

# Members' Committee Report

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15 March 1999

## Former TAI Attorney Disbarred

John O'Hanlon, former attorney for Thousand Adventures, Inc., for Ken Vopnford, former VP of Thousand Adventures, Inc., and for other TAI related entities, was disbarred on January 8, 1999.

The Nebraska Bar Association found that Mr. O'Hanlon had mis-used funds that had been placed in his trust. The impact on TAI assets and members payments are being assessed.

## TAI Assets Artfully Elusive

Iowa attorneys are diligently looking for the assets of the former TAI campground scheme. It appears that each time they think they've found the elusive 'needle in the haystack' they find that they have merely found directions to another haystack.

Our Committee has a question: "Why would individuals who have 'nothing to hide' be so energetic in their efforts to conceal company within company behind company?" You would expect honest people/companies to be eager to reveal all of the facts - quickly. The more diligently they conceal information and assets, the more convinced the rest of us are that there are still more information and assets to be found.

## Florida Claims Timetable

Seems like it is taking forever for the Florida Trustee to dispose of the estate in the Florida bankruptcy of TAI of Florida. Claims by members who 'joined' in Florida or had Florida 'home parks' look favorable at present if the claim was filed when required and requests by the Trustee for additional information were answered. Here's how the calendar looks for Members:

Mar 22 ...Deadline for members response to Trustee request for information. Trustee to review claims.

Apr 22 ...Claim review by Trustee completion. IRS review begins.

May 22 ...Claim review by IRS Completion. Checks to be written for non-disputed claims.

## Iowa Trustee Recovers Stock of TAI Subsidiaries

The Iowa Chapter 7 Trustee in the bankruptcy of Thousand Adventures, Inc., has effectively recovered the stock of the former subsidiaries of that company. It was alleged that the stock had been fraudulently transferred to a company called RV Holdings. RV Holdings agreed to return the stock rather than defend it in the Iowa bankruptcy court.

What does this mean to members?

The answer depends on how aggressive, and how successful the Iowa Trustee is in pursuing recovery of assets that have been removed from the subsidiaries.

The entities that have benefited from the transfer of those assets appear to be the former officers of Thousand Adventures, their creditors (former campground owners and various finance companies (partners?)) and Travel America.

If the Trustee is successful in recovering significant assets, members hope to eventually get something back.

## Return of Stock Delayed

J. Tommy Cloud, owner of the company that had possession of the stock of the TAI subsidiaries, seems to be waffling on return of the stock to the Chapter 7 Trustee. One of the delays has resulted from the "Suspension" of his Iowa attorney. The suspension seems to have resulted from events unrelated to the TAI bankruptcy.

## Nebraska Members' Committee Team Still Working Hard

Mike and Cathy Torske are still busy working for members in the Lincoln, Nebraska area. We really appreciate their tenacity and willingness to help. They have a new mailing address. It is:

Mike and Cathy Torske  
5842 Cleveland Ave.  
Lincoln, NE 68507

## What is the National Association for Members? (NAM)

NAM will try to help RV campers identify good campgrounds and to defend themselves against the bad ones. We will use persuasion, the courts, and public opinion to accomplish these goals. Where no law exists to help and to guide - we will work with lawmakers to establish one.

We want to know about your personal experience with your campground resort membership. We would also like information about resort memberships that are good. It is not sufficient to curse the darkness. We must do all we can to light a candle - to identify what is good.

How to contact us: e-mail:

chmn@natlassoc.com

our web site: www.natlassoc.com

or by regular mail at:

Chairman, National Association for Members  
4740 Silver Oak Street  
Dayton, OH 45424-4650

We would like to invite you to become a NAM helper and to receive the newsletter....etc. There is no fee. Send us the following information, it will not be provided to any other organization and will not be used for commercial purposes by anyone:

- Name and Address.
- Do you have internet access?
- What is your e-mail address?
- Phone number in case we need to get in touch with you.
- Be sure to send us several stamped, self-addressed, size #10 (business size) envelopes so that we can mail you the newsletters when they are published.

There is no fee for our newsletters nor any service we can provide. We do, however, depend on donations from people who believe in what we are doing in order to cover our expenses. Donations are tax deductible to the extent that donations to non-profit organizations are deductible. We try to send a token of appreciation to those who send a donation of \$10 or more.

**Make a Difference  
Help us spread the word.**

## Words to Live By

We have created a booklet titled "Words to Live By" that we hope will express our appreciation for your support. It will be mailed to people who make donations to the Committee (or to the NAM). The booklet was created by Mrs. Norma Hopper for this purpose. It is filled with humor, crafts, and other interesting and useful information and information about recommended campgrounds and organizations for RV campers.

We have run out of the "Travel Clocks" that we were using for that purpose.

### In Fond Remembrance of our friend Mrs. Ray (Elaine) Fassbender

Elaine passed away on December 13, 1998 in Arizona. She had liver cancer. She is survived by her husband Ray, of 41 years, 6 children and 11 grandchildren.

We remember Elaine as a person who often thought of others before herself. She helped us find the courage and strength to press on with our efforts and helped start our organization. We know that heaven is enriched by her spirit just as we are enriched by her memory.

Dan and Norma Hopper, friends.

**IF YOU GET BILLS FROM TRAVEL AMERICA OR ANYONE ELSE** in relation to your TAI membership and you don't use or plan to use their facilities:

Send a letter to your Attorney General's Office complaining, along with a copy of the bill. These letters get results (eventually).

