

THE ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED CONSERVATIONISTS

Meeting of June 1, 2016 held at Watertower Chop House, Sun Prairie

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

Nineteen people were in attendance. The meal choices were (with cost that includes tax, tip, and \$2 for ARC Treasury/number ordered): Salad & Soup Bar (\$16.00/x ordered), Grilled Tilapia over a bed of rice pilaf with a side of steamed broccoli (\$16/x), Grilled Chicken Wrap with chopped tomato, lettuce garlic chive mayo in a grilled tortilla wrap served with French fries (\$16/x), Cheeseburger with lettuce and tomato, served with sweet potato fries (\$15/x)

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 for June

Paid \$257 to Watertower Chop House for meals, tax, gratuity (from cash collected.)
Opening balance on June 1 for Savings is \$223.61 and Checking is \$538.00.
Dividend on Savings account \$.02.

Activity on Checking account:

DEPOSITS: \$45 proceeds from June lunch, 0 new member dues, \$4 donations for memorials, \$96 Reservations for July picnic.

EXPENDITURES:

Balance on July 1 for Savings is \$223.63 and Checking is \$.

Guests/New Members

None

"Frank-n-Miller Report"

Ed Frank reported the Coalition of Annuitants met May 13. He said there were a number of really good speakers including one, a UW economist and CUNA employee who normally gets \$1000 to speak, talked about the Federal Reserve and its impact on the economy. He said that the economy is delicately balanced right now and he expects two more years of the Fed operating quite similar to now with no interest rate increase.

An ETF speaker spoke about Gov. Walker's push to look into the state being self-insured, noting that we have a sort of self insurance now with Navitus.

A speaker from DATCP spoke about financial scams aimed at seniors. Bottom line he advised for people to always ignore telephone calls from the IRS, FBI, insurance companies, bail bondsmen claiming that a grandchild is in jail and needs bail money, etc. IRS, FBI etc. do not operate that way and you can assume it's a scam.

Ed noted that as of the end of May, returns were up 3.7 for Core and 2.0 for Variable. If the trend continues, annuitants can look for a slight increase—but it's only June.

There's more information on the ETF, Coalition of Annuitant and SWIB websites.

Ed said the annual Coalition meetings are very informative and urged ARC members to consider attending next year; cost is \$25 per person and includes lunch.

Jim Miller shared information about Wisconsin's consideration of self-insurance for 250,000 state and local government workers. The board that oversees the health benefits on May 18 reviewed information to be requested from companies when bids are sought in July.

Bids will be due in September, and the Group Insurance Board is expected to decide in November whether to pursue self-insurance, on a regional or statewide basis, in 2018.

One consultant said the move could save \$42 million a year, largely by avoiding \$18 million in Affordable Care Act fees, cutting \$11 million in administrative costs and eliminating \$11 million in insurance company profits. Another consultant said the shift could cost \$100 million a year. In a preliminary request for feedback about the bids this month, about 15 of the 17 HMOs responded. Other types of companies, including third-party administrators and national carriers, also may be involved. The Wisconsin Association of Health Plans, which represents 12 of the 17 HMOs, reiterated its opposition to self-insurance.

Old Business

New Business

The Annual ARC Picnic is July 13. Members can sign up now on the ARC website.

This is the second year in a row that attendance at the Sun Prairie Chop House has been unusually low. Last year 26 or 27; this year 19. The luncheon arrangements committee will review whether this site should be dropped. Linda Netzer noted Diane Brinson will be helping with arrangements next year and may have some new ideas for locations.

Deaths and Illnesses

Chuck Zosel passed away on May 8. Chuck was a Forester.

Dennis Kulhanek's wife, Lou, passed away.

Marian Genin passed away May 18. She was the section chief of the expenses and reconciliation function in the Bureau of Finance. She worked closely with Jim Goers to close the books for DNR, pre-Walker software days. Marian has been dealing with Alzheimer's for more than 20 years.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Jerry and Margaret Dorscheid celebrated their 57th anniversary.

Jim and Jan Miller celebrated their 58th anniversary.

Trips

Ron Semmann said he was leaving for Ireland and London on a biking adventure next week.

Jim Miller took a trip to Washington D.C. with other vets (similar to Honor Flights). The trip included 200 vets on 10 buses with an additional 137 support people. They visited a number of D.C. monuments. The trip was free to veterans; all others paid \$550 each.

Dave Gjestson was reportedly visiting Madison in early June.

Jokes

A man had two horses, but couldn't tell them apart. A friend suggested he bob the tail of one. Worked for a while but then the other horse had a problem and lost his tail, so the problem returned.

The friend then suggested the man notch the ear of one horse. That worked for a while, but then the other horse tore his ear on a barbed wire fence, so the problem returned.

The friend then suggested the man measure the horses. And the man complied and found that the black one was 2 inches taller than the white one.

A midget escapes from a local jail and the newspaper headline reads, "Small medium at large"

Meeting adjourned at 1:33 pm.