



www.suaa-ui.org

The Annuitant

A publication of the UIUC Chapter
State Universities Annuitants Association

Fall 2015

Pam Cler, Editor

President's Report

Barbara Hartman

As I sit down to write this, I have just returned from a meeting of the Big 10 Retirees Associations at Michigan State University in East Lansing. (The Big 10 Retirees Association was formed in 1992 with the purpose of sharing information about the organizations and the programs and services that each provides.)

This was my first attendance at a meeting of this group. It was extremely interesting to hear about the other organizations. Many of the others focus on social functions. Some have monthly luncheon meetings with speakers who make presentations on a variety of topics – some related to retirement and others on broader issues.

Twelve of the 14 Big 10 institutions sent representatives to the conference. The bulk of the meeting was held in the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center, a large venue that can accommodate multiple groups simultaneously. Lou Anna Simon, MSU's president, welcomed us. Speakers included Charles Ballard, an MSU professor of Economics, and Scott Heise, a wealth management advisor at TIAA-CREF. Also included in the meeting was a tour of the MSU campus.

At the annual SUAA meeting in June in Springfield, our chapter received the award for adding the most new members in 2014. We added 101 that year!

Be sure to read the legislative committee report on page 3 in this newsletter. It outlines the important recent accomplishments of SUAA.

(continued on page 2)

New SURS Executive Director

Bryan Lewis to Address Fall Meeting

Steve Rugg

The SUAA-UIUC Fall meeting will be held **Sunday, October 18**, at the I-Hotel and Conference Center in Champaign. The afternoon begins with **social time at 1:30 p.m.** and the **formal session starting at 2:00 p.m.**

Bryan Lewis, new SURS Executive Director, will be the featured speaker at this meeting. Lewis, 39, began his tenure as Executive Director in April. Prior to joining SURS he served as Chief Operating Office of the Investment Management Division of the North Carolina State Treasurer's Office. His broad range of responsibilities with that organization included management, investment and operational strategy, legislative policy and regulatory compliance of the North Carolina Retirement Systems' defined benefit plans. Those plans served more than 850,000 participants and held over \$100 billion in assets. Lewis will share his initial impressions of and his first experiences in Illinois, along with some updates on current SURS facts and figures. He has also agreed to take questions from those in attendance.

SUAA Executive Director Linda Brookhart will also attend the Fall meeting. She will provide the very latest information about the potential for further legal action at the federal level on pension reform legislation ruled unconstitutional by the Illinois Supreme Court. At the time this newsletter went to press, Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan had requested an extension of the time limit for filing such action. Brookhart will also provide updates on activities around retiree and employee health care and likely action in the fall and upcoming spring legislative sessions.



SUAA-UIUC CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2015-16

** designates elected positions*

~ OFFICERS ~

President

Barbara Hartman*

Vice President

Terri Palumbo* - *Membership*

Secretary

Jane Loeb* - *Communications*

Treasurer

Ron Webbink*

~ EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ~

Pam Cler* - *Newsletter*

Thomas Conry*

Barbara Hartman* - *Membership*

Bob Rich* - *Legislative*

Stephen Rugg* - *Legislative, Programs*

Terry Ruprecht* - *Past President*

Rick Schoell* - *Legislative*

Ginny Waaler* - *Programs*

H.F. (Bill) Williamson* - *Benefits*

~ OTHER COMMITTEES ~

Mary Beastall - *Benefits*

Pam Cler* - *Newsletter*

Paul Dollins - *Legislative*

Gary Engalgau - *Website*

Helen Satterthwaite - *Legislative*

~ LIAISONS ~

Athalia Hunt - *Campus*

Helen Satterthwaite - *Clark-Lindsey*

~ STATE SUAA LEADERSHIP ~

Thomas Conry* - *Executive Committee*

Stephen Rugg* - *Finance Committee*

H.F. (Bill) Williamson* - *Foundation*

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President's Message cont from page 1

I encourage you to attend the fall meeting on October 18 at the I-Hotel. And if you are not already an SUAA member, please consider joining. It is important that we remain vigilant about protecting our benefits. SUAA is the only advocacy organization that focuses solely on preserving pension and health care benefits for employees and retirees, as well as their spouses and survivors.



SUAA Legal Fund Needs Your Support!!

Yes....two big legal battles are over! The pension lawsuit and the retirees' health insurance lawsuit were both victorious.

SUAA will keep fighting for all retired and working members. These victories reflect their dedication to all of us. However, politicians in Springfield find themselves in a financial bind, and are actively looking for ways to steal your hard earned benefits. SUAA needs your help to ensure their legal defense is well-funded to respond to any unconstitutional actions taken by Springfield politicians.

Mail your check to:

SUAA

217 E Monroe Street, Suite 1000

Springfield, IL 62701



Contribute online at www.suaa.org

(More information about SUAA on page 9)

Fall Legislative Update

Steve Rugg and Rick Schoell

Recent Legislative Activity

The State of Illinois began its 2015-16 fiscal year without a budget. And as of this writing, the Governor and State Legislature have yet to agree on a spending plan for the new year. A variety of issues continue to be debated, but resolution of differences seems unlikely at present.

It is important to note that several budget matters have been addressed without the adoption of a comprehensive budget (and, perhaps paradoxically, thereby reducing fiscal pressures to conclude the budget-making process). The Governor did sign HB 3763 which provides funding for elementary and secondary schools which ensures state support for school districts throughout the state for the new fiscal year. Additionally, a panel of appellate judges from the 5th District upheld a temporary restraining order which will enable state government employees to be paid in full and on time even though a state budget was not enacted by July 1, the start of the current fiscal year.

Furthermore, as reinforced by the recent Illinois Supreme Court decision, all pension payments to state public and university employees must be made. It should also be noted that the State Legislature continues to meet and both members of the legislature and the Governors office continue to discuss pension reform.

We will continue to monitor State House developments closely and keep you informed of significant budget or pension issues. Readers are urged to monitor the SUAA website for the latest news on budget and legislative activities.

SUAA Acts When Harmful Legislation Becomes Law

To use a sports-related analogy, the best offense often is a good defense. It is generally easier to stop potentially harmful bills during the legislative pro-

cess – testifying before committees of the House or Senate, discussing concerns with individual legislators, and so on. Occasionally, however, despite SUAA's best efforts, legislation which clearly impairs the benefits for which active or retired SURS participants are eligible becomes law. Such was the case when the combined support of the Governor, Senate President and House Speaker in 2013 resulted in the "pension reform" proposals in Senate Bill 1 became Public Act 98-599.

As most readers now know, SUAA stepped forward and moved from defense to offense by joining several other groups in suing the State of Illinois to invalidate the provisions of PA 98-599 that clearly impaired the benefits to which SURS participants are entitled and which the State is obligated by the Illinois Constitution to provide. The SUAA legal team was the only one fighting exclusively for SURS participants and the only one to address the impacts of "pension reform" that affected all of us in SURS.

And SUAA emerged from this effort with what can only be described as a clear, convincing and complete victory. The Supreme Court unanimously agreed with every major point SUAA attorney's raised and overturned "pension reform" completely. The unmistakable message to the General Assembly and Governor is simple and straightforward: the Constitution means what it says. But without the initiative taken by SUAA on behalf of all SURS participants, that clear, convincing and complete victory might never have happened.

The SUAA legal victory over "pension reform" is the most visible – but by no means the only – victory SUAA has achieved outside the legislative arena.

Other notable successes include:

☛ Defeat of a Constitutional Amendment (CA-49) in 2012 which would have brought new confusion to the potential impairment of current benefits for SURS participants. SUAA led the initial efforts to publicize

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the potentially harmful impact of this effort.

☛ Clarification and understanding of the harmful effects of new health insurance fees imposed by Central Management Services and fought by others in the Kanerva lawsuit. The legal victory in this case was a precursor to the victory in the broader effort to overturn “pension reform.”

☛ Sharply reducing the legal fees sought by those who originally brought the Kanerva suit as a class-action effort that incorporated SURS participants, even though it was SUAA attorneys who brought to light most of the harmful issues affecting SURS participants.

All in all, SUAA has achieved monumental success for its members and, indeed, for all SURS participants both active and retired. SUAA’s legal team is excellent, and the leadership and hard work of Linda Brookhart, SUAA Executive Director, and a number of other key participants in the legal review process deserve considerable credit. With SUAA’s help, our legal team repeatedly delivered clear, real-world examples of specific impairments created by PA98-599 – and which ultimately were judged unconstitutional.

Looking Ahead

Although attention on legislative matters at this particular time is directed largely on the budget impasse, the immediate future is likely to include new attempts at pension reform and, almost certainly, an effort to amend the Illinois Constitution to remove or restrict the “non-impairment” clause. SUAA cannot afford to bask in the glow of its recent successes but must redouble its efforts at legislative vigilance and must be prepared again to litigate if harmful legislation becomes law.



SUAA-UIUC Member Elected to SURS Board of Trustees

Steve Rugg

Following an unusually active campaign for a contested seat on the Board of Trustees for the State Universities Retirement System, SUAA-UIUC member J. Fred Giertz was elected as an annuitant Trustee. He defeated Mitchell R. Vogel by a vote of 10,896 to 8,191. Both Giertz and Vogel had considerable past service as SURS Trustees and Vogel received campaign support from organized labor. Giertz is an emeritus professor of economics at the University of Illinois and a member of the Institute of Government and Public Affairs. He has written widely on the Illinois economy and public pension systems.

In a non-contested election, Mr. Aaron Ammons, a 14-year veteran building service worker at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, was also elected to a position as SURS Trustee. He is the husband of Representative Carol Ammons of Urbana.



SUAA-UIUC Spring Chapter Meeting, April 26, 2015

Jane Loeb

The April 26, 2015 chapter meeting hosted a panel of local legislators, to include Representative Carol Ammons of the 103rd district, Senator Chapin Rose of the 110th district, and Senator Scott Bennett of the 52nd district. Due to a family illness, Representative Ammons had to leave after her introductory comments. In those comments, she described her first 100 days in the General Assembly and some of the issues to be resolved, including protection of the Mahomet aquifer as well as compromise among opposing views of how best to handle the State's deficits. She expressed support of retirees' rights.

In his introductory comments, Senator Rose provided a detailed description of the then current state of the impasse on a budget for the upcoming year, noting that the as-yet unknown decision of the State Supreme Court concerning pension issues complicated this effort.

Like Representative Ammons, Senator Bennett described his first 100 days in office, commenting on the considerable area of common ground among our local legislators on issues affecting the local community.

Both Senators also discussed their work toward protection of the Mahomet aquifer. Other questions addressed included the potential for a constitutional amendment of the State Constitution's non-impairment clause (which prohibits the state from diminishing promised benefits) and the likelihood of diminution of the current 3% Automatic Annual Increase (AAI). Both senators noted that what can and might happen will be limited, in part, by the Supreme Court's decision, and both also expressed concern to protect promised benefits that have already been earned.

In the brief business meeting, President Ruprecht called for a vote on the slate of nominees for a three-year term on the chapter executive committee.

These are Pam Cler, Barbara Hartman, Ronald Webbink, and H.F. (Bill) Williamson, elected by unanimous vote.

SUAA's Executive Director, Linda Brookhart, reported on the year's activities of the statewide organization, including both the pension and health insurance lawsuits. SUAA's lawyers mounted an excellent case on the constitutionality of the recent pension legislation, which then awaited action by the Supreme Court of Illinois. SUAA did not initially enter the health insurance lawsuit but intervened in order to stop the withholding of health insurance premiums for SURS retirees, which were being withheld even after the court had ruled against the state's actions.

Our lawyers (who were paid by the hour, not on contingency) also argued against the high percentage of withheld premiums originally requested as payment by the contingency lawyers, with the effect that their payment was considerably reduced and retirees' premium refunds were larger. An audience member suggested that members use some of the amount they are refunded to contribute to the SUAA Legal Fund, which is used to pay SUAA's attorneys.

☞

Benefits Report

Mary Beastall and H. F. Williamson

This report is a work in progress because in the current changing environment new events may have occurred after this article was written. SUAA leaders monitor benefits-related activities in order to keep SURS members informed through information provided on the Chapter and State SUAA websites noted below. It is also important for members to monitor the Central Management Services (CMS) and State Universities Retirement System (SURS) websites, also appearing below.

Benefits Choice Period

The Central Management Services (CMS) Benefits Choice period for Medicare-eligible annuitants and their Medicare-eligible dependents is in the fall. An annui-

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tant who is Medicare-eligible will not qualify for this period if that annuitant has a dependent who is not eligible for Medicare on the annuitant's health insurance through the State. During the Benefits Choice period, an annuitant may choose to opt out of health insurance. When opting out, an annuitant may lose other benefits, such as vision and prescription coverage. Be sure to read the CMS information carefully before making a decision.

Claim Payment Delay

SUAA continues to receive inquiries from annuitants concerning the claim payment delay for the Quality Care Health Plan and the Quality Care Dental Plan. Updated information regarding payment delays appears on the CMS website under State Employee Benefits. This includes dates of payment for health providers, and some annuitants have found it helpful to give copies of this information to their providers. It is noted on the website that late payment will include an interest payment on health claims that take longer than 30 days from the receipt of a complete claim submission to pay.

Immunizations

Free flu shots have been available in the fall at the McKinley Health Center for most members, often in October. Be sure to monitor the McKinley Health Center website for updated information (<http://www.mckinley.illinois.edu>). There are some immunizations that are covered by Medicare health insurance plans, an example being the pneumonia vaccine. However, Boostrix (diphtheria, tetanus acellular, and pertussis adult vaccine) is covered under the Medicare Part D prescription plan. Some health providers also charge a fee for administering this immunization, and this fee may not be covered. The cost of administering an immunization does vary by provider so it is a good idea to check costs when choosing to have an immunization that is not covered by your health insurance.

Did You Know?

The members of the Chapter Benefits Committee will continue to review and update the information on benefits available to retirees and other annuitants

in issues of *The Annuitant* and the Chapter website (<http://suaa-ui.org>). Most will be of interest wherever these individuals are living. Some benefits will be principally for those living in the Champaign-Urbana area. These include the following:

Access through I-Cards. Retirees with I-Cards have access to many benefits on campus and in the community. If a retiree does not have an I-Card, that retiree should go to the Illini Union Bookstore ID Center on the first floor. Retiree status will be verified and an I-Card issued. In addition to benefits on campus, the I-Card serves as a free pass on any Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District (MTD) bus.

Employee Assistance Program. The services of the Faculty Staff Assistance Program are available free of charge for employees, retirees and family members or significant others living in their households. Services include assessments, short-term counseling, crisis services, and referrals to appropriate resources. The offices are located at 1101 West Springfield, Urbana. (Phone 217-244-5312, URL: <http://fsap.illinois.edu>).

Campus Recreation. Retirees who want to continue (or start!) using Campus Recreation facilities such as CRCE and the ARC can now have the membership fee deducted for their SURS annuity. The fee is \$40 per month. Your spouse/partner can be added for just \$23 per month. You can join at any time and start the deduction at that point. More information is available at the Campus Recreation website: <http://www.campus-rec.illinois.edu/>.

Walking in UI Armory. Those who are interested in walking for fitness at the UI Armory may not be aware that seniors 55 and over may purchase a lifetime registration for \$25 rather than pay the \$3 daily (see http://fightingillini.com/sports/2015/3/24/uiarmory_info.aspx for further information).

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2015CCFD

The Campus Charitable Fund Drive

SEPTEMBER 21 - NOVEMBER 13

RETIREE BOOKLET



ccfd.illinois.edu

September 1, 2015

Dear Retiree,

During your University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign employment, you may have participated in the Campus Charitable Fund Drive (CCFD). Thank you for your past contributions. As you know, the Urbana-Champaign CCFD is a combined campaign that support hundreds of member charities under twelve umbrella agencies. I hope that you will participate in this program at a level you find comfortable.

This critical campaign benefits the surrounding community in immeasurable ways. The nonprofit organizations to which you can contribute through the CCFD are dedicated to improving lives locally and nationally. From Special Olympics of Illinois and United Way of Champaign County to the American Cancer Society and the United Negro College Fund, the amazing and hard-working people of these organizations make sure that your money helps those who need it most. Please remember that 100% of your donation through the CCFD will go directly to the charity or charities you select. Your contributions make real differences in our community.

You can make your direct gift by completing and returning the form on the reverse side and sending it with your check or money order. You may also make your pledge on the CCFD website: ccfd.illinois.edu

We thank you for your past generosity and appreciate any donation you can make to help support this wonderful cause. If you have any questions, please visit the CCFD website or call Melinda Garrelts at 217-265-6398.

Thank you for continuing to be a part of our Illinois family.

Kind regards,



Allan Stratman
Executive Director of Facilities and Services
Chair, 2015 Campus Charitable Fund Drive Advisory Board

Retiree Pledge Form - Please Print

Full Name		Unit		Phone	
Address		City		State Zip	
<p align="center">Gift Information</p> <p align="center">I wish to donate to the charities listed below by writing a check made payable to the agency (no checks made payable to University of Illinois or Campus Charitable Fund Drive). List the agency at the top then the designations associated with that agency below. Visit www.ccfid.illinois.edu/agencies for agency and designation information.</p>					
Agency 1				Amount	\$
Designation A.				Amount	\$
Designation B.				Amount	\$
Designation C.				Amount	\$
Designation D.				Amount	\$
Total amount for this agency and associated designations				\$	

Agency 2				Amount	\$
Designation A.				Amount	\$
Designation B.				Amount	\$
Designation C.				Amount	\$
Designation D.				Amount	\$
Total amount for this agency and associated designations				\$	
Total amount for all gifts					\$

Please send completed pledge forms to:

Campus Charitable Fund Drive
 330 illini Union Bookstore Building - MC 319
 807 South Wright Street
 Champaign, IL 61820

Optional: Release Information

- ☐ Please DO NOT list my name in any CCFD publications
- ☐ I do not wish to be contacted by the Agency; or
- ☐ I do not wish to be contacted by the Agency other than acknowledgement of my gift
- ☐ Please notify me when the SURS annuity monthly deduction options becomes available

Participating Agencies



America's Charities

Working to build strong communities. Addressing needs of children, families, communities through member programs by helping employers and employees support our member charities' programs.

(800) 458-9505

www.charities.org | 6.4%

Black United Fund of Illinois

A self-help organization that provides financial and technical support to projects that improve the quality of life in African-American communities throughout Illinois.

(773) 324-0494

www.bufi.org | 4.4%

EarthShare Illinois

An alliance of leading nonprofit environmental and conservation charities, working across Illinois and the nation to protect human health and the environment.

(312) 795-3740

www.earthshare-illinois.org | 12.9%

Special Olympics Illinois

Part of an international program, Special Olympics Illinois provides year-round sports training, competition and a variety of skill-building opportunities for children and adults with intellectual disabilities.

(309) 888-2551

www.soill.org | 20.4%

American Cancer Society

When you support the American Cancer Society, you are joining a worldwide movement to help people stay well, help people get well, find cures, and fight back against cancer.

(800) ACS-2345

www.cancer.org | 27.9%

Community Health Charities of Illinois

Partnering with Illinois' most trusted health charities to deliver credible health information, community-focused volunteer activities and efficient charitable giving to employees in the workplace.

(312) 332-0198

www.illinois.healthcharities.org | 14.5%

Global Impact

Supports respected and effective international charities to address critical humanitarian issues throughout the world, such as disaster response, human trafficking, education, malaria, water and hunger.

(800) 836-4620

www.charity.org | 4.39%

United Negro College Fund

America needs more college graduates. President Barack Obama has committed the country to regaining world leadership in the percentage of people with a college education.

(312) 845-2200

www.uncf.org | 10%

American Heart Association

The American Heart Association is the nation's oldest, largest voluntary organization devoted to fighting cardiovascular diseases and stroke.

(217) 698-3838

www.heart.org | 20.9%

Community Shares of Illinois

Community Shares of Illinois represents a diverse group of charities with a common mission - to make our world a better place.

(217) 352-6533

www.communitysharesillinois.org | 9.9%

Independent Charities of America

Feeding the hungry. Sheltering the homeless. Protecting the children. And healing the sick. America's finest independent charities. Working with you to share - the American way.

(800) 477-0733

www.independentcharities.org | 1.1%

United Way of Champaign County

Community Impact Fund provides program funding to 37 human care agencies in Champaign County. There are sixty-seven funded programs that address health, education, food, financial stability and shelter.

(217) 352-5151

www.uwayhelps.org | 13.8%

Just For Retirees

Frequently Asked Questions about the Campus Charitable Fund Drive

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Q. Where do I find information on agencies and designations to which I may donate?

A. www.ccfid.illinois.edu/agencies

Q. May I donate to one of the 12 CCFD agencies without designating it for a specific program under an umbrella agency?

A. Yes, in fact some agencies prefer that you not designate toward a specific program. On the Pledge Form, simply complete the "Agency" line and the annual amount and leave the "designation" lines empty.

Q. Although I am retired, can I still have my gift counted in the total for the University unit where I worked?

A. Yes. Be sure to indicate your most recent campus unit in the "unit" field on the Pledge Form.

Q. In the past I have given directly to the United Way. Can I continue to do that and still participate in the CCFD?

A. Yes, the CCFD works closely with the United Way of Champaign County to ensure that both campaigns give the donor credit for his or her gift. If you give directly to the United Way, indicate to them that you are a University of Illinois retiree and they will notify CCFD of your gift so it can be counted in our campaign. Alternately, if you give to the United Way through the CCFD, the United Way will be informed of your gift.

Q. Are retirees required to make their pledges on paper?

A. You may submit your pledge using the form included in this mailing, but retirees, like current employees, are encouraged to make their pledges online at ccfd.illinois.edu

More questions?

Visit ccfd.illinois.edu or contact ccfd@illinois.edu or call 217-265-6398



Donate now!

CCFD is an annual campaign and right now is the best time to help us help someone less fortunate.

You can give on-line and make your pledge.

CCFD comes around just once a year, so don't put off until tomorrow what you can contribute today.



ccfd.illinois.edu

Staying Informed About Your Benefits

Links to benefit information can be found at both the State SUAA web site at www.suaa.org and the Chapter web site at www.suaa-ui.org. We recommend that you contact Central Management Systems (CMS) concerning questions about health care benefits and the State Universities Retirement System (SURS) about your annuity. The contact information for those offices and further information about what is available on the SURS web site is shown below.

Central Management Services (CMS)

URL: <http://www2.illinois.gov/cms/Employees/benefits/StateEmployee/Pages/default.aspx>

Phone: 800.366-8768 or 217.524-4784

TTY: 866.277-5669

CMS uses your information on file with SURS. **Remember to keep your personal information up to date with SURS.**

State Universities Retirement System (SURS)

URL: <http://surs.com/>

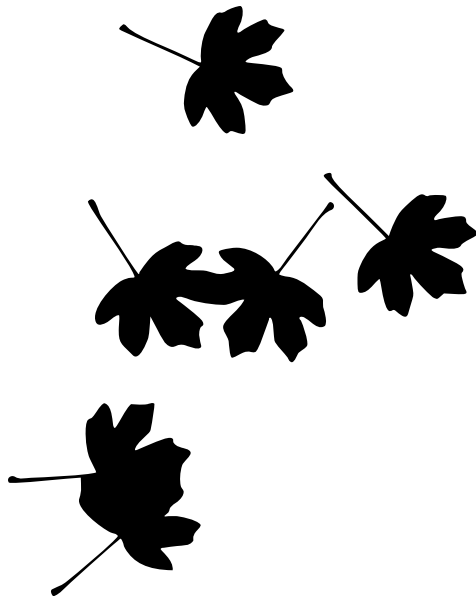
Phone: 800-ASK-SURS (800-275-7877)
or 217.378-8800. Fax: 217.378-9800