The company (TAI) has broken your contract and has gone bankrupt. You don't owe the money and they must know that.

You (and we) want your Attorney General to make them stop this unfair and most probably illegal tactic to extort money from former members.

This same idea may also apply to members of the, now defunct, All Seasons, etc.

**The following exchange is from an RV conference on the internet.  
It is presented without change or comment.** (We will respond in our next newsletter.)

Any feeling on this membership camping?  
Are there any good ones left?  
What about CCC, RPI.....etc?

Please stay away from **Travel America!!**  
The organization is involved with all kinds of legal hassles, is run by disreputables and is very dangerous to your pocketbook!

CCC and RPI are viable organizations, but your membership is as viable as the 'home park'. The parks that belong to CCC and RPI are independently owned membership parks that participate in a reciprocal program. You have to belong to one of those reciprocating parks to join RPI or CCC. If you stay in either system, you are excluded from staying in any park within a specified distance from your 'home park' and are limited to 2 stays of a maximum of 7 days each, per year in the parks that are not restricted. A lot of the CCC's are not even allowing 7 days. They'll give you two or three nights and some will require you to go to a sales spiel if you want to stay more than a day.

Some 'home parks' are a chain of parks owned by the same organization. What you should look for is a 'home park' with good financial prospects, low maintenance fees and reasonable purchase price.

Membership camping is not for everyone. It works well for full-timers, people who spend a lot of time RVing and for people who have a membership in a park near home that they can go to on weekends and vacations. For traveling, they may not be ideal, as most are quite a ways from the Interstates and cities. This is because they are meant to be \*resort\* destinations for the people who live in the surrounding cities.

Memberships are a contract with annual maintenance fees. If you default on the fees, you breach the contract so be absolutely certain this is what you want before you buy.

If you need cheap and convenient places to stop for anight or two while traveling and do not need the fancy amenities, look into Campers' Club of America. They have an annual fee, something like \$200, and you pay \$5 per night for up to 14 days. You have to be out of a participating park the same number of days you were in and then you can go back again. There is no limit on how many times you can stay per year. If you don't like the system, you just don't pay the membership fee the next year. No contracts. The participating parks are commercial, and are usually closer to freeways. Not usually high in esthetics, but safe, clean spots with hookups.

**"I feel like a victim... and I am ashamed and embarrassed."**

This kind of remark is common in telephone conversations with members and in internet chat forums.  
My reply - NONSENSE!

People from many walks of life, educational backgrounds, financial standings, and professions have been taken in by the marketing schemes of TAI, their officers, and similar membership marketing schemes.

Those who would judge you will themselves be 'taken in' by one of these eventually. Who will they blame then?

These kinds of schemes are refined - down to a fine art. A campground owner in Kansas once remarked that "Most of the people who purchase these

"memberships" will be reloaded (upgraded, sold again) from 3 to 5 times in their camping lifetime."

Most of the people who are victims of this kind of program are older people who have (had) a nest egg for their retirement. This is a frequent target for rip-off artists. The former president of Thousand Adventures testified in a deposition in Iowa that his "Target customer was from 55-68 years old."

You have NO REASON TO BE ASHAMED. Learn from the experience. Alert your friends.

# Join the NAM

The National Association for Members (NAM) will try to help RV campers identify good campgrounds and to defend themselves against the bad ones. We will use persuasion, the courts, and public opinion to accomplish these goals. Where no law exists to help and to guide - we will work with lawmakers to establish one.

You can help us make a difference. We need your support. **THE MORE OF US THAT WORK TOGETHER - THE STRONGER IS OUR VOICE.** Please send the following information to:

NAM  
4740 Silver Oak Street  
Dayton, OH 45424-4650

Thank you,

Dan Hopper, Chmn

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

Here is the information we need for our confidential database.

It will not be given or made available to any other organization:

Own an RV/camper

Purchased a

Membership       Thousand Adventures

UDI       Travel America

Lease       All Seasons

On credit       Presidents Club

Other  \_\_\_\_\_  American Adventures

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Comments/Suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_

## Get in touch with us:

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

## Get the newsletter:

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

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

Send us a letter: (Same Address as above)

*Remember*, your donations make our activities possible. We have NO OTHER SOURCE OF INCOME. Please help if you can. You are not required to donate in order to get the newsletters but it does help.

— Send us your SASEs. —

## **"The GOOD GUYS"**

(so far)

### Southern Leisure RV Resort (LA):

Initiation Fee:	\$0.00	Coast to Coast	Optional
Annual Dues:	\$69.00	RPI	Optional
Nightly Fee	\$ 6.00		

(800) 248-9621. Ask for Bill Bain.

### Timber Lodge RV Resort (TX):

Initiation Fee:	\$0.00	Coast to Coast	Optional
Annual Dues:	\$99.00	RPI	Optional
Nightly Fee	\$ 0.00		

(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.

If you have information of any kind that you believe will be useful to others, please send it to us:

Chmn, NAM  
4740 Silver Oak Street  
Dayton, OH 45424-4650  
or  
[chmn@natlassoc.com](mailto:chmn@natlassoc.com)

We also want to hear from you if you have information/documentation about possible fraud or other abuses by TAI, First Nationwide, Cutty's Resorts, Fiesta Resorts, or others.

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