

THE ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED CONSERVATIONISTS

Meeting of August 6, 2014 held at Maple Tree Restaurant, McFarland

ARC President Sheree Vande Brink called the meeting to order at 12:55 pm.

30 people were in attendance. The cost of the meal was \$14.00 for broasted chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy, cole slaw and carrots, all served family style. Meal also included German sweet chocolate cake, coffee and milk.

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 June minutes were read and approved. (No business meeting was held at the July picnic.)

Financial Report:

Paid \$390.00 to Maple Tree for meals, tax and gratuity (out of cash collected at door.)

Opening balance for Savings is \$223.17 and Checking is \$754.67.
Dividend on Savings account in August was \$.02.

Activity on Checking account:

DEPOSITS: \$50.00 from Dominick Mangardi - refund of security deposit for July picnic; \$30.00 proceeds from August lunch.

EXPENDITURES: \$115.00 to Dominick Mangardi - reimbursement for shelter fee he paid to reserve for August 5, 2015. Note: The shelter is paid in full in advance; a security deposit is no longer charged.

Closing balance on September 1 for Savings is \$223.19 and Checking is \$719.67.

Guests:

None.

"Frank-n-Miller Report:"

Ed Frank made the report for August. The NASDAQ and S+P are up 4% but the Dow is lower than on January 1. According to SWIB, the Core fund was up 6.2% and the Variable was up 6.3% for the year as of the end of June. However, there's generally been a bear market in July and early August, so those percentages have likely decreased, more so for the Variable. The conflict on the Gaza Strip, the Chinese economic slowdown, and Chinese housing market slowdown (whole huge apartment complexes standing empty) will all likely have a negative impact on the global economy and the U.S. market. Experts expect a continued slide for the near future, but gains by the end of the year.

There was an audit of SWIB. It was a generally positive audit on returns and management. Auditors requested more information on the agency compensation/bonus plan before the end of the year and additional information on some new investment strategies.

Old Business:

Correspondence received from Natural Resources Foundation acknowledging donation in memory of Donald R. Thompson. Thank you received from Second Harvest Food Bank for ARC's food/funding drive at the July picnic. \$55.00 was sent to Second Harvest.

Jerry Dorscheid reported that the Wisconsin Riverway Canoe trip with Mark Cupp went well. It was held in the latter half of July. The trip utilizes two voyager canoes, each holding eight people. The trip will be held again next year and invitations to interested ARC members will be issued again at that time.

New Business:

Annual Picnic report: We had beautiful weather for the picnic at Lakeview Park. There were 95 people in attendance, caterer was guaranteed 99 so that's what we paid for. (Not a problem, had plenty of

reservations to cover that number.) Thanks again to Marilyn Howell for printing all the name tags, John Hagman for picking up beverages, Laurel Steffes for beverages and ice, Sheree Vande Brink for arranging the catering with Angelo's. \$55.00 in monetary donations was collected for Second Harvest foodbank, along with a couple bags of grocery items which Barb Wolf dropped off. Most people used the online system to make their reservation, and 37 used the PayPal option. Check out Rick's photos on the ARC website!

President Vande Brink asked for members to forward suggestions for future lunch/meeting locations to her (svbinspace@yahoo.com), Linda Netzer (lnetzer@charter.net), or Barb Wolf (bawolf@att.net). There is a special need for ideas for the east side of Madison. Any venue would have to have a private area or room, and be capable of serving 50 to 60 guests.

President Vande Brink asked members to utilize the lunch feedback button on the ARC website to let organizers know how they feel about venues and menus.

President Vande Brink noted that slide presentations have been popular. She cited Chuck Pils' African safari presentation as one that was well received by attendees. If members have a slide show from recent exotic travel or other informative programs (such as the Lower Wisconsin Riverway presentation), contact Sheree and we will try to schedule. The goal is to try to have a presentation several times a year. There was a question regarding the availability of a projector, but several members noted Rick Wojciak has indicated he has a projector.

Deaths and Illnesses:

Karen Trow is doing better and has been able to get out and visit some friends. She is currently at Harmony Assisted Living in Stoughton.

Donald R. Thompson, former DNR wildlife research biologist and chief of Research Bureau's Technical Services Section, passed away June 23 at age 94.

Retired WCD/DNR forestry employee Norbert A. "Nubbs" Galecke passed away July 3.

Ruth Williamson, a program assistant for Bureau of LE who retired in 1992, passed away on July 7.

William Sayles passed away on July 10 at age 94. Bill was a DNR engineer responsible for monitoring dam safety, and he was significantly involved in establishing protection for wetlands. Bill was formerly the Director of the Bureau of Water Regulations and Zoning.

Harry Welke of Tomahawk passed away July 12. Harry was a WCD forestry employee/ equipment operator in Tomahawk and retired in 1988.

Birthdays and Anniversaries:

Brenda Hagman turns 61 on Friday, August 8. Happy birthday Brenda!
Laurel and Dick Steffes celebrate their 43rd anniversary on September 4.

Trips:

Laurel and Dick Steffes will visit Peru next month.

Meeting adjourned at 1:15 pm.