Physical Address: 1901 Fox Drive, Champaign, IL

Mailing Address: SURS, P.O. Box 2710,
Champaign, IL, 61825-2710

The SURS home page provides access to a number of topics of interest to our members such as the schedule of the “Post-Retirement Seminars” held in Champaign each fall and spring. The “Life Events” link at the top of the home page provides a link to the “Death of a Member” site which contains instructions on the steps that survivors should take when this event occurs. The steps presented there are similar to those discussed in the Survivor Assistance Workshops offered in the past.

Finally and perhaps most importantly, you can use the “Member Login” link at the top of the page to learn how to reach what is essentially your own home page. After entering your username and password (established on your first visit), you can view a wide range of information about your annuity including your entire payment history and your current payment information. You can also change such items as your address, beneficiaries, phone number or email address, and your Federal Income Tax withholding status. For those in the Champaign area without easy computer access, SURS has set up a kiosk computer station in their lobby for its members. The receptionist is available to assist annuitants using the kiosk.



Last Print Issue as Inside Illinois Moves to Online-only Format

Doris Dahl, Editor, Inside Illinois, Aug 20, 2015

Although the next time faculty and staff members receive Inside Illinois, it will be in their email inbox, the online version will include the same kinds of quality news and research articles, and photographs as the print version.

With the transition of Inside Illinois to an online-only format in the next few weeks, I admit I'm having a bit of an identity crisis. What will I tell people I "do"? For the past two decades, I've simply said, "I'm the editor of the faculty-staff newspaper at the University of Illinois."

Laying out a print newspaper has been a labor of love, and I admit I'll miss it. But while the paper is going away, the news will be more vibrant than ever. Inside Illinois lives on – just in a different format.

And that format will enable us to deliver campus news to our readers in a much more timely manner than our twice-monthly format just didn't allow.

Inside Illinois Online will allow us to post news as it happens and serve as a more sustainable and cost-effective news resource. And that is pretty exciting.

New website

My colleagues have been busy designing a new website that we plan to premiere around Sept. 1. Starting Sept. 3 and on each Thursday thereafter, every faculty and staff member (and other subscribers) will receive an email highlighting new campus features and the week's top news. Our website will be updated frequently, so you'll want to return often. We also will send out email alerts when we have breaking news.

Faculty and staff members will be automatically subscribed to the email. Others (including retirees, alumni and students) may subscribe/unsubscribe by filling in a simple online form (<https://illinois.edu/gm/subscribe/7330>). A .edu email address is not required.

We are moving to a .info site so that we may continue to sell advertising. Once all of our old content is moved over, there will be a redirect from our previous site, so you will be able to find us. Or you can just wait for that first email.

Editorial content

You also will see a few changes editorially. We plan to have more features on the interesting people on our campus. We also are going to split our On the Job column between academic professionals and civil service employees because we felt academic professionals were underrepresented in the paper. Additionally, Eweek will be transferred over to Inside Illinois, so you will now receive it on Thursday in the Inside Illinois email. The way you submit an Eweek item will remain the same, although the deadline probably will change. That will be announced soon.

Submitting content

The deadline for submitting an item for Brief Notes will be eight days prior to the email in which you would like it to appear. That will give us plenty of time to edit items and post them for the next week. To avoid confusion, include the date (of the email) you would like them to appear. And you can always send us an email with story ideas or faculty and staff achievements.

If you get nostalgic for the print version of Inside Illinois, all the past issues will be posted on our website.

With the popularity of smartphones today, Inside Illinois' mobile-friendly website will allow our readers to take the online version with them wherever they go.

As for my identity crisis ... I'm working on it. Our mission for Inside Illinois remains unchanged: to deliver an interesting and informative mix of campus and research news to the Urbana campus community.

HOW TO SUBSCRIBE

If you are receiving the print version of Inside Illinois but you are not a current faculty or staff member (such as retiree subscribers or paid subscribers), you will need to go online (<https://illinois.edu/gm/subscribe/7330>) to subscribe to the weekly email.

By subscribing, you will receive an email on Thursdays highlighting the week's top news. You may unsubscribe any time.



20 Reasons Why You Should Join SUAA . . .

SUAA is the voice of active and retired public universities' and community colleges' employees.

SUAA is the only advocacy organization that focuses solely on preserving retirement and healthcare benefits for the public universities' and community colleges' employees, both active and retirees, their spouses and their survivors for today and for tomorrow.

SUAA is your safety net...

SUAA provides continuous tracking of pension and healthcare benefit issues, state funding and other related concerns.

