

ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED CONSERVATIONISTS

Meeting via Zoom February 2, 2022 - 30 in attendance

President Laurel Steffes called the meeting to order at 10 am. She asked for a moment of silence to remember our deceased members, armed services, first responders and medical personnel.

Dick Steffes gave a report on the Treasury. There is currently \$350 in our Checking account and \$1,075 in Savings.

Bob Schaefer showed some ETF tables with annuity predictions. He explained the 5 year averaging. See the graphs on the 'What's New' page.

Bob encouraged members to sign up for the ETF newsletter if you are interested in getting items like this sent to you. (There's a button on the bottom of the ETF home page that allows you to easily request it.) The Coalition of Annuitants annual meeting will be held in May virtually.

Old Business:

Laurel is working on speakers for some upcoming meeting. In March we will welcome Bob Lindmeier, WKOW Senior Chief Meteorologist, who will give a presentation on climate change. In April we plan to have Fred Clark, Executive Director of Green Fire.

Deaths and Illnesses:

Charlie Higgs passed away.

Diane Brinson had knee surgery and Jim Huntoon had hip surgery.

Laurel adjourned the regular meeting and welcomed our guest speaker Adrian Wydeven, retired wolf biologist for Wisconsin DNR.

Adrian gave an informative presentation with great photos, illustrations and graphs about the history of wolves in Wisconsin. In pre-settlement times, distribution was statewide and Native people coexisted with them. Settlers saw wolves as destructive because of the agrarian activities they conducted and for a time there was a bounty on wolves. This extirpated them from Wisconsin. Around 1970, the wolves started making a comeback, migrating into the state on their own. Now it is some hunters who find the wolves destructive, both in outright killing of hunting dogs (though Adrian pointed out hunting dogs are sometimes killed by bears too) and because of the deer that they kill, leaving fewer numbers of deer for hunters. See the presentation on the 'What's New' page.

Adrian quoted several studies over the years that documented wolf food habits and the number of deer per year they actually take. Some statistics suggest that there is less incidence of CWD where wolves are present in healthy packs.

There was a discussion about the wolf population goal numbers, how they are set, and what the carrying capacity might be. Members brought up many interesting questions which Adrian addressed. He advised everyone that there is a question on the Spring Hearing regarding hounds used to hunt wolves.