

Members Committee Report

— 9 June 1997 —
(TAI Members Committee)

Volume 6.9

— Please distribute copies of this newsletter —

Your Chairman Reports from Nebraska

Dan Hopper, Chairman of the TAI Members Committee, went to Nebraska to attend the bankruptcy hearing of David T. Vopnford, Sr. (NOTE: Barbara is NOT listed as filing with David as had been previously reported.) This document reports information from the Nebraska Attorney General, the Nebraska Real Estate Commission and the First Meeting of Creditors in the bankruptcy of David Vopnford (341 Hearing).

Much of his time was spent making phone calls and meeting with attorneys representing other creditors of Mr. Vopnford to explore mutually beneficial solutions to common concerns relating to Mr. Vopnford and TAI. Some time was also spent visiting potential representatives of the members of TAI.

The Creditors Meeting

Mr. Vopnford was generally brief, unco-operative, and sometimes flippant. It is unlikely, for example, that he spent \$10,000 per month to watch his daughter ice skate. The transcript of the meeting was no less than 30 pages, all of it revealing and interesting. Many questions were left unanswered - at the advice of his attorney, who sometimes refused to reveal the reasons for telling his client to not answer. Some of the important information is printed below. The transcript can be made available for your review if you contact a Committee member but we just can't afford to reproduce and distribute the 30 page document. Additional information starts on the next page.

Bankruptcy Petition - Incomplete Again

IRS Blamed by Vopnford

Learned that Mr. D. T. Vopnford filed bankruptcy (Case #: 97-81121 - **2 May 97**). His wife, Barbara was not listed. He estimated on the petition for Chapter 11/13 bankruptcy that after exempt property is excluded and administrative expenses paid, there would be no funds available for distribution to unsecured creditors. He did, however, indicate that he intends to file a plan for reorganization. It is noted that he said on the petition that his principal assets are at RR 1, Ft. Calhoun, NE 68023. This is also the location of some property owned by TAI.

The petition, as usual, did not contain the required financial statement. None of the petitions in any of the states that we have documents from, where TAI has filed Chapter 11, have so far contained the required statement of financial affairs. Note that he has not listed the assets that he expects to shelter from the bankruptcy.

On **2 May** he did not submit the required financial statements when he filed for bankruptcy. He did not submit an explanation at that time.

On **9 May 97**, according to a statement he later submitted to the US Trustee, his home was raided, searched, and pertinent business records seized by the Internal Revenue Service.

He stated on a later petition for an extension of time to file the papers that he couldn't file on 2 May for the following reasons:

- 1) He had been required to be out of town for business purposes
- 2) His home had been raided, searched, and pertinent business records seized by the Internal Revenue Services. *(Continued on page 4-IRS)*

Please reproduce and distribute this Newsletter to all your friends

Chairman's Trip to Nebraska

My recent trip to Nebraska was necessary so that I could meet with representatives of other creditors of Mr. Vopnford (and also of TAI) to explore possible matters of mutual interest and concern for the members; to meet with government officials in Nebraska to establish the current status of TAI and Mr. Vopnford's bankruptcy, and to explore the possibility of hiring an attorney in Nebraska if the need should arise.

Several of the conversations were exploratory in nature and should not be made public at this time. Sorry. I don't like to keep secrets, but I plan to unburden myself at the earliest possible time. I must keep faith with the other parties to my inquiries.

The trip took about a day and a half each way. Weather was generally wet and cool. I stayed overnight near Peoria, Ill. each way at a Super 8 on the way over and at the Red Roof Inn on the way home. Luckily, I was able to spend the intervening week at the home of my good friends (and yours), Kit and Mark Williams. They are wonderful people who have 2 beautiful daughters and 2 grandchildren. Three year old Joe-Joe scribbled a "picture" on a piece of paper for me to take home when I left. He didn't know what it was a picture of, he just wanted me to have "his" picture.

The trip took about a day and a half, almost 800 miles each way. I drove about 400 miles while I was in Nebraska, to several meetings in Omaha and Lincoln. I haven't submitted bills for reimbursement for some time as you know from past newsletters. I have to this time. I will ask to be reimbursed at the rate of 10 cents per mile for the trip and for the actual motel bills (less than \$100 for the motels.) I don't think that I should submit bills for my meals since I probably would have eaten something anyway if I had stayed home! I also had to put \$20 on the phone card for long distance phone calls relating to the TAI problem.

Our Treasurer is helping me to be sure that all of my expenses are carefully documented.

Information Needed

If you can shed some light on a Thousand Adventures program called the "Result Program", please contact the Committee ASAP. This question was asked in the hearing but no clear answer was given.

TAI AVOIDS REAL ISSUES!

TAI withheld vital information from the Florida Trustee and from the Bankruptcy Court.