SUAA works with its membership to assure that legislators, executive officers, and other policymakers are knowledgeable about member issues.

SUAA has been defending the rights of SURS members since its founding in 1971.

SUAA continues its vigilance to preserve and protect the pension system, the healthcare plan and all other benefits provided for the wellbeing of the 208,000 SURS participants and beneficiaries.

The SUAA Record

SUAA defended current and retired employees from the unconstitutional provisions of Senate Bill 1 (PA 98-0599). Taking the fight all the way to the Illinois Supreme Court – and winning.

SUAA is taking on the unfair Tier II pension changes, so that newly hired employees will have the retirement benefits they deserve.

SUAA takes the fight to the Supreme Court...

SUAA led the charge to defeat Constitutional Amendment 49, which threatened retirement benefits for both current employees and retirees.

SUAA is defeating repeated attempts to roll back the modest tuition waiver benefit awarded university employees.

SUAA challenged and won the “Kanerva” case, blocking the state’s attempt to deny health care benefits promised to and earned by retirees and current employees.

SUAA is offering solutions that will assure a stable and secure retirement system in the future, without cutting benefits.

SUAA is a voluntary membership association funded entirely by contributions from its members. Without your support, we cannot protect your interests.

Your SUAA membership shows we mean business...

SUAA membership shows elected officials we are united and serious about protecting benefits for SURS members and their families, now and in the future.

SUAA membership is the best way to build relationships with other members of the State Universities Retirement System (SURS) through local chapters on each public university and community college campus.

SUAA provides the information you need to plan for the future and assures you have access to the benefits and services you’ve earned.

SUAA membership helps you stay up to date with the latest and most accurate information.

SUAA is a 501(c)(4) organization created to advocate for current employees, retirees, spouses and survivors who will or are receiving benefits from the State Universities Retirement System (SURS).

SUAA membership offers assistance to retirees, spouses and survivors, assuring they have the information they need to access the benefits and services for which they are entitled.

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS FOR BOTH
CURRENT EMPLOYEES AND RETIREES ARE
FOUND ON THE NEXT PAGE.**

PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING SUAA!!



Make all checks payable to: SUAA
Return the signed membership form to:
SUAA, 217 E. Monroe, Suite, 100
Springfield, IL 62701

Dues are not deductible as a charitable contribution for tax purposes, but are deductible as a business expense. Contributions to the SUAA Foundation are tax deductible.

**SUAA Membership Application
University of Illinois
Urbana-Champaign Chapter
RETIREES ONLY**

Select Payment Option:

- ☐ 1. Automatic Dues Deduction (SURS)
☐ 2. Annual Cash Payment

Membership Type: ☐ Year Retired

- ☐ Retiree
☐ Retiree and Spouse/Partner
☐ Spouse/Partner
☐ Surviving Spouse/Partner
☐ Supporter

Name: _____

Spouse/Partner _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Chapter Dues Amount:

- \$ 3.42 member monthly deduction
\$ 6.83 member & spouse monthly deduction
\$ 41.00 member annual check/cash payment
\$ 82.00 member & spouse annual check/cash payment
\$ _____ SUAA Foundation - Requires separate check
\$ _____ SUAA Legal Fund – Requires separate check
\$ _____ SUAAAction – Requires separate check

Signature Required for SURS Dues Deduction:

I hereby authorize the State Universities Retirement System (SURS) to deduct monthly the amount as certified by the UIUC Chapter as the current rate of dues. The deduction will start once the SURS process is complete and will continue until termination is requested in writing.

Signature: _____



Make all checks payable to: SUAA
Return the membership form to:
SUAA, 217 E. Monroe, Suite, 100
Springfield, IL 62701

Dues are not deductible as a charitable contribution for tax purposes, but are deductible as a business expense. Contributions to the SUAA Foundation are tax deductible.

**SUAA Membership Application
University of Illinois
Urbana-Champaign Chapter**

CURRENT EMPLOYEES ONLY

ANNUAL CASH PAYMENT OPTION

Membership Type:

- ☐ Active Employee (including allied agencies)
☐ Active Employee and Spouse/Partner
☐ Spouse/Partner
☐ Supporter

Name: _____

Spouse/Partner: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Chapter Dues Amount:

- \$ 41.00 member annual check/cash payment
\$ 82.00 member & spouse annual check/cash payment
\$ _____ SUAA Foundation - Requires separate check
\$ _____ SUAA Legal Fund – Requires separate check
\$ _____ SUAAAction – Requires separate check

In Memoriam

As a service to readers, *The Annuitant* publishes a listing of deceased employees and annuitants taken from *Inside Illinois* issues as well as other print sources. The following listing gives the name, the date of death, and the age at death (when known) for those individuals whose death notices appear between February 20 and August 6, 2015.

Due to increased privacy restrictions and the lack of public information in many obituary notices, this list can be difficult to develop. Thus the list may gradually become less comprehensive.

