



# The Annuitant

Newsletter of the Urbana-Champaign Chapter

State Universities Annuitants Association  
Spring 2011

## Survivor's Benefit Workshop

**Thursday, June 9, 2011**

The UIUC Chapter will host a free workshop to update and review the benefits and forms required by SURS to apply for and receive survivor's benefits when a SURS retiree passes away.

This program should be of benefit to SURS retirees and their spouses, families or other eligible survivors.

Due to limited space, reservations are required. To reserve space, call Walt Tousey, 351-6384 or Dennis Vidoni, 367-7053.

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## Save the Date: June 21-22 State Annual Meeting

The statewide SUAA annual meeting is held each June in Springfield, and all SUAA members are encouraged to attend. This year the meeting will be June 21-22. Members whose email addresses are in the database at the State office will receive emails with registration forms. The registration forms will also be available on the State website ([www.suaa.org](http://www.suaa.org)).

If internet access is difficult for you, contact a Chapter Executive Committee member to receive a hard copy of the form when available.

## Spring Meeting

**Sunday, May 1, 2011**

**Hawthorn Suites and Conference Center  
101 Trade Center Dr., Champaign**

*1:30 p.m. Social time, refreshments & conversations with friends*

*2:00 p.m. Presentation by Governor James R. Edgar  
with questions & answers following;*

*3:00 p.m. Brief business meeting, election of Executive Committee  
members & vote on proposed Bylaws*

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## **Presentation by Governor James R. Edgar to Highlight Spring Meeting**

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The Spring meeting of the UIUC Chapter of the State Universities Annuitants Association will be held on May 1, beginning at 1:30 at the Hawthorn Suites and Conference Center in Champaign. The session will feature a presentation by Governor Jim Edgar, now a Senior Fellow at the Institute of Government and Public Affairs at the University of Illinois. During his tenure as Governor, Jim Edgar faced many of the same kinds of problems confronting the State today. He will offer his views on the current situation in Illinois and observations about the fiscal and political issues that abound in Illinois and across the country today. Given the range and depth of those issues, this will be a great opportunity to hear from one who has experience making the difficult decisions the state's leader must make every year, and to ask about his views on those issues of greatest import to SUAA members.

The Spring meeting will also provide an opportunity to get an update on the changes in University-based e-mail options available to retirees. This is also the time when the Association will elect new members to the Chapter Executive Committee and vote on proposed Chapter Bylaws. Please join us for this important session.

## SUAA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Paul Dollins*

### UIUC CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

(\* Member of Executive  
Committee)

#### Officers:

*Paul Dollins\**

**President**

*Robert Todd\**

**Vice President**

*Thomas F. Conry\**

**Secretary**

*Gerald D. Brighton*

**Treasurer**

#### Committee Members:

##### Benefits

*Mary Beastall\**

*Stephen D'Arcy\**

*Walter Tousey*

*Dennis Vidoni*

##### Communications

*Gary Englgau\**

*Carl Larson\**

*Heidi Rockwood\**

##### Legislative

*Stephen K. Rugg\**

*Helen Satterthwaite*

*Richard M. Schoell\**

##### Membership

*Mark Netter\**

*Edith Terwilliger\**

*Robert Todd\**

##### Programs

*Stephen K. Rugg\**

##### Social/Arrangements

*Virginia Waaler\**

#### Others:

##### State Exec. Cmte.

*Paul Dollins\**

##### State Foundation

*H. F. (Bill) Williamson\**

##### Past President

*Mary Beastall\**

##### Archivist

*Vacant*

##### Newsletter Editor

*Heidi Rockwood\**

##### Web Master

*Gary Englgau\**

#### Liaisons:

##### Liaison to Campus

*Athalia Hunt*

##### Liaison to Clark-Lindsey

*Helen Satterthwaite*

I joined SUAA in 1996 and have had the honor and privilege of serving on the UIUC Executive Committee since 2006, and the State Executive Committee since 2008.

There is solid energy and effort on the part of the members of both Committees and also in the leadership of most of the 53 SUAA Chapters statewide to carry out the primary purpose of SUAA, which is to protect the pensions and benefits of past, present and future SURS employees.

All of you know these are very difficult times for many Americans. The persistent and troubling high unemployment across much of this country and the very slow recovery from the worst economic recession since the Great Depression has placed the financial viability of many local and state governments at considerable risk.

