

## **THE ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED CONSERVATIONISTS**

Meeting of April 6, 2022 held at Imperial Garden

ARC President Laurel Steffes called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm.

43 people were in attendance. The cost of the meal was \$17.00 for a Chinese buffet served family style including egg rolls, rice, cashew chicken, beef with broccoli, and shrimp with pea pods. The cost included tax, gratuity and a contribution to ARC's 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.

### **Financial Report:**

Treasurer Dick Steffes reported a balance in our Savings account of \$175 and Checking \$525. Donations given to the memorial fund at today's meeting is \$27. Thanks everyone!

### **New Members:**

Jim Amerhein attended his first meeting and was introduced by Andy Morton. Jim retired last week after 34 years of service. Jim worked in Fisheries Management, then coordinated the fish contaminant program for 10 years, and from 2001 to 2022 he was the Water Quality biologist for Southern District.

John Komassa attended his first meeting after having retired in October 2021. Kurt Welke introduced John whose 32 years of service included starting out as an LTE in the fish health lab in Milwaukee, fisheries technician at Kettle Moraine Springs, Hatchery Supervisor at Nevin, Operation coordinator at Eagle, and Hatchery Group Leader out of Fitchburg.

Welcome to both of you and congratulations on your retirement!

### **"Frank-n-Miller Report:"**

Bob Schaefer said ETF made projections for the next 4 years based on investment gain and losses. The chart available on the ETF website at <https://etf.wi.gov/boards/joint/2022/03/24/jm3c/download?inline=> pages 13 and 14 provides an explanation and all the number that Bob discussed. If you're interested in more SWIB figures, see - <https://www.swib.state.wi.us/wrs-performance>

The Coalition of Annuitants annual meeting will once again be virtual. Rick sent a separate e-mail with all the details.

### **Old Business:**

Laurel asked Linda Netzer to explain how she books the location for our monthly meetings. Linda looks for a facility with a private dining room (that can comfortably hold 50 people), so we can conduct business and also to accommodate a guest speaker. For the Holiday party we expect 100 or so people, and also need enough extra space for the raffle display. She also said she tries to keep meal costs reasonable, and more places are charging an additional fee for the room which adds to the meal cost. Other places ask for high minimum sales.

Linda is always interested in suggestions for meeting places, new restaurants so feel free to forward that information to her keeping in mind the criteria.

Laurel asked the group for a consensus on keeping our Holiday party at Rex's Innkeeper since she heard the situation last December wasn't ideal. Very crowded, etc. Everyone thought Rex's was okay.

**New Business:**

Rick Wojciak said that he knows some members are not getting his 2 monthly e-blasts. He has communicated with a few people about their Internet providers and e-mail extensions, namely Charter, Chorus and Hotmail. Those providers seem to have very aggressive filters. The fact that Rick is sending a large group email and our ".org" looks like a business might result in your messages getting scrubbed. Consider using a gmail account or contact Rick so he can figure a way to get your messages delivered. We wouldn't want you to miss out on the notices.

**Legislative update:**

No report

**Deaths and Illnesses:**

Joyce Weizenicker (wife of Parks Director Dave Weizenicker) passed away January 18.

**Birthdays and Anniversaries:**

Linda and Mike Netzer celebrate both of their birthdays and their wedding anniversary on April 26. One party a year, that's easy!

Mike Staggs' birthday is today.

Tom Thoresen ended the meeting with a joke.

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm

Laurel Steffes introduced our speaker, Sarah Peterson. Sarah is the Science Director for Wisconsin's Green Fire, a non-profit made up of experts in environmental and natural resources disciplines. She covered some interesting aspects of the organization's work on hot-button issues.