

THE ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED CONSERVATIONISTS

**Meeting of May, 2011
At Hilltop Inn, Cross Plains, WI**

ARC President Jim Miller called the meeting to order at 1 pm.

41 paid members and guests were present.

The meal was \$ 11.

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

Jim made a special statement remembering Ingeborg Sidwell and her shrine was introduced. She was one of the cornerstone founders of the Wisconsin state pension system and May is the anniversary of her involvement with the Governor.

The minutes of the previous month's meeting were read.

Approval was moved by Ed Frank, 2nd by Chuck Pils, and approved.

Financial Report:

The opening balance was \$ 1,968.24

We collected \$ 41 from the lunch proceeds.

We collected \$ 2 from Jim Miller paid for Dennis Schenborn a new member.

The funds collected \$43 were handed over to John Hagman. John Opened a checking account at Summit Credit Union and paid \$15.25 for checks.

Closing balance will be \$ 1,996.99

Guests:

These persons attended their first meeting:

Sheila Mittelstaedt sponsored by Janet Libby

Guests who were attending their second meeting and were voted in as new members.

Dennis Schenborn and his dues were paid by Jim Miller (good deal eh?)

“Frank & Miller Report”

Phone in report was core was up 4.1% and variable up 5.6% at the end of March, not data from April was available from ETF or SWIB, but the Dow Jones, NASDAC and Standard and Poors were all up 7 to 12 for the year from January.

It was again suggested that members sign up for EFT web page for updates.

The Association of Annuitants annual meeting is scheduled for May 2011.

Bob Schaefer reported on the legislation transferring \$28 million from the Insurance fund to employers around the state as part of Wisconsin Act 13. This is intended to reduce health care premiums for employers, but violates the long standing 'share the cost share the pain' principle of the group insurance program funding mix.

Old Business:

Chuck Pils reported that contact had been made with the DNR Secretary's Office inviting Secretary Cathy Stepp to attend a future ARC meeting. No response has been received to date.

Jim Miller discussed the member survey and associated follow up actions. It was discussed to start the social time at 11 instead of 11:30 and Dave Croft noted that the host sites were open at 11 if folks wanted to arrive earlier for socializing. No change if anticipate for now.

John Hagman reported that the Association now has an IRS tax ID number and accounts at Summit Credit Union including both savings and checking accounts

Ed Frank noted that the testimony on AB 99 precluding DNR professional from setting deer hunting provisions such as earn a buck were a lot like making sausage – not something pretty or that one who likes the results would want to see.

New Business:

Linda Meyer reported on her efforts for the lunch selection location options. There had been interest expressed in some new locations and some different menu options. The group like some of the suggestions, but voted not to seek a buffet option, because of the long queues and delays between when people start to eat and finish. Some of the new locations that met the criteria of

size, flexibility of number of attendees, parking, menu options, etc., included: Halvorson's near Stoughton on US 51, Pedro's - west near West town, Coliseum Bar, the Vintage Pub on Whitney Way. and Erin's Irish Pub near American Family. Discussion ensued about multiple menu items, which was endorsed, if logistics for money collection and identifying the selection for wait staff are not too difficult. A decision is needed by September before the 'snow birds' head south so the calendar for the subsequent year can be produced.

NOTE: The annual picnic must be rescheduled because of a conflict with the Middleton Police Department use of the Lakeview Park August 3rd. The picnic is now scheduled for **August 10th at Lakeview Park Middleton.** A soda or beer will be included in the price. Attendees are reminded they must pre- register and prepay. The ARC web site has been set up by Rick to allow sign up. E-mail and snail mail reminders will be sent as appropriate, so folks can use the link and receive confirmation, and then pay the Secretary Treasurer (John Hagman) in advance.

Deaths and Illnesses.

Gene Kelly, water supply Rhinelander passed away as did Gene Ritz St Croix County Forester.

Birthdays and anniversaries.

Rudy Nigl turned 78, Dale Morey turned 77.

Jery Dorscheid and Dale Morey each celebrated 52 years of marriage, Janet Libby 45 year anniversary, and Sheree Vande Brink 32 years of marriage.

Trips:

Tom Thoreson had been to Mexico visiting Playa del Carmen, Cozumel, and the Mayan ruins.

Chuck Pils returned from a tour with the Arboretum folks to the Southwest US National Parks.

John and Brenda Hagman returned from Peru and Equador trip to Amazon, Macchu Pichu and Galapagos Islands to see the Superbowl in Quito, Equador in Spanish and had to pay \$48.80 for two room service gin and tonics because of a law there that forbid public consumption on Sundays. Go Pack!

It was noted that Dave Gjestson has completed his move to Oakley California.

Meeting adjourned at 1:50 pm. The next meeting is June 1, 2011 at the Imperial Gardens in Middleton.