The national economic difficulties have triggered all kinds of proposals to abate what some see as a fiscal crisis. A few members in Congress suggested Congress pass legislation to enable those states with burdensome debt to declare bankruptcy so those states can restructure (unload) their massive debt. Fortunately, those proposals never convinced the vast majority of Congressional members.

Regrettably, what seems to have captured public opinion throughout much of this country is the false notion that the salaries and pensions of public employees are major reasons for the fiscal mess in many states. There has been an ongoing scape-goating of public employees in Illinois and nationally for the last two years. The budgetary crisis in Illinois can be placed at the doorstep of a chronic underfunding over many decades of the State's pension funding obligation, and major fiscal mismanagement in Springfield over the last decade. Last year, the Illinois General Assembly repealed a quality pension plan for most public employees and replaced it with a plan very similar to Federal Social Security. Already this year, Illinois legislators will consider HB 146 which will, if it becomes law, diminish pension benefits of current public employees for service time going forward.

The SUAA State Executive Committee recently voted to work with our legislators and the Office of the Governor to oppose any diminishment of pensions or other benefits of current employees and retirees. We also voted to explore the creation of a legal fund to support legal actions opposing such changes if this becomes necessary.

It is critically important for all public employees and retirees to engage in this effort. Please take the time to personally visit with or telephone your state representative and senator and let them know you oppose any further legislative efforts to reduce pension benefits for public employees.

There are more than 2,000 SUAA members in the UIUC Chapter, almost 15,000 total members statewide, and thousands of other SURS members across this state, all of whom have a stake in this issue. All need to be involved. Working together, we will make a difference.

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## NOMINATIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

At the spring meeting, four members are elected for three-year terms to the twelve-member Executive Committee. The four nominees selected according to Article V of the Bylaws are listed below. Additional nominees who consent to serve will be requested from the floor.

**Gary Engalgau** I am completing my first term of service on the SUAA-UIUC Executive Committee. I have served as Co-Chair of the Communications Committee and Webmaster. With assistance, the Chapter's web site, [www.suaa-ui.org](http://www.suaa-ui.org) was reorganized and expanded. The Communications Committee, in concert with the Membership Committee, has worked to assure the communications of our Chapter are coordinated with those of the statewide SUAA office and that we expand our communications with current employees, in addition to those retired, who are current or potential SUAA members.

I was with the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign Office of Admissions and Records from July 1967 to April 1988, serving as Director of the Office beginning in July 1981 until my retirement. From 1988 to 2000, I served similar director responsibilities at Texas A&M University, retiring with the title of Assistant Provost for Enrollment.

**Jane W. Loeb** retired in 2007 after 39 years at UIUC. During the last dozen years, she taught statistics and undertook various research projects in the general area of equity in higher education as Professor of Educational Psychology. Prior to that, she served as Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs (since titled Associate Provost) under Vice Chancellor/Provosts Goldwasser, Berdahl, and Faulkner. Her final assignment involved overseeing the campus improvements to Undergraduate Education undertaken in the early 1990s. Earlier positions included Director of Admissions and Records in the 1970s and Coordinator of Research and Testing in the now-defunct University Office of School and College Relations. Since retirement, she has continued serving as methodologist on students' doctoral dissertation committees.

**Terri Palumbo** is currently employed at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign as Administrative Assistant to the Associate Provost for Human Resources. She began her career at the University in April 1982 as a Secretary II at McKinley Health Center. During her career at the University, she has also worked at the Police Training Institute, the Office of the Assistant Vice President for Business and Financial Services, and the Office of the Provost.

Terri has served as served as President, President-elect and Secretary for The Secretariat. She was also elected to the Staff Advisory Council to represent Clerical/Secretarial employees. In addition, she later was invited to complete an unfinished term on the Council to represent Executive/Administrative/Managerial. While on the Council, she served as president and secretary. She served one year on the Employee Advisory Council.

She was an advisory board member for the University of Illinois' Biennial Conference for Working Women. She was a recipient of the Office of Business Affairs' Outstanding Employee Award.

**Terry W. Ruprecht** has 38 years of administrative experience in higher education, having served in various administrative roles at the University of Illinois @ Urbana-Champaign, including Associate Vice Chancellor, Associate Provost, and Director of Energy Services. He previously held engineering and facility management positions at Michigan State University.

Mr. Ruprecht is a registered professional engineer in Michigan and Illinois. He served in numerous roles for APPA, the professional association for Higher Education Facility Officers. He earned a President's Award, a Meritorious Service Award, and a Pacesetter Award for his APPA service. He served on their international Board of Directors for several years.

