

The Annuitant

A publication of the UIUC Chapter State Universities Annuitants Association

Fall 2019

www.suaa-ui.org

Carol Livingstone, Editor

Fall Membership Meeting October 20

Pension Issues: A Discussion with Martin Noven, Executive Director of SURS

The SUAA-UIUC fall meeting will be held on Sunday, October 20 in the Technology Room at the I-Hotel and Conference Center, 1900 S. First St., Champaign. The afternoon begins with a social time at 1:30 pm and the formal session will start at 2 pm.

Please join us as we hear from Martin Noven, the Executive Director of the State Universities Retirement System (SURS). He will be discussing changes and challenges to SURS members and the SURS system. Following his presentation, you are welcome to ask him questions, which may include how next year's state budget and legislative activities could impact our pensions and benefits.



Martin Noven

Noven was appointed as Executive Director SURS on November 2, 2016. He is a graduate of the University of Illinois with a bachelor's degee in speech communication and earned his juris doctorate from the University of Texas School of Law.

We hope you can attend!

President's Report

Richard J. Winkel, Jr.

Big Ten Retirees Conference

On behalf of the Urbana-Champaign Chapter and the Executive Committee, congratulations to everyone on the Planning Committee for the Big Ten Retirees Conference, which met on August 2-4, 2019 on the Urbana campus. Each planning committee member made an outstanding effort to produce a program of substance and meaning that showcased our great University to the other schools in the Big Ten! Thank you all for a job well done. And special thanks to Steve Rugg and Kathleen Holden for leading the effort.

Bylaws Committee

The Executive Committee has approved the appointment of a committee to revise the Chapter's ByLaws. Bill Adams, Mary Beastall, Melinda Carr, Bob Rich and Bill Williamson have agreed to serve on the committee. The Committee has stated the process by reviewing the bylaws and constitutions from the SUAA chapters at the other state Universities.

Chapter Officers

Bill Williamson, as chair of the Nominating Committee, reported on June 12, 2019 to the Executive Committee on the nominations of Rick Winkel (President), Bill Adams (Vice President), and Melinda Carr (Secretary). A motion to accept was approved unanimously. The term of office for each ends June 30, 2020.

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SUAA-UIUC CHAPTER LEADERSHIP 2019-20

Committee assignments are shown in italics

~ OFFICERS ~

President

Richard Winkel, Jr.* - Legislative Vice President

William Adams* - *Legislative*Secretary

Melinda Carr* - Secretary/Membership

Treasurer

Ron Webbink

~ OTHER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ~

Marissa Brewer** - Communications
Kathleen Holden** - Program
Wynne Sandra Korr* - Legislative
Carol Livingstone* - Communications,
Newsletter and Webmaster
John Marlin* - Program
Robert Rich* - Legislative
Steve Rugg* - Legislative
Deb Stone* - Benefits

* elected member of the Executive Committee ** member of the Executive Committee appointed to fill a vacancy

~ OTHER COMMITTEES ~

Mary Beastall - Benefits
Barbara Hartman - Membership
Katharine Kral - Big 10 Retirees Conference
Helen Satterthwaite - Legislative
Rick Schoell - Legislative
H. F. (Bill) Williamson - Benefits/Membership

~ LIAISONS ~

Athalia Hunt - *Campus* Helen Satterthwaite - *Clark-Lindsey*

~ STATE SUAA LEADERSHIP ~

H. F. (Bill) Williamson - SUAA Foundation Melinda Carr - State Membership Co-Chair (continued from page 1)

Legislative Outlook

It was a very good year for the University of Illinois, which received a 5% increase in operating funds in the FY2020 state budget. During a discussion of the Executive Committee on June 12, some questioned if the budget is sustainable. Revenue generated from the proposed progressive income tax, if approved in November 2020, would start several months later.

As SUAA has reported (Mini-Briefing: General Assembly Goes Home for the Summer! June 3, 2019), there was an unexpected \$1.4 billion windfall to the state treasury and Governor Pritzker and the Legislative Leaders agreed to a \$40 billion budget plus a \$45 billion Capital Plan-Rebuild Illinois. The pension debt issue was not a part of the budget or any negotiations as of June 3.

However, as we have seen repeatedly in the media, debates and comments regarding pension debt have become quite intense and signal that new pension reform legislation and possibly constitutional amendments may be forthcoming.

SUAA and our Chapter's legislative committee will remain vigilant and active to ensure our benefits are protected and remain whole. Our legislative committee will continue to track and analyze legislative bills as they are introduced, meet with local legislators, work with University administrators, and keep our membership informed as we act as your advocates.

SUAA-UIUC Goes Social!

Your chapter now has a presence on Facebook. Please "like" our page to see SUAA news as it happens, and feel free to post questions or topics that would be of interest to your fellow UIUC retirees and employees.



Search Facebook for SUAA UIUC

Spring 2019 Survey of UIUC SURS Participants

Carol Livingstone

Last spring, the SUAA-UIUC Board decided to survey current members and other SURS participants about their concerns and attitudes related to the funding of our pensions. An invitation to take a short survey was emailed to all members who had valid email addresses on file, and also posted in the UIUC campus "e-week" newsletter. We received 540 responses and tabulated the results, which can be viewed on the chapter website at http://www.suaa-ui.org/docs. When asked about proposals to raise funds to support the pension system or proposals to reduce pension and insurance costs, respondents replied as follows:

- 52% support taxing the pensions of higher income individuals
- 47% are in favor of raising the personal income tax
- 64% support eliminating some personal and corporate income tax breaks

- 76 % support a graduated income tax
- 51% support adjusting the annual pension increase from a fixed 3% to a percentage based on the cost of living
- 71% oppose increasing the personal share of health insurance costs; and
- 88% oppose decreasing the scope and breadth of health insurance coverage.

Current and future annuitants are concerned about the security of their pensions and benefits – only 5% strongly agree that their pensions are secure, and 4% that their health insurance will remain affordable.

The results of this survey have been transmitted to the state-wide organization, where we hope your opinions and attitudes will inform SUAA's lobbying efforts.

SUAA-UIUC Spring Chapter Meeting, April 28, 2019

H. F. (Bill) Williamson

The 2019 spring meeting of the SUAA-UIUC Chapter was held on Sunday afternoon, April 28, 2019 at the I Hotel and Conference Center in Champaign, IL. Chapter President Rick Winkel opened the presentation by discussing the results of the recent UIUC SUAA Opinion Poll (see above). This served as the basis for the discussion with the three panelists: State Senator Scott Bennett; State Representative Dan Caulkins, and State Senator Chapin Rose. In particular, the panelists were asked to discuss three questions:

- (1) How can the General Assembly assure a stable future for the SURS pension system?
- (2) If this cannot be achieved, what is the impact on SURS system members?
- (3) Do they feel that an amendment to the State Constitution will be proposed in 2020 to change pension benefits?

A lively question-and-answer period followed.

The presentation was followed by the Chapter's Business Meeting. Four individuals were elected for 2019-2022 terms on the Chapter Executive Committee: William Adams, Melinda Carr, John Marlin, and Richard Winkel. Deb Stone from the benefits committee then presented a report on benefits issues of interest to SURS member. Carol Livingstone from the communications committee gave an update on the Chapter's newsletter and webpage. The meeting concluded with a report from H. F. (Bill) Williamson for the membership committee in which he hoped that each attendee would set a goal of recruiting at least one new member during the coming year.

2019 Big 10 Retirees Association Conference: Reinventing Retirement

H. F. (Bill) Williamson and Stephen Rugg

The Big Ten Retiree Association was formed in 1992 with the purpose of holding annual meetings at which the member associations could exchange information. Our Chapter hosted the twenty-eighth annual Conference at the I Hotel on August 2-4, 2019. Twelve of the fourteen Big 10 Universities were represented.

After a welcome from UIUC Chancellor Robert Jones, the first session on Friday afternoon addressed the two questions: (1) What is the most successful thing your school is doing to engage retirees? (2) What is the biggest challenge your school faces as it tries to engage retirees?

The day finished with an after-dinner presentation by UI Executive Vice President Barbara Wilson in which she reviewed a number of critical issues for the future for all major research universities, and judging from the extensive interaction she had with her audience, the issues she raised are clearly relevant across the Big Ten.

The principal speakers at this year's conference were Kahn Professor of Applied Health Sciences Wendy Rogers, and Donna Cox, the Michael Aiken Professor and Director of the School of Art and Design and Director of the Advanced Visualization Lab at the National Center for Supercomputing Applications.

On Saturday morning, Professor Rogers, who also is Director of the Collaboration in Health, Aging, Research and Technology was joined by four of her graduate students to present a full morning of information and current research results related to aging and technology. While emphasizing issues affecting all aging adults, the work of Rogers and her colleagues is clearly one of the main elements on which retiree associations are focused, and the presentations of Professor Rogers and her graduate students was extremely well received.

After lunch, the attendees were taken on a bus tour of the campus (and all the construction zones) which ended at the Advanced Visualization Laboratory for the presentation by Professor Cox. She has been involved with visualization applications since the very early years of NCSA and, simply put, her collaboration with her partner Robert Patterson wowed the audience. From the illustration of intergalactic evolution to the formation of tornados and improvements in weather forecasting, the work of Visualization Lab offers one of the most eloquent examples of the applications of leading-edge research to vast everyday problems confronting our world.

The group then attended a reception at President Killeen's house followed by dinner at the Alumni Center. The day was concluded well by performances by two singers from the University's Lyric Opera program.

