

THE ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED CONSERVATIONISTS

Meeting of November 2, 2016 held at Imperial Garden, 2039 Allen Blvd., Middleton

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

52 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 October minutes were read and approved.

Financial Report

Opening balance on November 1 for Savings is \$223.71 and Checking is \$632.21.
Dividend on Savings account for November and December \$.04.

Activity on Checking account

DEPOSITS: Total deposits for November and December - \$4375.65. This includes proceeds from November lunch, holiday party reservations, sale of raffle tickets and new member dues.

EXPENDITURES: Paid \$715.00 to Imperial Garden for November luncheon, \$2339.10 to Rex's Innkeeper for December luncheon, \$22.42 for supplies and copywork at Office Depot and Dollar Tree, \$234.35 for gift cards, wine, door prizes. Payment to Ed Frank for COA dues, \$10.00.

Closing balance on January 1, 2017 for Savings is \$223.75 and Checking is \$864.99.

Guests

Tom Hauge was introduced by Chuck Pils. Tom spent a 37 year career the DNR, just retiring in October 2016. He started his state service as an LTE working at the Poynette Game Farm, and after a variety of positions in Wildlife Management including biologist in Spring Green, a Private Lands and Damage Specialist, and Section Chief, he ended his career in the position of Director of the Bureau of Wildlife.

Tim Mullholland was introduced by Tom Thoresen. Tim worked for the DNR as a Hazardous Waste engineer and for the Secretary's Office on special projects. His "retirement" was in 2003 and since then he has worked at other agencies.

Guests and New Members

Tom Mugan attended his second meeting and was voted in as a member. Welcome, Tom!

Stan Schneider is a long time member who relocated to West Bend a year ago, nice to see him stop in.

Tom Blattner, guest of Al Prey. Tom ran Babcock Hall before his retirement from UW and he is a regular participant in the Bike and Bowl Club along with many ARC members.

"Frank-n-Miller Report"

Ed Frank said Core and Variable are both up. A 7.2% return in Core projects an annuity adjustment of between 1.2 and 1.6%. It's hard to project Variable, it needs a 5% gain to keep going. There is the potential for Feds to raise interest rates.

Coalition of Annuitants dues are \$50 and Ed Frank and Jim Miller represent the DNR retiree groups. Members voted to keep supporting Jim and Ed's participation and will provide \$10 to cover our share of dues.

Jim Miller received a letter from a retiree regarding whether or not the Wells Fargo fiasco impacts our retirement funds, SWIB says that we do have a relationship with WF, but it is quite small so impact not likely to felt. Out of the \$92.4 billion managed, .04% is with Wells Fargo.

Group Insurance Board will decide on health insurance options, including self-insurance, at their November 30 meeting.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Sign up for the Holiday party is still open, deadline is end of November.

Ed Frank recommends watching "Before the Flood," a 2016 documentary about man-made effects on Global Warming and Climate Change. You should be able to find it on the National Geographic channel.

Deaths and Illnesses

Carl Blaubaum passed away on October 8 in Dodgeville. Carl was a professional engineer who spent over 30 years with the Wisconsin DNR. He was involved with efforts to ensure clean drinking water, and effective sewage and industrial waste treatment.

Albert Kwallek passed away on June 28 in Platteville. Al was a conservation warden in Grant County.

Trips

Floyd Becraft hunted elk near Walden, Colorado this fall. His group went in – and up - 8 miles with an outfitter's pack train, hunted 7 days and Floyd harvested a 5 x 6 with his muzzleloader. That's when the work really starts, as more than 230 lbs. of meat had to be packed out! Floyd couldn't say enough about the importance of conditioning for carrying a heavy pack, and he talked about the time he spent preparing for a strenuous trip at high altitude.

Mary Farmiloe was recently in Cuba, diving on the Garden of the Queens reef. Beautiful, well protected.

Birthdays

Bruce Chevis, Jim Miller had birthdays recently. Bob and Nan Schaefer celebrated their 40 Year anniversary.

Jokes

Jim Miller shared a joke. Meeting adjourned at 1:58 pm.

December minutes and Holiday Party report:

A brief meeting was held at the Holiday Party, December 7, 2016 at Rex's Innkeeper.

138 members and guests enjoyed a meal of roast chicken, roast sliced prime rib, cole slaw, corn, mashed potatoes and gravy, and fruit salad. Cost of the meal including gratuity and \$2 for Treasury was \$19.00. This is the biggest turnout ever.

President Bruce Chevis asked for a moment of silence as he recognized all the retired DNR employees who had passed away in 2016.

Ed Frank gave a report on the current state of the pension fund. There was a rally in stocks after the November election and retirees may see an increase. It won't be a big percentage, Ed cautioned, but at least it's not a take away!

President Chevis is looking for candidates to take over the Board positions in January. Please consider volunteering for a one year stint! The Board is happy to talk with you about the various duties.

Attending their first meeting, retirees Maureen Connors, Joyce Kidd, Gordon Kidd, Marty Karow.

Attending their second meeting and voted in as new members: Mary Jane Ziegler, Bonnie Zitske, Tim Mullholland, Tom Hauge, Sheila Ballweg, Terri Burns. Welcome to all!

Hard copies of the June 2016 edition of the ARC member directory are all distributed. We'll be revising and printing again in May or June 2017. If you didn't get one, an electronic file of the names is available. Contact webmaster Rick Wojciak (see button on website) and request it.

The 2017 meeting schedule is available at the registration table and on the ARC website.

The Second Harvest Foodbank fundraising raffle was great success, with many quality items on display that drove up the ticket sales. A total of \$977.00 was donated to Second Harvest. This amount came from raffle ticket sales and direct contributions of money. The ARC check for \$807, along with several checks from members and a bag of canned goods, was dropped off at Alliant Energy Center on December 8 during NBC 15's "Share Your Holidays" event.

This year we had a couple of big value donations - a pair of tickets to Madison's Beer and Cheese Fest and a night's lodging (including breakfast and dinner credit) at Chalet Landhaus. There were bottles of spirits, holiday decorations, jewelry, and lots of homemade, canned or gathered treats like walnut pie, baked goods, maple syrup, canned sauerkraut, a framed wildlife photo and quilted holiday table runners to name just a few of the "priceless" items.

Thanks to the following individuals who donated items for the Second Harvest Foodbank raffle - Grace Cudney, Nancy Diebold, Sheree Vande Brink, Laurel Steffes, Ted Amman, Diane Brinson, Barb Wolf, Amanda Wolf, Dale Morey, Bill Horns, Jane Reinecke, Jerry Dorscheid, Linda Netzer, Marshall Ruegger, Bruce Chevis, Dominick Mangardi, Jim Miller. **If we missed you as a donor, please let us know. We would like to acknowledge your contribution in the permanent record! Also Chalet Landhaus/New Glarus Hotel and Angelo's Restaurant donated gift certificates.

Several of the venues where we hold our monthly meetings at gave us a good deal on the gift cards we purchased to be used as door prizes. Thanks to Imperial Garden, Rex's Innkeeper, Maple Tree Supper Club, Vintage Brewing, and New Glarus Hotel.