

THE ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED CONSERVATIONISTS

Meeting on March 2, 2011

At the Maple Tree Restaurant, McFarland, WI

ARC President Jim Miller called the meeting to order at 12:00 so our two guest speakers could make their presentations before we ate. At 12:37 he ended their presentations because the food had to be served. The meeting resumed at 1:27 PM.

62 paid members and guests were present, along with two speakers, Sari King and Sandy Drew, who did not stay for the meal or the business meeting.

We collected \$12 for the meal which included a \$1 surcharge to add to the ARC treasury (a total of \$62 for the treasury from this meeting).

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

Because our Secretary-Treasurer was not in attendance, the minutes of the January meeting were not read or approved. (There was no meeting in February due to bad weather.) No financial report was presented. Linda Meyer retained \$66 from the meeting proceeds that will be passed on to ARC's Secretary-Treasurer (\$62 from the collected surcharge and \$4 from two new members).

Guests and New Members:

Dick Kratz, Secretary of the Wisconsin Coalition of Annuitants, attended the meeting as Jim Miller's guest. Dick provided a sound system for the meeting, to amplify and record the speakers' presentations.

First Time Guests Seeking Membership: Retirees Sheree Vande Brink and Jim Venie attended their first meeting.

Second Time for Membership: Carol McCurry and Tim Fox were admitted as new members after paying their \$2 lifetime dues.

Old Business:

Jim Miller summarized the results of the members' survey that was conducted last year. In response to the survey results, Jim announced that we will continue to meet monthly. We will not change any of the meeting locations scheduled for 2011 because meeting arrangements have already been made for the listed restaurants. However, a committee headed by Linda Meyer is looking for new restaurants that can accommodate our group in 2012 and beyond. The survey indicated that the two main reasons that people come to the meetings are to socialize and to find out what is happening in other peoples' lives. Jim indicated that at the next meeting, we will discuss the possibility of starting our meetings at 11:00 AM to give people more time for socializing.

Dave Gjestson reported that his book on the history of the state wildlife program will finally be published sometime this Spring. Jim Miller pointed out that this was the last ARC meeting that Dave Gjestson will be attending because Dave and his wife will be moving to California (to the Bay area, about an hour NNE of San Francisco). Dave also pointed out that there is a Trips Tips page on the ARC website – a great resource – that members should use to summarize their trips and learn about the trips taken by other members.

New Business:

Tom Thoresen announced that the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters' Conservation Lobby Day will be held on March 16, and that the two major issues that will be discussed are the creation of a Conservation Corp and an Outdoor Youth Bill of Rights. Tom also asked for donations of venison sausage for the League's Game Feed.

Linda Meyer announced that the Second Harvest Food Bank is looking for volunteers to sort and repack food for distribution. Anyone who is interested in volunteering can contact Linda for more information.

Allen Prey reported on a meeting of the “Southwest Florida Chapter of ARC” that was held on February 25 with a meal at the Silver Spoon Café in Bonita Springs, Florida and dessert at the Huntoons’ home nearby. Ed Frank was one of the attendees and gave a “Frank and Miller” report to the group.

Deaths and Illnesses:

It was reported that retired DNR wildlife biologist Bob Dries of Spooner had recently died. His obituary can be found on the ARC website.

Birthdays and Anniversaries:

Dave Gjestson reported that he recently celebrated his 71st birthday and that he and his wife also celebrated their 44th wedding anniversary earlier this year.

Allen Prey reported that he will be 76 years old on March 11th.

Trips: none reported

Jokes:

The members agreed that Dave Gjestson would be allowed to tell 2 jokes in light of the fact that this was his last meeting. He told one joke involving Barbara Walters interviewing Muslim women about their willingness to always walk 5 paces behind their husbands; and one about a man at a bar who is having a terrible day and has his drink stolen by a belligerent biker dude.

Adjournment:

The next meeting will be on April 6th at the New Glarus Hotel.

Meeting adjourned at 1:55 PM.