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Professor Wendy Rogers

(Big 10 Meeting, continued from page 4)

On Sunday morning, there were two sessions. At the first, there was another opportunity for the for participants to discuss common issues and challenges. The retiree associations at most other Big Ten institutions are far more directly involved in key issues such as pensions and health insurance than is the case at Illinois. The pension provisions at most Big Ten institutions are built around the Social Security System as a base plus a supplemental retirement program to which both the institution and individual contribute.

Similarly, health insurance benefits differ across institutions instead of falling under a statewide program as in Illinois. There was also a review of how the Association could improve its communications with the member groups. This discussion continued at the final session, the annual business meeting.

The SUAA-UIUC planning committee for this event was chaired by Stephen Rugg and Kathleen Holden and included Bill Adams, Barbara Hartman, Kathy Kral, Carol Livingstone, John Marlin, Sue Trippiedi and Bill Williamson. Signiicant support for the conference was provided by Athalia Hunt, Director, Illinois Business Operations, and staff in the Office of UIUC Office of Human Resources for production of conference materials and preparation



Professor Donna Cox

of information folders for all participants. Additional support and assistance came from the Offices of the Chancellor, the President, the Alumni Alliance, the President's House, the I-Hotel and Conference Center, and the Visit Champaign County organization and the University of Illinois Credit Union.

SUAA Legal Fund Needs Your Support!!

Two big legal battles – the pension lawsuit and the retiree health insurance lawsuit – were both victorious, thanks to the legal team at SUAA. These victories are founded on the clear protections of our pensions and benefits in the Illinois constitution. However clear, these protections depend on a strong legal team to react quickly whenever Springfield politicians threaten our hard-earned benefits. SUAA needs your help to ensure that its legal defense fund can respond to <u>any</u> unconstitutional actions taken by Springfield politicians. Contribute online at <u>www.SUAA.org</u> or mail your check (made out to SUAA Legal Fund) to



SUAA 217 E. Monroe St., Suite 100 Springfield, IL 62701

Benefits Report

Mary Beastall, Deb Stone, and H. F. (Bill) Williamson

Since we are in a changing environment with regard to benefits issues, it is important that members keep informed through the SUAA Chapter and State websites. The State Universities Retirement System (SURS) and Central Management Services (CMS) websites are also good resources. The contact information for these websites appear later in this newsletter.

Claim Payment Delay:

Funding availability for the Quality Care Health Plan, HealthLink OAP, Aetna OAP and Quality Care Dental Plan is based on State revenue which fluctuates from month to month. Claim payments are released according to available funding. A late payment will include an interest payment on claims that take longer than 30 days.

Updated information regarding such delays appears on the CMS website under State Employee benefits (Claim Payment Delays). (See page 7 for the link to CMS)

Benefits Choice Periods:

CMS has hired an online vendor to assist with the administration of the State's insurance programs. Members view and make changes to their coverage through the MyBenefits Marketplace website. According to the SURS website, SURS will no longer assist with processing health insurance coverage for its members, but members have the option to call a State group insurance customer service representative (1-844-251-1777 – toll free or 1-844-251-1778 TDD/TTY). Detailed information will be included in the Benefits Choice materials. Each Benefits Choice Period provides an option to Opt-Out of coverage. Please note that it is important to note that choosing to opt out of coverage can have considerable impacts and all CMS information should be carefully reviewed when considering this choice.

Current employees and non-Medicare eligible annuitants/dependents

Due to the recent AFSCME agreement, CMS is planning to hold a limited Special Enrollment

Period this fall to allow health carrier changes effective January 1, 2020. According to the CMS website, information will be sent to affected individuals, but it is recommended that the CMS website be monitored.

Medicare-eligible annuitants (and all dependents also Medicare eligible)

The annual CMS Benefits Choice period for the Medicare advantage TRAIL (Total Retiree Advantage IL) is October 15 – November 15 with coverage changes effective January 1.

I am an annuitant. How do I know which Benefit Choice period applies to me?

CMS will send information to you for the appropriate Benefits Choice period. You will not be eligible for the TRAIL open enrollment unless you and ALL of your dependents are Medicare eligible prior to the Benefits Choice period, the date determined by CMS. There is a more detailed article regarding Medicare in the spring 2019 *Annuitant*, which is available on the Chapter website.

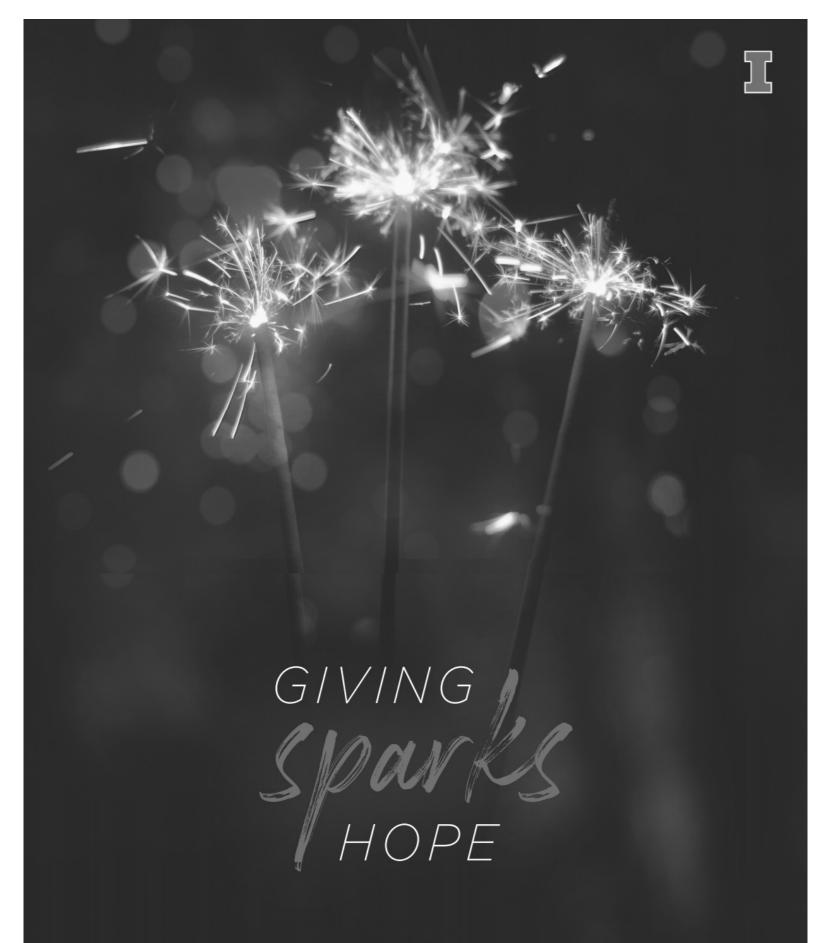
Flu Shots

Free flu shots have been available in the fall at McKinley Health Center for employees and retirees in the State insurance plan. Be sure to monitor the McKinley website (*mckinley.illinois.edu*) for updated information and dates. Flu shorts for seniors are available and some pharmacies and other entities, and these are usually covered by insurance. McKinley does not offer the enhanced vaccine for persons over 65; this can be found at local pharmacies and clinics, often at no cost.

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 on the Chapter website (http://suaa-ui.org). Most of these will be of interest wherever these individuals are living.

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CCFD2019
CAMPUS CHARITABLE FUND DRIVE 2019

GOALS

1.5 MILLION

25% EMPLOYEE

Dear University of Illinois Retiree,

Thank you for your continued support of the Campus Charitable Fund Drive. Last year, our campaign generated more than \$1.3 million from retirees and employees to support local area and national social service, advocacy, and community organizations.

The 2019 CCFD Campaign will kick off on Monday, September 16, 2019 and conclude on Friday, November 8, 2019. 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 American Heart Association and United Way of Champaign County to Community Shares of Illinois 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.

Take a moment to select the charity that inspires you, complete the CCFD Pledge Form and send it in along with your check or money order. Contributions are tax deductible.

We thank you for your past generosity and appreciate your contributions to the 2019 CCFD Campaign. Give us a call at 217-265-6398 or email us at ccfd@illinois.edu, if you have questions or visit the CCFD website at ccfd.illinois.edu.

Warmest Regards,

Jeffrey Brown

Dean - Gies College of Business Co-Chair, 2019 Campus Charitable Fund Drive **Danita Brown Young**

Danter M. B. Young

Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs
Co-Chair, 2019 Campus Charitable Fund Drive

2019 Campus Charitable Fund Drive Retiree Pledge Form - (please print)

Name (First and Last)		Email (for CCFD use only)				
Phone		UIN (if available)	Retirement Year			
Address		City	State	ZIP		
Department Unit University of Illinois Department/Ucontribution to be credited. You me from which you retired or a depart	nay select the department	Release information I DO NOT wish to be contacted by the Agency I DO wish to receive acknowledgement from the Agency for my contribution				
	one of the 12 Umbrella Agency of the receipt with this form. R	listed below. If you wish, you may als leceipt must reflect that your charita				
American Cancer Society	American Heart Associ	ciation America	a's Best Cha	rities		
Amerca's Charities	Black United Fund	Commu	nity Health	Charities of Illinois		
Community Shares of Illinois	EarthShare of Illinois	Global I	Impact			
Special Olympics Illinois	United Negro College	Fund United V	Way of Champaign County			
Many of the 12 Umbrella Agencies allow you to select specific DESIGNATIONS and you may contribute to one or more de Complete the form with the name of the Umbrella Agency and then specify the designation and the amount to each des						
Umbrella Agency Name						
Designation			Amount	\$		
Designation			Amount	\$		
Designation			Amount	\$		
Designation			Amount	\$		
	Total amount for this Umbrella Agency and associated designations \$			\$		
Umbrella Agency Name						
Designation			Amount	\$		
Designation			Amount	\$		
	Total amount for this Un	nbrella Agency and associated desig	nations	\$		
Send Pledge Form to:	Campus Charitable Fun Office of the Chancellor Swanlund Administratio 601 E. John St.,Champai	n Building, MC-304				

