

## **THE ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED CONSERVATIONISTS**

Meeting of March 5, 2014 held at Great Dane Brew Pub, Fitchburg

ARC President Sheree Vande Brink called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

57 people were in attendance. There were 4 menu items to select from: Dane burger, peanut stew, BBQ sandwich (\$13) and chicken salad (\$14.)

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 February minutes were read and approved.

### Financial Report

Opening balance for Savings is \$223.07 and Checking is \$556.90.

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

\$675.00 to Great Dane for meals, tax and gratuity (paid out of cash collected at the door.)

Activity on Checking account:

DEPOSITS: \$67.00 proceeds from lunch, \$2.00 dues from new member (Engfer)

EXPENDITURES: none

Closing balance for Savings is \$223.09 and Checking is \$625.90.

### Guests

Two DNR retirees attending their first meeting:

Greg Stacey introduced by Dave Wood. Greg retired from DNR in 2007 where he was chief pilot and a deputy conservation warden. He also worked extensively with the Water Guard program on invasive species control.

Lloyd Eagan introduced by Barb Wolf. Lloyd retired last fall from her position as the Water Leader for South Central Region. She had 38 years of state service starting with the Waters program, later Bureau Director for Air Management and 6 years as the South Central Region Director.

Other guests: Deane Frank, LaVonne O'Malley and Tom Blattner.

### "Frank-n-Miller Report"

Ed Frank gave the report. He said that the increases were 4.7% for Core and 25% for Variable. There was some loss in January. He got some complaints and questions regarding why the raw return and adjustments are so different. One reason is that Bond Funds did poorly and the other reason is that SWIB has gotten more conservative. If anyone wants to learn more about the workings of the retirement system, COA's annual conference is May 19. Cost is \$25 and includes a continental breakfast and lunch. See the website to register.

### Old Business

Roger Larson said the Conservation Day visits with legislators went well.

### New Business

Rick Wojciak is selling state trail passes on behalf of the Badger State Trail friends group. The trail pass will be the same price as you would pay anywhere (\$20) but the group receives \$4 back for every pass sold by their members; they then use the money for trail improvements, signage, etc.

(He'll bring a supply of passes to future meetings in case anyone is not thinking of getting their bike out just yet.)

We received a nice note from Arleen Jensen acknowledging the donation to NRF in memory of her husband Pete.

### Deaths and Illnesses

Jerry Dorscheid had knee replacement surgery at University Hospital on February 7. He was at the meeting, said he was doing well, going in for rehab weekly.

Karen Trow suffered a mild stroke last month and she's at Meriter. Get well wishes can be sent to her home: 4543 Martha Lane, Madison WI 53714.

### Trips

Bruce Chevis traveled around southeast Asia for almost 5 weeks. Bob Schaefer was in Aruba. Mike Lutz cruised in Tahiti. All remarked on what a nice break it was to be in 90 degree weather though coming home was a bit of a shock. Chuck Pils toured Yellowstone National Park by snow coach. Temps there were minus 20 degrees, more like home. Barb Wolf visited Bozeman and skied at Big Sky.

Meeting adjourned at 1:20 pm.

Following the meeting, Chuck Pils gave a presentation on his trip to Namibia last September. He talked about the history of the country, what the food and accommodations were like and showed some beautiful photos (taken by Chuck's wife Linda) of the flora and fauna in Etosha National Park. She captured images of many species of birds from raptors to shrikes, giraffes at a watering hole, all kinds of antelope and gazelles, elephants, rhinos, lions and leopards. Chuck's talk was complete with sound effects...he has the call of the "babbler" down pat - ask him to do it for you!