TAI's actions alone resulted in the loss of the parks in Florida.

All of the Florida parks are gone.

They refused to submit a plan for reorganization in Florida. This was entirely within their own control. The judge, Judge Briskman, would not have appointed a trustee no matter which creditor asked him to, if TAI had submitted the required plan.

TAI did not submit an accurate statement of financial affairs, again, entirely within their control.

TAI did not submit other required financial documents that were in their possession at that time.

NOW TAI WANTS TO DIVERT ATTENTION FROM THE REAL ISSUES IN OTHER STATES BY MISDIRECTING YOUR ATTENTION WITH FAULTY "VERBAL SHELL GAME" TACTICS

Don't let them mislead you. Make them stick to the issues that matter here and now.

• REAL ISSUES: •

SO WHERE'S THE MONEY?

This is a REAL ISSUE!

WHAT IS THE PRESENT STATUS OF LAWSUITS AGAINST TAI BY ATTORNEYS GENERAL AND BY MEMBERS IN ALMOST EVERY STATE?

This is a REAL ISSUE!

HOW MUCH OF TAI'S ASSETS HAVE BEEN DIVERTED TO THE PERSONAL BENEFIT OF THE VOPNFORD FAMILY?

This is a REAL ISSUE!

TAI doesn't want you to be represented by an attorney.

This is a REAL ISSUE!

Someone at a TAI park was recently criticized because he left his furnace on too long. Who criticizes David Vopnford for using tens of millions of dollars that don't appear to be findable? — *WHAT ARE THE REAL ISSUES?*

Can you think of some of the REAL ISSUES that should be answered by TAI?

TAI Merger?

Documents are being circulated by TAI reporting that TAI is merging with All Seasons Resorts and a company called First Nationwide Resorts.

There are at least 2 problems with this merger:

- 1) The people who control All Seasons Resorts have not discussed or agreed to any such merger;
- 2) The person who runs First Nationwide Resorts is a Mr. Ray Norvelli - owner of the ill-fated Presidents Club (Try to find a happy camper in that outfit).

We don't doubt that TAI and First Nationwide may try to merge - but we don't expect a reputable company such as the one that manages All Seasons to participate in this (ad)venture.

Nebraska Real Estate Commission Suspends TAI Registration

We were told that the AG of Nebraska had more than 300 complaints against TAI.

The following charges were agreed to by TAI and their attorney.

Nebraska Real Estate Commission - Stipulation and consent order, 19 Feb 97

- Failed to ...report material changes... which significantly reduce or terminate the purchaser's right to use any of the facilities described in the camping contract.
- Failed to amend a required disclosure statement and file it with the commission.
- May not be financially responsible or have sufficient capital to warrant its offering or selling membership camping contracts in this state.
- Sufficient evidence to warrant suspension of the membership camping operator registration of TAI until the following actions are completed and the following documents provided to the commission so the commission will be satisfied that TAI is financially responsible:
 - a. All reports to be prepared for TAI by any independent CPA from any period ending on or after 31 Oct 94 including but not limited to certified audits, ...etc.
 - b. All unaudited financial reports for any period ending on or after 31 October 1996 to be certified by a company officer or the preparer as true and correct.
 - c. Detailed information from an income and expense statement for a period ending 31 Oct 96 showing income and operating expense by function i.e. sales, marketing, campground operations, general administrative.
 - d. A statement of improvements in process or anticipated to campgrounds that will be made or may be required to be made showing status, estimated costs, etc.
 - e. True, complete and current amendments to its application and disclosure statement showing substantial changes which significantly reduce or terminate a purchaser's right to use any facility or other benefit described in the application or in the disclosure statement.
 - f. A report on all pending litigation involving TAI including the nature of the case, the jurisdiction where filed with docket number, and the status of the case.
 - g. Clean up, repair Thornehaven [NE], and provide a report stating all actions taken to do it. Certify that it has been done.
 - h. Send a notice to all Nebraska members stating all current nightly fees, service charges, or any other charges not set forth in the membership contract.
- The membership camping operator registration of TAI is suspended forthwith pending the requirements set forth above.
- If the above information is not provided and the needed repairs not completed on or before 1 July 1997, the membership camping operator registration of TAI shall be revoked.
- The director shall have the right to determine if the requirements set forth above have been met.
- TAI may appeal the ruling of the director within 30 days after the determination has been made by the director.

Signed by Barbara Vopnford, Secretary, TAI, and Les Tyrell, Director, NREC

The park manager at Thornehaven, the "Regional Manager" recently stated at a meeting of members at the park, that TAI intends to ignore the agreement.

What Do You Want?

