

THE ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED CONSERVATIONISTS

Meeting of January 7, 2015 held at Maple Tree restaurant, McFarland.

ARC President Sheree Vande Brink called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

44 people were in attendance. The cost of the meal was \$14.00 for broasted chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy, cole slaw, carrots, 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 minutes were read and approved. A brief meeting was held at the December holiday party, those items are included with the November minutes.

Financial Report:

Paid \$572.00 to Maple Tree for meals, tax and gratuity.

Opening balance on January 1 for Savings is \$223.27 and Checking is \$6.10
Dividend on Savings account January is \$.02.

Activity on Checking account for January:

DEPOSITS: \$58.00 proceeds from lunch

Closing balance on February 1 for Savings is \$223.29 and Checking is \$64.10

Guests:

There were 6 guests/potential new members in attendance.

- *Brian Buenzow* - Brian worked for DNR for more than 33 years. He was a wildlife technician based out of Newville and working in Green and Rock Counties. Brian just retired on January 2, 2015!
- *John Nielsen* - John's position before his August 2014 retirement was as the District Forestry Leader in Fitchburg. He started in 1984 as a field forester, also worked as a ranger and an area forester at different locations in the state.
- *Peter Flaherty* - Pete retired 4 years ago after spending 34 years in the Bureau of Legal Services as a staff attorney. He provided legal services to a number of programs - Air, Hazardous Waste, Fisheries, Stormwater, to name a few - over the years.
- *Sally Kefer* - Sally retired in May 2014 after 30 years of service. She was most recently in the Office of Business Support and Sustainability (Green Tier) but had experience working in Watershed Management, Waste, Science Services and once worked for the state of Utah.
- *Charlie Kilian* - Charlie retired as a wildlife biologist working out of Lake Mills. He spent time in GEF 2 earlier in his 33 career working as a wildlife disease specialist and wetlands specialist.
- Gary Homuth - Gary was the Policy Officer for the Bureau of Law Enforcement at his retirement, but had held a number of law enforcement positions starting in 1976 as a field conservation warden, later a recreational safety warden and the statewide Snowmobile/ATV Administrator. (Gary's been retired for 13 years, but Bill Engfer finally talked him into coming to a meeting!)

"Frank-n-Miller Report:"

Ed Frank said the end of November returns were 6.7% Core and 8.4% Variable, end of December not available, yet. US Market was up 7/5% in 2014, foreign markets didn't pay off last year. Look for an actual adjusted raise between 2 and 3 percent.

Old Business:

Barb Wolf gave the Christmas party report.

Laurel Steffes looked into purchasing a projector to be used at meetings where the presenter needs one. Rick Wojciak said he'd bring his to meetings so no reason to buy one. Would only be used a few times a year.

Rick has the volunteer survey online. We will have presentations at future meetings from some of the members who are involved in various interesting volunteer activities.

We are always interested in travel talks! Please contact Laurel Steffes to schedule yours for an upcoming meeting.

New Business:

Sheree introduced the nominees for President and VP – Laurel Steffes and Bruce Chevis. They were elected by unanimous voice vote. Sheree turned the gavel over to Laurel.

Deaths and Illnesses:

Sheree read a list of those members and friends of ARC who passed away in 2014. There was a moment of silence in their memory.

Birthdays and Anniversaries:

Wedding Anniversaries: Jimmy and Toni Christensen - 45th, Ron and Phila Poff 57th. Ed and Deane Frank have been married 61 years and Ed celebrates his 82nd birthday this month. Sally Kefer also has a birthday this month, didn't catch which one!

Trips:

John Nielsen visited India. Jon Warren and his wife Bev were on an 11 day river cruise through France celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary. He highly recommends that type of tour, beautiful scenery every day.

Floyd Statz is heading to Marco Island and he will send Rick information about the southern ARC get together in February. If you're in Florida next month, you will find the meeting location posted on the website, so join them!

Ed Frank shared a joke.

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm.