

THE ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED CONSERVATIONISTS

Meeting of October 7th, 2009
At the New Glarus Hotel

ARC President Linda Meyer called the meeting to order at 1:10 pm.

47 paid members were present.

The meal was \$12.

The 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 September meeting were read and approved.

Financial report:

The opening balance was \$1742.

We collected \$23.50 from lunch proceeds.

The closing balance will be \$1765.50.

The \$23.50 was handed over to John Glennon.

There was 1 new guest.

Mark Williams

"Frank & Miller Report"

As of the end of September the Variable was up 26.9% and the CORE was up 21.5%.

The increase on 12/31/09 is all that counts.

Vision care letter was sent out recently to retirees. Open enrollment is on now and ends 10/23/09.

Federal open enrollment booklet comes out in October and enrollment is from 11/15 to 12/31 for those not in the State Retirement System.

Dental Insurance. Some HMO's have it to lure in customers. Other insurance is available. The old John Deere policy (catastrophic policy) EPIC/Delta Dental. You must stay enrolled – if you opt out, you can not get back in. There has been no NEW enrollment for retirees and none is expected for 2010.

From 2006-09 Retirees could enroll in Anthem /Dental Blue. That ended in 2009, and will totally end 12/31/09. They notified people in April-May and said they would cover until 12/31/09. According to an email from Anthem, received after our October 7th meeting, Anthem said they would enable retirees who continued coverage AND those who had a gap in coverage but were enrolled in 2009, to stay on the plan for 2010. No NEW enrollment for those not covered by Dental Blue in 2009 will be allowed.

If you drop out of the WI Retirement System your spouse can not get back in if you pass away. You (the retiree) can get back in after a 6 month waiting period.

You can get out of the Variable if you apply by 12/31/09. Please visit the ETF website for more information and a video on this.

ETF employees are taking furloughs just like the State employees are.

The top 3 Administrators at SWIB are not taking their bonuses this year, and are deferring bonuses for other employees until 2011 to keep more money in the fund. These deferred bonuses were also reduced by 10%.

Medical Advantage Health Insurance, Medicare Supplements it, is part of the health care debate.

Old Business:

Tom Thoresen reported on the DNR Secretary Bill. It passed a Senate Committee 5-2 and the full Assembly 61-32. Now Russ Decker needs to get it scheduled for a full vote by the Senate.

Doris Rusch thanked Tom for his efforts.

Chuck Pils reported that DNR employee Dick Rideout is still recovering from his accident injuries. He is having 1.5 hours of therapy per day.

Jim Miller added that Dick has missed 6 weeks of work and will miss that many more.

New Business:

John Glennon asked the group to think about what type of emails that they care to receive using our emailing list. Several requests have been received lately asking us to forward emails to the members and we were not sure people wanted to receive them. It was pointed out that we may have made a decision on this in earlier meetings, so that will be checked upon. Jim Miller noted that he does forward WCOA/ETF/SWIB information now.

Paul Didier talked about efforts at documenting DNR history. He suggested making that a part of the ARC web page. Bruce Braun has been working on it and Rick Wojciak is willing to do it.

Tom Thoresen said that years-ago there was an effort to form a local chapter of PEER. They are trying again.

Linda Meyer said that if requested in advance we will make arrangements for a vegetarian meal option at our luncheons.

Death & Illness:

Gordon Lamphier is in the hospital with back problems.

Shirley Salava had a brain aneurism.

Bob Wallins 42 year old son passed away from cancer.

Birthday's & Anniversaries:

Brett Favre turns 40 on Saturday.

Jim Miller – 73rd birthday.

Jim Taylor – 90 in February.

Herb Zimmerman – 63 today.

No Guest Speaker. None

Trips:

Linda Myer – Trip to Arizona

Marcia Penner – Trip to Wyoming and the Jackson Hole area.

Jokes:

Jim Miller told of a blonde who got a flat tire, and put out two cardboard photos of naked men as her emergency flashers.

The meeting adjourned at 1:50 pm.

The next meeting is November 4th at Imperial Gardens.

Minutes recorded by John Glennon