(Continued from page 1)

Thousand Adventures members seem to have the following alternatives:

- 1) REMAIN IN TAI and use the remaining parks while they are available - Pay dues (and membership contracts/leases if bought on credit.) These people don't know that they have a problem too. They have the use of a park someplace, for now, that they enjoy and are likely to resent others who feel differently. These people will have to find out the truth for themselves. They will not do the research that we have done to get at the truth.
- 2) Others WANT OUT and refuse to pay for services that are no longer available. They want to STOP TAI and others FROM TRYING TO RUIN THEIR CREDIT, and:
 - a)) THEY WANT TO BE REIMBURSED for unused membership fees, dues and leases as of the time that TAI of Nebraska, to which all contracts were assigned, was no longer willing/able to honor the contracts.
 - b)) THEY WANT TO BE REIMBURSED FOR Money collected at the direction of TAI and its corporate officers in violation of the contracts.
 - c)) THEY WANT Actual and punitive damages from TAI of Nebraska, its subordinate corporations and corporate officers for money fraudulently obtained by TAI representatives at the direction or consent of its corporate officers for memberships, leases without proper disclosures, high pressure sales, etc.
 - d)) 2a, 2b, and 2c are probably not goals that we can afford to pursue.
- 3) If the parent company should be in Chapter 11, a creditor could ask that an independent and separate 'Receiver' be appointed who would manage the global TAI system. The parks and the cash would be effectively removed from the control of the Vopnfords. This seems to be the best option available for memberships and the parks to preserve some of their value. TAI officials will oppose this option with passion. Too much will be revealed. TAI Members have the most to gain from this option.

There has been some interest in this last option by a respected and experienced membership campground management team. They have done this before with good results. Their creditors are being paid and their members are happy.

IRS

On 19 May 97 Mr. Vopnford's attorney filed a request for an extension of time to file the required statement of financial affairs.

The Trustee noted that Mr. Vopnford filed bankruptcy on 2 May, while he still had access to all of his records. He should have filed the required documents. His records were not confiscated by the IRS until 7 days later on 9 May. An extension was nonetheless granted on 20 May for 30 days (20 Jun 97).

Mr. Vopnford's attorney has filed a petition to recover the records from the IRS.

Additional Information:

Persistent rumors that Mr. Vopnford had been arrested do not appear to be correct. I was assured by the FBI, IRS, and the US Marshal's offices in Nebraska that David Vopnford, Sr. has not been arrested and there is no warrant for his arrest as of 29 May 97.

TAI Starts Trench Warfare

Members Ejected from Parks!

An Ohio member who has paid-up dues was ejected from an Ohio park because he was distributing our newsletter to some friends in the park. Similar events are happening in other states. They seem to be trying to isolate dues paying members from accurate, important information.

New eMail Address for the Committee:

taimembers@aol.com

Hotline Phone: (407) 254-4815

YOU ARE WELCOME TO COPY AND USE ANY PART OF THIS NEWSLETTER AND INCLUDE IT IN YOUR OWN CORRESPONDENCE IF IT WILL HELP YOUR CAUSE.

This document is published by the TAI Members Committee. It is provided for information and educational purposes. We will continue to present documented information and to identify opinions as such. If you have information you believe will be useful to other members, please send it to Mr. Roland at the address where you sent your envelopes:

Carl Roland, TAI Members Committee
Suite 1186, 779 East Merritt Island Causeway
Merritt Island, Florida 32952-3516

Send in your SASEs

To get the Newsletter, please send us your stamped, self-addressed envelopes (SASEs). A donation is not required in order to get the newsletter, but if you send one in we will certainly put it to good use.

Note from Carl, Elaine and Don: Be sure you send at least number 10 envelopes (the wide ones) so the newsletters will fit inside.

Mr. Carl Roland, Treasurer
TAI Members Committee, Suite 1186
779 East Merritt Island Causeway
Merritt Island, FL 32952-3516

or

Mr. Don Gerbeling, Assist. Treas.
7901 Lowell
Lincoln, Nebraska 68506

Please consider at least \$25 for the attorney if you can (Put “For Atty Fund” on the check.). If that money isn’t used, it will be returned to you minus the cost of returning it. Any donation not marked for the attorney fund will be used to help pay operating expenses for the newsletter and the kinds of activities you have been hearing about in the newsletters.

Nebraska Members Organize

Met with several Nebraska members who wanted to know the status in other states. These people understand what is going on. They have already met, organized, and developed an action plan. Note that this is not a separate committee but a branch of the national committee (TAI Members Committee). They deserve your encouragement and support. The Nebraska Liaison Committee is:

Nancy and Bud Gray, Chair.

(Assist. Chair of the Committee - Nancy)

Don & Donna Gerbeling, Treas.

Daryl Kluty, Communications

Judy Kluty, Librarian

? , Publicity

These folks are already making plans to organize people from Nebraska and Iowa. Kansas already has an active group. Plans are being made to contact them too.

