



# The Annuitant

Newsletter of the Urbana-Champaign Chapter

State Universities Annuitants Association  
Spring 2012

## Survivor's Benefit Workshop 10 a.m., Thursday, May 3, 2012

SURS Headquarters, 1901 Fox Drive, Champaign

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 annuitant passes away.

This program should be of benefit to SURS annuitants 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.

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, May 3, 2012

**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 phone number or other contact information in case there is a change in meeting date, venue or if additional workshops are scheduled.

## Spring Meeting Sunday, April 22, 2012

Hawthorn Suites and Conference Center  
101 Trade Center Drive, Champaign

1:30 p.m. Social Time, refreshments and conversations with friends  
2:00 p.m. Presentation by Vice President and Chancellor Phyllis Wise with questions and answers following  
3:00 p.m. Brief business meeting and election of Executive Committee members

### *Presentation by Vice President and Chancellor Phyllis Wise To Highlight Spring Meeting*

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Chancellor Phyllis Wise will speak at the Chapter's spring meeting, which will begin at 1:30 P.M. on Sunday, April 22 at the Hawthorne Suites Conference Center 101 Trade Center, in Champaign. The Chancellor will share her impressions of Illinois gathered in her "listening tour" during her first year at the University and the more recent beginning of a visioning effort to be conducted over the course of the 2012 spring semester. The Chancellor has also agreed to take questions following her presentation. Given the range and depth of issues affecting the State and University, this will be a wonderful opportunity to hear from the campus's new leader. Join us at this first official occasion for Chapter members to welcome Chancellor Wise and talk with her about issues most central to the campus and to its annuitants.

The spring meeting will also include election of four new members to the Chapter Executive Committee and the most recent information available about legislative action in the General Assembly on retirement, health insurance and other retiree benefits.

**Please join us!** All annuitants and current employees are welcome to attend this event – you do not have to be a member of SUAA to attend.

## **SAVE THE DATE: June 21 & 22 State Annual Meeting**

The statewide SUAA annual Directors meeting is held each June in Springfield, and all SUAA members are encouraged to attend. This year the meeting will be June 19-20, 2012. Members whose email addresses are in the database at the State SUAA 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)). You can see the agenda for last year's Annual Meeting at the "News/Events Archive" on the State website.

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

## **SUAA-UIUC CHAPTER LEADERSHIP**

### **OFFICERS:**

Thomas F. Conry\*

#### **President**

Robert K. Todd\*

#### **Vice President**

Terry W. Ruprecht\*

#### **Secretary**

Gerald Brighton

#### **Treasurer**

### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

#### **Benefits**

Stephen D'Arcy\*

H.F. (Bill) Williamson

Mary Beastall

Walter Tousey

#### **Communications**

Gary Engelgau\*

Jane Loeb\*

Heidi Rockwood\*

Carl Larson

#### **Legislative**

Paul Dollins

Steve Rugg\*

Helen Satterthwaite

Rick Schoell\*

#### **Membership**

Terri Palumbo\*

Robert K. Todd\*

Mark Netter

#### **Programs**

Steve Rugg

### **OTHERS:**

#### **SUAA Executive Committee**

Paul Dollins\*

#### **SUAA Foundation**

H.F. (Bill) Williamson

#### **Past President**

Paul Dollins\*

### **LIAISONS:**

#### **To Campus**

Athalia Hunt

#### **To Clark-Lindsey**

Helen Satterthwaite

\*Member of Executive Committee

## **SUAA Chapter President's Message**

*Thomas F. Conry*

Under its charter the SUAA has two purposes: (1) to protect, promote, and enhance the individual and collective interests and welfare of its members; and (2) when appropriate, to direct its interest and support toward other matters concerning the general welfare of its member chapters and public institutions of higher education in Illinois. As I write this message in early February, I realize that you will not be reading it until late March or early April, and by that time the Illinois primary election will have taken place and the real action in the State Legislature will have begun. This is a time for vigilance by the SUAA, our local SUAA Chapter, and all of our members individually in communicating with our elected representatives regarding proposals affecting pensions and healthcare.

Last fall, I mentioned that our Chapter goals for this year were Membership Development, Legislative Advocacy, and Communication.

