

THE ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED CONSERVATIONISTS

Meeting of August 5, 2009

Hilltop – Cross Plains, WI

ARC President Linda Meyer called the meeting to order at 1:01 pm.

The meal was \$12.00

51 paid members and guests were present. It appears that 2 additional members or guests were present that did not pay for lunch, which ARC covered out of the proceeds.

A moment of silence was observed for those who had passed and for those serving in harms way.

The raffle was held. Winner Al Prey received a genuine brass DNR belt buckle – and an iron-clad nomination to be next year's ARC Vice President.

The minutes of the June meeting were read, and approved.

John Glennon gave an excellent report on the very successful ARC Summer Picnic which was held on July 1. 125 members and guests were pre-paid for the event and there were 4 walk-ins. There were 19 no-shows, which John very graciously refunded. We provided complimentary meals for our volunteers; Dave Croft [Coordinator], Rick Wojciak [website], Marilyn Howell [database], and Carl Blabaum [picnic entertainment]. 24 bottles of wine [3 Buck Chuck] were provided as door prizes. After all expenses were paid a profit of \$47 was made and added to the ARC Treasury. Shelter rental of \$45 was previously paid in January, so the event net revenue was + \$2. Way to go John! Mr. Glennon received a well-deserved thank-you from the assembled members.

Financial Report:

The June ARC Treasury balance was \$1521

We collected \$ 62 from the lunch and raffle proceeds today. (Ken Wiesner has those funds)

We added \$47 from the picnic revenue (Ken Wiesner has those funds)

The August current balance is \$1630

Guests:

No new guests were introduced, but it was noted that two were present at the picnic; Lyman Wible, and Toby Ginder.

New Members:

There were no new members this month.

“Frank & Miller Report”

Jim Miller delivered the news this month from SWIB, ETF, and WI Coalition of Annuitants. He promised only good news!

The June report from ETF showed that Core Fund was +4.6% and the Variable was +8.1% for the year. This comes following a note that the market value on March 9th was the lowest in constant dollars since the Great Depression. ETF is projecting a +10% increase for the Core Fund, and +17% for the variable for 2009, but 5% will need to be held back from the Variable – BUT NOTHING WILL BE FINAL UNTIL DECEMBER 31!!

As a follow-up from the June report - New tax tables are now available for 2009 and retirees are encouraged to check their withholding rates to make sure that they will not be short at the end of the year. It takes ETF several weeks to process any requested changes. Information on this is available from both the ETF and SWIB websites.

Old Business:

The AB138 hearing on restoring NR Board authority to appoint the DNR Secretary was held last week. Linda Meyer testified for ARC and submitted a letter of comment in support of the legislation. She will also handle ARC comments for the upcoming hearing on SB113 [the companion Senate bill to

AB138] scheduled for 9 a.m. on 8/13 by either testifying or submitting a letter.

New Business:

Ken Wiesner made a request for members to consider filling the roles of upcoming vacant ARC Officer positions. Elections are held in November. Chuck Pils, our current VP, will succeed Linda as President, leaving VP vacant [although it looks like Al Prey has the inside track on this one following today's raffle], Wiesner and Glennon will end their two year run as co-Secretary/Treasurer, leaving this position vacant. It is hoped that someone is interested in filling these positions, otherwise the dreaded method of conscription will be used.

Guest Speaker: (None)

Birthdays & Anniversaries:

Brenda Hagman's birthday is Saturday but she did not divulge her upcoming or current age.

Trips.

Jeanne Witt is back from a trip to Estes Park, Colorado, the Badlands and Mount Rushmore.

John Glennon reported on a hiking and horse-riding trip to Colorado with Randy Stark which featured a two day, 14 mile hike over two 12,000 foot mountain passes, many sheer cliffs and near-death experiences. John advised to never go hiking with Randy Stark, and as a post-script noted that he also suffered a tick bite.

Jerry Dorscheid reported on a trip to Bayfield, including a cruise and a visit to the Great Lakes Visitor Center.

Deaths and Illnesses.

Larry Riemer and Donna Arndt's passings were noted.

Dean Packard had a heart attack and 3 bypasses and is recovering.

George Hartman is reported to be in failing health.

Ed Boebel is recovering from surgery.

Jokes.

Linda Meyer rescinded her previous offer to read from a book of Ole and Lena jokes, as some of them were in poor taste. What a surprise.

Dave Gjestson led us to visualize a beautiful place – and relieve stress.

Ron Poff offered a fishing story in which a Warden was outfoxed.

Next Meeting –September 2 at the Maple Tree in McFarland where it is likely that we will finally return to mounds of fried chicken, potatoes, gravy...

Meeting adjourned at 1:31 pm.