

THE ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED CONSERVATIONISTS

Meeting of March 2, 2016 held at, Great Dane Pub & Brewing, 2980 Cahill Main, Fitchburg

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

44 people were in attendance. The choices offered and cost (with the number ordered) were: Pub burger with fries \$15 (15); batter dipped haddock fillet with fries and Kohl slaw \$19 (8); Webster Street chicken salad \$15 (11); peanut stew over rice \$15 (10).

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 February minutes were read and approved.

Financial Report for March

Paid \$589 to Great Dane for meals, tax, gratuity (from cash collected.)

Opening balance on March 1 for Savings is \$223.55 and Checking is \$344.39.
Activity on Savings account - dividend \$.02.

Activity on Checking account:

DEPOSITS: \$137.00 total includes proceeds from lunch, plus \$8 in donations, and \$25 dues for new members. EXPENDITURES: None

Balance on April 1 for Savings is \$223.57 and Checking is \$481.39.

John Hagman filed our Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Form 990-N for tax year 2015 (01 Jan 2015 - 31 Dec 2015). EIN: 451563706

Guests/New Members

Charlie Kilian, Cheryl Goodman, Grace Cudney, Sharon Cook and Carol Nielsen were attending their second (or third!) meeting.

Grace Cudney was introduced by Sheila Mittelstaedt. (Grace was at the 2015 Holiday Party so didn't get a formal nomination at that time.) Grace just retired in February after 29 years of state service. She worked in DNR Finance for 13 years as a data coordinator and project lead on WisMart, then worked 16 years for DATCP and DHS. Sheila noted that Grace maintained her DNR ties throughout by playing on the DNR women's softball team!

Charlie, Cheryl, Grace, Sharon and Carol were unanimously approved for membership and paid their \$5 lifetime dues. Welcome to all of you!

Guests attending their first meeting:

- *Cheryl Rezabek* – introduced by Kathy Curtner. Cheryl started working for DNR as an LTE for Wildlife Management in 1981. She also worked for Forestry and Air Management. She was a Land team leader in the Upper Fox Basin before leaving to work for DOA in the field of energy efficiency and renewable energy. Her final position before retirement in January 2015 was at the UW Botany Department.

"Frank-n-Miller Report"

Ed Frank gave the report. He said that actuaries are hard at work. All ETF will say is that Core fund is solid, there may be some taken back from those in Variable. SWIB Director was at the last meeting. Incentive compensation will be announced soon. Incentives are weighted to long term performance so even in down years, there is some compensation.

Health insurance – you have probably noticed that co-pays have gone up, send comments. Self-insurance is being studied since the Segal Consulting report has come out.

Old Business

None

New Business

Correspondence from Channel 15 "Share Your Holiday" thanking ARC for the donation to Second Harvest Foodbank. Acknowledgement from Kathy Rubesch for the Natural Resources Foundation donation in Joe's memory.

Laurel Steffes proposes a section on the ARC website that would allow members to post information (example on upcoming legislative hearings) or make comments. Attendees agreed by voice vote that they would be in favor. Rick Wojciak will work on developing.

Some discussion on DNR realignment. New organizational chart available.

Legislative Update

Legislative update from Tom Thoresen. Dredging language removed from bill previously discussed. AB874 deals with high capacity wells. You are encouraged to contact your legislators if you have concerns.

Bill Hauda mentioned SB455 deals with Waukesha water supply.

Deaths and Illnesses

ARC member Joseph Rubesch passed away on February 5. Joe was veteran of WW 2 and started working as a conservation warden in Spooner in 1946. Later he was assigned to Hurley, Green Bay and Dodgeville. Upon his retirement in December 1978, Joe was the Chief of the Special Investigation Section with the Bureau of LE.

Steven Lewis passed away on February 28. Steve worked as a DNR landscape architect and a planner for more than 25 years.

Darlene Lukins passed away February 25. She worked at Mackenzie Environmental Center for many years, retired in 1989.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Al Prey – 81, Sharon Cook – 64, Diane Brinson - 65

Trips

Dan Field traveled to Cuba with a Wisconsin Public Radio tour. Great trip!

Gen Bancroft recommended reading "Fracture." Collection of information about the fracking industry. Ice Cube Press.

Meeting adjourned at 1:25 pm.