

*"Alone our voice is small. — Stand together and we will be heard." Barbara Bowen, NAM*  
*"Many voices make a platform on which all of us can stand" - Murna Lindsey, NAM*

**Thousand Adventures (TAI) Settlement  
 TAI Members get Rebate**

The attorney for members of TAI has obtained permission to distribute proceeds of the class action lawsuit against that company. He has approximately \$1.3 million to distribute.

There is no fee for former members to file a claim for their portion of the settlement.

**The deadline to file a claim is March 15, 2007.**

You will be required to provide proof that you were a member.

Additional information can be obtained from the web sites at:

<http://www.natlassoc.com>  
 or  
<http://www.natlassoc.org>

If you do not have internet access, go to a local library and ask the librarian to help log onto our web sites using the library computer. This is usually a free service provided by most libraries.

A copy of the blank claim form is on the back of this page and on the web sites.

Dan Hopper  
 National Association for Members (NAM)

**NAM Members 'Lost'?**

We've been trying to contact some of the people who were active in NAM to notify them of the TAI funds distribution. Some of them have changed addresses and we've lost touch with them. Their names are listed below. If you know how to get in touch with them you would be helping them to tell them about it.

We have learned, sadly, that Mr. Richard Early is deceased and we don't know how to contact his family to tell them about the money his estate is entitled to.

Vernon & Elizabeth Hobbs  
 Louise Hunley  
 Ralph & Fran Ireland  
 Bob & Helen Rodenboog  
 Ruth Simmons  
 Ed & Ellen Sprankle

**New 'Interagency' Pass Program  
 Provides Camping Discounts  
 on Federal Recreation Sites**

The federal government has issued a new comprehensive interagency recreation pass, the "America the Beautiful – National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass".

The new pass replaces the Golden Eagle, Golden Age, and the Golden Access Passports as well as the National Parks Pass. Existing passes will remain valid until expired, lost or stolen.

(See 'Camping Discounts' on page 4.)

**Lifetime Membership  
 Does NOT Equal  
 Lifetime Dues**

Some potential campground members are promised, at the time of sale, that they will never have to pay another 'Initiation Fee' if they will advance an additional few thousand dollars. This is sometimes referred to as a 'Lifetime Membership'.

No one is told that, as a member, they will be expected to pay annual fees "until they die" or convince someone else to do the same.

This is not a trivial oversight by the seller. This is important information that is critical to the decision to purchase the membership and MUST be disclosed before the purchase.

Salesmen and the people who employ them, who engage in this practice could be guilty of fraud.

Efforts of sellers to coerce members to pay money every year "until they die" might be found guilty of fraud and/or extortion. If they engage in interstate commerce or use the telephone or US mail to carry out their threats may be guilty of a Federal crime and might face jail terms.

We are told that some courts have ruled that such an alleged commitment would be against public policy and not permitted. Victim of this scheme should fight back. We have posted some tips on our web site:

<http://www.natlassoc.org>

See "How to cancel a campground membership" on page 3.

~~THOUSAND ADVENTURES CLASS ACTION CLAIM FORM~~

~~Instructions:~~

- ~~1. Fill out form completely and legibly.
  - ~~a. Fill out all items marked with an asterisk ( \* ) as **these are NOT optional.**  
*Failure to fill out these blanks will make you ineligible for a share of the settlement.*~~
  - ~~b. It is important that you submit a complete and accurate postal address for delivery of your check.~~~~
- ~~2. You do NOT need to send any copies of your membership card, contract, etc. so long as you write your membership number on this form. However, you may be contacted to verify your membership if our records don't match yours.~~
- ~~3. Return this form to the address at the bottom  
**POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN March 15, 2007 or fax to 319-372-6764.**~~
- ~~4. Keep a copy of your completed form for your records.~~
- ~~5. Check www.natlassoc.com for announcements, updates and notice of checks being mailed.~~

~~\* Name(s) on membership \_\_\_\_\_~~

~~\* Membership Number: TAI- \_\_\_\_\_~~

~~\* Your name (to be used on check) \_\_\_\_\_~~

~~\* Relationship to member (if you are not the original member (heir, son, daughter, purchaser, etc.):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_~~

~~\* Address \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_~~

~~\* Phone number(\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_~~

~~E-mail address (optional) \_\_\_\_\_~~

~~Additional notes:~~

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

~~Mail to:~~

~~NAPIER, WOLF & NAPIER  
Attn: TAI Settlement Claim Processing  
607 8th Street, Suite One  
Fort Madison, IA 52627-2805~~

**NAM NOTE:**

If you don't have your membership number, you **MUST** provide some kind of evidence that you were a member of TAI.

# So You Want to Cancel Your 'Lifetime Campground Membership'

Note that the "initiation Fee", the initial cost of the membership, is usually refundable for the first few days. Most states require that the purchaser have a prescribed number of days to change their mind about a major purchase. This is normally between 3-5 days. After that time, the initiation fee must be paid in full even if the purchaser changes their mind. This is usually because the seller, by this time, has "hypothecated" the membership (sold it, at a discount, to a third party for collection).