Proof of Claim

— How to Get Them —

— Where to Send Them —

Remember, if you need a proof-of-claim form for Ohio or Nebraska send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Mr. Roland or Mr. Gerbeling at the address elsewhere on this page. Send the completed form with a COPY of your contract to:

NEBRASKA:

Clerk, US Bankruptcy Court
PO Box 428 DTS
Omaha, NE 68101

OHIO:

Clerk, US Bankruptcy Court
120 N High Sreet
Columbus, OH 43215

WE’RE WORKING HARD. HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- Send stamped, self-addressed business envelopes (the wide ones) to either:

Mr. Carl Roland, Treasurer TAI Members Committee Suite 1186, 779 East Merritt Island Causeway Merritt Island, FL 32952-3516	Mr. Don Gerbeling, Asst. Treasurer TAI Members Committee 7901 Lowell St. Lincoln, NE 68508
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- Send Written complaints to the Attorney General of your state and to NEBRASKA.
- Send in a Proof-of-Claim (Carl can send you one if you give him a SASE.)
- Send \$25 or more to Carl for the Attorney Fund (Mark the check “Attorney Fund.”).
- Send whatever you can spare to Carl or Don for operating expenses of the Committee.

Help make a difference. What you do — makes all the difference.

Financial Status of the Committee

We were worried about our funding level and you responded admirably. Thank you.

You might remember from a previous newsletter that one of our members (who wants to remain anonymous) donated \$100 to be used to help a member in particular distress because of this TAI problem. This money was kept separate from our operating fund and from our attorney fund. We have identified a person who is not on the Committee nor in a position to provide financial help but has medical and other problems of their own. We are sending that member a check for \$50. We have the information, but we will respect the privacy of both parties. Just wanted you to know that we need to continue to look after each other when we can. I'm proud to be associated with you all.

We now have a little over \$1000 in our "attorney fund" and I think we have enough money in our operating fund so that I can be reimbursed for some of my expenses for the trip to Nebraska. None of the money in the attorney fund will be spent to cover operating expenses. It will be used for the dedicated purpose only. We will report immediately in the newsletter if and when we hire an attorney. I will submit my bills to our treasurer for my trip to Nebraska and ask him to be reimbursed. I don't plan to ask for reimbursement for the trip to Florida yet because I don't want to run the operating fund down.

You know that \$1000 is not yet enough money to hire an attorney so remind your friends to chip in if they haven't already. Just make sure that the check is marked "For Atty Fund." It is being kept in an account of its own for recordkeeping purposes.

The Committee should keep enough money in the operating fund to pay for producing and distributing at least 1 or 2 newsletters. We also plan to keep a reserve for necessary expenses like phone calls and correspondence/reproduction expenses. We continue to appreciate donations for expenses but we don't plan to yell for help unless we actually worry that we are running low on money.

I would like to start putting a small column in the newsletter about how to save money when you are RVing or where to get maps and advice on low cost or free campgrounds. I won't do it unless I have space left over at the end of a page. I know we need to keep on top of this TAI/Vopnford problem but we need to look up from our troubles every now-and-then too.

The Hotline costs us \$15 per month to keep up. The June bill is due now and we should pay it right away.

We think that it is a necessary expense and plan to keep it alive. We have been so busy lately that we haven't been able to update the message as often as we would like - but it has been an effective way for members to reach the committee by leaving messages on our answering system.

We must apologize to those of you who called the Hotline and asked us to help with your concerns about the Presidents Club. We can't afford to divide our attention or our resources. We have to stay focused on the TAI issue right now.

Thank you for your faith and your support.

TAI of Kansas, Iowa, and Mississippi Sold?

Mr. Vopnford has sold his stock in TAI of Kansas, Iowa, and Mississippi to a company called RV Holdings according to his testimony in the hearing. Someone named 'Tommy Cloud' figures in this transaction somehow. It appears that this company has not assumed the debt for these corporations but will receive the income. This arrangement was not clear to those who attended the hearing. He suggested that current TAI members would be able to use the parks for now. We expect to hear a great deal more about Mr. Cloud.

TAI/Vopnford Assets Apparently Interchangeable!

Many assets of TAI are maintained for the exclusive use of the Vopnfords according to testimony at the hearing. Here are some of the assets of TAI that are to be used to help Mr. Vopnford get out of bankruptcy.

Mr. V. controls several companies through his position in TAI:

TAI and all of its subsidiaries

Heartland Travel

Blair Accounting

Leisure Marketing

Triple V and Jordan Farms

Marina Investments

Falcon Head Development, Inc. in Nevada

Several DBV corporations in different states

Omaha Prime Restaurant in Omaha, NE

The Aquarium Restaurant in Omaha, NE

Toll House Restaurant somewhere in NE

There may very well be others.