

NAM *Members' Committee*

25 February 2000

"We stand alone and our voice is small. – We stand together and we will be heard." Barbara Mazingo, NAM

web site: <http://www.natlassoc.com>

eMail: chmn@natlassoc.com

Voice/Fax: (937) 236-2882

OHIO MEMBERS MEET

The Ohio Members' Committee met recently in Dayton, OH. Topics of discussion included status reports on TAI, Travel America, etc. It was decided that committee would vote on their bylaws, reelecting officers, etc.

This committee is working with Mr. Grady Pettigrew (Bankruptcy attorney and former bankruptcy judge in Columbus, OH) to try to collect on the claims that have been awarded to members by the bankruptcy judge in the Thousand Adventures of Ohio bankruptcy.

Many Ohio members paid \$25 each as a deposit to hire Mr. Pettigrew to represent their interests in this bankruptcy. ALL of each of those deposits have been turned over to Mr. Pettigrew. The next step will be discussed at the meeting of the Ohio Members' Committee in March.

A concern was expressed early in that bankruptcy that Travel America would simply capture the assets of Thousand Adventures of Ohio (the memberships) then file its own bankruptcy. The judge didn't take that concern seriously.

Travel America pledged that it would pay \$200,000 to the unsecured creditors in that bankruptcy. They haven't paid unsecured creditors a nickel yet!

THE NEXT MEETING OF
THE OHIO MEMBERS' COMMITTEE
WILL BE AT

RYAN'S STEAK HOUSE

Near the intersection of

LITTLE YORK RD. & POE AVE.— DAYTON, OHIO
off of I-75 (Exit #60)

MARCH 15, 2000 – 6:30 PM

Call (937) 236-2882 if you would like to attend. YOU SHOULD DEFINITELY ATTEND if you are one of the people who hired Mr. Pettigrew to work on your claim.

TOMORROW'S STARS (OH) BITES THE DUST?

Travel America has apparently defaulted on their obligations to the mortgage holder of Tomorrows Stars near Springfield, OH. This park was identified in the Ohio bankruptcy as a "Vital part of the Ohio reorganization." The bank foreclosed and is in the process of scheduling another sheriff's sale.

Travel America once alleged that they had over 10,000 Ohio members. If these members each paid \$300 per year dues (at least \$3,000,000) where did that money go?

TRAVEL AMERICA FORFEITS FRAUDULENT TRANSFER LAWSUIT IN IOWA

Travel America Failed to Respond to a recent action by the Iowa Trustee concerning the fraudulent transfer of some of the TAI assets of Travel America. The Judge consequently awarded a minimum of \$1,000,000 to the Iowa Trustee. The defendants were Ray Novelli, Travel America, and First Nationwide Resorts. This is the first significant judgment in favor of the Iowa Trustee that we are aware of.

Other judgments awarded to the Iowa Trustee have been for sums ranging from a few hundred to a few thousand dollars.

TRAVEL AMERICA DEMANDS MONEY FROM FORMER TAI MEMBERS

We have received complaints from members at Leisure Lake, Big Turtle, etc. in Ohio and elsewhere across the country about demands from representatives of Travel America for dues, etc. These people want nothing to do with Travel America and have told them so in writing. They do not intend to send money.

SHOULD YOU PAY MONEY TO TRAVEL AMERICA?

If you use their facilities - you should pay their fees and obey their rules for participation. That's it!

If you do NOT use their facilities and you do not plan to - what gives them the right to demand money from you?

Do you have a contract with them? Do they have the means (or even the intention) to honor every provision of a contract you have with someone else? Did they *ask* you if you want to be in their organization?

They seem to feel that some of us have been awarded to them like some kind of cow that one farmer might sell to another farmer. You know - a CASH cow. A cow has no rights - YOU DO!

INDIAN MILL (OH) IS GONE

Another Ohio park has been lost by Travel America. Indian Mill was repossessed by the former owner, Mr. Jay Thomas, as a result of defaults by Travel America. It was sold at a sheriff's auction. We don't know who the new owner is. Mr. Thomas reports that the Indian Mill was purchased by a farmer and will no longer be an RV park. We'll see.

WHERE'S THE TRUSTEE?

Why hasn't the Bankruptcy Trustee acted in the Ohio bankruptcy to make the Debtor (Thousand Adventures of Ohio/Travel America) comply with the terms of the confirmed plan? Doesn't he have that duty? Why didn't the Trustee even attend most of the court hearings where important issues pertaining to this bankruptcy were heard? How can the Trustee be alert to "possible" fraud by such a debtor or issues of bad faith as in the Michigan bankruptcy of these same bankruptcy proponents. *We are concerned and would really like to know what's going on here.*

The US Trustee for Ohio is:

DONALD M. ROBINER, UNITED STATES TRUSTEE
200 PUBLIC SQUARE, SUITE 20-3300
CLEVELAND OH 44114

For Columbus, OH it is:

ALEXANDER G. BARKAN, ASSISTANT U.S. TRUSTEE
170 N. HIGH STREET, SUITE 200
COLUMBUS OH 43215-2403

NAM CHAIRMAN INJURED IN AUTO ACCIDENT

NAM Chairman and Chairman of the Ohio Members' Committee, Dan Hopper, was injured in an auto accident December 10, 1999. He apparently passed out as he was driving to pick up supplies for a seminar for members to be held the following day in Lebanon, OH. The doctors and Mr. Hopper speculate that it was the result of exhaustion and sleep deprivation. He had been getting only about 3-5 hours sleep per night for quite some time.