## Bill of Rights for Campground Members

We believe that campground members:

- Are entitled to the use of campground facilities in accordance with the terms of their membership contract as long as their dues/maintenance fees are current.
- Should expect the campground owner and the operator to live up to all the terms of the membership contract.
- May terminate the membership agreement and dues obligation at will by notifying the owner or operator of their intentions to do so.  
This assumes that you do not intend to use the campground facilities.
- Note: The contract may specify the method to be used to cancel the membership.
- NO ONE has the right to force you to pay annual dues "for the rest of your life" for a campground membership!  
Such a notion is absurd!
- The only reasonable penalty for non-payment of dues is denial of use of the camping facilities.
- Are NOT required to sell the membership to someone else in order to escape annual dues payments.

### If Your Annual Dues/maintenance Fees are Paid and Current:

Remember, if it isn't in writing - it didn't happen.

Send a letter, return receipt required, to the address that sends you bills. This letter should identify you and your membership number, etc., stating that they cancel your membership, the effective date and that you will not use their facilities or pay any future fees to the company.

### If Your Annual Fees are Delinquent:

NO campground membership contracts we have reviewed stated that you must pay annual fees "until you die or sell the membership to someone who will". All of these contracts, however, state that the campground can deny you access to their facilities or services if the annual fees are not current. This, in our opinion, limits their options to collect unpaid annual fees.

### Be Fair to the Campground:

Sometimes dues payments are simply late. Your campground may feel a commitment to maintain the campground for your use for the balance of the first unpaid dues period. Conscientious campground owners may provide a "grace period" to their members. Be fair to these campground owners. Make your intentions clear - in writing.

### Keep Careful Notes:

Make a "Memo for Record" of what you told them and when, what they said to you in writing or on the phone and when. Sign and date your notes.

These notes will be useful if they actually try to take you to court. (Rare, if it has ever really happened.)

Harassing telephone calls from agents of the campground can be disregarded. They aren't being nice to you, just tell them to send it to you in writing then hang up on them.

Letters from alleged "Pre-litigation Officers" can be disregarded. Not officers of a court or attorneys.

Letters from an attorney or a clerk of courts must be taken seriously. Let us know if you get one and we will try to help you and 'your' attorney.

## Camping Discounts

The pass covers recreation opportunities on public lands managed by four Department of the Interior agencies – the National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, and the Bureau of Reclamation, and by the Department of Agriculture’s U.S. Forest Service. In addition, the Corps of Engineers and Tennessee Valley Authority may honor the Senior Pass.

Access to most public lands remains free. This pass applies to those locations that currently have entrance or standard amenity fees.

The four different passes in the new interagency program are:

1. a new annual interagency pass costing **\$80** - For visitors to multiple federal sites, the pass offers unlimited coverage of entrance and standard amenity recreation fees for a specific period of time, typically a year, beginning from the date of first use.
2. a **\$10** lifetime Senior Pass\* for U.S. citizens 62 or over (obtained in person from a participating Federal recreation site or office);
3. a **free** lifetime access pass for citizens with permanent disabilities ; and
4. a new, **free** annual volunteer pass for volunteers acquiring 500 hours of service on a cumulative basis.

For more information, contact DOI’s U.S. Geological Survey at <http://store.usgs.gov/pass> or phone 1-888-275-8747 Option 1. The annual pass is available for sale through the USGS store and through the government’s federal lands recreation web portal at [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov).

### *About the ‘SENIOR PASS’*

\* The Senior Pass provides a **50 percent discount on some Expanded Amenity Fees charged for facilities and services such as camping, swimming, boat launching, and specialized interpretive services.** In some cases where Expanded Amenity Fees are charged, only the pass holder will be given the 50 percent price reduction. The pass is non-transferable and generally *does NOT* cover or reduce special recreation permit fees or fees charged by concessionaires.

Check directly with the local recreation site about their discount policies.

*'The Senior Pass is not valid at State Parks or local city/county Recreation sites.'*

## What is NAM ?

NAM was organized to advocate for ALL people who use campground resorts, condominiums, and timeshares. We want to stabilize and improve the rights of members. 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 your rights.

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. We are registered with the government as a nonprofit organization and your donations are tax deductible.

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: NAM may "not" obligate you in any way to pay money for any purpose without your explicit consent.

### JOIN THE THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR MEMBERS (NAM) [FREE]

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 related to  
RV campers or timeshares

Please send your comments and suggestions to:

NAM Treasurer  
4740 Silver Oak Street  
Dayton, OH 45424-4650

Include 5 or 6 Self-addressed, Stamped, size #10  
(Business Size) Envelopes if you want this free newsletter.  
or

#### GET IN TOUCH WITH US:

INTERNET SITE: <http://www.natlassoc.org>  
eMail Address: [chmn@natlassoc.org](mailto:chmn@natlassoc.org)  
Voice Nr: (937) 236-2882