

THE ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED CONSERVATIONISTS

Meeting of August 3, 2016 held at Vintage Brewing, Madison

ARC President Bruce Chevis called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

36 people were in attendance. The meal cost was \$16 for a buffet of a variety of buns, breads, sliced deli meats, condiments, chips hot spinach dip, and several types of salad.

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 June and July minutes were read and approved.

Financial Report for June and July

Opening balance on August 1 for Savings is \$223.65 and Checking is \$627.40.

Dividend on Savings account \$.02.

Activity on Checking account:

DEPOSITS: \$597.00 (\$576.00 collected for August lunch, \$20 new member dues, \$1 donations for memorials.)

EXPENDITURES: Paid \$501.95 to Vintage for meals, tax, gratuity. \$15.24 Reimbursed picnic reservation for member called to jury duty.

Balance on September 1 for Savings is \$223.67 and Checking is \$707.21.

Guests/New Members

One guest/potential member at her first meeting, Terri Burns.

Four DNR retirees were in attendance who were at the picnic last month, so this would be their second meeting, making them eligible for membership.

- *Barb Swenson* - introduced by Sue Bangert. Barb put in more than 40 years of state service. She started her career as a clerk in data entry, worked in License Section, and then spent 20 years in Air Management, retiring in July 2016 as office manager. Sue commented that Barb "kept things going, not only in the Bureau, but in the Division as well!"
- *Kathy Olson* - introduced by Cheryl Krull and Grace Cudney. Kathy was hired in 1975 and started out working at Pyare Square. She spent her 41 years of service in the Bureau of Finance doing systems development support, and retired in March 2016 as a Business Analyst.
- *Lesla Pitts* - introduced by Cheryl Krull and Grace Cudney. Lesla started out as an LTE receptionist, was hired by Russ Perttunen in Finance 33 years ago. She held a variety of positions working on Federal grants, nursery costs for Forestry, and ended her career working with time reports and travel vouchers. Lesla retired in April 2016.
- *Mary Weaver* - introduced by Cheryl Krull and Grace Cudney. Mary retired last December after 30 years working in Finance. She has been a clerical assistant, data coordinator, budget manager, and retired as Business Analyst for the CAES Division in Central Office.

President Chevis asked for a vote to accept Barb, Kathy, Lesla and Mary as members, approved unanimously. It was noted that combined they have more than 150 years of state service! Welcome to them all.

Some time was spent reminiscing about working out of the old headquarters at Pyare Square Building, which is currently undergoing demolition.

"Frank-n-Miller Report"

Bob Schaefer gave the report. Said that we are experiencing a low return environment. He cautioned that if you live off of dividends, you should change your lifestyle. Keep on top of proposed changes to state government's ability to go after retirement fund, be ready to talk to legislators. You can go to the

Coalition of Annuitants' website for a link on the NEWS page to see the Segal Consulting report on health care self-insurance.

Old Business

None

New Business

Correspondence from the family of Jeanice Harrington was read, thanking ARC for the donation to NRF in their mother's memory.

Roger Larson was recognized by Community Shares of Wisconsin as a "Backyard Hero" for his work with the League of Conservation Voters. As president of the WLCV Board, a news article noted that Roger is always willing to volunteer at events, call supporters, and "get his hands dirty." Backyard Heroes will be honored later in summer at a dinner.

Upcoming events:

River Alliance of Wisconsin has organized a cookout to honor retired DNR employees. The celebratory event to benefit River Alliance will be held August 14 at the Mead Education Center in Milladore, cost is \$50.

Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin is celebrating their 30 year anniversary with a party on August 30 at the Leopold Center in Monona. Tickets are \$30.

Retirement parties like crazy this week: Mary Ellen Volbrecht, Candy Schrank, Debbie Kundert and Diane Brookbank have get togethers at various locations in Madison. There are postings on the NEWS Now page on ARC website for some of them.

Deaths and Illnesses

ARC member Russel Perttunen passed away on July 13 after a short illness. He and his wife Joan attended many of the ARC events.

Wally Ketter, retired LE supervisor for Kettle Moraine State Forest, passed away July 14 in Campbellsport.

Al Kwallek, retired conservation warden who worked in Grant County, passed away June 28.

Bill Engfer's mother Marian passed away on July 21 in Cochrane.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays this month are Brenda Hagman, Mike Hammers. Mike and Pat Spors celebrated their 43rd anniversary.

Trips

Mike Staggs took part in RAGBRAI, a week long bike ride across the state of Iowa.

Mike and Pat Spors were invited to a wedding in Scotland this summer and took the opportunity to tour several northern European countries. Besides Scotland, they visited Norway, Sweden and Ireland.

Meeting adjourned at 1:35 pm.