

THE ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED CONSERVATIONISTS

Meeting of January, 2011
The Esquire Club, Madison, WI

2010 ARC President Chuck Pils called the meeting to order at 12:20 pm and introduced the speaker for the day – Elizabeth Kluesner who spoke on the desire of the DNR to have ARC join in the adoption of the Toki Middle school for volunteers on science and environmental issues and mentoring as well as potential financial assistance.

53 paid members and guests were present.

The meal was \$12.

The new officers: Jim Miller, President; Doris Rusch, Vice President, and John Hagman, Secretary /Treasurer were introduced. The gavel was passed to incoming president Jim Miller who conducted the remainder of the meeting.

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 previous months meeting were read by Doris Rusch, and approved. Moved by Ed Frank, 2nd Dave Ives.

Financial Report:

The opening balance was \$2,322.18.

We collected \$53 from the lunch proceeds.

We collected \$2 from one new members.

The funds collected \$55 were handed over to Doris Rusch (\$45) and Ed Frank (\$10) for dues to the Coalition of Annuitants (of WRS).

Closing balance will be \$2,367.18.

Guests:

These persons attended their first meeting: Carol McCury of the Drinking Water Program.

Guests who were attending their second meeting and were voted in as new members. They each paid their \$2.00 lifetime dues. Linda Netzer of the Parks and Recreation Program.

“Frank & Miller Report”

Ed Frank gave the report of what he learned from ETF through The Coalition of Annuitants about recent WRS earnings. Because it is so soon after the end of December not all information is final. Preliminary estimate for 2010 is approximately a 11.5% increase in the Core Fund which means about a 1% take back on the dividends for long time retirees. The variable fund experienced about a 14 % increase which translates to about a 8% dividend.

Of interest there are about 150,000 existing retirees with an average of 5,000 a year over the last several years, but 2010 will show about 8,000 new retirees. This means the take back will hit the long time retirees harder because new retirees can not go below their initial annuity amount.

The annual membership for the Coalition is \$50 shared among five ARC groups. The \$10 share from the Madison South Central Wisconsin chapter was approved.

Guest Speaker: Elizabeth Kluesner spoke about opportunities for volunteering in conjunction with DNR staff at Toki Middle school.

Below is a summary of the Toki project.

DNR/Akira Toki Middle School Adopt a School Project

By way of background, the Madison Foundation for Public Schools sponsors an Adopt A School Program. Adopting a school leads to a structured partnership between an organization and a school. By participating in this program, DNR and the school link as partners into a relationship bound to grow with time. One goal of the program is to forge partnerships with economically disadvantaged kids to improve students' achievement.

Located on the near west side of Madison, Toki Middle School is made up of 6, 7, and 8th grades and has 538 students. Nearly 50 percent of Toki's students qualify for the Free and Reduced Lunch program. The school grounds include a wooded area where the Department will work with students to learn about Wisconsin's ecosystems.

Since August 2010, the Department has been working on a number of specific items including: a school supply drive; a book drive; membership and fundraising on the school's endowment committee; a day in the wood's with staff from the Stevens Point College of Natural Resources; a fundraising partnership with the PTO; and a book drive. Staff have also heard from the Schools of Hope program on how to become a volunteer and mentor in the school.

The Department will continue this partnership with Toki through volunteerism, financial support and resource drives.

Chuck Pils volunteered to be the DNR liaison with the DNR Toki Middle school project.

Old Business:

President Jim Miller thanked everyone for their responses to the questionnaire. In total 100 responses were received (96 e-mail, 4 postal service). Jim named Linda Meyer and Ed Frank to the "cabinet" to join the officers to review the survey and recommend any changes in direction etc.

Incoming Secretary/ Treasurer John Hagman reported on a concept to get ARC a checking account at the Credit Union instead of transferring the funds between officers as new Treasurers come into office. It was requested that the reporting requirements be verified before venturing down this path, but assuming it is as easy as Jim Miller reported for other organizations he is Treasurer for, the Association of retired Conservations will get a checking account at the Credit Union base. Moved by Paul Stone, Second by Kermit Traska and Bruce Braun simultaneously. Vote approved unanimously

Outgoing Treasurer Doris Rusch gave the Treasurer's report closing with a balance of \$2322.18 in December 2010.

New Business:

After Ed Frank gave the ETF WRS report it was indicated that the Coalition of Annuitants had a annual fee of \$50 shared by 5 DNR related retirement groups. Jerry Dorscheid moved, Bob Schaefer seconded that the Madison (South Central Wisconsin) chapter pay it's \$10 fee. Approved unanimously.

Jim Miller reported that web-master Rick Wojciak had made a proposal to manage the ARC web site, including licensing and maintenance support for \$30 a month. Bruce Braun moved, and Brenda Hagman seconded to approved the payment and commit to Rick for \$30 a month for 2011 and as long as Rick can provide these services at this price. Approved unanimously.

Chuck Pils was named as the official liaison between ARC and the DNR staff to minimize the number of folks making contacts and streamline coordination between the groups.

It was discussed whether to invite the new nominated DNR Secretary Cathy Stepp to come to a ARC meeting. It was approved and a calendar of meeting times and places was sent to the DNR Secretary's office by liaison Pils that very day.

Deaths and Illnesses.

Dick Walkush, Waupaca has passed.

Charles Mertley, Montello has cancer of the esophagus.

Ray Hendrikse has spleen cancer.

Jim Kurtz had triple heart bypass surgery on 12/23 and is home recovering,

Dean Packard fell and broke his ankle and had surgery to repair the damage and is in recovery at home.

Birthdays and anniversaries.

Nick Miller turns 100 in January 2011. Dave Ives will contact Nick to see if he is up to attending the February meeting. If he is Dave will transport him to and from the meeting.

Ed Frank turns 78, 1/16/2011 and celebrates his 57th anniversary in January.

Al Prey and Duane Dupor both have 50th wedding anniversaries in January.

The (couldn't hear name) celebrated their 53 anniversary in December 2010.

John and Brenda Hagman will celebrate their 36th anniversary while on a trip to Florida and South America, February 14, 2011.

Trips.

John and Brenda Hagman will be gone for February and March meetings on trips to the Amazon, Matchu-Pitchu and the Galapagos, first in January and February and Mexico in March.

Jokes. NA

Meeting adjourned at 1:40pm.

Minutes recorded by John Hagman.