The UIUC Chapter had 2090 members in the December 2011 Membership Report, out of approximately 4500 UIUC retirees. An increase in the number of members in SUAA translates directly into an increase in the level of advocacy that SUAA can project in the Executive and Legislative branches of Illinois government on behalf of its members. The good news is that payroll deduction has now been made available for current employees at the three campuses of the University of Illinois. The details are included elsewhere in this Newsletter.

The issues of pensions and healthcare, including premium costs and availability of HMO coverage in the East-Central Illinois area, continue to be debated in the General Assembly. Locally, members of our Legislative committee have been meeting regularly with area legislators in the districts in and around Champaign-Urbana. It is important that all of us, as citizens who vote, contact our Senators and Representatives to communicate our concerns about pensions and healthcare.

Agile communication with our members remains a problem. We have e-mail addresses for 860 of our 2090 members. While the twice-yearly Annuitant covers many subjects, there are times when a one-page message needs to be sent to alert our members about important issues, and this needs to be done by email. If you have an email address, please share it with us. We will not abuse it.

Finally, I want to appeal to our members to advocate with your legislative representatives for the University of Illinois. It is a great institution whose quality must not be diminished.



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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 2012-2013 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 2012-2013 Directory, visit:**

**<http://publicaffairs.illinois.edu/resources/retirees.html>**

Click on the 2012-13 Retiree Information and Forms. Submission of names will end on September 15, 2012.

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.

## Civil Union Legislation

Effective June 1, 2011 Illinois Public Act 96-1513 provides that "a party to a civil union is entitled to the same legal obligations, responsibilities, protections, and benefits as are afforded or recognized by the law of Illinois to spouses, whether they derive from statute, administrative rule, policy, common law, or any other source of criminal or civil law." In Illinois a civil union may be between members of the same or opposite sex. The SURS website summary of this Act notes that "Section 60 of the Act provides that civil unions legally entered into in another jurisdiction shall be recognized in Illinois as a civil union."

The recent SURS Advocate states that civil union partners can be enrolled under a SURS member's insurance plan and receive the same death benefits as a spouse. SURS will also honor Qualified Illinois Domestic Relations Orders that designate a member's current or former civil union partner as alternate payee. For questions about SURS benefits, contact the SURS office.

The website of the Illinois Department of Central Management Services provides civil union and domestic partner FAQs regarding the state employee insurance benefits. The questions include lists of the valid documentation from other states. The FAQs can be found at: [www2.illinois.gov/cms/Employees/benefits/Insurance/Pages/Civil\\_Union.aspx](http://www2.illinois.gov/cms/Employees/benefits/Insurance/Pages/Civil_Union.aspx). Members should take note of these questions during the Benefit Choice period as well as at the time of a 60-day qualifying change in status.

## Nominations of the Executive Committee

Urbana-Champaign SUAA Chapter Bylaws stipulate that at each spring meeting four members are elected to the twelve-member Chapter Executive Committee. The spring meeting for 2012 will be held on April 22 beginning at 1:30 at the Hawthorne Suites and Conference Center in Champaign, and the agenda will include election of new members for the Executive Committee. Biographies of two nominees are presented below. Check the Chapter website at <http://suaa-ui.org> for two future nominees forwarded from the Executive Committee. Additional candidates may be nominated from the membership by petition signed by no fewer than five members and filed together with written acceptance from the nominee with the Chapter President or Secretary at least one week before the April 22 meeting. Nominees added by petition will also appear on the website as time allows, and all nominees will be included on the ballot presented at the meeting. A hard copy of the nominee biographies will be available at the meeting.

**Barbara Hartman** retired as Associate Director of Academic Human Resources in 2004 with more than 32 years of service to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She served as Assistant Head for Business Affairs in the Department of Psychology for 14 ½ years. And from 1972-1986 she held civil service staff positions of increasing responsibility in the Departments of Urban & Regional Planning and Psychology. During her tenure in Academic Human Resources, she was involved in implementing the human resources module of Banner. She also reviewed and approved new and revised academic professional positions. Her responsibilities in the Department of Psychology covered financial, human resources, and facility management.

Among her volunteer activities are the Carle Auxiliary (currently membership chair) and The Prairie Ensemble (former member of the board of directors, currently member of the marketing committee).

Ms. Hartman holds a bachelor's degree in liberal arts and sciences (English major) and a master's degree in labor and industrial relations, both earned at UIUC.

