

DAVE WENZEL, SECRETARY – TREASURER
S68 W17281 ROSSMAR CT. – MUSKEGO, WI 53150
262-679-3212, ddrywl@sbcglobal.net

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Friends,

I must admit this winter was not so long and bad as previous ones, because like many of you I became a Sow Bird and spent February and March in Florida. It sure helped the time pass quickly.

Of course well in Florida I had many friends email me the details of our pension changes to take place in just a few short weeks. For the 1st time ever there will be a reduction in our pension to the core (fixed) portion. It will be a negative 2.1%, tough to take but not devastating. For those of you like me the variable is a minus 42% this year. This is going to be a significant reduction on our May 1st checks. All I can say is if the country ever turns around the variable will see higher increases then the core but it will take a lot of good days in the market to recover our losses.

Currently our membership is at 812. Of those 812, 98 are not paid. If you receive an application in this mailing it means I do not have you listed as paid for 2009. I may have overlooked marking someone paid when in fact they are paid up. Please check your records and if you have not mailed in your dues please do so, if they were mailed in just let me know and I will correct it. To those of you that I missed recording I apologize.

Of our 812 members a total of 90 (to date) are over 80 years of age and receive free membership. Of those 90 members I give special thanks to the 56 who still elected to donate to our PAC Fund. Of the 56 there are 10 or 12 of you who still wanted to pay their entire \$40 dues regardless of their age because they felt it was the thing to do, thank you.

Thanks to a lot of hard and diligent work on behalf of Executive Board Member Rich Placek we have an RPPFW web site. The site can be reached

at rpffw.org. Rich has also put in a lot of time on our clothing line and it can be viewed at our web site. As time goes by the web site will grow and we will keep it updated with information our membership will find useful.

With the introduction of the web site we may be able to save some money by cutting back on the newsletter mailings. Starting with the July newsletter if you would like to read it on the web site and not receive a mailing please let me know. Just send me an email with your name and address letting me know that you know longer want a newsletter mailed to you.

Being only a week from Easter as of this writing I thought this would be an appropriate story.

People were in the pews speaking to one another when suddenly, Satan appeared at the front of the church. Everyone started screaming and running for the exit, trampling each other in a frantic effort to get away from the evil incarnate.

Soon everyone had exited the church except for one elderly gentleman who sat calmly in his pew without moving, seeming oblivious to the fact that God's enemy was in his presence.

So Satan walked up to the old man and said "Don't you know who I am?"

The man replied "yup, sure do". "Aren't you afraid of me"? Satan asked.

"Nope sure ain't" said the man. "Don't you realize I can kill with a word?" asked Satan.

"Don't doubt it for a minute returned the old man in an even tone." Did you know that I could cause you profound, horrifying, agony for all eternity' persisted Satan.

'Yup was the calm reply. 'And you still are not afraid'? Asked Satan. 'Nope' said the old man.

More than a little perturbed, Satan asked, 'Well, why aren't you afraid of me'?

The old man calmly replied 'Been married to your sister for 44 years'.