His right hip socket, ankle, and a bone in his right hand were broken but are mending nicely (too slow he says). Rescue workers cut out the side of the car to remove him so he could be taken to the hospital. The car was totaled.

Dan returned home from the hospital after a couple of weeks and attends therapy at Franciscan Hospital in Dayton, OH, 2 or 3 times per week.

The seminar, fifth in a series of several, was to be presented the day following the accident. The purpose of the seminars was to help Ohio members file the necessary forms in the bankruptcy of Thousand Adventures of Ohio so they could protect their claims.

Norma, Dan's wife had never addressed a group this size before but she gave the seminar in his absence and did nicely. About 25-30 people attended. Vital help was provided to her by Frank and Lois Rhoades and Dottie Johnson, members of the Ohio Members' Committee.

Thank you folks, for your help and support.

VERY TRUE, WISE SAYINGS..

To the world you might be one person, but to one person you might be the world.

Real friends are those who, when you've made a fool of yourself, don't feel you've done a permanent job.

A coincidence is when God performs a miracle, and decides to remain anonymous.

You don't have to attend every argument you're invited to.

Life is 10% of what happens to you, and 90% of how you respond to it.

Following the path of least resistance is what makes rivers and men crooked.

Your worst days are never so bad that you are beyond the reach of God's grace. And your best days are never so good that you are beyond the need of God's grace.

When it comes time to die... make sure that's all you have left to do.

TAI BUCKS!

People who worked at TAI parks as volunteers were often paid for their labors with "TAI Bucks". They aren't worth much now. One friend sent me his left over TAI bucks. They were all \$3.00 bills - Sounds right to me...

Anyone else want to send some? I'm collecting them.

FUNNY RV THINGS SEEN WHILE "CAMPIN"

Kid splitting kindling on the tailgate of folks new pickup.

Guy taking tire off rear axle of TT after putting jack under front axle.

Poor soul traveling with wife, mother-in-law, two sister-in-laws, three cats, a BIG dog and three grandkids in a Class A.

Five college girls in a VW bus camping across the US.

Very early, cold, September morning. Kid about 10 years old packing a wasp nest home "to show my Dad".

Same kid a few days later, M-80 dropped into the pit of outhouse, looked down hole to see what would happen. HOLY S—!!!

Guy about 60 running around outside trailer in longjohns (white, with trapdoor) and slippers; 6" of snow on the ground and really cold. Had gone outside to check water heater and door went shut. Locked of course.

Saw this just after it happened. Kid "helping" grandpa. Filled gas tank on Class C with a water hose. Thought he was filling fresh water.

MONEY SAVERS FOR RV CAMPERS

FLYING ‘J’

The “Flying J Real Value” membership is free.

You can pick up a Real Value brochure at any Flying J location, fill out the attached application and mail. You will receive your membership card and benefits information in the mail. It’s that simple.

As a member of this club, you will receive:

- a 1¢ per gallon discount on diesel and gasoline with every minimum 20-gallon purchase
- a 5¢ per gallon discount on propane
- Free RV dump stations
- Special RV fueling islands
- Prepaid calling card privileges (5 min. free on sign up)
- Simply present your membership card at the register.

Flying J
RV “Real Value” Club
PO Box 678
Brigham City, UT 84302
(435) 734-6428
www.flyingj.com

THE ANYWAY RULES

1. Some people are illogical, unreasonable, and self centered. Love and trust them anyway.
2. If you do good, some people will accuse you of having selfish, ulterior motives. Do good anyway.
3. If you are successful, you win false friends and true enemies. Succeed anyway.
4. The good you do today will be forgotten tomorrow. Do good anyway.
5. Honesty and frankness make you vulnerable. Be honest and frank anyway.
6. The biggest people with the biggest ideas can be shot down by the smallest people with the smallest minds. Think big anyway.
7. What you spend years building may be destroyed overnight. Build anyway.
8. People really need help but may attack you if you do help them. Help them anyway.
9. Give the world the best you have.... anyway.

NEXT ISSUE:

We are still accumulating information on the Alabama and California lawsuits that involve Ray Novelli. We will try to have it for the next newsletter.

“THE GOOD GUYS”

Southern Leisure RV Resort (LA): Initiation Fee: \$0.00. Annual Dues: \$69.00, Nightly Fee \$6.00, Coast to Coast and RPI are optional. (800) 848-5011. Ask for Bill Bain.

Timber Lodge RV Resort (TX): Initiation Fee: \$0.00. Annual Dues: \$99.00. Nightly Fee \$0.00. Coast to Coast and RPI are optional. (800)874-9690. Ask for Mr. Jerde. Tell them that you are interested in the membership that he described to the National Association for Members, Mr. Hopper.