**Heidi Rockwood** is an Administrative Assistant I to the Vice President for Research. She joined the Vice President's Office at its inception in 2000. Prior to that she served for two years as Administrative Secretary to the Associate Dean of Administrative Affairs in the College of Engineering. Heidi began her career at the University in the College of Engineering in 1984 as a Clerk Typist II in the Office of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. From 1986 to 1998, she served as the secretary for the Minority Engineering Program and from 1995 to 1998 as the College of Engineering Graduate Coordinator.

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## Legislative and Pension Issues 2012

*Rick Schoell and Steve Rugg*

A new legislative season has begun, with the 97th General Assembly returning to session on January 31 and the Governor delivering his "State of the State" message on February 1. As expected, the state's fiscal condition and pension reform remain top priorities for both the Administration and State Legislature.

With respect to pension reform, on January 5, 2012, the Governor signed into law HB 3813 (PA-97-0651), which closes some loopholes in the current pension system that resulted in abuses. It should also be noted that while over 100 bills pertaining to pension reform or funding were introduced in the last session of the General Assembly, no legislation passed that would have adversely affected retirees and public employees. However, SB 512 which would make major changes to the pension code, remains on the legislative calendar. An excellent summary of this proposed legislation is available on the SUAA website <http://www.suaa.org/> and we continually monitor the status of this legislation very closely. As a reminder you can visit our website for our legislative policy statement and fact sheet.

It is important to note that in mid January Governor Quinn created a pension reform panel designed to evaluate the current system and recommend meaningful reforms. The establishment of this panel underscores that pension reform is a top priority for the Governor and the panel will be headed by one of his top aides, Jeremy Stermer. Additionally, the following members of the state legislature have been named to the panel

Senator Michael Noland D - Elgin

Representative Elaine Nekritz D - Des Plaines

Senator Bill Brady R - Bloomington

Representative Darlene Senger - Naperville

We will keep all apprised as to the workings and recommendations of the panel as well as any corresponding proposals that emerge.

It is also noteworthy that in an address at Elmhurst College in January, Speaker Madigan offered substantive comments regarding the State's pension obligations. He noted that the State has made pension funding commitments that cover a large number of employees "who have never received a state paycheck." Referring to employees in State-supported elementary/secondary and higher education he then suggested that it might be appropriate to assign the employer's share of future pension costs to those educational institutions. Long-time observers of Illinois' political landscape suggest that the Speaker rarely makes public pronouncements about substantive issues without an end in mind, and it may be that the Speaker's comments signal an approach that may emerge in legislation later in the Spring session.

In his State of the State address and on other occasions Governor Quinn has also emphasized the need to "solve" the huge pension funding problem the State faces. And at the time of this writing, Senate President Cullerton also has made statements supporting the urgency of finding a solution to the pension problem, while stressing the need for solutions that are Constitutional.

The matter of health insurance contracts for retirees and public employees continues to evolve and we will continue to monitor this situation closely. At present, the States' contracts with Health Alliance and Personal Care remain in force until June 30, 2012

Conventional wisdom suggests that during an election year, and especially one following statewide legislative re-districting, legislative activity is generally reduced and action is put off on as many controversial issues as possible. That will almost certainly be the case through the time of the primary election on March 20. It remains to be seen whether the desperate need to attend to Illinois' fiscal problems in general and the under-funding of pension commitments in particular will be put off for the entire spring session and not addressed until after the fall election.

With the 2012 legislative session well underway we are working hard with the SUAA staff in Springfield to protect our pension system and to ensure its fiscal stability. We also want to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have communicated our interests to policy makers. It has, and continues to make a positive difference.

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## **SUAA ALERT**

### **Health Insurance Claim Payment Delays**

The State of Illinois is 'balancing' its budget by deferring payments to many parties, resulting in a significant delay in payments to state employee and annuitant medical providers. Central Management Services (CMS) is the state agency that administers employee and annuitant benefits; and its website states that currently once a Quality Care Health Plan claim has been processed, there is an additional ten month delay in payments to contracted providers and a twelve month delay for non-contracted providers. For Quality Care Dental Plan payments there is a three to eight month delay, depending on the dental plan and whether the dentist is in or out of the network. Delays also apply to payments to out-of-network providers under the HealthLink Open Access Plan. These lengthy delays are impacting members in several ways.

First, some medical providers, particularly dentists, are requiring that individuals themselves pay for any care provided. In these cases the insured will eventually be reimbursed directly by CMS, less any deductibles and subject to any policy limits. This payment will also include interest on any delays over 30 days.

Second, although many medical providers, including doctors, clinics and hospitals, are providing the care and submitting the bill to the appropriate insurance carrier, when some providers do not receive timely payments from the insurer they are billing the insured individuals for the outstanding balances. Some SURS members have even received notices from collection agencies for these unpaid balances.

Finally, there is a concern that medical providers may refuse to provide services to someone without pre-payment. This would most likely occur if the provider were already waiting for payment for prior services rendered, either to the same individual or to others covered under State of Illinois insurance plans.

Given the finances of the state, this problem is unlikely to go away soon. Therefore, everyone covered by Illinois health insurance programs needs to be aware of the payment delays and take steps to protect themselves.

Most importantly, it is imperative that everyone, including retirees, maintain an emergency fund, generally recommended to be six months of expenses. These funds could be used to cover any medical bills for which a provider requires payment when service is received.

If you are billed for expenses that will be covered by your health insurance, or if the state's late payment causes a collection agency to get involved, you should act immediately. We suggest that you contact CMS to determine when this bill will be paid and inform the medical provider of this situation. Let them know that under state law a delayed payment will include interest on any delays over 30 days. In some cases, the provider will defer any additional action until after the payment is to be made. If your explanation is not sufficient, you should provide written documentation of the state's delays in payments. You could send the provider a copy of the CMS webpage that explains the delays. This website is continually updated to provide current information regarding the timeliness of payments. (<http://www2.illinois.gov/cms/Employees/benefits/Insurance/Pages/OCHPQCDPClaimPaymentDelay.aspx>)

Current employees who need additional help dealing with medical providers in this situation should contact the campus Benefits Center for help. For annuitants, the UIUC Chapter is working with the state office to develop other assistance, possibly including a letter of explanation that a member can request to be forwarded to a medical provider.

Our chapter is working on additional ways to help our members cope with the problems generated by the delays in health insurance payments. If you have any suggestions or if you have experienced problems please let us know. Our chapter email is: [suaa.ui@gmail.com](mailto:suaa.ui@gmail.com)

In order to avoid the added stress involved in finding out about payment problems when you are seeking medical care, you should be prepared to explain this issue to your medical provider. Updates on this problem and available assistance will be posted on the chapter website ([suaa-ui.org](http://suaa-ui.org)) as circumstances change.

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## SUBSCRIBING TO INSIDE ILLINOIS

*Inside Illinois* is published semi-monthly and distributed to campus mail boxes and subscribers off campus by the mail. It is a great way to keep up with the highlights of campus. Subscription is free to SUAA-UIUC members who request it. If you do not receive a home subscription and wish one, please use the form below.

*Inside Illinois* now offers online subscriptions. These subscribers will receive an email with links to the issue index and several featured stories. In addition, when there is news between issues, subscribers will receive an email. To subscribe, go to <http://illinois.edu/gm/subscribe/7330>.

To unsubscribe to a home subscription received through SUAA-UIUC membership, please send your request, name and address to our email: [suaa.ui@gmail.com](mailto:suaa.ui@gmail.com).

### Initial Subscription Form for UIUC "Inside Illinois" Newspaper

Complete this form for an initial subscription to *Inside Illinois*. A new subscription begins as soon as possible after the form is received and continues as long as SUAA membership dues are kept current. **Return this form to: SUAA-UIUC Chapter, 364 Henry Admin. Bldg., 506 Wright St., Urbana, IL 61801-3689**

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

## A Tribute to Betty Hembrough

Betty Hembrough, a long time State Universities Annuitants Association (SUAA) Board member, passed away on January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

Betty will be remembered as a contributor and a catalyst. She was elected a member of the UIUC SUAA Executive Board for two consecutive terms and continued to serve and contribute through 2009 on the membership committee long after her terms ended. She also was active on the State SUAA Board, contributing to its membership mission. Our present State Executive Director, Linda Brookhart, recalls, "I remember how nice she was to me when I was first hired! She ... and I spent a lot of time together in my first year." Indeed, Betty was the institutional memory for both the state and local SUAA boards and contributed to the advancement of both of their missions and activities.

