

THE ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED CONSERVATIONISTS

Meeting of March 6, 2013 held at Great Dane Brew Pub, Fitchburg WI

ARC Vice President Sheree Vande Brink called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm.

Attendees had their choice of 1) West African Chicken Peanut Stew, 2) Pub Cheese Burger, 3) BBQ Pork Sandwich, 4) Webster Street Salad or 5) Honey Pepper Salmon Club. Cost varied by meal selection. There were 37 members and guests in attendance.

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 February meeting were read, and approved.

Financial Report:

The opening balance for Savings is \$222.83 and Checking \$700.49.

Dividend on Savings account for March was \$.02.

Cost of the meals, tax and gratuities at Great Dane was \$402.28. An additional \$53.72 was collected and was deposited along with \$4.00 in dues from the two new members (total \$57.72.)

Closing balance for Savings is \$222.85 and Checking is \$758.21.

Guests:

Dick Steffes was a guest attending his first meeting.

New Members:

Jeff Barkley and Mary Hamel attended their second meeting and were voted in as members.

"Frank-n-Miller Report":

Jim Miller said everyone should have gotten a notice as to what adjustment will be made to their retirement benefits. Core is down 9.6%, Variable up 9.0%. Since the DJ hit a record high recently, that could translate into double digit increase by the end of the year.

Old Business:

Al Prey reported that 12 members of the SW Chapter of ARC met in Bonita Springs 2 weeks ago. After lunch at a restaurant, they headed to Jim Huntoon's where

Esther served up killer key lime pie. It was 80 degrees there, in case anyone in snowy Madison wants to know what else they missed!

New Business:

Kermit Traska provided information about his volunteer activities with Community Connections, and he said many volunteer opportunities are available at Oakhill Correctional Institution in Oregon for those with a variety of skills. Currently, Kermit is involved in video recording inmates as they read books aloud. The tapes are then given to their children so the kids can read along and have a connection to their dads. Another need at the facility is for people to facilitate classes in subjects like finance and parenting, to name a few, that will help to ease the inmates' transition upon release.

Paul Didier talked about his work for Meals on Wheels and said they can always use more meal delivery volunteers. His route takes about 2.5 hours daily, between 10:30 am and 1:00 pm (evening routes may also be available); you use your own vehicle. There are 4 locations in Madison where the food can be picked up.

Details on the aforementioned volunteer opportunities along with contact information will be supplied by Kermit and Paul, and posted on the ARC website – see “What’s New” page. Additionally, information was previously posted on the website about volunteer opportunities at the Madison Arboretum. For the Arboretum work, training is required, and volunteers are asked for a commitment of 4 hours per month to walk the trails, and make note of maintenance needs or other observations that need to be brought to Arboretum staff’s attention.

Jim Miller reports that Dave Gjestson has finished his book *The Game Keepers. Wisconsin Wildlife Conservation History from WCD to CWD*. He will be giving talks in the area in the next few weeks.

Deaths and Illnesses:

Doris Rusch underwent major back surgery last week. Get well wishes to Doris.

Birthdays and anniversaries:

Happy birthday to members celebrating birthdays this month: Al Prey (March 11 he will be 78) and Gene Roarck (March 25 he will be 82.)

Trips:

Sheree Vande Brink just returned from 2 weeks in Texas. Barb Wolf skied in Big Sky, Montana last month. Ed Frank is in Florida. Tim Fox was in Costa Rica for a few weeks.

Meeting adjourned: 1:25 pm.