

## **THE ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED CONSERVATIONISTS**

Meeting of January 8, 2020 held at Buck and Honey's, 800 W. Broadway, Monona

President Laurel Steffes called the meeting to order at 12:50 pm.

41 people were in attendance. There were 4 choices for lunch - Classic Burger w/cheese and fries, Smothered Chicken with mashed potatoes, fish tacos with sweet potato fries, Honey's Chicken Salad

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

Dick Steffes reported the Treasury has \$435. Invoice for 2020 Webmaster services will be paid later this month so balance we be greatly reduced.

Barb Wolf posted a summary of the Holiday party on the website. ARC's contribution to Second Harvest Foodbank was \$1,419. Thank you to all who bought raffle tickets, brought items for the raffle or made a monetary donation!

### New Members and Guests

Todd Peterson was attending his first meeting and was introduced by Mike Foy. Todd worked for DNR from 1984 - 2009, he was a wildlife biologist and Section Chief in Wildlife Management.

### "Frank-n-Miller Report"

Ed Frank reported on returns as of the end of 2019. Ed said that the things look good for both Core and Variable Funds. With double digit increases to finish out the year, Core could result in a 1.5% increase and Variable fund could possible see 18%. Social Security got 1.6% bump, which is sizable.

### Old Business

none

### New Business

Laurel asked for Nominations for the Board since we have elections in January. There were no nominations and no volunteers so the current Board will continue. Laurel Steffes, President; Dan Fields, Vice President; Barb Wolf and Diane Brinson sharing Secretary duties; Dick Steffes, Treasurer.

Linda Netzer and Rick Wojciak are going to try out a new system in order to get a better handle on how many members will be attending monthly meetings. It is a big help for Linda to have some idea how many to expect for lunch so the restaurants can set enough tables, and have staff available to serve. How it works - when Rick sends the e-mail announcement out one week prior to the meeting, he'll ask members to reply if they plan to come. It isn't intended to discourage last minute attendees who haven't replied, they are always welcome. Everyone agreed we should give this a trial for a few months and see if it helps with estimates.

A new Chief Conservation Warden is being sworn in on Thursday. Casey Krueger will replace Todd Schaller who retired last month. Tom Thoresen said there are a lot of vacancies in the Bureau of Law Enforcement in investigator positions.

### Illnesses

Stan Druckenmiller received a cancer diagnosis last fall, he's having radiation treatment. Cards are welcome, Stan's address is in the directory.

Ruth Wagner has moved to assisted living at Brookdale on the west side of Madison. She's dealing with some mobility issues after a stroke last spring.

### Birthdays and Anniversaries

Ed Frank turns 87 this month and also is celebrating his 66<sup>th</sup> anniversary with Deane.

Gen Bancroft is 89 in a few weeks.

### Trips

Rick Wojciak and Mary Jean Huston are currently on a bike trip in Thailand.

Barb Wolf and Mike Staggs went California over the holiday. Drove along the coast down to Carmel, up to Napa and attended the Redbox Bowl where the Fighting Illini took on UC Berkley.

Mary Farmiloe took back to back diving trips to some pretty exotic location. She was in Indonesia, Bali and the Maldives.

Meeting adjourned at 1:15 pm.