

THE ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED CONSERVATIONISTS

Meeting of October 2 was held at Café LaBellitalia on Sherman Ave.

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

Twenty-seven people were in attendance. The meal items offered: Meat Lasagna, Vegetarian Lasagna and Caesar Salad. Lasagna choices were \$15 (included tax and gratuity) and Caesar Salad with Chicken was \$16.

A moment of silence was observed for friends and family who have passed, and for our troops serving in harm's way.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Dick Steffes reported a balance of \$350.

New Members and Guests

Member Linda Netzer introduced her husband Mike for membership. Mike worked in the Bureau of Remediation and Redevelopment for 20 years. His membership will be voted on at the next meeting he attends.

Frank-n-Miller Report

There was no report from Ed or Jim. Bob Schaefer reported that investment performance did as well in September as it did in August. Market (as of 10-2-19) is down, however.

Bob also reported that Employee Trust Funds has mailed open enrollment information. Enrollment deadline is October 25. Will see a reduction in overall costs. In 2020, his plan with United Health Care (Medicare) Advantage will see a lower cost.*

New Business

Rick Wojciak will post holiday party information and registration link on ARC website when he returns from his bike trip, later in October. Will be held at Rex's Innkeeper in Waunakee again this year. Price will be \$19 per person. Sheree Vande Brink has agreed to coordinate raffle/silent auction again. Anyone donating an auction item/white elephant will receive an extra raffle ticket. Mike Staggs will serve as emcee for the raffle. Let Sheree know ASAP, if you'll be donating to the raffle

Those attending discussed and voted unanimously to draft a resolution of commendation recognizing DNR's reinstatement of science-based research in its work. Laurel finalized and sent to Secretary Preston Cole on October 4. Laurel asked if anyone involved in DNR research would be willing to talk with the media. Copy of resolution also went to the Natural Resources Board, Gov. Tony Evers, Wisconsin Association of Outdoor Communicators, Wisconsin State Journal and Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. See text of letter and resolution.**

Green Fire annual meeting was scheduled for October 4-5 at Tree Haven in Tomahawk.

Old Business

None

Deaths/Illnesses/Accidents

None

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Gerald Dorsheid announced that he recently turned 82.

Trips

Jerry and Sandra Rodenberg visited the Grand Fork National Monument, which features a history of trading in early years of U.S.

Ron Semmann visited Mackinac Island, where 80% of island is still natural lands.

*(Additional information from Bob Schaefer re United Health Care):

United Health Care will see cost decreases as ETF uses monies set aside for the self-insured plan that weren't implemented (page 14 in booklet). The cost for dental will be \$60.40 for two people, if both are 65 or older (page 17 in booklet). The dental cost wasn't included in the amount presented in the booklet for the base health plan, but is noted in the area where dental benefits are discussed. The cost of the supplemental dental benefit will increase by about \$3 from \$28.50 to \$31.39 (page 17 in booklet).

** (ARC Resolution of Commendation):

Preston Cole, Secretary
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
101 S. Webster St., PO Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707

RE: Resolution of Commendation

Dear Secretary Cole:

At its October 2, 2019 meeting, the Wisconsin Association of Retired Conservationists (ARC) unanimously passed the following resolution:

“The Wisconsin Association of Retired Conservationists commends DNR Secretary Preston Cole for strengthening and restoring necessary scientific research efforts on behalf of conservation and management of Wisconsin’s natural resources. The Association firmly believes that such programs are critical to the future well-being of Wisconsin’s natural resources and its citizens.”

ARC applauds the agency’s rededication to science-based natural resources management, the foundation of DNR’s mission. ARC resolutions are extremely rare and this commendation reflects the great importance we place on scientific research. We look forward to reviewing upcoming studies and DNR research efforts.

The Association of Retired Conservationists is an organization of nearly 300 retired Wisconsin DNR and conservation agency professionals. We continue to be committed to protecting and enhancing the health of Wisconsin’s environment and the stewardship of the natural resources to which we dedicated our careers.

Sincerely,

Laurel F. Steffes, President
Wisconsin Association of Retired Conservationists
33 Stacy Lane
Madison, WI 53716

Cc: Natural Resources Board
Governor Tony Evers
Wisconsin Association of Outdoor Communicators
Wisconsin State Journal
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel