

**STATE UNIVERSITIES ANNUITANTS ASSOCIATION**  
**UIUC Chapter Executive Committee**  
**Clark-Lindsey, Simon Dining Room**  
**<http://www.suaa-ui.org>**  
**Minutes for September 10, 2014**

**Attending:** Mary Beastall, Pam Cler, Gary Engelgau, Barbara Hartman, Athalia Hunt, Jane Loeb, Bob Rich, Terry Ruprecht, Steve Rugg, Helen Satterthwaite, Rick Schoell, Ginny Waaler, Ron Webbink

### **I. President's Report**

- A. Call to Order was issued by President Terry Ruprecht at 1:33 p.m.
- B. After several small corrections, approval of minutes for August 13, 2014 was moved and seconded (Rich, Webbink) then approved as amended.
- C. Review of schedule of meetings for rest of year:
  - (1) Exec Committee Meetings 2014: Sept 10, Oct 8, Nov 12, Dec 10.
  - (2) Fall General Chapter Meeting: Sunday, October 19, 2014 at the I Hotel.
  - (3) UI Employee Expo: October 21, 2014, Illini Union Rooms A,B,C.
  - (4) State Directors' meeting: October 29, 2014.

### **II. Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Webbink noted that a CD earning .1% matured this past month and was cashed in and moved but does not show in the report because it happened later. Terry Ruprecht negotiated with the UI Office of Public Engagement, which will cover the printing of the Fund Drive insert and also the extra newsletters printed to expand mailing to all UIUC retirees. Acceptance of the report was moved and seconded (Schoell, Waaler), and the report was accepted.

*NOTE: When purchasing anything where an invoice is sent to the UIUC-SUAA Chapter, please have it sent to Ron Webbink's on-campus address (103 Astronomy, 1002 W. Green, MC221, Urbana, IL. 61801), so that the bill can be paid promptly. E-mail: [rwebbink@illinois.edu](mailto:rwebbink@illinois.edu).*

### **III. Action Items**

- A. SUAA-UIUC Chapter EC membership changes: Terry Ruprecht reported that Heidi Rockwood has resigned from the Executive Committee. In discussion, it was noted that such vacancies are to be filled by the EC, so nominating committee members who were present (Schoell, Beastall) caucused and presented Pam Cler as candidate to fill the vacancy. Approval of this recommendation was moved, seconded (Rich, Rugg) and unanimously passed. Pam Cler was welcomed to the Executive Committee to serve out the remainder of Heidi Rockwood's term.
- B. Update of SUAA legal actions: Steve Rugg reported on several issues: 1. CMS' plan concerning repayment of overcharges for health insurance is due in mid to late October. 2. He has been unable to learn how much revenue was generated by the appeal to all retirees for contributions to the SUAA Legal fund. He noted that prior to whatever was netted by the appeal, the fund was essentially empty. Bob Rich noted that knowing a goal would help raise funds. It was also noted that the insurance refund checks will provide an opportunity for another appeal and a relatively painless contribution from members who might be so inclined. Discussion focused on the confusion of issues in fund raising, among membership itself, then contributing to the legal fund on the one hand and to the lobbying (SUAA Action) fund on the other. Rick Schoell suggested the need to separate these issues very carefully at our upcoming membership meeting, and also to separate legal issues themselves (health insurance, the pension "reform" lawsuit). Helen Satterthwaite proposed we develop a handout outlining the effect of

revisions of the annual increase per \$10k in annuity. The need for bullet points on what SUAA has done for us for the Employee Expo was also pointed out (Beastall).

- C. Update on SUAA Legal Fund and SUAA Action: Discussed with B, above.
- D. Fall Newsletter update: Pam Cler reported that the newsletter is unusually long and therefore expensive to print. Terry Ruprecht raised the question of the duplication and redundancy of the many appeals for funding for SUAA Legal and SUAA Action funds and for general operations through additional and renewed memberships. After considerable discussion of elements that could be eliminated or edited down to reduce cost and redundancy, and of the pros and cons of the redundancy itself, it was concluded that the funding requests should be tightened up but that the length of the newsletter would probably not change much.
- E. Employee Expo: Terry Ruprecht recruited volunteers to work the SUAA table at the Expo, from 10 to 2 on October 21.

#### **IV. Reporting Items**

- A. Membership: Barbara Hartman reported that end of July membership was down 15, from 2035 to 2020, due to five deaths, fourteen failures to pay, and only four new members. Discussion of the mysterious slide in membership followed, with no conclusions.
- B. Legislative Committee/Political Action: Rick Schoell reported little action, with the focus on the upcoming elections. Bob Rich alerted the group to expect a very active post-election agenda, with discussion of revenue and pensions. SUAA will need to continue to educate legislators and others that pension changes alone will not fix the state deficit. Steve Rugg initiated a discussion of a questionnaire that the state office wants chapters to provide to their legislative candidates. Considerable discussion followed, with the conclusions that the questionnaire is inadvisably intrusive, that the UIUC chapter will not use it in the expectation that its use would alienate candidates, and that we (Ruprecht) will inform the state office of this decision. Instead, we will (as already planned) meet with all candidates and share the resulting observations with the state office.
- C. Communications Committee: Nothing to report.
- D. Fall Meeting: Steve Rugg reported that all speakers are ready to go. Ginny Waaler reported that we have reserved the 1000 person room, though it will be set up for a more reasonable number of attendees.
- E. Fall Newsletter: Covered above under Action Items.
- F. Benefits Committee: Mary Beastall stated that Carle reports the corrected codes that led to some non-payment of facilities charges by United Health have been forwarded, though she reports some have not yet been paid. The upshot is that the work is yet in progress.

#### **V. New Business**

- A. Member emails: These continue to be read and dealt with daily by Gary Engelgau.
- B. Committee Membership and Activity: Terry Ruprecht described his honing down of email lists to include only active members of committees and other subgroups of the chapter, purging them of occasional participants, and also questioned whether committees should be asked to adhere to some minimal meeting schedule, e.g., once/year. After discussion support was expressed for Ruprecht's email list approach and for committees' current procedure of meeting as the need arises.
- C. UIUC Retirement Conference, 2015: Athalia Hunt reported that next year's Retirement Conference will be held Feb. 21, 2015 at the I Hotel, and she hopes for SUAA's participation.

**V. Adjournment and Next Meeting.** Meeting adjourned at 2:47 p.m. Next meeting will be Wednesday, October 8, 2014 at 1:30 p.m. in the Clark-Lindsey Simon Dining Room.

Loeb, Jane W; tfc-3301@comcast.net; gaengelgau@yahoo.com; dollins409@aol.com; SteveRugg66@aol.com; Hunt, Athalia D; Beastall, Mary E; Williamson, H F Jr; blh45@comcast.net; Netter, Mark J; Webbink, Ronald F; Palumbo, Terri J; Waaler, Virginia April; helensatterthwaite@gmail.com; jloeb@ameritech.net; schoell.richard@gmail.com; richrobertf@gmail.com; Cler, Pamela J