

## **THE ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED CONSERVATIONISTS**

Meeting of September 4, 2019 held at Maple Tree Supper Club

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

35 people were in attendance. The meal was plated cole slaw, fresh loaves of bread, broasted chicken, potatoes, corn, and chocolate sundaes. Milk, iced tea and coffee were included. \$15 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 \$444. Not included in the balance is a recent payment of \$115 to Dom Mangardi who made a reservation with Middleton Parks for the 2020 picnic.

### New Members and Guests

Terry Westby was in attendance, and was unanimously voted in as a member. President Laurel Steffes acknowledged this was not just Terry's second meeting, but his 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup>, others had been holiday party or picnic at which no business meeting was conducted. Terry retired in September 2018 after 42 years with the state. His first position was in the mailroom at Pyre Square and he finished his career in the mailroom at GEF 2, leading many employees over the years and keeping up with changing technology. Welcome to ARC!

### "Frank-n-Miller Report"

No news to report.

### Old Business

Reservation for next year's picnic has been made for August 12. Due to renovations at Lakeview Park (regular site for picnic) we are moving to Fireman's Park, 7400 Lee Street. It's next to Middleton High School, easy access off Parmenter. Laurel thanked Dom Mangardi for always getting the shelter reservation into Middleton Parks Dept. early so ARC gets the date we want. She recognized that he pays out of pocket until ARC reimburses him, that is much appreciated!

### New Business

December Holiday party sign up will start in late October. You'll be able to pay in person at the November meeting or sign up on line. All are welcome, it's not for members only.

Royalty among us: Mention was made that Jerry and Karen Lapidakis were the Syttende Mai king and queen this year. <https://www.stoughtonfestivals.com/past-royalty>

### Birthdays and Anniversaries

Roy Lembcke celebrating his 76<sup>th</sup> birthday this month.

Laurel and Dick Steffes are just 2 years away from their Golden wedding anniversary!

Meeting adjourned at 1:20 pm and Bruce Braun introduced our guest speaker, Camille Zaroni Director of Philanthropy for Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin.

Camille told us about her background which included work in the Peace Corps, and her 14 years with NRF. She thanked ARC for their support of NRF through the memorials made in the name of deceased members, and acknowledged two of the NRF founders and ARC members Ron Semmann and Bruce Braun.

Camille provided background on some of the many success stories NRF has been part of in their support of DNR programs since 1986, notably reintroduction of trumpeter swans and the Outdoor Skills Center at Sandhill. In all, NRF has been able to give away \$7 million over the years for projects DNR might not otherwise be able to fund.

Today's focus is on 1) helping restore lands and water, 2) endangered species and 3) education.

Camille talked about the power of endowments and gave specific examples like that of the legacy wildlife biologist late Paul Brandt left to the Lower Wisconsin Riverway, and endowments created by (or in the name of) the Dave Weizenickers, Reynold Zeller, and Buzz Besadny.

NRF is currently raising \$1 million for their own Bluffs to Great Lakes Shores endowed fund and they are just short of the goal.

Camille encouraged everyone to check out the list of field trips, and to contact her with questions about planned giving.