

THE ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED CONSERVATIONISTS

Meeting of April 6, 2016 held at Imperial Garden, 2039 Allen Blvd., Middleton

ARC President Bruce Chevis called the meeting to order at 1:10 pm.

59 people were in attendance. Menu was a Chinese Buffet served family style: 5 main dishes with rice, egg rolls and tea. The cost of the meal was \$16.00 (included tax, gratuity and a contribution to ARC treasury.)

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 March minutes were read and approved.

Financial Report

Paid \$811.25 to Imperial Garden (from cash collected.)

Opening balance on April 1 for Savings is \$223.57 and Checking is \$481.39.
Dividend on Savings account in April is \$.02.

Activity on Checking account for April:

DEPOSITS: \$137.75 - \$132.75 proceeds from lunch, plus \$5 new member dues.

EXPENDITURES: Office Depot, supplies - \$12.64.

Closing balance on May 1 for Savings is \$223.59 and Checking is \$606.50.

Guests

Gary Heinrichs – introduced by Bob Roden. He worked for state for 26 years, starting in the recycling program in 1989 as the first recycling coordinator in SER. Later, he transferred to Water Regs and worked as a floodplain planner in Central Office. Gary's official retirement is at the end of March 2016.

New Member

Cheryl Rezabek attended her second meeting and was voted in as a member. Welcome, Cheryl!

"Frank-n-Miller Report"

Ed Frank said final annuity adjustments are .5% for Core and -5.0% for Variable. The rates are effective May 1, 2016. Expect volatility this year, always keep in mind December 31 is a long way off.

Coalition of Annuitants meeting there was a briefing by ETF. Questions about the higher health care costs are attributed to increase in cost of prescription drugs. Group Insurance Board has 3 members who should be looking out for the active and retired employees.

Per Jim Miller, the Segal Consulting Report has not been acted on (study to determine feasibility of health care self-insurance.) He recommends going to the SWIB and ETF websites for lots of good information if you are interested.

The Coalition of Annuitants annual meeting is Friday May 13 at American Family HQ, east side of Madison. Ed brought along paper copies of the registration form or you may register at the COA website if you'd like to attend. (see ARC website for the link to COA.) Ed said there is a good lineup of speakers, well worth attending.

Old Business

Follow up to decision made at March meeting in regard to a section on ARC website where members can post news items, upcoming meetings, etc. Webmaster Rick Wojciak has created a menu item on the home page called "NEWS NOW" which is up and running. He will send out a password to all members so they will have access. There was a discussion about what could and should be posted. The consensus was that mostly it should be for news items that have short turnaround for response, or things like notification of upcoming legislative hearings, but personal opinions and requests for input should be okay. Keep in mind that ARC is not a registered lobby group so all feedback on legislation in public or in correspondence to legislators should not be represented as coming from the organization, but by that individual.

New Business

The Conservation Congress meetings are being held around the state on Monday, 7 PM. DNR website has location of all. Dane County meeting is in Waunakee.

Deaths and Illnesses

Paul Sandgren, who was a long time DNR Parks employee, passed away on March 24. He worked at Peninsula State Park and KMSU.

Birthdays

Birthdays in the month of April, Mike Staggs – 60, Dennis Schenborn – 64, Linda Netzer – 65. Al Prey turned 80. Lee and Janet Kernen celebrated their 31st anniversary, John and Brenda Hagman celebrated their 41th anniversary, the Nigl's celebrated their 56th wedding anniversary.

Trips

Lots of travelers! Bob Manwell spent 35 days in Australia and New Zealand, where he visited 5 World Heritage sites, paddled in the fiordland outback (temperature hit 104 degrees), swam at Great Barrier Reef, and was able to visit several Maori cultural sites. John and Brenda Hagman traveled through the southwest US for 3 months, visited 8 National Parks. Barb Wolf and Mike Staggs were in Florida for 2 weeks, fishing, of course.

Jokes

Jim Miller and John Hagman shared jokes. Meeting adjourned at 1:45 pm.