

# **THE ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED CONSERVATIONISTS**

Meeting of July 6, 2011

At Maple Tree, McFarland, WI

ARC President Jim Miller called the meeting to order at 1:15 pm.

51 paid members and 1 guest were present.

The meal was \$13 including a small contribution to the picnic beverages.

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

The minutes of the previous month's meeting were reviewed.

## **Guest Speaker:**

Ken Johnson retired COO (operating officer) of SWIB (the investment board). Gave an excellent presentation on the Wisconsin Retirement System. We are extremely lucky to have one of the very best funded and managed public employee retirement system in the country.

See the ARC web page for related handouts from Ken. Basically 65 – 70 % of the benefits paid out are from investment income. An additional 100,000 employees are eligible to retire now.

The Trust fund reached a high of about \$90 billion in 2007 and a low of about \$60 billion in 2009. It is currently at about \$83 billion. The SWIB investment goal is to reduce the equity (stock) share of the fund from the current 57% to about 50% because it accounts for 87% of the volatility in the Trust Fund.

Costs are kept down as a continuing increased percentage of the Fund is managed in house as opposed to by consultant firms. We are indeed fortunate it is so well funded and managed.

**Financial Report:**

The opening balance was \$ 2,070.17

We collected \$ 81 from the lunch proceeds.

We collected \$ 2 for 1 new member.

Previous month's expenditures included: \$35.20 for stamps to mail picnic notices, \$15.79 for more name tags and \$60 for the park shelter rental for the picnic.

Closing balance will be \$ 2,042.38 including \$ .20 interest earned.

The funds collected (\$83) were handed over to John Hagman and deposited in Summit Credit Union account.

**Guests:**

Rich Roth, retired from drinking and Ground water (formerly Water Supply), attended his first meeting sponsored by Carol McCurry.

**Guests who were attending their second meeting and were voted in as new members.** Jim Miller sponsored Carl Blabaum, who was not in attendance but has provided entertainment for several years' picnic. Roy Lempke paid Carl's \$2 membership

**"Frank & Miller Report"**

The Market was up before a early June drop and has now come back to about the May level.

Growth of 19.5% in core and 25% in variable is needed in 2011 to overcome the reductions built into the 5 year average from 2008. At the end of June, the core was up 6.7 % and the variable up 7.7%

The Governor and legislature are looking at health care coverage changes. George Mickelson reported on some of the proposals to increase co-pays and

deductibles and a proposal to add a “one plus one” coverage choice in addition to single and family coverage.

**Old Business:**

John Hagman gave an update on the 2011 ARC picnic plans.

The Picnic is planned for **Wednesday August 10<sup>th</sup>**, 2011 at Lakeview Park Middleton. Social hour starting at 11 AM and catered meal served at 12 noon. Beer and soda will be provided as well as food and coffee.

**New Business:**

Jim Miller mentioned hopefully having the 2012 schedule available by the picnic.

**Deaths and Illnesses.**

None reported

**Birthdays and anniversaries.**

None reported due to time

**Trips.**

Deferred.

**Jokes.**

None

Next meeting is the ARC Picnic at Lakeview Park shelter in Middleton, August 10, 2011.

The subsequent meeting in September is at the Hill Top near Cross Plains. Secretary Cathy Stepp has indicated that she would attend the meeting to speak to the group.

**Meeting adjourned** at 2:15pm.