

STATE UNIVERSITIES ANNUITANTS ASSOCIATION
UIUC Chapter Executive Committee
Clark-Lindsey, Simon Dining Room
<http://www.suaa-ui.org>
Minutes for January 8, 2014

Attending: Mary Beastall, Gerald Brighton, Tom Conry, Gary Engelgau, Barbara Hartman, Athalia Hunt, Jane Loeb, Mark Netter, Terri Palumbo, 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 1:36 p.m.
- B. Approval of minutes for December 11, 2013 was moved and seconded (Williamson, Conry); minutes approved.
- C. Review of schedule of meetings for rest of year:
 - (1) Exec Committee Meetings 2014: Feb 12, March 12, April 9
 - (2) Spring General Meeting—Sunday, April 6 or 13, 2014; location Hawthorne Suites
 - (3) State Directors' meeting: June or July 2014 in Springfield (generally held the 3rd Tuesday and Wednesday of the month)
- D. President's Report –
 - (1) Terry Ruprecht reported that the Staff Advisory Council Meeting had been postponed to February 5 due to bad weather.

II. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Brighton noted that this report marks the end of the year, and that receipts were approximately even with disbursements. The report does not, however, reflect the \$13,000 to be sent to the SUAA legal defense fund, per unanimous email vote of the EC shortly after the December meeting. Tom Conry moved and Terri Palumbo seconded acceptance 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. EC discussion of SUAA participation in legal action following passage of SB1: Tom Conry reported that the State Executive Committee was in discussions with potential lawyers and that he expected a decision very soon, with a lawsuit to be filed shortly thereafter. Discussion then focused on fundraising for legal expenses, with general agreement that fundraising efforts should include all retirees and employees, not just SUAA members. If possible the spring newsletter, which goes to all retirees, will contain an appeal. There was also general agreement that all costs of the lawsuit, including the costs of managing the effort, should be fundable by funds so raised, with perhaps 2.5 to 5% of the funds raised being allocated to the cost of the fund-raising itself.
- B. Spring general meeting—finalizing the program: Two possible topics were discussed. Status and update on the new health insurance options was discussed as a possible topic for the fall meeting, by which time we will have some knowledge of how things are going and whether there are problems being experienced by users of the new options. For the spring meeting, a

panel discussion of issues surrounding the pension “reform” legal challenges, including the legal arguments likely to be employed. Professors Colombo, Rich, and Reynolds, and Linda Brookhart, were discussed as possible panelists, and Steve Rugg will proceed to put such a program together.

IV. Reporting Items

- A. Membership: Barbara Hartman announced that with 15 new members and 11 lost, membership is 2028 at the end of December.
- B. Legislative Committee/Political Action: Rick Schoell noted that the legislature will reconvene in late January, with primaries in March. He and Steve Rugg have all but completed an update on SB1 and legal challenges for the newsletter. He reported that the SURS summary is excellent.
- C. Communications Committee: Gary Engelgau reported 1585 visits to the website in December, up from last year.
- D. Spring meeting: Ginny Waaler has a hold on a Hawthorn Suites room with 150 chairs and 50 more potentially available, for both the 6th and the 13th of April.
- E. Newsletter: Gary Engelgau indicated that if the Spring meeting is held on April 6th, the absolute deadline for newsletter components is the 14th of February. This includes nominees for the EC and their bios.
Marsha Reed of the Parkland chapter called Gary Engelgau to request permission to republish materials from our newsletter in theirs. The conclusion was that she tell us in advance that she plans to reprint a particular article, and that she indicate the source and the date of the article. Terry Ruprecht will follow up with her.
- F. Benefits committee: Mary Beastall reported that she had learned from Pam Butler at SURS that 95% of the health care option forms had been returned, with 1800 still outstanding. Discussion followed of the possibility of chapter members helping with follow up, but confidentiality demands appeared likely to preclude that. It was noted in discussion that a report on the new health plans with attention to the two different sign up periods for the old and new state plans (and for Medicare medigap and Part D policies) should be planned for the fall newsletter. Athalia Hunt initiated discussion of chapter support for the next Retirement Planning Conference. It was moved and seconded (Gary Engelgau; Rick Schoell) that we provide the \$1200 we have provided in the past for this event and the motion passed. It was noted in discussion, however, that the event has not seemed to help us build membership, in part because a list of attendees has not been provided to us for follow up, as a result of privacy/confidentiality concerns. After discussion, Athalia Hunt was requested to consider having the Chapter President (Terry Ruprecht) speak at the conference instead of some other speaker, as this might help with recruiting members.

V. New Business

- A. A nominating committee for EC members will be appointed and can be approved by email.

VI. Adjournment and Next Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 3:07 p.m. Next meeting will be Wednesday, February 12, 2014 at 1:30 p.m. in the Clark-Lindsey Simon Dining Room.