

THE ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED CONSERVATIONISTS

Meeting of January 4, 2017 held at Maple Tree Supper Club, McFarland.

ARC President Bruce Chevis called the meeting to order at 1:15 pm.

55 people were in attendance. The cost of the meal was \$15.00 for broasted chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy, bread, cole slaw and corn, served family style. Meal also included ice cream sundaes, coffee and milk.

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 November and December minutes were read and approved.

Financial Report:

Paid \$715.00 to Maple Tree for meals, tax and gratuity (out of cash collected.)

Opening balance on January 1 for Savings is \$223.75 and Checking is \$864.99.
Dividend on Savings account January is \$.02.

Activity on Checking account for January:

DEPOSITS: \$113.00 (includes proceeds from lunch, \$10.00 dues from 2 new members, \$8.00 in donations)

EXPENDITURES: \$400 to "rsw productions" Rick Wojciak for 2017 webmaster services (partial payment on \$600 invoice)

Closing balance on February 1 for Savings is \$223.77 and Checking is \$577.99.

Guests and New Members:

There were 2 guests attending their second meeting and eligible for membership – *Joyce Kidd and Gordon Kidd* were voted in as members. Welcome!

- *Joyce Kidd* - introduced by Diane Brinson. Joyce had 26 years of employment with DNR, starting with a job in data entry, then she was a computer operator and management information technician, all positions were at the Central Office. Joyce retired in May 2006.
- *Gordon Kidd* – introduced by Diane Brinson. Gordon retired in 2000 with 35 years of state service. He started working for DOA in printing and publications, and in the 1990's took a position with DNR Administrative services. He came back after retirement and worked part-time in Fleet Management, then retired "for good" in 2013!

Guests attending their first meeting:

- *Kurt Welke* - introduced by Dave Wood, DNR colleague and friend since age 14. Kurt was the fisheries biologist in Dane County until his retirement last summer.

"Frank-n-Miller Report:"

Ed Frank says look for an increase of 1.5% in Core and 3% in Variable when all is said and done. Final figures to be released in early March. News item – there is a legislator trying to take back incentives from the Investment Board. Ed notes that while \$11 million seems like a lot, it is a fraction of the total investments they manage and not out of line with other money manager incentives.

Insurance Board deferred action on self-insurance. No date set for when decision will be made.

Jim Miller said he recommends that everyone visit the SWIB, ETF and COA websites for up to date information of what's going on. User friendly sites, and links can be found on the ARC website for easy access.

Old Business

none

New Business

Laurel Steffes discussed the DNR split being proposed by some legislators. There is a group opposed and she suggested that ARC weigh in. Bruce Chevis moved that a letter be drafted saying ARC supports DNR integration, seconded.

Climate change wording on the DNR website changed recently. Removed reference to human causation of global warming to "unknown."

Kermit Traska gave a brief history of the preservation of the Seth Peterson cottage at Mirror Lake State Park. Frank Lloyd Wright, renowned architect from Richland Center, designed the cottage and 2017 marks 150 years since his birth. There will be a celebration of the cottage restoration on June 4. Kermit said that the cottage is so popular that reservations are not available until June 2018. There is an open house and tour of the cottage every month on the second Sunday, \$4 admission. More information is available at www.sethperson.org.

Bruce Braun mentioned that there are opportunities for some great trips organized by the Natural Resources Foundation – Florida, Patagonia, Texas, Alaska, Glacier Park. See their website for details www.wisconservation.org, select "Travel with Us."

New/old slate of candidates for ARC Board – Laurel Steffes, President; Bruce Chevis, Vice-President; Barbara Wolf, Secretary/Treasurer. Unanimously approved for 2017.

Deaths and Illnesses

Ken Powell passed away on December 25. Ken served in the Navy during WW II, and started out his career with DNR as conservation aide. In 1956 he worked as a forest ranger dispatcher in Antigo and in 1958 he transferred to Goodman to become a forest ranger and conservation warden until his retirement in 1986.

Thomas Kroehn passed away on December 7. Tom was a civil engineer, head of EQ programs, retired in 1992. Daughter Mary Ann Buenzow is a DNR forester.

Mary Hunter of DeForest passed away on December 20. She was a 37 year employee of the DNR, and her husband Elgin Hunter is a retired conservation warden.

Hugh Iltis, pioneering botanist and Director of the Herbarium at UW-Madison passed away December 19. His son Frank worked in DNR IT for many years.

Herb Zimmerman had bypass surgery.

Birthdays and Anniversaries:

Wedding Anniversaries: Ron and Phila Poff celebrated their 59th wedding anniversary recently and will continue the party with a family trip to Cozumel, Mexico in March. Ed and Deane Frank commemorated their anniversary and Ed's 83^d birthday this month!

Happy birthday, too, to Floyd Becraft. Dave Gjestson turned 77 in December, and he and Laura and celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary last month. Dave contributed a nice story along with photos of their Hawaiian trip which is posted on the ARC website.

Jokes

Floyd Stautz shared a joke. Meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.