

THE ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED CONSERVATIONISTS

Meeting of January 8, 2014 held at Fitzgerald's, Middleton

ARC President John Hagman called the meeting to order at 1:15 pm.

53 people were in attendance. There were 5 choices on the menu: burger, fish sandwich or chicken sandwich for \$12 or ham/turkey melt or Rueben sandwich for \$13.

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 November and December minutes were read and approved.

Financial Report

Opening balance for Savings is \$223.03 and Checking is \$1113.46.

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

\$538.75 paid to Fitzgerald's for meals, tax and gratuity (out of cash collected at door.)

Activity on Checking account:

DEPOSITS: \$98.25 – proceeds from lunch, \$4.00 dues from 2 new members.

EXPENDITURES: rswproductions for 2014 webmaster services - \$550.00; Natural Resources Foundation memorial for Pete Jensen - \$75.00; Ed Frank for COA annual dues - \$10.00; Office Depot for copies of 2014 member directories and name tags - \$70.81

A summary sheet of all ARC financial transactions and expenditures for 2013 is available for inspection. Let Barb know if you would like to have a copy.

Closing balance for Savings is \$223.05 and Checking is \$509.90 (as of February 5.)

New Members

Audrey Kunstman and Marshall Ruegger attended their second meeting and were voted in as new members. Marshall is also a member of the Northern Wisconsin retirees group.

Guests

Al Crossley and Robert Hay were guests. Al was introduced by Chuck Pils, and Robert introduced by Randy Jurewicz.

"Frank-n-Miller Report"

Jim Miller wasn't able to attend the December COA meeting, but minutes are available. (There is a link to Coalition of Annuitants on the ARC website and minutes may be found there.) Jim reports that increases are expected in both Core and Variable. March 2014 will bring final news of adjustments, with checks adjusted in May.

Old Business

John Hagman presented the slate of new officers and moved for approval. Laurel Steffes is nominated for the position of Vice President, Sheree VandeBrink will succeed John as President and Barb Wolf will continue as Secretary/Treasurer. Motion seconded and approved by voice vote. John handed the gavel over to Sheree. Jim Miller congratulated the officers and pointed out that when he joined ARC about 15 years ago, women retirees weren't even invited to the meetings. "We too have changed," said Jim.

New Business

Barb Wolf mentioned a fundraising banquet to be held by the Wisconsin Conservation Warden Association on Saturday, February 22 at the VFW, Madison. A flyer and ticket purchasing information will be posted to the ARC website or contact Barb for info. Money goes to scholarships for students in natural resource fields.

Rick Wojciak reminds members that he sends an e-mail reminder once a month about the ARC meetings. If you are not receiving it, check your junk mail or spam folder. Since the message comes from retiredrick@wisarc.org, some filters may see it as solicitation. You can mark that address and "allow" it to come through in the future if you find that's what's happening. If you don't find Rick's messages anywhere, make sure he has your correct/most current e-mail address.

Barb Wolf would like to distribute copies of the 2014 Membership Directory as an electronic file. Discussion followed about posting this information on the website which is not password protected. Group agreed that a more secure way to distribute will be to send the Directory to members via e-mail, and they can save it or print it for reference. Paper copies will be available, but fewer copies will be printed this year, which results in a savings to the treasury.

Deaths and Illnesses

Herb Behnke of Shawano, former member of the NRB passed, away December 8. Gail Fry passed away December 9. She was a long time DNR employee in Community Assistance, working as a Federal Aid Coordinator. Randy Jurewicz spoke about her, and the fine work she did that helped support many of the DNR's programs.

Dan Ryan passed away December 29 in Duluth. He worked in DNR fisheries programs for 37 years.

Eric "Rick" B. Mahringer of Marshfield passed away January 2. He worked as a forester for the DNR for 10 years, then for Menominee Tribal Enterprises, later was a consulting forester.

Charlie Higgs of Loveland, Colorado is currently undergoing stem cell treatment for cancer. He should be home from the hospital soon. Jim Miller sends periodic updates from Charlie's Caring Bridge website.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Gen Bancroft turned 83, and Ron and Phila Poff celebrated their 56th anniversary.

Trips

Tom Thoresen was in London last month to visit his son Douglas who is attending school there. He and his family enjoyed all of the museums and historical sites, and he was impressed with the good public transportation a/k/a the Tube. Going during the "off peak" season is a good way to save some money since it is an expensive city to visit.

Chuck Pils was recently in Namibia, country in the southern part of the continent of Africa. He went on a photo safari in Etosha National Park, saw big game and 350 species of birds. Rainfall there is < 4"/year, this year exceptionally dry so lots of animals concentrated at watering holes making for excellent photo ops. (Chuck and Linda have 4,000+ pix if anyone wants to see them!)

Meeting adjourned at 1:45 pm.