His formal education includes an undergraduate degree in mechanical engineering (Michigan State), a Masters in Business Administration (University of Illinois), and graduate business studies at the University of Ghent in Ghent, Belgium.

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### How to be listed in the Student/Staff Directory

Retirees, including those with emeritus status, who have been assigned a 0% appointment or greater by their campus unit will continue to appear in the printed directory. Retirees without an appointment will need to fill out the 2011-12 retiree form in order to be listed in the print directory. In addition, retirees who have filled out the form and supplied a NetID will be included on the online directory. Retirees who do not supply NetIDs will appear in the print version only.

To submit your name for inclusion in the 2011-2012 Directory, visit:  
<http://publicaffairs.illinois.edu/resources/directoryfor.ms.html>  
Click on the **Retiree Form 11-12**. Submission of names will end on September 15th.

If you do not have access to a computer or the internet, contact a friend who does or visit your local public library for free internet access and assistance.

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## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

*Rick Schoell and Steve Rugg*

The New Year continues to bring major change in American government and politics. The recent developments in Wisconsin, Indiana, and Ohio along with the national budget debate exemplify the present state of affairs in a very profound manner. Budget deficits have fostered dramatic debates over spending and tax policies, pension reform initiatives are widespread, the role and perception of public employees and their unions is daily news and these salient issues continue to prevail in our own state of Illinois.

Several steps have already been taken to begin to address the challenges Illinois faces. In January of 2011, the 96<sup>th</sup> General Assembly passed a state income tax increase (SB 2505) as well as an authorization to borrow funds to make mandated annual pension contributions (SB 3514). The Governor signed both bills into law. SUAA supported both the income tax increase and the bond authorization legislation and these measures will begin to restore financial integrity to our state budget and pension system. Still, as the Governor noted in his recent proposed FY 2012 Budget address, and legislative leaders concurred, more spending reductions, possibly more borrowing and pension reforms will be required to move our state toward a balanced budget.

With respect to pensions, several ideas which could alter benefits have been suggested. If enacted these could change: the multiplier used to calculate the annuity, the cost of living adjustment (COLA), the length of service to retire, and the calculation of salary to determine the annuity. Several proposals to require retirees to contribute towards the cost of their health care have been made and the Speaker has recommended that a constitutional amendment be considered which would hinder the ability to improve or change any pension benefit. As noted, there already have been ( SB 3, SB 29, HB 146, HB 149 ) and likely will continue to be numerous bills introduced which will impact public employees and retirees.

And beyond responses to specific pieces of legislation, there is a great and growing need to

balance, at least to some degree, discussions over the value to the State of Illinois of a dedicated, hard-working core of public sector employees. Lost in the clamor to retrench benefit programs immediately is a corresponding long-term need to attract competent, dedicated people to the governmental workforce and especially to education at all levels.

SUAA is working hard to communicate our position to elected officials and now is the time for all members to be active and make our voices heard. Below and on the next page are our Legislative Position Statements and Fact Sheet which we hope you find helpful.

### 2010-2011 UIUC SUAA Legislative Position Statement and Fact Sheet

#### Key Discussion Points

***Achieving fiscal stability*** as soon as possible is the most critical step for Illinois state government. No effective long-term planning or progress is possible without stability.

***No single mechanism*** is sufficient to achieve fiscal stability. A combination of budget cuts, budget reform and new revenue measures is required.

***Higher Education is critically important to economic growth*** for Illinois, both in terms of delivering a technologically sophisticated work force and in generating new business growth via commercialization of university-based research and development.

***Competitive benefit programs are essential*** to attract and retain faculty and support staff to sustain higher education's role in economic development.

***Current retirement programs for higher education are not overly generous. New retirement provisions enacted hastily last spring likely will significantly worsen competitiveness*** and will add cost pressures on institutions which must replace lost benefits to stay competitive.

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**2010-2011 UIUC SUAA  
Legislative Position Statement and Fact Sheet. continued**

***University leaders and retirees must work together*** to address benefit issues. Illinois worst-in-the-nation ***pension deficits are attributable to decades of under-funding by the state*** failing to make the employer share for the program. Employees have paid every penny required of them, and SURS investment earnings have exceeded benchmarks.

**Retirement Data: What Do the Numbers Tell Us?**

- Between 1998 and 2008 SURS participants contributed \$2.64 billion to SURS, as required by law. During the same period the State contribution was \$1.2 billion less than required by law. (Source: UIC Action)
- SURS participants total just over 205,000 with 45,000 retirees and almost 160,000 not yet drawing retirement. It is the State's failure over many years to set aside funds for the future pension payments to these employees still in the "pipeline" that has created the severe funding crisis now requiring much larger allocations.
- The typical SURS employee retires at age 62 with 20 years of service and a pension of \$31,300. (Source: SURS presentation to SUAA-UIUC.)
- More than three-quarters (78%) of SURS retirees live in Illinois. For the five Illinois public pension systems in total, more than 150,000 pension recipients live in Illinois and in total receive pensions of more than \$4 billion. With an economic multiplier of 1.5, this means that public pension recipients generate \$6 billion in economic benefit for Illinois each year.
- SURS participants are prohibited from receiving Social Security coverage for their State employment, and those who qualify for Social Security due to other employment receive severely reduced

benefits upon retirement. SURS is the only or by far the major pension benefit for all SURS participants.

- The top 100 SURS pensions, which news media and others use to illustrate the "lavish" public pensions represent 2/10 of one percent of the total number of SURS pensions.
- SURS has been forced to sell \$1.2 billion more in assets than anticipated so far in FY2011 just to meet retiree payout requirements for the current year. So now, the State's failure to pay its share has directly damaged the good work accomplished by SURS investment management.
- For at least four decades, peer institutions with which the UI competes for faculty and staff have spent more on pension benefits for their employees than has the State of Illinois. The vast majority of peer institutions offer a "Social Security Plus" retirement program in which the employer share of Social Security is a mandatory annual payment and annual contributions to supplemental retirement programs are made regularly.

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**If you use the UIUC Express Email system...**

Please be aware that CITES is moving users to other email systems as part of its Unified Communication plan to improve service and reduce costs. CITES will offer users a choice of email systems. Students have already moved, and departments are in process. Retirees using Express Email will be contacted directly by CITES about migrating over the next few months. Members of your SUAA - UIUC executive committee have been working with CITES staff, and are confident that they will be as helpful as possible to retirees affected by this change.

If you are interested in learning more about CITES Unified Communications plan, please go to <http://www.cites.illinois.edu/uc/index.html>.

**Survivor's Benefit Workshops** continued from Page 1

The workshop session will be conducted by a SURS representative and will be approximately one hour in length, depending on the number of questions. This will be an interactive meeting that will allow you to ask questions and receive answers directly from SURS staff.

- WHEN:** Thursday, June 9, 2011
- TIME:** 10:00-11:00 a.m.
- WHERE:** Meeting Room at the State Universities Retirement System  
1901 Fox Dr., Champaign  
Parking is Free

**DUE TO LIMITED SPACE, RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED.** There is no fee for this program.

**To reserve space call:**

Walt Tousey 351-6384.  
Dennis Vidoni 367-7053

A waiting list will be developed if the number of registrants exceeds space, and additional workshops may be planned. Be prepared to leave a phone number or other contact information in case there is a change in meeting date, venue or if additional workshops are scheduled.

**Subscribing to "Inside Illinois"**

*Inside Illinois*, a newspaper prepared by the UIUC campus, is generally published twice a month. It is distributed free to faculty, staff and students on the UIUC campus. It can also be mailed to UIUC annuitants who are SUAA members. This service is intended to meet the needs of annuitants who are interested in campus news and happenings. There is now no charge for this service as long as SUAA membership dues are kept current. Please note that *Inside Illinois* issues are mailed via bulk mail, and thus the newspaper is often received a week or longer after being issued.

SUAA members receiving a home subscription to

*Inside Illinois* will continue to receive a complimentary subscription as long as they keep the UIUC Chapter informed of their correct addresses and as long as Chapter resources allow. Those SUAA members who are not receiving a mailed copy and would like to do so should complete the Initial Subscription Form below and mail the form to the SUAA UIUC Chapter address on the form. *If a form is received from a person who is not a SUAA member, the subscription will not be entered.* A few members have indicated that they wish to cancel their subscriptions. To do so, email [suaa.ui@gmail.com](mailto:suaa.ui@gmail.com).

**SUAA Members Initial Subscription Form for UIUC "Inside Illinois" Newspaper**

Complete this form for an initial subscription to *Inside Illinois*. New subscriptions begin as soon as possible after the form is received and will continue as long as SUAA membership dues are kept current.

**Return this form to: SUAA-UIUC Chapter, 364 Henry Admin. Bldg., MC-346, 506 S. Wright St., Urbana, IL 61801-3689**

Name _____			
(Last)	(First)	(M.I.)	(Email)
ADDRESS _____			
(Number)	(Street Name)	(Apt. #)	
_____			
(City)	(State)	(Full 9 digit Zip Code)	

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## 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 from other print sources. The following listing gives the name, the date of death, and the age at date of death (when known) for those individuals whose death notices appeared between August 16, 2010 and February 15, 2011.

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.

Adams, Jack A., 88, 9/22/10  
Armstrong, Harold R. (Roger), 76, 1/11/11  
Armstrong, O. Melody, 60, 12/12/10  
Bernett, Ruth H., 94, 10/10/10  
Bersig, Ruth A., 92, 1/7/11  
Brinneman, Patricia, 79, 1/3/11  
Brown, Nelda F., 76, 12/16/10  
Burbank, Richard D., 59, 11/16/10  
Callahan, Chester M., 82, 11/19/10  
Callahan, Mary M., 83, 11/2/10  
Carbonneau, Marvin C., 77, 1/1/11  
Carlson, Donald E., 72, 8/21/10  
Carter, Russell E., 74, 1/14/11  
Chato, John C., 80, 11/16/10  
Clark, Marlyn E., 88, 11/18/10  
Cloud, M. Kathleen (Kate), 79, 11/5/10  
Collins, Anne C. (Carol), 85, 1/26/11  
Conlee, George W. (Will), 90, 12/4/10  
Craven, Juanita F., 75, 8/12/10  
Creighton, Viola M., 89, 12/4/10  
Creswell, Jean M., 88, 8/26/10  
Crowley, Mary I., 85, 11/1/10  
Davis, James H., 78, 11/16/10  
Day, Thelma E., 89, 12/24/10  
Dobbs, Duane H., 81, 9/19/10  
Donnelly, Margaret J., 83, 1/8/11  
Dunlap, Lawrence R., 80, 12/16/10  
Godsell, Helen B., 83, 8/30/10  
Gove, Samuel K., 84, 1/28/11  
Griffin-Pettigrew, Deana M., 51, 8/20/10  
Grucza, Leo V., 75, 10/10/10  
Harmon, Annie B., 54, 9/26/10  
Harris, Sherry B., 59, 12/26/10  
Helm, Alice C., 71, 12/23/10  
Herriott, Donna J., 67, 9/23/10  
Hill, Richard, 12/12/10  
Hills, Arthur J., Jr., 74, 12/27/10  
Hipskind, John P., 82, 9/8/10  
Hoefling, Michael A., 76, 10/1/10  
Hubert, A. J. (Cope), Jr., 85, 9/8/10  
Huff, Steven M., 55, 1/29/10  
Isserman, Andrew M., 64, 11/4/10  
Jackson, Janet M., 52, 11/21/10  
Jackson, Leola N., 97, 12/23/10  
Jahiel, Edwin, 85, 12/14/10  
Johnson, Mary K., 91, 1/26/11  
Justice, Jeannetta A., 80, 9/22/10  
Keller, Margery J., 79, 9/17/10  
Kotoske, Roger A., 77, 11/19/10  
Levy, Allan H., 80, 9/29/10  
Loomis, May C., 91, 11/13/10  
Mainous, Bruce H., 96, 11/16/10  
Manuel, Mary E., 77, 11/25/10  
Marshall, Judith K., 70, 12/14/10  
Martin, Mary E., 77, 11/25/10  
McGee, Loretta C., 84, 8/25/10  
McKenzie, Jack H., 80, 11/11/10  
McNeal, Alice, 89, 11/30/10  
Miller, Ralph L., 81, 9/29/10  
Miller, Wendell E., 97, 1/8/11  
Nussmeyer, Irvin F., 89, 12/31/10  
Oakley, Grover L. (Lloyd), 90, 10/25/10  
Oldham, Gene, 72, 9/30/10  
Ore, Fred R., 84, 1/6/11  
Oschwald, William R., 84, 11/18/10  
Pasley, Raymond H., 94, 1/12/11  
Pelg, Edmund, 89, 8/15/10  
Phillippe, Irene L. (Lydia), 98, 1/13/11  
Pusey, William S., 91, 12/10/10  
Raim, Arlo J., 67, 8/20/10  
Ridlen, Samuel F., 94, 10/30/10  
Riggins, Betty S., 81, 10/9/10  
Rinne, Robert W. (Bill), 78, 10/14/10  
Ross, Origen, 83, 9/18/10  
Schmidt, Viola, 84, 12/3/10  
Schwink, Frederick W., 48, 9/20/10  
Scott, Harold G., 71, 9/5/10  
Skeels, Rose M., 86, 10/27/10  
Sprau, Vivian E., 91, 11/20/10  
Steiger, Sue F., 68, 9/10/10  
Stoecker, Wilbert F., 84, 9/5/10  
Stone, Victor J., 89, 11/26/10  
Taylor, Fannie M., 63, 10/28/10  
Tobias, Joseph, 90, 1/8/11  
Troutt, H. Fred, 74, 12/4/10  
Uhl, J. Jerry, 70, 10/24/10  
Underwood, Robert E., Jr., 79, 8/21/10  
Utterback, P. Wayne, 85, 8/22/10  
VanDyke, Floyd G., 57, 12/5/10  
Wagner, Marilyn J., 80, 10/26/10  
Waller, Lyle A., 40, 8/12/10  
Warren, Charles I., 82, 9/3/10  
Williams, Wendell S., 82, 11/20/10  
Woods, George T., 86, 10/31/10

