

April 26, 2016

In February 2015, Shirley Mason and the B.E.A.C.H.E.S. Foundation convened a [Naturist Unity Summit](#) in Miami. For some time, Shirley and Richard Mason have been concerned about the lack of cooperation among the various nudist / naturist groups. She noted, "For decades, we've all heard, 'Why don't the organizations work together (for the good of nude recreation)?'" The Naturist Unity Summit, sponsored by B.E.A.C.H.E.S., was the first serious attempt to bring about unity within the industry. There were a number of presentations over the course of the one-day summit, which attracted a total of [30-some participants](#) from throughout the nudist industry.

Many of the presentations focused on two issues Shirley believed were critical:

- Media-driven marketing events that attract new people as members, clients, or customers
- Nude-friendly legislation

She, and others, believed these two target areas were critical and

something the disparate nudist / nudist industry organizations could work on together. One example, highlighted in some of the presentations, was [The Celebrated Nude Art Festival](#), scheduled to be held in Miami but cancelled due to a lack of funding.



Another presentation, developed by Bill Schroer, provided information on the nudist / nudist industry, the lack of common voice and views (even on things that, theoretically, all nudist groups agree on), the disparate views held and the lack of aggregated lobbying or national voice resulting from the "silo" environment currently surrounding the nudist industry. At the conclusion of the presentation, Bill asked if there was interest in the development of a Nudist Industry Council and if so, were there people present interested in participating in the development of an exploratory committee to pursue this interest?

This resulted in the development of the current ad hoc committee of nine experienced, senior nudists dedicated to exploring the interest and demand for a nudist / nudist industry council.

Meeting bi-weekly since the middle of April 2015, the Committee has achieved the following:

- Agreed there is a legitimate need for an industry council to objectively represent the many disparate voices of naturism / nudism active in America.
- Acknowledged there are gaps in the tasks which need to be accomplished to allow for the further understanding and acceptance of naturism / nudism in America.
- Discussed and agreed on a name for the Council. The name to be used is the "Naturist Unity Council."
- Discussed and agreed on a Mission Statement:

"The Naturist Unity Council unites and inspires social nudist/naturist businesses and organizations to work toward the acceptance and legalization of social nudism / naturism in North America."

- Discussed and agreed the coordination of the NRC (Nudist Rights Coalition Inc.) PAC is a legitimate responsibility of an Industry Council. (The PAC will remain a separate entity with separate board and some shared members.) Three of four administrators of the NRC PAC sit on the current NUC Committee.
- Discussed and are considering the appropriate structure for the NUC as a 501(c)(6).
- Constructed a prospectus for potential funders / investors to consider.
- Studied funding potential for the NUC and will initiate fundraising efforts to provide the seed money to begin formalizing the organization.

The Committee continues to meet bi-weekly. Members include:

- **Mike Abramson**, President and Treasurer, [B.E.A.C.H.E.S. Foundation Institute](#)
- **Stéphane Deschênes**, Owner, [Bare Oaks Family Naturist Park](#) and former President, [Federation of Canadian Naturists](#)
- **Don Kelly**, Member, Board of Directors, [Midwest Region, American Association for Nude Recreation](#) (AANR Midwest) and Secretary and former President, [Minnesota Naturists](#)
- **Shirley Mason**, Executive Director and Secretary, B.E.A.C.H.E.S. Foundation Institute; former President, [South Florida Free Beaches](#) (SFFB) / Florida Naturist Association; former Chair, Executive Director, and Treasurer, [Naturist Action Committee](#) (NAC) and [Naturist Education Foundation](#) (NEF); and founding Board Member, Florida Association for Nude Recreation (forerunner of [AANR Florida](#))
- **Seth Paronick**, Member, Board of Governors, B.E.A.C.H.E.S. Foundation Institute; Newsletter Editor, South Florida Free Beaches; Acting Webmaster, [Friends of Blind Creek Beach](#); former Board Member and Public Relations Director, [The WildFyre Society](#); and former Vice President and Club Liaison, [Gay Naturists International](#) (GNI)
- **Bill Schroer**, Principal, [WJSchroer Company](#); Owner, [Nuance Naturist B&B](#); former Executive Director, [American Association for Nude Recreation](#) (AANR); and former

Treasurer and Board Member, Naturist Action Committee (NAC) and Naturist Education Foundation (NEF)

- **Fred Van Nest**, Trustee, American Association for Nude Recreation (AANR) and President, Nudist Rights Coalition, Inc. (Political Action Committee)
- **Gloria Waryas**, President, [Eastern Region, American Association for Nude Recreation](#) (AANR-East) and former naturist club and resort manager
- **George Winlock**, Moderator, [The Naturist Society \(TNS\) Singles Special Interest Group](#) (SIG) and former Treasurer and Board Member, Naturist Action Committee (NAC) and Naturist Education Foundation (NEF)

For more information, contact Bill Schroer at naturist18a@gmail.com or 269-986-2322.



The above summary was approved for distribution by the Committee. **They also approved a [draft prospectus](#) for the Naturist Unity Council.** It's important to note that these committee members are *not* that council; they are merely fleshing out ideas about it to present for consideration to the organized nude recreation industry and community, primarily in the United States and Canada. It will be up to entities that decide to

participate in such a council to name their own delegates. **Your questions and input are welcome. Please send them to Bill, as noted above.**

Beach Education Advocates for Culture, Health, Environment & Safety (B.E.A.C.H.E.S.) Foundation Institute is the 501(c)(3) nonprofit, educational and charitable adjunct to South Florida Free Beaches (SFFB) / Florida Naturist Association. Its mission is to establish, protect, maintain, and improve the physical, social, and legal integrity of naturist (clothing-optional) beaches in the United States and Canada.