

## **THE ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED CONSERVATIONISTS**

Meeting of March 4, 2020 held at Great Dane, Fitchburg

President Laurel Steffes called the meeting to order at 12:55 pm.

38 people were in attendance. There were 4 choices for lunch - Pub Burger w/cheese and fries (\$16 cost – 7 ordered), Walnut Chicken salad (\$16 – 12), salmon sandwich (\$18 - 11) and BBQ pork sandwich (\$16 – 8.) Prices included tax and gratuity.

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 \$574.

### New Members and Guests

none

### "Frank-n-Miller Report"

Bob Schaefer said that, as most people know, the stock market has been fluctuating wildly, it's early in the year so impact unknown. What can we do? "Pray for SWIB!"

The Coalition of Annuitants annual meeting is May 15. Details on the COA website.

### Old Business

Laurel thanked Linda Netzer and Diane Brinson for handling all aspects of the meeting in February.

### New Business

Linda Netzer and Laurel Steffes report that the new system asking for responses on meeting attendance was tried out this month, and it worked better than expected! There were 35 members who indicated they would attend, and we ended up with 38. Just to reiterate, the response is not a reservation, and no one should feel they can't come if they decide at the last minute. But having a general idea of how many members will be attending our monthly meetings lets Linda inform the restaurants on what to expect so they can set enough tables and assign adequate staff. Thanks to everyone who participated. If you weren't able to come after responding or showed up without responding, that was all helpful too, so we could see how the system works!!

Mary Farmiloe has been in contact with meteorologist Bob Lindmeier who she said is a potential speaker for a future meeting. He would give a presentation on climate change, asked if the group is interested. There was overwhelming interest, and a request to focus the talk on Wisconsin. We will schedule with him.

Diane Brinson can arrange for a speaker on insurance options. The group would like that closer to the It's Your Choice date in fall.

Laurel Steffes has been involved in writing Coronavirus management plans for groups that she volunteers with. This could be something we will have to deal with if a meeting gets canceled. There will be information posted on the ARC website if a monthly meeting is called off. Rick will also send an email message. Please call those who you know that may not check email.

### Illnesses

Dean Tvedt is in rehab at Four Winds in Verona after breaking his pelvis. We wish him well on his recovery! His wife is currently in St. Mary's.

### Deaths

ARC member Robert Ellingson passed away on February 16. He was liaison to the Conservation Congress. Bob moved to Amherst Junction after his retirement.

Dave Crehore passed away January 10. He was the Public Affairs Manager in Green Bay before his retirement.

Ann Higgs, wife of Charlie Higgs, passed away on February 27.

Duane Popple, DNR water program in Eau Claire, died on February 24.

### Birthdays and Anniversaries

Al and Judy Prey celebrated their 59<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in January.

### Trips

Mike Lutz was in Gulf Shores.

Al Prey was in Florida, and also mentioned that there was no Florida ARC meeting held this year.

Jim Miller shared a joke.

Meeting adjourned at 1:10 pm.