

## **THE ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED CONSERVATIONISTS**

Meeting of May 1, 2019 held at New Glarus Hotel

ARC President Laurel Steffes called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

40 people were in attendance. The meal was plated weinerschnitzel and green beans, with rosti and spatzlie served family style, along with house salad, rolls, beverages and ice cream. \$17 included tax, gratuity and a contribution to the ARC 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.

### Treasurers Report

Dick Steffes reported a balance of \$303.

### New Members and Guests

Bruce Folley was welcomed as a first time attendee. Brian Buenzow introduced him. Bruce was a wildlife biologist who had 39 years of state service. He started his career in Rock and Green Counties and for the last 20 years was in Lafayette County, where he worked until retiring in April 2018.

Kim McCutcheon and Mary Ann Buenzow attended their second meeting and were voted in as members. Welcome to ARC!

### "Frank-n-Miller Report"

By now, everyone should know what their annuity raises are (or rather lack of.) Core got 0% and Variable -10%. By Ed Frank's calculation, given the 5-year smoothing formula, we'll need a 8.7% increase in 2019 to maintain Core at 0%, i.e., no take back.

Ed Frank encouraged attendance at the COA annual meeting Friday May 10, deadline to sign up is May 3. So far the sign up is about half of previous years. See website for more information.

A question for Ed about the last SWIB director who only stayed 7 months. Ed wasn't sure what happened, but he is very happy with the current director.

### Old Business

none

### New Business

Tom Thoresen has raffle tickets available, a fund raiser for the Wisconsin Hunter Education Instructors Association.

At our May meeting, we always recognize the formation of the Wisconsin pension system and the influence of Ingeborg Sidwell (a relative of Dean Tvedt). In 1943, she was a scrubwoman –

yes, her real position description – at the capitol building when the legislature was debating a pension bill and the governor’s opposition to it ....

*"She was 79 years old and wanted to retire, but knew it would be difficult. She lost all of her money when the banks failed in the 1930s. When Governor Goodland vetoed the state employee's pension bill, she worried about what would happen, not only to herself but her coworkers. They were all elderly and most had medical issues. So, she sought out the governor and told him of the small salary she made, her many expenses and her small savings. She asked him to reconsider. Whether her chat with the governor made the difference is unknown. However, not long after their meeting, the governor sent a message to the Legislature asking that they override his veto, which they did. Ingeborg received a monthly pension of \$14.70. She died in 1947 at the age of 84."* (Wisconsin Historical Society)

#### Deaths and Illnesses

Vera Starch, Waste and Materials Management employee for many years, passed away April 6.

William Roark, who worked for a time as a reference librarian at DNR, and was the brother of Gene Roark, passed away April 21.

#### Birthdays and Anniversaries

Kermit Traska was 71 last week.

#### Trips

Laurel and Dick Steffes are leaving Little Switzerland (New Glarus) for the real Switzerland to visit their daughter, son-in-law and baby grand daughter.

Meeting adjourned at 1:20 pm.