs in Florida.

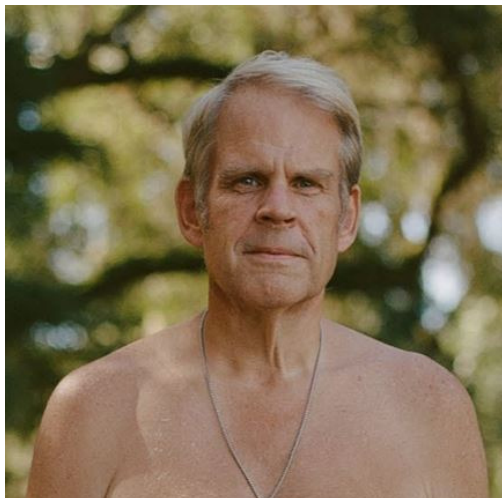
I also wish to thank the leadership of [Bay Bares](#) and [Suwanee Valley Resort](#) for having listening sessions with me on the opportunities and challenges in increasing our regional membership. December meetings are being scheduled with Lake Como and Tampa Bay Free Beaches.

The next AANR Florida Regional Board of Directors meeting is December 17th. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns for the Board. For now, I wish you and yours a very happy, safe, and enjoyable holiday season and look forward to seeing you at the annual Midwinter Meeting.

Yours Naturally,

Joe

joe.rives@aanr-florida.org



Erich Schuttauf
Executive Director

AANR and I are working very closely with the legal counsel representing a mother in Arkansas who faces losing custody of her seven-year-old son after she brought him to a family-oriented event at a Florida nudist club. Counsel and I have held detailed discussions on various approaches and legal precedents that will be helpful to her case. Packages of information have been forwarded as well as making arrangements to assist in proceedings later this year.

AANR also recently assisted a father in a custodial matter triggered after he brought his five-year-old son to the clothes-optional beach at the Canaveral National Seashore.

To date, members of the AANR Government Affairs Team have already reviewed more than two dozen bills that have already been *prefilled* in various state legislatures in advance of the 2025 legislative session. These would impact enjoyment, or public discussions about, nudity and range from Texas to Ohio, Arkansas, and beyond. Moreover, proposed regulatory and rulemaking developments are also being tracked and reviewed.

The January 2025 issue of AANR's monthly member publication, The Bulletin, is heavily dedicated to the subject of Government and Public Affairs.



Ralph Collinson
AANR-Florida Region Trustee

It's hard to believe that another year has passed. This year has been tough on several of our resorts and members who had damage from the hurricanes. Many are still recovering and have not gotten fully back on their feet. To the best of my knowledge, most clubs with the exception of Paradise Pines are fully open and actively seeking your business.

Many have events planned over the holidays so check out their websites and get out and enjoy the freedom of nude recreation. Playalinda Beach at Canaveral National Seashore suffered damage to both the beach and roadways. The beach road is currently open to Parking Lot 5 where nudists are enjoying the sunshine. Please cooperate with the Park Service while they work to reopen the road to Parking Lot 13.

This year AANR-Florida also lost two of its strongest advocates, one through death and the other through retirement. Morley Schloss passed away in July at the age of 82 after a valiant battle with

COVID-19. Morley was a leader in the naturist movement for many years both in AANR-East and in AANR-Florida. Morley was the President of AANR-Florida when Florida was in the East Region. Morley ran numerous festivals and summer camps at SunSport Gardens in Florida and was a strong political activist for expanding nude recreation and the social and cultural acceptance of nude recreation. Morley mentored me and others and has had a powerful and lasting impact on naturists and naturism in Florida. He is a member of both the AANR and AANR-Florida Hall of Fame.

Our second loss was Carolyn Hawkins's retirement. Carolyn has moved back to Maryland to be with her family. Carolyn was a fixture at AANR headquarters in Kissimmee where she worked in many capacities including Public Affairs. She was also a fixture at Cypress Cove Resort where she lived and worked for many years. Carolyn was always there to help AANR-Florida in any way she could, and we will sadly miss her; but we wish her a long and healthy retirement. Carolyn is also a AANR Hall of Fame member.



**American Association For Nude Recreation -
FLORIDA REGION**

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