Abbott, Karen L., 63, 5/5/15	Henderson-Ditmer, Linda L., 61, 6/20/15
Adams, Lila Mae, 73, 5/23/15	Herrin, Moreland, 92, 7/6/15
Anderson, Ansel C., 81, 3/30/15	Hollis, Willa, 74, 4/26/15
Armstrong, Mary Ann, 71, 4/25/15	Jones, Mary Margaret, 70, 5/25/15
Ash, Robert B., 79, 4/15/15	Kaiser, Robert G., 87, 6/13/15
Badger, Barbara Van Vliet, 93, 3/19/15	Kiesewetter, Jodi K., 42, 2/17/15
Baker, Gracye Parks, 84, 3/22/15	Klein, Barbara (Bobbi) Pincus, 78, 2/17/15
Beckhart, Kathryn Irene, 84, 4/14/15	Knipfer, Eleanor (Ellie), 77, 3/20/15
Birdsell, Helen M., 76, 2/24/15	Lange, Ingrid F., 86, 6/28/15
Brandabur, Agnes Clare, 85, 3/6/15	Leff, Mark H., 66, 2/22/15
Brown, Robert A., 56, 3/29/15	Levine, Tamara Jean, 45, 3/6/15
Brown, Sherman Daniel, 85, 3/27/15	Lottman, Ruth Schindler, 92, 6/5/15
Burnsmier, Helen, 95, 2/16/15	Mapother, Dillon, 93, 7/22/15
Butts, George B., 77, 2/27/15	Marty, Fernand Lucien, 95, 7/17/15
Campbell, Dennis William, 73, 3/27/15	McNally, Richard C. (Buzz), 49, 3/4/15
Coleman, James W., 95, 7/1/15	McNutt, Percy, 73, 5/1/15
Cook, Nadine, 97, 5/27/15	McWhorter, Leland Edward, 79, 3/6/15
Cummings, Dorothy Norma, 93, 6/20/15	Meccoli, Rose Ann, 67, 3/4/15
Daniel, William L. 72, 2/15/15	Mitchell, Helen Pauline, 99, 3/31/15
Danison, Ruby, 94, 6/30/15	Modest, Alinda M., 59, 2/19/15
Danner, Mary Jane, 86, 6/25/15	O'Halloran Jr, Thomas Alphonsus, 83, 3/28/15
Emberton, James, 64, 7/16/15	Overmyer, James, 96, 3/13/15
Evans, Rupert Nelson, 94, 4/24/15	Peden, Mark, 63, 6/14/15
File, Jennie L., 61, 3/4/15	Pembroke, Ruth, 75, 4/3/15
Fisher, Jr., Ralph Talcott, 94, 4/4/15	Pforr, Floyd (Keith), 73, 6/23/15
Foley, Louie (Dick), 88, 6/27/15	Pomakoy, Helen Louise Suddes, 75, 6/15/15
Frederick, Beverly, 85, 6/22/15	Ravanhall, Mary, 85, 7/12/15
Gamboa, Sally, 93, 7/2/15	Schnitzlein, Sari, 67, 3/7/15
Gold, Robert, 93, 5/28/15	Schwab, Donald L., 63, 3/16/15
Granato, Andrew Vincent, 89, 6/3/15	Siedler, Arthur J., 88, 6/12/15
Graziano, Anthony Frank, 78, 7/25/15	Smith, Mary Ellen (Mimi), 63, 6/1/15
Green, Russell Hugh, 86, 7/9/15	Smith, Portia Allyn, 98, 2/23/15
Greene, Vincent O., 92, 5/28/15	Sykes, Frances Louise, 82, 4/14/15
Grice, Kevin L. (Chip), 57, 7/23/15	Teeters, Mary Margaret Hettinger, 99, 7/9/15
Haight, Jr, Gilbert Pierce, 92, 4/27/15	Trulock, William Dale, 98, 12/10/14
Hale, Allean Lemmon, 100, 4/18/15	Uden, Annette G., 89, 6/29/15
Hamdy, Saada, 68, 4/21/15	Vogel, Linda S., 63, 3/19/15
Hartman, Janice Marilyn Miller, 78, 5/26/15	Whitt, Scottie, 68, 5/20/15
Hartman, Joanne G., 85, 1/20/15	Wilken, Delmar Francis, 93, 5/4/15
Hartman, Robert L., 91, 6/28/15	Wright, Raymond Curtis, 68, 6/5/15
Haycraft, Roy Allen, 66, 1/24/15	Yowell, Patricia A., 84, 5/7/15
Hedges, Jane Taylor, 64, 6/17/15	Zeigler, Martin L., 93, 5/3/15

**University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
SUAA-UIUC Chapter
364 Henry Administration Building, MC-346
506 S. Wright Street
Champaign, IL 61801-3689**

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