

THE ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED CONSERVATIONISTS

Meeting of May 3, 2017 held at New Glarus Hotel, New Glarus

ARC President Laurel Steffes called the meeting to order at 1:10 pm.

42 people were in attendance. The cost of the meal was \$16.00 for plated weinerschnitzel and green beans, rosti and spatzlie served family style, along with house salad, rolls, beverages and ice cream. The cost included tax, gratuity and a contribution to ARC's 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 April minutes were read and approved unanimously.

Financial Report:

Opening balance on May 1 for Savings is \$223.83 and Checking is \$627.47.
Dividend on Savings account May is \$.02.

Activity on Checking account:

DEPOSITS: \$674.00 (includes proceeds from lunch, \$5 member dues and \$13 donations for memorials)
ARC comped meal for our guest speaker.

EXPENDITURES: Paid \$609 to **New Glarus Hotel** for meals, tax, gratuity; \$75 donation to NRF in memory of John Holmes.

Closing balance on June 7 for Savings is \$223.85 and Checking is \$617.47.

Guests and New Members:

Roy Pedretti attended his second meeting and was unanimously voted in. Welcome, Roy!

"Frank-n-Miller Report:"

Jim Miller said there was no COA meeting held in April so no updates.

The annual Coalition of Annuitants Conference will be held on May 19 at the American Family Center Building. Speakers this year include Robert Conlin, Secretary of the Department of Employee Trust Funds, Michael Williamson, Executive Director of the Investment Board (SWIB), Kevin McKinley, a financial planner, and Lisa Lamkins, advocacy director for AARP Wisconsin. Sign up sheets available, \$25 covers breakfast and lunch. These are outstanding speakers, Jim said you won't be disappointed if you attend.

Old Business:

Wisconsin Green Fire: Voices for Conservation is the name chosen for the speakers bureau created to provide valuable comments to journalists. Laurel Steffes has information posted on the ARC website.

New Business:

Picnic is July 12, online sign up will go live later this month.

Legislative update:

Laurel said the Mill Tax is a big issue working its way through the legislature. She will continue to follow.

Deaths and Illnesses:

Harland Steinhorst passed away April 24. Harland was a conservation warden and retired in 1990 as Recreational Safety Specialist Warden for the Southern District.

The memorial service for Hugh Ittis, distinguished professor of Botany at UW, will be held May 14. Dr. Ittis passed away December 19.

Birthdays and Anniversaries:

Don Beghin turns 90 next week, and he and Marion celebrated their 63rd anniversary.

Trips:

Jim Miller shared a joke

Meeting adjourned at 1:20 pm, program followed.

Bruce Braun introduced Ruth Oppedahl, Executive Director of the Natural Resources Foundation. She gave an enlightening presentation about the changing face of their organization in these troubled times for conservation. NRF has been in existence for 30 years, and Ruth talked about how they are stepping up their game in response to severe budget cuts. Some examples she gave – no property tax support for state parks (was \$2 million), non-profits lost \$1.2 million in capacity grants, and 17 DNR Research positions were cut. The NRF has a variety of Endowments with dedicated purposes to support habitat management, inventory initiatives and activities. These include the Dave and Joyce Weizenicker fund for accessibility at parks, Buzz Besadny fund for small grass roots grants, Steve Miller Legacy for maintaining wildlife properties, and Jonathan Ela fund for Boreal Forest State Natural Areas – to name just a few. In addition, donors can support bat research, rare plants and birds through other dedicated named endowments.

The Cherish Wisconsin Fund is a voluntary donation which can be collected at the time of license purchases. Currently only 1% of license holders donate. License sellers should be asking purchasers if they wish to contribute, but many do not.

Thank you, Ruth, and the NRF for all you do!