

STATE UNIVERSITIES ANNUITANTS ASSOCIATION
UIUC Chapter Executive Committee
Clark-Lindsey, Simon Dining Room
<http://www.suaa-ui.org>
Minutes for December 11, 2013

Attending: Mary Beastall, Gerald Brighton, Tom Conry, Steve D’Arcy, Gary Engelgau, Barbara Hartman, Athalia Hunt, John Kindt, Jane Loeb, Mark Netter, Terry Palumbo, Robert Rich, Steve Rugg, Terry Ruprecht, Helen Satterthwaite, Rick Schoell, Ron Webbink, Ginny Waaler, Bill Williamson

I. President's Report

- A. Call to Order by President Terry Ruprecht at 1:37 p.m.
- B. After amendment, approval of minutes for November 13, 2013 was moved and seconded (Waaler, Hartman); minutes approved.
- C. Review of schedule of meetings for rest of year:
 - (1) Exec Committee Meetings 2014: Jan 8, Feb 12
 - (2) Spring General Meeting—Ginny Waaler will proceed with arrangements.
- D. President’s Report –
 - (1) Terry Ruprecht reported that the honorarium authorized for R. E. Perry and Associates has been paid.

II. Treasurer’s Report

Treasurer Brighton noted that recent income and expenditures were unremarkable. Rick Schoell moved and Terry Palumbo seconded approval of the treasurer’s report; motion passed.

NOTE: When purchasing anything where an invoice is sent to the UIUC-SUAA Chapter, please have it sent to Gerry Brighton’s home address, so that the bill may be paid promptly.

III. Action Items

- A. Spring general meeting will be scheduled April 6th or 13th (the 20th is Easter), preferably without conflicting with Ebertfest or the Marathon.
- B. Discussion concerning SUAA legal action following passage of SB1 consumed most of the meeting. Steve D’Arcy summarized the bill, pointing out that pensions under \$30,000 are unchanged, as are survivors’ benefits. Higher pensions are very much affected however, and there is no reason to rely on the promised state contributions to the pension fund promised in the bill. He proposed a large contribution to the SUAA legal fund and urged support of the nonpartisan “independent maps” for redistricting, which could help in the future. John Kindt suggested that the economic necessity of benefit reduction will be an important legal issue. Economists and law faculty who might help with economic arguments were suggested. Discussion followed concerning SUAA’s need for a good lawyer, cost containment, and management of the project. Tom Conry reported on state level SUAA planning for legal action. He noted that incoming President Bruce Applebee is contributing \$5000 to the legal fund from his chapter; this represents about \$6.75 per member. Applebee will challenge other chapters to contribute accordingly. The immediate need is about \$200,000. Discussion yielded consensus for a vote by email to commit funds.

IV. Reporting Items

- A. Membership: Barbara Hartman announced that with 16 new members and 14 lost, membership is 2024.
- B. Legislative Committee/Political Action: Rick Schoell noted that the legislature will reconvene in late January, with primaries in March. Pension issues will be addressed through legal action in the near future.
- C. Communications Committee: Gary Engelgau reported a record 1692 visits to the website in November. In response to Terry Ruprecht's request last month for the definition of "visit," he reported that a "visit" occurs when some remote site makes a request for a page on the server for the first time. As long as the same site keeps making requests within a given timeout period, they will all be considered part of the same visit. If the length of time since the last request is greater than the specified timeout period (default is 30 minutes), a new visit is started and counted, and the sequence repeats.
Terry Palumbo will arrange for Terry Ruprecht to speak with the Staff Advisory Council on our behalf.
- D. Fall meeting: Ginny Waaler will hold both possible dates, pending arrangement of speaker.
- E. Newsletter: Gary Engelgau will suggest an outline in January and will solicit volunteers to write articles. April meeting date and speaker will need to be settled by the time of the January meeting in order to keep the newsletter on schedule. Rick Schoell will write a summary of the new law to be posted on the website.
SUAA's state office has now given us the correct vendor ID so that we can seek reimbursement for Charitable Fund costs involved in the fall newsletter.
- F. Benefits committee: with just several days left for decision on the new healthcare options, little discussion was required. Mary Beastall will follow up with CMS to assure appropriate follow up with retirees who have not yet responded as of the deadline.

V. New Business

- A. Discussion of services/benefits offered by other Big Ten retiree associations will be discussed at a later meeting. Terry Ruprecht will make a proposal.

VI. Adjournment and Next Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m. Next meeting will be Wednesday, January 8, 2014 at 1:30 p.m. in the Clark-Lindsey Simon Dining Room.