

ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED CONSERVATIONISTS

Meeting of February 3, 2010 Imperial Gardens, Madison

ARC President, Chuck Pils, called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm.

71 paid members and guests were present.

The meal was \$12.00

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 January Meeting were read by Doris Rusch and approved.

Financial Report

The opening balance was \$1921.11

We collected \$2.00 from new member, Dave Edwards. (Doris has these funds)

Checks were written to: Dave Croft for printing ARC directories (\$120.00)
Chuck Pils (\$75.00) for our Harry Stroebe memorial

The closing balance is \$1,799.11.

Guests and New Members

There were six new guests: Steve Fix, Signé Holtz, Barb Zellmer, Ron Curtis, Randy Case and Bob Straus.

Attending his 2nd meeting, Dave Edwards was voted in as a new member.

Frank and Miller Report (Wisconsin Coalition of Annuitants)

Ed reported a 1% reduction in the core fund but a 25-30% increase in the variable fund.

The recent trend is up, but nothing counts til December 31!

Ed reminded everyone about the Coalition of Annuitants annual meeting on May 10. Some new initiatives will be discussed, including hedge funds, tips and leveraging, all ploys to reduce risk and smooth out equity returns.

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Old Business

Tom Thoreson reported 550 people attended the recent Conservation Lobby Day. There is great support for a veto over-ride on the Independent Secretary Bill. Watch for an event on Feb 25 to rally folks

New Business

President Chuck Pils raised the question of whether ARC should invite a speaker from the Natural Resources Foundation, such as Charlie Luthin, and pay an honorarium for speaking.

There was discussion:

Ken Wiesner commented that there was no downside to inviting groups to speak, but needed to be somewhat concerned about consistency of payment.

Several members suggesting passing the hat for payment

John Glennon commented that if groups came, there should be a set amount for payment.

In the past, ARC gave NRC 40% of our funds.

Nancy Ives raised the question of past speakers and payment.

Jim Miller commented that the only group he remembers was Wisconsin Wetlands Association.

Chuck Pils made a motion that the Natural Resources Foundation speaker be paid \$100 from the ARC treasury.

The motion was seconded and passed when 30 members voted Aye, and 24 members voted Nay. President Pils will contact NRF staff to arrange an ARC speaking date.

Chuck Pils offered an information item on the problem of balance. One of every 3 people over 65 suffers from serious falls. The book titled "Balance- In Search of The Lost Sense, by Scott McCredie addresses the problem and offers a self-test for and exercises to improve balance.

Jim Miller talked about the DNR history now on the ARC website and the need to continue to update and edit the material.

Jim Miller will invite the DNR Secretary to speak to ARC.

Death and Illness

Tom Janish died in late January. He was 64 years old and had recently retired from the Bureau of Watershed Management

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Janet Kernen and Barb Zellmer are celebrating their Feb. 4th birthday and Bob Roden will be another year older on Feb 6.

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Guest Speaker

None

Trips

Lee and Janet Kernen are just back from Roatan, Honduras where the air temperature was 82 degrees and the water temperature was 78 degrees. (Interesting that Lee didn't report on any trophy fish caught!)

Tom Thoreson recommended Disney World right after Christmas with all its special holiday attractions.

Ken Wiesner just returned from a smashing trip to Fargo and reported on the Roger Maris Museum.

Chuck Pils talked about his trip to the Big Apple, and the visit to the Teddy Roosevelt estate at Sagamore Hill where Teddy received the 1st Nobel Peace Prize. Other adventures were the Museum of Natural History, the David Letterman show, and the IMAX feature, "Mysteries of the Great Lakes" starring some DNR fisheries biologist Ron Bruch. (This IMAX film is now showing at the Milwaukee Public Museum).

Don Thompson and his wife went halfway around the world to Sidney, Australia and on to New Zealand.

Jokes

No jokes this time. (Dave G was absent.)

Meeting adjourned at 1:55 pm

The next meeting is March 3 at the Maple Tree in McFarland.

Minutes recorded by Doris Rusch