

THE ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED CONSERVATIONISTS

Meeting of November 4, 2015 held at Imperial Garden.

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

61 people were in attendance. (Parking was at a premium!) The cost was \$15.00 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 \$780.00 to Imperial Garden for meals, tax and gratuity out of cash collected.

Opening balance on November 1 for Savings is \$223.47 and Checking is \$613.81. Dividend on Savings account November and December is \$.04.

Activity on Checking account for November and December:

DEPOSITS: \$142.00 - proceeds from November lunch and donations to memorial fund; \$2,062.03 - payments for Holiday Party reservations; \$687.00 - deposited cash collected at Holiday party from Second Harvest raffle tickets and donations.

EXPENDITURES: \$40.00 - Imperial Garden for \$60 worth of gift cards for door prizes; \$30 - Maple Tree for \$60 worth of gift cards; \$4.64 - Office Depot, copy work 2016 meeting schedule; \$40.00 - Rex's Innkeeper for \$75 worth of gift cards; \$27.00 - to John Hagman and \$102.26 - to Barbara Wolf, these were reimbursements for door prizes (wine, beer, chocolates) and for party, office supplies; \$1,847.55 - Rex's Innkeeper for December Holiday Party (109 meals); \$687.00 - Second Harvest Foodbank; \$75.00 - Natural Resources Foundation memorial in honor of Ray Hendrickse.

Closing balance on January 1 for Savings is \$223.51 and Checking is \$667.39.

Guests:

Mary Farmiloe was introduced by Diane Brinson. Mary recently retired after 24 years as a media producer for the DNR. (She noted that she won't officially be an annuitant until March 2016!) Mary's projects numbered close to 2,500 as she worked with just about every bureau producing videos and PSA's on diverse topics such as endangered species, forestry, law enforcement, fisheries and, with Mike Lutz, she was involved with 20 educational Legal Updates. Mary won numerous awards at local and national level. She is hoping to do more scuba diving in her free time.

Ray White, a native Madisonian and former DNR employee from 1957-1972, attended the meeting. He worked in trout research throughout Wisconsin, then went to Montana State University. He now lives in Seattle, but still has a home on the Mecan River. Ray gave his perspective on the current state of Wisconsin civil service.

"Frank-n-Miller Report:"

Ed Frank said October was a good month, some losses were restored. There's a legislative proposal that decisions on health insurance made by the Board must be approved by Joint Committee on Finance. This could be problematic since deadlines are tight. There's a proposal to raise the minimum retirement age and change calculation for pension from 3 highest years to 5 highest years. COA asked for a study before this is done. Projections are that within the next 10 years, 50% of current employees will retire.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Donations for the Second Harvest raffle are welcome. If possible, let Sheree know ahead of time what you're bringing.

Deaths and Illnesses:

Gene Roark passed away on October 24. Gene was a journalist with the DNR and a regular attendee at the ARC meetings. He was involved in many conservation organizations, was instrumental in establishing The Nature Conservancy in Wisconsin and was honored with induction into the Conservation Hall of Fame in May 2015. There will be a memorial service at the Arboretum on November 6.

Hal Schwenn's wife Jan passed away.

Birthdays and Anniversaries:

Ken Weisner, Barb Wolf have birthdays this month. Bob and Nan Schaefer celebrate their 41st anniversary.

Trips:

Kermit Traska just got back from a trip to Pennsylvania.

Gen Bancroft recommended a recently published book that members might like – "Apostle Island Water Trips" by John Frank. Excellent guidebook for paddlers as well as interesting history of the islands.

Ray White shared a joke.

Meeting adjourned at 1:25 pm.

ADDENDUM with December minutes and Holiday Party report:

A brief meeting was held at the Holiday Party, December 2, 2015 at Rex's Innkeeper.

109 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. Cost of the meal including gratuity and \$2 for Treasury was \$19.00.

Rick Wojciak distributed copies of the membership list and asked for updates.

Potential new members attending their first meeting – Grace Cudney, Sue Meyer, Nancy Green, Dorothy Goldsworthy.

President Laurel Steffes asked for candidates to take the Board positions.

Ray Hendrickse died on November 23 at Agrace Hospice Center. Ray, a member of ARC, was a veteran of the Korean war, had a degree in Forestry and retired from DNR in 1988.

Second Harvest Foodbank fundraising raffle: A total of \$762.00 was donated to Second Harvest. Total came from raffle ticket sales and direct contributions. The ARC check (along with several checks made out directly to SH) was dropped off at Alliant Energy Center during NBC 15's "Share Your Holidays" event where local business sponsors match the contributions.

Thanks to the following individuals who donated lovely items for the Second Harvest Foodbank raffle - Sheree Vande Brink, Laurel Steffes, Lee Kernen, Janet Kernen, Bob Schaefer, Barb Wolf, Jim Chizek, Pat Launder, Bill Horns, Sheila Mittelstaedt, Grace Cudney, John Hagman, Jane Reinecke, Nancy Diebold, Linda Netzer, Marshall Ruegger, Dominic Mangardi, Diane Brinson, Jim Miller. *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!

Several of the venues where we hold our monthly meetings gave us a good deal on the gift cards we used as door prizes. Thanks to Imperial Garden, Rex's Innkeeper, Maple Tree.