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## COMMUNICATIONS

Gary Engelgau

The Communications Committee has been active since our last report, which was included in the Fall 2010 edition of the *Annuitant*. Specifically, members of the Communications Committee, along with other members of the Chapter Executive Committee, sponsored a booth at the UI Employee Expo held at the Illini Union of the University of Illinois. Our group visited with many UI employees, and the booth was enhanced by several large signs and a table banner identifying our organization and reasons why UI employees should join while they are still working. Information and membership forms were distributed, and several of the visitors filled out applications, which we sent on to the state SUAA office for processing. It was apparent that most current employees are unaware of SUAA, and we were pleased at the positive response we received from everyone that we met.

Probably our best vehicle for communicating with both current SUAA members and potential members is our Chapter website, which can be reached at: [www.suaa-ui.org](http://www.suaa-ui.org). This website has been significantly enhanced with both current and historical items and includes other websites containing additional newsworthy information. If you haven't accessed this website, please take a few moments to do so. The site is very user-friendly.

During this current school year, we have been

advertising our Chapter in the bimonthly publication *Inside Illinois*. The ad contains reasons to join and announcements about upcoming Chapter activities. This form of communication appears to have a positive effect on membership; at the end of the spring semester, we will evaluate this effort.

The Communications Committee has met numerous times since the fall of 2010, and most of these meetings have been held jointly with the Membership Committee. Since both committees have similar goals, this has been a natural partnership, and all those involved agree that this is working out fine. We are now considering additional efforts to increase our Chapter membership, particularly with current employees who are SURS members and who can add to the strength to our organization. The concern for current employees and their benefits is one of the major items that the State Office of SUAA has on their agenda.

A great source of information about concerns that annuitants are likely to have can be accessed by going to the following website: <https://lists.eiu.edu/mailman/listinfo/suaatalk>. Kay Kennedy of the SUAA office regularly sends out information about pertinent articles, speeches, etc. that are of concern to SURS members.

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### Proposed Revision of the Chapter's Bylaws

H. F. (Bill) Williamson

During the past year, members of the Executive Committee of the UIUC Chapter of SUAA undertook the first major review of the Chapter's Bylaws in over twenty years. As a result, a number of amendments have been proposed to clarify this document. These will be presented for adoption at the annual meeting of the Chapter on May 1.

The first step in this amendment process is to

notify all members of the proposed changes at least 15 days in advance of the annual meeting. To do this, all current members of the Chapter have been sent a letter from our Chapter President, Paul Dollins, containing (1) the current Bylaws and (2) the revised Bylaws if all the proposed changes are approved. As noted in that letter, if you have questions, please contact me ([billw@illinois.edu](mailto:billw@illinois.edu)) or Paul Dollins ([dollins409@aol.com](mailto:dollins409@aol.com)).



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## ANNUAL SPRING MEMBERSHIP REPORT

*The Membership Committee*

As of February 2010 SUAA - UIUC has 2,024 members. Of this number 1,374 members pay their \$30.00 annual dues by having \$2.50 deducted from their monthly State Universities Retirement System (SURS) annuity payment. The remaining 650 members have paid their dues in a single \$30.00 payment. We occasionally receive complaints from annuitants that a deduction is being taken from their monthly SURS payment, but they do not receive regular SUAA - UIUC mailings or emails. In almost all cases members had approved a deduction for an organization other than the UIUC Chapter of SUAA. If you are a dues deduct member of our chapter, your SURS Statement of Benefits with your January payment should show the following deduction: U of I U-C Chapter SUAA - - \$2.50. If it says something else, you should contact SURS to find out to whom you are contributing and why.

### ***Why is your membership important?***

SUAA primary mission is to protect university employees' retirement benefits and the financial solvency of SURS. Even though the State Constitution says that public employee pension benefits shall not be diminished, legislative changes are regularly proposed that negatively affect SURS participants. In addition some in the state legislature oppose measures designed to improve the financial health of all of the State's retirement systems, which have been repeatedly under-funded in past years. Had the State met its financial obligations when it was supposed to (and like all of you have done), the investment returns on these funds would have put the retirement systems in a much stronger financial position today. Also, adequate health care continues to be important to all of us. SUAA tracks all of these issues and makes our concerns known to the policy-makers. As SUAA is intensely involved with these matters, it has gained visibility and respect in Springfield and is now being consulted on matters affecting our benefits. Going forward, a large SUAA membership will be critical to maximize our ability to be heard, and gain favorable action. Your membership provides the opportunity to obtain the latest information on all of these issues and how to take action if needed.

Membership also enables you to receive information about current activities on the UIUC Campus, now at no cost to you. Members only have to ask in order to receive Inside Illinois for life. Members also receive information about the activities of your UIUC SUAA Chapter.

### **How to renew your membership or become a new member**

Current dues deduction members do not need to take any action, as their monthly deduction continues until they inform SURS otherwise. However, these members should report any change of address to SUAA as well as SURS because privacy concerns do not permit SURS to give SUAA members' addresses directly. Annual pay members will be billed \$30.00 for their annual dues before the next anniversary of their renewal.

If you wish to join SUAA or your membership has lapsed, you should use the forms provided in this newsletter. To become a dues deduct member, please complete and return Section A of the form. Because of its convenience, we encourage you to join under this option, but it is currently available only to SURS annuitants. If you prefer to join as a single annual payment member, please complete and return Section B of the form.

You can also join online at [http://suaa.org/aboutsuaa\\_joinnow.htm](http://suaa.org/aboutsuaa_joinnow.htm)

However you join, we welcome your membership!

### **What happened to the list of members?**

In order to reduce printing and mailing costs the list of chapter members is no longer being included in this printed newsletter. This step was recommended by the Chapter Communications Committee. The members list will continue to be available at the SUAA - UIUC website at [www.suaa-ui.org](http://www.suaa-ui.org).

If you have questions about your membership status, please either email us at [suaa.ui@gmail.com](mailto:suaa.ui@gmail.com) or call the SUAA office in Springfield at 217-523-4040.

**Section A: SUAA-UIUC Monthly Dues Deduction Authorization Form ANNUITANTS ONLY**

If you want your SUAA dues deducted from your monthly annuity check, complete only this section and return it to: **SUAA, 217 E. Monroe St., Suite 100, Springfield, IL 62701**. Monthly deductions will begin as soon as possible after receipt of your membership form and will continue until you inform SUAA or the State Universities Retirement System otherwise. Those currently on dues deduction do not need to take any action to continue membership except to report a recent change of address or to verify your correct address if you have not received correspondence from SUAA during the past year.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last) (First) (M.I.)

Spouse's Name (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
(Number) (Street Name) (Apt. #)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(City) (State) (Full 9 digit Zip Code)

Last Four Digits of Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_ Home Telephone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

UIUC Retiree \_\_\_\_\_ Allied Agency Retiree \_\_\_\_\_ Other Retiree \_\_\_\_\_ Survivor of Retiree \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby authorize the State Universities Retirement System to deduct the dues amount (currently \$2.50 per month) certified by the UIUC Chapter of the State Universities Annuitants Association. **A member must be receiving a SURS annuity to use this option.**

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Single Payment Form**

**ANNUITANTS & CURRENT EMPLOYEES**

If you **do not want** your SUAA dues deducted from your monthly annuity check but want to pay your dues by check or are an **active employee**, complete only this section and return it **with a check for \$30.00 made payable to SUAA** and mail to: **SUAA, 217 E. Monroe St., Suite 100, Springfield, IL 62701**. Current members receive renewal notices from the SUAA Central Office in Springfield or renewals may be made using this form. You can check your SUAA membership card or a recent copy of the SUAA newsletter for membership expiration date. Membership for new or delinquent members will begin the first of the month following receipt of dues and extend for one year.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last) (First) (M.I.)