Participating Agencies



























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) 319-2345 www.cancer.org | 27.9%

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%

America's Best Charities

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.best-charities.org | 1.4%

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 | 2.4%

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 | 15.8%

Community Health Charities of Illinois

We walk past people everyday never realizing more than 133 million of them suffer from chronic disease or disability - they need our help. (800) 654-0845 www.healthcharities.org | 5.2%

Community Shares of Illinois

We create change in local communities by supporting organizations that rescue animals, build affordable housing, eradicate hunger, restore families, eliminate violence, provide arts and media, preserve the environment, and promote access to healthcare.
(217) 352-6533
www.communitysharesillinois.org | 16.5%

EarthShare Illinois

Supports Illinois environmental and conservation organizations which protect our air, water, land, wildlife, and public health. One environment, one simple way to care for it. (800) 875-3863 www.earthshare-illinois.org | 8.76%

Global Impact

Supports more than 100 trusted international charities addressing critical humanitarian issues throughout the world, such as disaster response, human trafficking, education, malaria, water and hunger.

(800) 836-4620

www.charity.org | 4.17%

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 | 22.6%

United Negro College Fund

Helping young people go to and graduate from college has been UNCF's number one priority since 1944. Your donation will send the next generation of leaders to college and provide the support and tools they need to succeed in their studies. (312) 845-2200 www.uncf.org | 12%

United Way of Champaign County

Our community impact fund is being invested toward our three community goals of Education; Health and Financial Stability. There are 39 funded programs that address impact in those areas.

(217) 352-5151

www.uwayhelps.org | 14.2%

Just For Retirees

Frequently Asked Questions about the Campus Charitable Fund Drive

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Q. What are the dates of the 2019 CCFD Campaign?

A. The 2019 CCFD Campaign runs from September 16 - November 8, 2019. We will accept contributions from retirees for the 2019 CCFD Campaign up until the end of the year.

Q. How do I donate?

A. Complete the Pledge Form and return it with your check or money order. You may also make your pledge online at ccfd.illinois. edu. If your UIN is available, please have that number when you make an online contribution.

Q. What non-profits can I donate to?

A. You may donate to one of the twelve CCFD Agencies directly. You may also donate to any of the designated nonprofits listed under each agency. The complete list of CCFD Agencies and their designations can be found at www.ccfd.illinois.edu/agencies

Q. Does my gift count towards the goal for the University Department/Unit from which I retired?

A. You may select which department/unit gets credit for you donation. The Retiree Pledge Form has a box to complete regarding whom you would like to receive credit for your contribution.

Q. How is Release of Information handled?

A. You may specify how or if you wish to be contacted. On the Pledge Form.

Select one of two boxes:

DO NOT	wish	to	be	contacted	by
the Agend	² y				

DO	wish to receive acknowledgement
from	the Agency for my contribution

Q. I have given directly to the United Way in the past and plan to continue to do that this year. Can I receive CCFD credit for my direct contribution to United Way?

- A. If your contribution to United Way occurs during the 2019 CCFD Campaign, it may be counted. CCFD works closely with the United Way of Champaign County to ensure both campaigns give the donor credit for your generous contribution. When giving to United Way, let them know you are a University of Illinois retiree (including department) and would like to receive CCFD credit for your donation. If you give to United Way through the 2019 CCFD Campaign, United Way will be informed of your gift.
- Q. What if I want to give to an charity that is not listed as part of the 12 umbrella agencies (for list of charities under CCFD go to ccfd.illinois.edu/agencies)?

A. Other United Way or Local Charitable

Organization. If you wish to donate to a 501(c)(3) that is not part of the CCFD Campaign, choose this designation, then submit your check or receipt as usual. Include the name, address and phone number of the 501(c)(3). CCFD will provide the specific name of the 501(c)(3) to United Way and United Way will route the money accordingly after imposing a 6% designation fee not to exceed \$60.00 for one year.

Q. What if I want to give a stock donation?

Please call the CCFD office for instructions.

Q. Where do I mail or drop off my 2019 CCFD Pledge Form?

A. Swanlund Admin Bldg., 5th Floor 601 E. John St. M/C 304 Champaign, IL 61820-571

Q. What if I need more information or have questions?

A. Visit ccfd.illinois.edu, send us an email at ccfd@illinois.edu or call us at 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.

217-265-6398

(Benefits Report, continued from page 6)

Some benefits will be principally for those living in the Champaign-Urbana area.

Of particular importance is the "Guide to Benefits and Services available to University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Retirees" prepared by Illinois Human Resources which is on their web site: http://humanresources.illinois.edu/retirees/benefits-services.html The guide includes such items as (a) benefits associated with I-Cards; (b) access to Faculty/Staff Assistance Services; (c) clinics in departments on the UIUC campus providing various services, (d) programs and facilities available to promote fitness and improved health, e) computing services and f) educational benefits.

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.

Faculty/Staff Assistance Services. The services of this office 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, website

http://humanresources.illinois.edu/fsas). You can support this program either (a) by mailing a personal check (indicate Faculty and Staff Emergency Fund in memo line) to: University of Illinois Foundation 1305 West Green Street, MC-386 Urbana, IL 61801 or (b) visiting the Foundation web site (https://uif.uillinois.edu/how-to-give) for information on the many other ways to donate.

Audiology Clinic and Speech-Language Pathology Clinic. These are both in the Department of Speech and Hearing Science. The Audiology Clinic (217-333-2205) provides services to individuals of all ages

who may be experiencing hearing difficulties, with such services including hearing assessment. The Speech-Language Pathology Clinic (217-333-2205) serves individuals of all ages who have communicative impairments. Further information is available on the departmental website https://shs.illinois.edu/clinics.

Fitness/Exercise Programs & Facilities

SilverSneakers Programs. Some state health plans include free SilverSneakers memberships for those over 65. SilverSneakers members have access to facilities and wellness programs throughout the country. For a listing of facilities and more information, visit the SilverSneakers website at: https://www.silversneakers.com.

The Lifetime Fitness Program. This program is sponsored by the Department of Kinesiology and Community Health and is designed for residents of the Champaign-Urbana area who are age 55 or older The program has also teamed up with Silver Sneakers, thus giving access to facilities and some classes at no cost and providing a discount for other classes. Activities include group fitness, individual training and aquatics. Further information can be found at

<u>https://lifetimefitnessprogram.kch.illinois.edu</u>. Members of OLLI receive a 20% discount on fees.

Campus Recreation. Retirees may continue (or start!) using Campus Recreation facilities such as CRCE and the ARC for an annual fee of \$480 which can be paid by having a monthly fee of \$40 deducted from their SURS annuity. Your spouse/partner can be added for an annual fee of \$276. More information about membership is available at the Campus Recreation website: https://www.campusrec.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. Visit the website at the following URL: www.uiarmory.com or call 217-333-8333 for further information

Important Sources of Information about Your Pension & Benefits

State Universities Retirement System (SURS)

URL: http://surs.com/

Phone: (800) 275-7877 or (217) 378-8800

Fax: (217) 378-9800

Address: 1901 Fox Drive, Champaign, IL 61825

SURS is our pension system. Once registered on the website, current employees will have access to historical pay and pension calculators to help plan for retirement. After retirement, annuitants can view information about pension payments and deductions and can update addresses, beneficiaries, phone number, email address, and federal tax withholding status.

During tax season, annuitants can download copies of 1099-R forms from the site.

MyBenefits Marketplace

URL: https://mybenefits.illinois.gov/

Phone: (844) 251-1777 or (844)251-1778 (TTY)

MyBenefits is website designed to help employees or annuitants make changes to their insurance coverage during the Benefits Choice period. Members can also call a State group insurance customer service representative at the number above. This is also where you sign up for TRAIL (Medicare Advantage Plan).

Social Security and Medicare (Champaign Office)

Social Security URL: <u>www.ssa.gov</u> Medicare URL: <u>www.medicare.gov</u>

Phone: (877) 819-2593 (800) 325-0778 (TTY)

Address: 101 S Country Fair Dr, Champaign

Central Management Services (CMS)

(For State Employees)

URL: <u>illinois.gov/cms/benefits</u>

Phone: (800)442-1300 or 866-277-5669 (TTY)

Email: CMS.Ben.BCS@illinois.gov

CMS negotiates all benefit packages for employees and retirees.

When browsing through the information on the CMS web site, remember that UIUC employees are considered "State Employees" and are enrolled in the "State Employees Insurance program". CMS has detailed insurance coverage information as well as claims delays and Benefits Booklets for Benefits Choice periods.

State Universities Annuitants Association (SUAA)

URL: <u>www.suaa.org</u> **Phone:** (217) 523-4040

Address: 217 East Monroe Street, Ste 100

Springfield, IL 62701 **Email**: suaa@suaa.org

SUAA advocates on behalf of SURS retirees, current employees, and their dependents and survivors to preserve retirement and healthcare benefits. Member have special access on the web site. Membership forms available online.

