

THE ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED CONSERVATIONISTS

Meeting of February 4, 2009
Maple Tree, McFarland, WI

ARC President Linda Meyer called the meeting to order at 1:06 pm.

70 paid members and guests were present.

The meal was \$ 12.00. A raffle was not held.

A moment of silence was observed for friends and family who have passed and for our troops who are serving in harms way.

The minutes of the January meeting were read, and approved after changing the date of the Florida ARC meeting to February instead of March.

Financial Report:

The opening balance was \$1253.82

We collected \$0.00 from the raffle

We collected \$ 140.00 from the lunch proceeds.

We collected \$12.00 from one member who forgot to pay last month.

We collected \$ 10.00 from 5 new members.

Closing balance will be \$ 1415.82.

The funds collected (\$162.00) were handed over to John Glennon.

Guests:

These 3 persons attended their first meeting:

Roger Larson

Dale Ziege

Bill Furbish

Guests who were attending their second meeting and were voted in as new members. They each paid their \$2.00 lifetime dues.

Pam Mickelson

Pat McCutcheon

Bob Schaefer

Tom Niebauer

Curt Awve

“Frank & Miller Report”

Ed Frank reported that our dues of \$10.00 were due to be paid for our membership in the Coalition. The members voted to pay the \$10.00.

(NOTE: The \$10.00 needs to be paid to Ed Frank)

Ed reported that the stock market continued to slide in January, but that these results would not affect anything unless the market is down as of 12-31-2009.

Ed further reported on SWIB, the market and mutual funds. He also read an article regarding a financial person’s view on whether or not we were headed for the Great Depression #2.

Jim Miller reported that persons who retired as protective services employees are eligible for a tax deduction for certain health and long term care premiums that are being deducted from the retiree’s pension. To get more information call ETF or go to the ETF website and look under “retirees”.

Old Business:

Linda Meyer reported that the new website is up and running. Business cards with the web address were handed out. Rick Wojciak was thanked for creating and updating the website. Linda told about the “profile” section and said we hoped people would offer to be profiled and they should contact her or Rick Wojciak if interested. She said that Rick is planning to add the DNR e-Digest to the site in the near future. She pointed out that the membership directory will not be placed on the website due to privacy concerns.

Linda Meyer asked if members were receiving the email reminders about each months meeting. Most of the group said that they had received this months notice and voted to keep receiving email reminders.

Jim Miller has contacted the DNR Secretary's office and Secretary Matt Frank will be attending the April meeting at the Maple Tree to address the group.

New Business:

Chuck Pils suggested that ARC donate \$100.00 to the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters to support their cause. A vote was taken and it passed.

(NOTE: The \$100.00 needs to be sent to WLCV)

Bruce Braun reported that the new Horicon International Visitors Center will be dedicated on May 15th.

Linda Meyer earlier pointed out that the membership directory will not be placed on the website due to privacy concerns. Dave Ives led a discussion to see if members wished to change the existing policy, and they voted to keep it as is.

It was also suggested that when sending out emails that the members' names and email addresses be hidden. This can be done in several ways, including using the bbc (blind copy) feature or a hidden distribution list, etc. The members approved a motion requesting that all emails from ARC be sent with names and email addresses hidden.

Dave Ives said that at this time the printing of the membership directory is free, but that it may change – so we should be aware of that when considering budgets. Bruce Braun reported that the Natural Resources Foundation may be able to help with the printing and that he will check on that.

Jim Miller reported that he had forwarded information on our website to other ARC chapters around the state and some retirees who are not ARC members.

Deaths and Illnesses.

Chuck Reick was ill recently and had two strokes. After recovering quickly he found out that he also could not go to Denny's restaurant as he usually does, as that was the day that Denny's gave free meals to everyone and there were long lines to get in.

No deaths were reported.

Birthdays and anniversaries.

None

None

Guest Speaker:

None

Trips.

Chuck Pils took a trip to Yellowstone recently.

Lois Aide took a trip to Texas recently.

Jokes.

Linda Meyer led off the joke-telling session by pointing out that a few concerns were raised after last meetings jokes were told. She asked that we keep them clean.

Dave Ives read an article from today's Wisconsin State Journal about a survey regarding risky behavior. Of note was that 13% of the survey respondents admitted to operating power tools after drinking beer.

Paul Didier told a joke about a retired guy who did nothing, but wasn't finished yet.

Meeting adjourned at about 1:50 pm.