Spouse's Name (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
(Number) (Street Name) (Apt. #)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(City) (State) (Full 9 digit Zip Code)

Last Four Digits of Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_ Home Telephone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ Current Employee \_\_\_\_\_

UIUC Retiree \_\_\_\_\_ Allied Agency Retiree \_\_\_\_\_ Other Retiree \_\_\_\_\_ Survivor of Retiree \_\_\_\_\_

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**HELP WANTED!**

The UIUC Chapter is seeking a volunteer or volunteers to assist with various projects including record maintenance and the preparation of the newsletter. Contact the Chapter at [suaa.ui@gmail](mailto:suaa.ui@gmail.com) or through the form below if you are willing to help in our efforts.

**KEEP INFORMED**

Both the Chapter and State websites have continual updates about meetings and alerts, as well as other information.

**Chapter Website**  
**[www.suaa-ui.org](http://www.suaa-ui.org)**  
**Chapter Email**  
**[suaa.ui@gmail.com](mailto:suaa.ui@gmail.com)**  
**State Website**  
**[www.suaa.org](http://www.suaa.org)**

The State sends occasional briefings to those members who have email in the member listing in the State office, and the briefings that have been sent appear on the State website. Make sure your email is on the list by sending your name, chapter (UIUC) and email address to [kay@suaa.org](mailto:kay@suaa.org).

**Let Us Hear From You**

**Please send us your suggestions, ideas about issues we should be addressing, and stories about you as well.**

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**Three specific requests for information:**

**1. What benefit/service would you most like to the campus (not SURS) to provide to retirees?**

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**2. Your interest in serving on \_\_\_\_\_ committee (s).**

**3. If your name or address has changed, please let us know.**

**Name, Address & Email** (optional unless you have moved, responded to Q2 or posed a question requiring a response)

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Please return to: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
SUAA-UIUC Chapter  
364 Henry Administration Building, MC-346  
506 S. Wright St.  
Urbana, IL 61801-3689



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### Dates of Interest to SUAA-UIUC Chapter Members

#### **IGPA Informative Pension Panel**

**12:00 Noon Monday, April 11**

#### **Alice Campbell Alumni Center, Ballroom**

Members of the University of Illinois community across all three campuses have questions about pensions and the state fiscal condition. It is a complex issue that affects all public sector employees. The university will provide an opportunity for members of all three campus communities to learn about the economic and legal impacts of pension reform measures on the University of Illinois and the state as a whole.

The Institute of Government and Public Affairs will host informative panels on all three campuses. On Monday, April 11, experts will travel to Urbana-Champaign and Springfield. On Tuesday, April 12, the experts will be in Chicago. Details for each campus event are below. For more details about the panelists and the basics of the pension issue, please visit [igpa.uillinois.edu/pensions](http://igpa.uillinois.edu/pensions)

#### **Urbana-Champaign**

April 11  
Noon  
Alice Campbell Alumni Center, Ballroom

#### **Springfield**

April 11  
4:00 p.m.  
Sangamon Auditorium, Lobby

#### **Chicago**

April 12  
2:00 p.m.  
The Forum

**Please RSVP to the event you plan to attend by clicking on the campus name at: <http://igpa.uillinois.edu/pensions>**

#### **The Campus Faculty Association Presents A Public Forum**

**“Who’s Got your Back?”**

**Ralph Martire, Executive Director Center for Tax and Budget Accountability, Chicago**

**4:00 p.m., Thursday, April 14, 2011**

**University YMCA, 1001 S. Wright St. (corner of Wright & Chalmers)**

Ralph Martire is an expert on pensions and the Illinois State budget. He is a regular columnist for the *Sun-Times* and a technical advisor on budget issues to the Illinois State legislature. He has written and spoken widely on Illinois’ budget crisis. For more information contact the Campus Faculty Association: [campusfacultyassoc@gmail.com](mailto:campusfacultyassoc@gmail.com) Website: [www.cfaillinois.org](http://www.cfaillinois.org)