

THE ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED CONSERVATIONISTS

Meeting of April 4th, 2012

At: Imperial Gardens West Madison, WI

ARC President Doris Rusch: called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm.

59 paid members and guests were present.

The meal was \$12.00.

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, and approved.

Financial Report:

The opening balance for Savings was: \$971.73 & for Checking was: \$449.73.

We collected \$27.00 from the lunch proceeds.

We collected \$6.00 from new members.

Stamps were purchased for \$9.00.

Four memorial checks were written for total of \$300.00 for Stanley Kmiotek, Joseph Corbin, Ken Coyle & Charles Rieck.

Closing balance for Savings including first quarter savings account dividends of \$.29 is: \$1121.82 & for Checking is \$23.73.

Guests:

No new guests this month.

Guests who were voted in as members today are: Dan Fields, Dave O'Malley, Karen Trow & Doug Meier.

"Frank-n-Miller Report" :

Jim Miller reported today as Ed Frank is up north with the Knights of the Round Table. It is too early to tell about the March SWIB totals. 2012 is a pivotal year. We need 7½ % for next year as the pool for money to pay off debits is diminishing.

Jim asked the new Secretary of ETF if the people who retired in the 70's and 80's had hit their minimum. The answer is there is no mechanism in place at this time. They would need to bring those people up in the scale of higher wages.

Assembly Bill 318 died in the Senate, so at this time UW employees will not be allowed to opt out of the WRS.

If you have a Variable account and wish to change to the Core, there will be new levels recalculated for possible take backs, although not as large as if you were in the Variable Fund.

Any changes will not be valid until May 2013. You can go to the COA meeting in May at the American Family Insurance building in the American Parkway area east of the Interstate and north of 151.

Cost is \$25.00 which includes lunch. There are usually 150 to 200 people there and you are allowed to ask questions.

For more information, see the ARC or COA websites.

Old Business:

Jim Miller & Dave Ives checked into costs of a PA System. Some of our lunch locations have them available for our use. The cost ranges up to \$1000. Need to know how many microphones and speakers are needed, if we want wireless, etc. Suggestions were made to check Craig's List for used set. Discussion was tabled until May meeting.

New Business:

Subject of speakers at our luncheons was discussed. There are options for the following: Wildflowers & prairies, climate change, how to brew beer, Secretary Stepp, deer wars & ETF or SWIB speakers. There were mixed reviews on subjects with one definite opinion that Secretary Stepp's talk should be after the Recall election. More info to come on other speaker subjects.

Vice President John Hagman brought attention to the number of \$75 donations being made in honor of the passing of previous members. Motion made and passed to have all donations made to NRF exclusively. Another option for fund raising was to hold periodic raffles, with some of the money going to Second Harvest. Also a motion was passed unanimously that we increase lunch costs a dollar each month plus any odd change to add to our funds.

Deaths and Illnesses:

The following DNR Retired Employees passed away recently: Jerry Love from Hayward, Frank Shafarik from Forestry in Hayward & Walt Naab from Forestry in Hayward.

Birthdays and anniversaries:

Jim Amundson turned 80 on April 5th and Pat McCutcheon and Sheree Vande Brink shared a birthday on April 14th.

Trips:

Chuck Pils returned from a trip to the Florida Everglades and reported that there are way too many Burmese Pythons and Gambian Red Rats there! He also saw a 34,000 acre controlled burn.

Tom Thoresen visited the Florida Keys, saw Janet & Lee Kernan and also went snorkeling.

Dave O'Malley participated in a 160 mile canoe race on the Belize River. He saw howler monkeys, iguanas and snakes. He also dined on the Belize specialty—Gibnut which is boiled rat and claimed it was delicious.

Jokes:

Tom Thoresen and Jim Miller shared jokes.

Meeting adjourned: at 1:54 pm.