

THE ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED CONSERVATIONISTS

Meeting of June 3, 2015 held at Erin's Snug Irish Pub

ARC President Laurel Steffes called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

31 people were in attendance. The choices offered and cost (with the number ordered) were: burger, \$12.00 (12); fish sandwich, \$12.00 (12); Rubeen sandwich, \$14.00 (6); and veggie burger, \$14.00 (1).

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 May minutes were read and approved.

Financial Report

Paid \$345.00 to Erin's for meals, tax, gratuity and a service fee (from cash collected.)

Opening balance on June 1 for Savings is \$223.37 and Checking is \$329.82.

Dividend on Savings account in June is \$.02.

Activity on Checking account for June:

DEPOSITS: \$41.00 proceeds from lunch, \$5.00 new member dues.

EXPENDITURES: \$52.70 to Office Depot for copy work, envelopes, name tags, stamps; \$82.29 to Office Depot for 100 copies of ARC Directory.

Balance on July 1 for Savings is \$223.39 and Checking is \$240.83.

Guests/New Members

Paul Heinen attended his second meeting and was voted in as a member. Welcome, Paul!!

Sue Bangert introduced Dan Hunt. Dan worked in the DNR's Horicon office for the past 17 years as a Water Management specialist. Before that, he was in the Central Office working in Floodplain Management. Dan retired last month after 27 years of state service, and is putting lots of miles on his Harley.

"Frank-n-Miller Report"

Bob Schaefer gave the report. He attended the Coalition of Annuity annual meeting in May. ETF speaker talked about the cost shift in health care. Paul Braun known as the "voice of the Hockey Badgers" talked about his personal experience caring for his wife who has Alzheimer's disease. He suggests long term care insurance. An estimated \$trillion will be spent in the next 10 years on care of people with Alzheimer's. Another speaker was Ron Mensink, Chief Investment Officer at SWIB. He talked about the balance of investing in volatile high risk markets vs. secure returns.

You can find a summary of the COA conference, including Power Point slides and videos of the speakers at www.wicoa.org.

Bob said due to various changes, the Engineer's Union is likely to fold.

New Business

The annual picnic is scheduled for August 5. Online registration will open in mid-June. Rick Wojciak will send an announcement to ARC members via e-mail, and Barb Wolf and Marilyn Howell will send flyers by USPS mail with sign-up information. Everyone is welcome, no need to be a member to attend.

The Bureau of Natural Heritage Conservation (formerly Endangered Resources) is attempting to raise funds to support the Endangered Resources Fund. All contributions made by June 30, 2015 up to \$500,000 will be matched dollar for dollar by the state. Go to the website dnr.wi.gov and search "NHC" if you wish to contribute. Donations are tax-deductible.

Update on Budget and DNR impacts – Joint Finance eliminated 80 DNR positions, there were specific cuts to positions of educators and scientists. Parks got a GPR cut, user fees will increase. Forestry is studying moving their headquarters out of Madison. There is decreased funding to County Conservationists. A portion of the Stewardship funding is restored. Consensus is that the public needs to weigh in with the legislature, they don't listen to input from the DNR. One of the biologists recently related to a retiree that DNR employees got a list of 80 subjects they are prohibited from discussing with members of the media.

Last night (June 2) Tom Thoresen was honored at a well-attended gathering with the League of Conservation Voters' Conservation in Action award. Congratulations to Tom and thanks for his hard work!

Deaths and Illnesses

Ken Barr, husband of former DNR Wastewater employee Cyndi Barr, passed away May 19. Ken worked at DOR for many years.

Jim Kurtz had surgery, home recovering.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

It's 64 years for Dean and Lois Tvedt! Jim and Jan Miller celebrated their 57th anniversary, right behind them are Jerry and Margaret Dorscheid with 56 years.

Trips

Tom Thoresen traveled to Annapolis, site of the US Naval Academy and one of the oldest standing capitols. He said the Naval Academy is well worth touring.

Book recommendation:

Gen Bancroft highly recommended a book she is reading "The Carnivore Way" by Cristina Eisenberg. In the book, Eisenberg follows the footsteps of six large carnivores—wolves, grizzly bears, lynx, jaguars, wolverines, and cougars—on a 7,500-mile wildlife corridor from Alaska to Mexico along the Rocky Mountains. She shows how their well-being is a critical factor in sustaining healthy landscapes and how it is possible for humans and large carnivores to coexist peacefully.

Meeting adjourned at 1:15 pm.