

THE ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED CONSERVATIONISTS

Meeting of March 4, 2009

Hilltop – Cross Plains, WI

ARC President Linda Meyer called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

66 paid members and guests were present.

The meal was \$ 12.00.

The raffle was held, won by Jeanne Witt

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

The minutes of the previous months meeting were read, and approved.

Financial Report:

The February balance was \$1415.82

\$100 was paid to WI League of Conservation Voters per motion of members in Feb.

\$10 was paid to Ed Frank to reimburse him for paying ARC's dues to the Coalition of Annuitants.

The March opening balance is \$1305.82

We collected \$ 30 from the raffle.

We collected \$ 66 from the lunch proceeds today. (Ken Wiesner has those funds)

We collected \$4.00 from new members today (Ken Wiesner has those funds)

The March current balance is \$ 1405.82

Guests:

Brenda Hagman was introduced by Eric Thompson.
Sarah Shapiro Hurley was introduced by Tom Niebauer.

New Members:

Bill Furbish and Rick Prosis attended their second meeting. They were voted in as members and their \$2.00 each lifetime membership dues were collected.

“Frank & Miller Report”

Jim Miller reports that the actuary will have a final report to ETF by the end of March with final numbers for 2008. Direct Deposit of benefits will be mandatory as of 9/1/09. Legislation may be introduced to do-away with the Variable Fund. See the ETF website to view a 35 minute video on the Variable Fund.

The WI Coalition of Annuitants Annual Conference will be held at Turner Hall in Madison on May 20th. An Economics Prof. from Edgewood College will be the featured speaker. The cost to attend is about \$20. ETF and SWIB will also be there.

On a cheery note, Jim notes that even if the stock market went broke, the WRS could pay the benefits due.

Old Business:

As noted in the Treasurer report, \$100 was paid to WI League of Conservation Voters per motion of members in Feb., and \$10 was paid to Ed Frank to reimburse him for paying ARC's dues to the Coalition of Annuitants.

New Business:

1. A note about our new website. Because it's a free site it's not find-able by search engines such as Google. The address should be retained by those wishing to use it [such as in Favorites, or as a Bookmark]. ARC emailings will continue to have the web link listed for the foreseeable future.
2. Tom Howard is proctoring exams for the US Census Bureau for people to help with the next census [April, 2010]. Workers are paid \$13 to \$14.50 per hour and will work up to 20 hours a week for 5 to 10 weeks. Contact Tom if you're interested in being a worker.
3. Al Prey reports on the ARC Florida meeting on Feb. 25th at Marco Island [Floyd Stautz' timeshare at the Eagles Nest/Marriott]. The temp. was 80 deg F. Ed Frank reports that property values have decreased by 62%.
4. Chuck Pils rendered a breathless report of a cougar treed near Trego. This appears to not be the usual hoax as it was reported at the Wildlife Society meeting – running concurrently with ARC in Madison.

Guest Speaker: (None)

Birthdays.

Al Prey is 74

Trips.

Brenda Hagman, making the most of her recent retirement, left on 12/27 for Hawaii, thence to New Zealand, Australia and Fiji, returning over 6 weeks later on 2/16 so husband John could return to work. Way to go Brenda!

Tom Howard has returned from Bangkok, Kuwait and one other exotic destination that was missed by the note-taker.

Dick Lindberg visited Cozumel, Mexico

Deaths and Illnesses.

Dave Croft's mother passed away.

Dennis Konkol has a broken ankle.

Deceased were: Wilbur Stites, Clara Wiersma, and Bob Winnie.

Dave Ives has recently had hip replacement surgery.

Jokes.

Dave Gjestson reported on Ole's trip to Paris – something to do with furniture, wine and dancing. Ask him.

Jim Miller's joke was about a devout atheist who went to Alaska, was beset by a Kodiak bear, and had God appear in time to bless the feast.

Tom Howard had a touching tale of Grandma Johnson's 100th birthday party where she was prevented from enjoying a good fart by her well-intentioned, but ultimately misguided nursing assistants.

Meeting adjourned at 1:33 pm.

Next Meeting will be at Maple Tree in McFarland on April 1. DNR Sec. Matt Frank is scheduled to be the speaker.