

THE ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED CONSERVATIONISTS

Meeting of November 5, 2014 held at Imperial Garden.

ARC President Sheree Vande Brink called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm.

58 people were in attendance. The cost was \$14.00 for the Chinese Buffet served family style. The menu included 5 main dishes with rice, egg rolls and tea.

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 October minutes were read and approved.

Financial Report:

Paid \$725.00 to Imperial Garden for meals, tax and gratuity.

Opening balance on November 1 for Savings is \$223.23 and Checking is \$741.67.
Dividend on Savings account November and December is \$.04.

Activity on Checking account for November and December:

DEPOSITS: \$87.00 - proceeds from October lunch; \$2,006.73 - reservations for Holiday Party, \$6.00 – dues for 3 new members (Farnsworth, Brinson, Launder.)

EXPENDITURES: \$249.59 – various payments for door prizes (gift certificates, wine, chocolates); \$4.91 – Office Depot for copies of 2015 meeting schedule; \$11.60 - Marilyn Howell reimbursement for name tags she purchased at Office Depot; \$3.00 –Dave Ives reimbursement for postage, for mailing hard copies of membership directory; \$725.00 - Imperial Garden for November lunch; \$1,678.05 – Rex's Innkeeper for December Holiday Party; \$225.00 – Natural Resources Foundation for memorials in honor of Bob Deer, Rose Scanlan and Harley Lichtenwalner; \$10.00 – Ed Frank, reimburse for our portion of annual dues for membership in COA (\$50 is total cost of dues and is split between different DNR retiree groups around the state); \$550.00 – rsw productions (Rick Wojciak) for 2015 webmaster services.

Guests:

- *Bob Mather* - introduced by Jeff Barkley. Bob was Director of Bureau of Forest Management.
- *Joanne Farnsworth* - introduced by Laurel Steffes. Joanne worked for the state for 37 years, 35 of which was with DNR. She retired out of the Bureau of Wildlife Management.
- *Diane Brinson* - introduced by Laurel Steffes. Diane worked for the state for 37 years, 34 years she worked for the DNR as long time editor of the DNR Digest and was a Section Chief in Information and Education.
- *Mike Lemke* - introduced by Ed Baebel. Mike worked for DNR for 25 years, retired as Section Chief for Groundwater,
- *Tom Blattner* was a guest of Al Prey.

"Frank-n-Miller Report:"

Ed Frank said October returns are up, stock market is "all over the board" but hope for a positive increase at year's end. Preliminary WRS Performance for calendar year 2014 as of 11/30/14 - Core: 6.7%, Variable: 8.4%.

ETF has hired a consultant to review drug costs; information from consultant will be available after January 2015.

Old Business:

Sheree said she is always looking for volunteers to do presentations. Or let her know of outside presenters you think might be interesting to invite to our meetings.

The volunteer survey will be online later.

New Business:

A reminder to everyone about getting reservations in for the Holiday Party, and donations for the Second Harvest raffle are welcome. If you can, let Sheree know ahead of time what you're bringing.

Deaths and Illnesses:

Lil Kraemer passed away October 11 at age 93. She was one of the receptionists/secretaries at the Woodruff Area Headquarters.

Richard Hunt passed away on October 23. He was 87. Dick enjoyed a 36 year career with the DNR as a waterfowl research biologist, and in 2012 he was inducted into the Conservation Hall of Fame.

Leo M. Baur passed away on October 23 at age 90. He worked for the DNR and became the Marathon County Forest Administrator in 1969 until he retired.

Birthdays and Anniversaries:

Barb Wolf turns 60 this month.

Trips:

Laurel and Dick Steffes just returned from Peru, Lee and Janet Kernen are in Iceland, several members went to Cuba this month.

Meeting adjourned at 1:25 pm.

ADDENDUM with December minutes and Holiday Party report:

A brief meeting was held at the Holiday Party, December 3, 2014 at Rex's Innkeeper.

99 members and guests enjoyed a meal of roast chicken, roast sliced prime rib, cole slaw, whole kernel corn, mashed potatoes and gravy, and fruit salad.

Dave Ives distributed copies of the member directory and asked for corrections and updates.

New members that were voted in – Joanne Farnsworth, Diane Brinson, Pat Launder.

President Sheree VandeBrink asked for volunteers to take the position of Vice-President.

Bob Deer passed away on November 27. Bob worked for DNR for 21 years, and was an ARC member.

Harley Lichtenwalner suffered a heart attack and is hospitalized.

Second Harvest Foodbank fundraising raffle: A total of \$596.00 was sent to Second Harvest, money was from raffle ticket sales and direct contributions. The amount was then doubled since Barb dropped off the check at the Alliant Energy Center during NBC 15's "Share Your Holidays" event where local business sponsors match the contributions.

The following individuals donated items for the Second Harvest Foodbank raffle - Sheree Vande Brink, Laurel Steffes, Lee Kernen, Janet Kernen, Gordon Reinecke, Nancy Diebold, Mike Staggs, Linda Netzer, Marshall Ruegger, Dominic Mangardi, Bill Engfer, Jim Miller, Tom Thoresen. *If we missed you on the preceding list, please let us know. We might not have gotten names from everyone who brought items the day of the party and we would like to acknowledge you in the permanent record!

Proceeds from Holiday Party added \$79.00 to ARC Treasury.

Several of the venues we have our meetings at gave us a good deal on the gift cards we had as door prizes. Thanks to Imperial Garden, Rex's, Maple Tree, and Angelo's.