

STATE UNIVERSITIES ANNUITANTS ASSOCIATION
UIUC Chapter Executive Committee
Clark-Lindsey, Simon Dining Room
<http://www.suaa-ui.org>
Minutes for April 9, 2014

Attending: Mary Beastall, Gerald Brighton, Thomas Conry, Paul Dollins, Barbara Hartman, Mark Netter, Terri Palumbo, Bob Rich, Steve Rugg, Terry Ruprecht, Rick Schoell, Ginny Waaler, Ron Webbink, Bill Williamson

I. Call to Order. Ruprecht called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. He and Williamson went over the material which had been provided for the meeting. In particular, everyone was asked to check their entry on the Chapter Leadership List.

II. Approval of minutes for March 12, 2014. The minutes were approved.

III. Review of schedule of meetings:

A. Remaining Exec Committee Meetings 2014: May 14, June 11. It was confirmed that we do not traditionally hold a meeting in July.

B. Spring general meeting: Sunday, April 13, 2014; Hawthorn Suites

C. SUAA Directors' meeting: June 17-18, 2014 (Springfield)

D. Big Ten Retiree's Association meeting: August 8-10; U of Minnesota hosting; during the meeting, Ruprecht polled the Committee to see who might be interested in attending as a representative of our Chapter.

IV. President's Report

Ruprecht noted that he did not have a formal report. He would be discussing a number of the issues on the agenda when they were considered.

V. Treasurer's Report:

Brighton reported that this was a quiet month with the only entries for March being the receipts from the January dues and the disbursements for the last Executive Committee meeting and the website. A motion to accept the report was approved unanimously.

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.

VI. Action/Discussion Items

A. Update on SUAA lawsuit. Conry noted that the law suit filed by SUAA was SURS-centric, focusing on a number of issues which did not affect the groups involved in the other suits. A copy of the suit to oppose the SUAA Lawsuit Consolidation in Springfield was filed on March 25, 2014 and a copy is available on the SUAA web site. Conry also noted that, over 40% of the funds so far collected for the suit has been spent with another 20+% put into the replacement fund.

B. Spring Meeting Program. Ruprecht will introduce Rugg who will lead the meeting. Rugg summarized the program as follows: Colombo and Reynolds will discuss possible scenarios that the case might take and discuss the reasons the case might be upheld or overturned. Rich will discuss the political dimensions of this issue in general and the bill in particular. Brookhart will comment on the logistics of the law suits.

C. Spring Meeting Business Meeting. Ruprecht will return to the podium to lead the business meeting. This will include the election for the Executive Committee and reports on various issues of interest to the members. It will also include a call for members interested in working for the group.

D. Spring Meeting Procedures. The final draft of the program was approved. It will be sent to Palumbo who will arrange for providing copies for the meeting. Membership in SUAA is not required of

those attending the meeting and non-members will be able to join at the desk. Name tags will be provided.

E. State Organization. Ruprecht expressed his concerns about the issues that have been raised as a result of the differences between the regions within the state. Conry discussed how this has affected the work on preparing the new Bylaws, a long need revision in the current Constitution. There have been differences in how the content is viewed and in the procedures that are proposed for presenting the new document. It is clear that such differences leave the organization especially vulnerable at a time when it is important that we operate as effectively as possible.

VII. Reporting Items

A. Membership. Hartman reported that membership rose from 2022 to 2039 with 23 new members and 6 lost, four of whom died.

B. Legislative Committee. Schoell reported we are near the deadline for bills to be proposed. Essentially, the legislature will now concentrate on what is already on hand particularly when we reach May. Williamson reported on the discussion of the possible trailer bill which took place at the SURSMAC meeting on April 7. Fouch, the SURS Legislative Liaison, noted the importance of providing corrections to a number of the problems that will occur when implementing Public Act 98-599. Schoell agreed with the concerns that Fouch raised about why it is difficult to imagine such a bill will actually be proposed.

C. Communications/Newsletter. Ruprecht reported that one person responded to the Annuitant offering to assist with the Newsletter.

D. Benefits Committee. Williamson summarized the discussions at the last Senate Faculty and Staff Benefits Committee and the SURSMAC meeting concerning (a) the budgetary and legislative aspects of proposals to provide supplemental benefits plans to compensate for the negative impact of the pension law and (b) some of the problems that will occur if the law is implemented and then partially or entirely overturned. For example, if the reduction of current employee contributions from 8% to 7% is implemented and then overturned, procedures for handling the "overpayment" will need to be in place.

E. Emergency Assistance. Williamson discussed the problems the SUAA Foundation is having in establishing procedures for providing emergency assistance to SUAA members. The current policy requires a match from the Chapter. Beastall noted that when our Executive Committee has not supported establishing such assistance at the Chapter level in good part because of the difficulty of establishing procedures for evaluating the requests.

F. Medicare Issues. Beastall discussed the content of her March 29 email concerning (1) fees for Medicare Part D (Prescription Plan) and (2) processes for those Medicare-eligible annuitants when they turn 65. She plans to prepare an article for the fall Annuitant on this situation. Waaler and others thanked her for the information that she had provided.

VI. Adjournment and Next Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m. The next meeting will be Wednesday, May 14, 2014 at 1:30 p.m. in the Clark-Lindsey Simon Dining Room.

Minutes submitted by H. F. Williamson, acting Secretary