Sun Country RV Resort (TX): Initiation Fee: \$0.00. Annual Dues: \$99.00. Nightly Fee \$5.00. Coast to Coast and RPI are optional. (800) 685-4023. Ask for Mr. Vavro.

Sugar Beach Resorts (AL): Initiation Fee: \$0.00. Annual Dues: \$199.00. Coast to Coast is optional. This offering is for orphaned members at this special rate for either of two parks in Alabama (Wilderness RV Park or King George RV Resort). It can be dropped after the first year or kept if you wish for as long as your dues are current. They offer two weeks in and one week out. More than 300 members of TAI or All Seasons, etc. have accepted the offer so far. Call George Kalaris at (800) 852-1206. Tell them that the NAM sent you.

If you have never been a member of a campground before you can join this one for a total first year cost of \$545. Second and successive year dues would be the same as above. They are not owned or controlled by TAI, Travel America, etc...

The Escapees RV Club: Initiation: \$10.00 plus first year’s dues, Nightly Fee varies, Annual Dues: \$50.00. The Escapees have a full network of support services for, the serious RVer... folks who travel extensively or spend a lot of time RVing. Over 50,000 members enjoy discount long distance phone calls, mail forwarding service, group medical coverage, voice mail, and a dozen other support services. RV life-style education and social companionship are offered at more than 100 Escapee rallies held throughout the USA. Call (888)757-2582. Tell them we recommended them.

Passport America: No entry fee's, no hidden costs, only \$39 per year for 50% off the nightly rate at hundreds of campgrounds across the US. Call (800) 681-6810 (Tell them we recommended them.) <http://www.join2save.com>

What makes a campground membership worth more than \$100-600 membership fee plus annual dues? We would like to hear from you on this one.

Park owner input is also welcome. Help us set the criteria. Become one of the “Good Guys”!

WHAT IS THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR MEMBERS? (NAM)

NAM was organized to advocate for ALL people who use campground resorts, condominiums, and timeshares. We want to stabilize and improve the rights members should have in their contracts. Many of us, speaking with one voice can make things change for the better. NAM is that voice. We will work with government agencies, campground resort owners/developers, and others to stabilize, improve, and enforce, the rights you get in your contract.

You can help. Join the NAM — Make a Difference

Send us the following information, it will not be provided to any non-government organization and will not be used for commercial purposes by anyone: *Note: The NAM may "not" obligate you in any way to pay money for any purpose without your explicit consent.*

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

email address: _____

Phone: (_____) _____ - _____

I am interested in supporting the NAM.

I want to:

Receive the NAM newsletter.

Reproduce/distribute my copy of the newsletter.

Make a donation to support NAM activities.

I am enclosing a check for \$ _____

Report on issues in my state. State: _____

Attend hearings in my state.

Join a state team.

We also want your comments and suggestions.

____(Please attach your comments and suggestions.)____

Please send this information to:

NAM

4740 Silver Oak Street

Dayton, OH 45424-4650

Thank you,

Dan Hopper, Chmn

— Please —
Reproduce and Distribute
Copies of this Newsletter

This newsletter is provided for information and educational purposes by the National Association for Members.

KIND WORDS FROM A "KINDRED SPIRIT"

The following is an excerpt of a communication from Mr. Charlie Colton, former Chairman of an organization similar to ours out in Washington state. He states in part:

"I want to tell that you should support "The National Association of Members" in order to achieve the goal of more stable membership camping now and the future!

I believe that it is necessary that you contact your friends and get them involved in this effort! I also believe that success of the industry will be achieved by cooperation between member organizations such as this and legitimate owners of membership camping parks and park systems!

You need to encourage all legitimate campground owners to cooperate with "The National Association of Members". Clearly park owners need to make a profit to stay in business but they should base profit on the reasonable balance of fairness to the members with adequate explanations of any increases in fees or changes in services offered!

Let's all pull together for better camping days ahead! This can be encouraged with the participation of other member oriented organizations! (Including Coast to Coast, etc...)

The National Association of Members has my full support! I feel that this is the "second and important step" in an effort to make camping fun, profitable for owners, and fair and reliable for members.

No more Chapter 11's where the members "get the shaft" and management gets a "bad name"!

So here is to "Success"!

Charlie Colton, Former Chairman
American Adventure Member Group
Box 2249
Vancouver, WA 98668-2249

Get in touch with us:

INTERNET SITE: <http://www.natlassoc.com>

eMail Address: chmn@natlassoc.com

Voice Nr: (937) 236-2882

Get the newsletter: (There is no cost to you.)

Send us 5 or 6 Self-addressed, Stamped, size #10 (Business Size) Envelopes to:

Treasurer, Members' Committee (NAM)
4740 Silver Oak Street
Dayton, Ohio 45424-4650

There is no fee for our newsletters nor any service we provide. We do, however, depend on donations from people who believe in what we are doing to help with our expenses. We are registered with the government as a non-profit organization and your donations are tax deductible. Page 4