

# **THE ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED CONSERVATIONISTS**

Meeting of April 3, 2013 held at Imperial Gardens, Madison

ARC President John Hagman called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

There were 37 members and guests in attendance. Members were charged \$14.00 for a variety of traditional Asian dishes served family style.

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 minutes of the March meeting were read, and approved.

## Financial Report:

The opening balance for Savings is \$222.85 and Checking \$758.21.

Dividend on Savings account for April was \$.02.

Cost of the meals, tax and gratuities at Imperial Garden was \$693.66. An additional \$76.34 was collected and was deposited along with \$2.00 in dues from a new member (total \$78.34.)

Two donations were made to the Natural Resources Foundation in memory of Nicholas Miller and David Croft, \$150.00 total.

Copies of the picnic announcement were made and name tags purchased at Office Depot, \$10.43.

Closing balance for Savings is \$222.87 and Checking is \$676.12.

## Guests:

Laurel Steffes attended her first meeting and was introduced by Barb Wolf.

## New Members:

Dick Steffes was attending his second meeting and was voted in as a new member.

## "Frank-n-Miller Report":

Ed Frank gave a report on the Dow, NASDAQ and Standard and Poor's. All are showing gains, but reminded everyone that it doesn't mean anything in terms of adjustments until December. Florida, with 900,000 retirees, passed a bill that removed defined benefit pension. Anyone hired after March 2014 will have a 401K. Ed reports that 3 out of 4 insurers lost money last year so you can look for increases in health care costs. Jim Miller said that the ETF letter is informative on

how SWIB pays out pensions. He knows that bonuses to SWIB employees have been controversial, but he compared that to what fund managers make at other organizations, and said that the SWIB bonuses are middle of the road for organizations of this size.

Old Business:

John Hagman reviewed policy on meal pricing. Everyone agreed that the rounding up and extra dollar should be maintained.

New Business:

John Hagman made contact with Diane Brinson about posting the DNR E-Digest on the ARC website. At this point, it is not going to be forwarded to our organization. Retirees are free to contact current employees if they would like to see the E-Digest as it is a public record.

Deaths and Illnesses:

John Edwards, former sanitarian, passed away on March 21. ARC member Nick Miller passed away on March 5 at age 102.

Birthdays and anniversaries:

Happy birthday to members celebrating birthdays this month: Kermit Traska, Jim Amundson, Sheree VandeBrink. Rudy Nigl celebrated his 54<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Trips:

Mike Lutz went tent camping in Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument in Arizona. Campers are given a briefing by rangers who provide a slightly different type of local fauna identification than the usual "grizzly vs. black bear" differences. In this park, the body-armor-wearing, M14-toting rangers let campers know what to do if they encounter drug runners vs. border crossers.

Tom Thoresen was in Cabo San Lucas; he said there was perfect weather and it's a great spot for whale watching.

Eric Thompson visited the Hagmans in Cancun.

Meeting adjourned: 1:30 pm.