TRAIL (Total Retiree Advantage IL)

URL: illinois.gov/cms/benefits/trail

(follow link to "State Insurance Program")

Phone: (844)251-1777 or (844)251-1778 (TTY)

(same as MyBenefits) **Fax:** (844) 676-1725

Email: cms.ben.medicarecob@illinois.gov

TRAIL manages a suite of State Medicare Advantage plans for retirees who are eligible for Medicare. The website has open enrollment materials and shows coverage information and monthly costs based on years of service.

SUAA Foundation

H.F. (Bill) Williamson

I represent the UIUC SUAA Chapter on the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee of the SUAA Foundation, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that is a separate arm of SUAA. Each chapter of SUAA appoints a Director to the SUAA Foundation Board, and the Board elects the Foundation Executive Committee. The SUAA Foundation has three major purposes:

- (1) To provide for education and dissemination of information regarding issues affecting the welfare of members of SUAA. In this regard, the Foundation provided almost the entire funding for the statewide SUAA Education Campaign. It has also funded luncheons at some of the SUAA Annual Meetings in Springfield to cover topics of interest to the members regarding their benefits.
- (2) To support those Chapters establishing Survivor Assistance Programs. For this purpose, the staff at the State Office helped the Foundation Directors to design and disseminate a Survivor Assistance brochure to all Chapters. This year we have developed an informational bookmark summarizing (a) the documents that should be on file in the SURS office and (b) the first step to be taken if a SURS participant dies.

Don't miss the Fall 2019 Meeting! 1:30 Sunday, October 20 at the I-hotel

(Yes, there will be cookies!)

(3) To provide emergency assistance to SUAA members who are in need of financial support.

To meet this purpose, the Foundation Board has approved an Emergency Assistance Program to provide support for SUAA members who are facing a sudden need for funds to cope with a crisis situation. Chapter leaders may request assistance of up to \$1500 on behalf of individuals who have been SUAA members for at least five years. If you or someone you know is such an individual, please contact our Chapter President or another member of our Chapter Executive Committee so that the application process can begin.

The newest Foundation activity is a Scholarship Program that this year offered four scholarships of \$500 each. Applicants must be a SUAA member in good standing or the spouse/partner, child/step-child or grandchild/step-grandchild of a SUAA member in good standing. Further information is available on the Foundation link at the state SUAA website.

We hope that you will consider providing support to the Foundation so that we can continue these programs. Contributions can be made by mailing a check payable to "SUAA Foundation" to: SUAA Foundation; 217 E. Monroe Street, Suite 100; Springfield, IL 62701. Contributions can also be made by using a credit card through the link available on the state SUAA website.



Help Us Recruit New Members to SUAA!!

SUAA's strength and effectiveness depend directly on the number of members. If you are already a member, please join our "Each One, Reach One New Member" campaign. Encourage your colleagues, friends, and family members who are SURS participants to join. Show them this newsletter, send them a link to our chapter's website (www.suaa-ui.org), and encourage them to attend a chapter meeting so they can see the work that is being done on their behalf in Springfield and here in Champaign-Urbana. If you are a user of social media, "like" the SUAA UIUC Facebook page and "share" its postings so your friends can see them. If you are not already a member, we hope that this information will persuade you to join us.

SUAA is **your** voice at the Capitol; SUAA works hard to make your concerns heard loud and clear by state legislators and the Governor's office staff. SUAA provides a communications network through emails, legislative bulletins, websites, and workshops/meetings that informs and updates members on both local and state issues relative to and focused on pension and healthcare benefits.

What has SUAA done for you? (From the SUAA website <u>suaa.org</u>)

STOPPED CONSTITUTIONAL THREATS

- Represented all SURS participants and beneficiaries by suing the State of Illinois over Senate Bill 1 (Public Act 98-055), pension reform. The Supreme Court found the law unconstitutional, saving the average pensioner HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS over the course of their retirement
- Led the charge to defeat adding a new section to Article XIII of the State Constitution, which would have been an attack on SURS employees and retirees
- Actively lobbied the Legislature to prevent changes to the Constitution that would harm SURS retirees and active members, such as the "pension clause"

PROMOTED HIGHER EDUCATION'S FUTURE

- Stopped legislation that would create a slippery slope toward abolishing tuition waivers for university personnel, that ultimately could target community colleges next
- Supported legislation in Springfield to strengthen health care and pension benefits for SURS members
- Advocated for protecting and preserving the College Insurance Program (CIP health benefits)
- Protected faculty forced to take furloughs during the state's budget crisis
- Worked to preserve Illinois' higher education system as a critical, quality commodity for Illinois, through the Higher Education Creates Jobs campaign and other advocacy

Dues are only \$41 per year – \$33 goes to the state SUAA organization and \$8 stays with our local chapter.

If you are already a member of SUAA – consider having your dues deducted from your paycheck (if still employed) or your pension (if an annuitant). Your membership will renew automatically each year without your having to write a check or spend money on a stamp. Dues are only \$3.42 per month. When your membership comes up for renewal, complete and sign the bottom of the form to start deducting dues monthly.

If you are not yet a member - visit our web page at www.suaa-ui.org/join.htm for easy instructions.

In Memoriam

Carol Livingstone

As a service to readers, this list of deceased employees and annuitants is taken from information provided by the Illinois News Bureau. The following listing gives the name, age at death (when known), and the date of death (when known) of those individuals whose death notices appeared between February 23, 2019 and July 25, 2019.

Albers, Dick J., 92, 3/12/19 Allen, Janice Lynn, 64, 4/28/19 Aston, Katharine "Kay" Oline, 101, 5/16/19 Bateman, "Carol" Margadene, 88, 5/16/19 Battershell, Tom, 63, 4/26/19 Bermingham, Paul D., 78, 3/2/19 Blue-Short, Amy M., 48, 6/6/19 Boatman, Paul A., 96, 2/25/19 Butsch, Joyce A., 83, 6/2/19 Byers, Dolores Jane, 90, 7/18/19 Chiang, Donald Chien-Tao, 91, 5/3/19 Corlas, Jeannine W., 53, 4/26/19 Davidson, Kenneth Morris, 83, 6/4/19 Dean, William "Bill" G., 87, 3/3/19 Downs, Doris M., 89 Eckerty, Annie "Anne", 95, 6/18/19 Erickson, Keith Randall, 70, 4/26/19 Finn, Lucille "Lucy" L., 91, 5/15/19 Fransiscono, Marcel, 88, 2/25/19 Gallo, Frank, 86, 3/22/19 Garza, Joseph A., 92, 5/16/19 Gordon, Richard H. "Dick", 88, 7/8/19 Guthrie, Virginia, 103, 1/22/19 Harper, Arthur J., 85, 3/2/19 Harpst, Lois Ann Allhands, 92, 3/1/19 Hartman, Charles E. "Charlie", 75, 3/21/19 Hayes, John "Jack" Jr., 90, 5/19/19 Hough, John C. Jr., 75, 6/1/19 Jefferson, Janet Lynn "Jaelyn", 55, 4/3/19 Jesse, Jean M., 78, 6/6/19 Knanishu, Martin Joseph, 70, 6/17/19 Knesek, Janet D., 64, 5/31/19 Konitzki, Joseph "Joe", 91, 5/28/19 Martens, Peter G., 79, 6/16/19 McCarty, Warren C., 95, 7/11/19 McCleary, Robert W., 93, 5/9/19

Mesker, Louis H. "Bud", 81, 4/12/19 Miner, Gerald "Jerry" E. Jr., 5/11/19 Miner, Ronald L., 64, 4/14/19 Mitchell, Phillip Clayton, 96, 4/27/19 Mueller, Allan G., 95, 3/15/19 North, Martha Baxter, 96, 3/2/19 Olson, Charles Edward, 72, 4/14/19 Parsons, Wilma J., 89, 5/27/19 Pealer, Kurtis Isaiah, 52, 7/9/19 Price, Patricia Eileen, 83, 7/13/19 Raether, Manfred, 92, 3/26/19 Reid, Max Elmer, 92, 5/5/19 Richardson, Selma Katharine, 87, 7/10/19 Ridlen, Helen Louise (Camp), 73, 5/7/19 Rittenhouse, Shirley Bash, 90, 5/17/19 Roberts, Gerald L., 3/30/18 Samford, Grace Christine Prestin, 96, 7/14/19 Schuster, Jim, 72, 5/18/19

Shaw, Paul Dale, 87, 7/4/19 Shiu, Sharon Jo, 73, 4/6/19 Slivon, Stephen Steele, 3/7/19 Smith, Ralph A., 89, 6/9/19 Smith, Shirley J., 89, 4/24/19 Solberg, Winton U., 97, 7/10/19 Strack, Darcy Elizabeth, 50, 4/22/19 Tilton, William Murphy, 94, 6/5/19 Triandis, Harry C., 92, 6/1/19 Walker, Roy O., 75, 6/17/19 Walthall, Louis Allen, 85, 4/28/19 Weaver, Sherry Marie, 62, 6/8/19 Welch, Jefferey "Jeff" Allen, 64, 6/7/19 Wolfe, Ralph Stoner, 97, 3/26/19 Wright, Helen, 93, 3/25/19 Wright, Richard Newport III, 5/31/19 Wyatt, James H. Sr., 83, 4/9/19

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