Betty came to the University of Illinois to work for legendary Dean of Women, Miriam Sheldon, and retired as the Director of the Office of Women's Resources and Services. (OWRS) In between, she and her office were catalysts for a multitude of women's advocacy programs and activities. Notable among them were Women's Wheels and the "Take Back the Night" marches. Women's Wheels was a student volunteer operated ride service co-sponsored by the University Police that provided rides for the safety of female students back to their campus residence. "Take Back the Night" was a movement by several student and staff organizations to promote better lighting and, thus, greater safety, on campus with an annual march.

Betty was well known among faculty, staff and students and involved in "everything" around campus including the American Association of University Women, the McKinley Presbyterian Student Foundation Board, the Illinois and National Association of Women Deans and Counselors, and Business and Professional Women's groups.

We salute our own Betty Hembrough for a life well lived and contributions made.

Respectfully  
Dave Bechtel

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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 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 August 1, 2011 and February 1, 2012.

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.

Andracki, Dr. Edmund George, 81, 12/17/11	Lazarus, David, 90, 9/8/11
Aref, Hassan, 60, 9/9/11	Laws, Howard Douglas, 77, 11/10/11
Artice, Theresa Sibley, 78, 8/24/11	Leach, James L., 92, 8/4/11
Barnes, Elizabeth D., 87, 8/22/11	Mathis, William L., 76, 9/14/11
Bopp, Richard E., 66, 12/8/11	Matteson, Merl Leon "Stick", 95, 12/6/11
Brieland, Donald, 87, 9/30/11	McClurg, Ernest H., 65, 9/9/11
Brown, Frederick Calvin, 87, 11/18/11	McKeon, Margy Ellen, 81, 8/14/11
Burton, Betty L., 80, 10/2/11	Melahn, Mary Rasner, 90, 1/7/12
Campbell, Kristine Juhl, 60, 12/22/11	Menges, Lawrence W., 91, 8/28/11
Carpenter, Penny Norfleet, 52, 9/10/11	Miller, Ronald, 74, 10/22/11
Carter, Luella, 77, 12/26/11	Miner, Margaret Rose "Peggy", 80, 8/23/11
Casey, Michael, 67, 12/3/11	Moore, Robert, 78, 10/13/11
Cope, Wayne E., 87, 10/4/11	Murtha, Joseph P., 80, 10/18/11
Curtin, David Yarrow, 91, 7/31/11	Myers, Lola Genevieve, 92, 8/18/11
Dorsett, Harold Lee, 99, 12/21/11	Nesler, Florence E., 91, 11/15/11
Douglas-Jones, Margaret I., 75, 8/27/11	Nikelly, Arthur, 84, 10/19/11
Dunn, William E., 61, 12/31/11	Paley, Hiram, 78, 1/9/12
Eades, Betty Sue, 76, 11/11/11	Pribble, Ray, 85, 1/7/12
Feller, Anita, 7/31/11	Pritchard, William A., 80, 12/13/11
Fisher, Johanna, 85, 10/19/11	Rank, Ruth Bailey, 88, 10/17/11
Flynn, Peter, 76, 10/27/11	Roberts, Burtisdale, 86, 11/14/11
Forrester, Robert Alan, 75, 11/23/11	Ryan, John Robert, 83, 9/21/11
Graham, Linda Nelson, 87, 11/24/11	Schmall, Richard, 83, 1/2/12
Hadley, Henry Hultman, 94, 11/23/11	Shoemaker, Charlotte, 90, 12/1/11
Hafstrom, Jeanne L., 81, 5/17/11	Sibley, Artice Theresa, 78, 8/24/11
Hageman, Margaret, 93, 10/17/11	Siebrecht, Robert Martin, 59, 12/26/11
Hake, Harold Wesley, 92, 10/22/11	Simon, James E., 73, 11/30/11
Harper, Derys M., 76, 9/19/11	Sommers, Jean, 75, 12/14/11
Harper, Judith, 74, 10/30/11	Steine, Joseph H., 73, 12/19/11
Heins, Nancy, 81, 12/29/11	Swope, Jo "Carolyn", 75, 9/20/11
Hembrough, Betty Lou, 82, 1/9/12	Theobald, Sarah Ann, 65, 12/30/11
Henderson, Eular, 89, 11/17/11	Thomas, Vivian Maxine, 88, 9/17/11
Henderson, Rodney, 68, 9/14/11	Walker, Jerry, 81, 8/16/11
Herbert, Susan Ann, 60, 12/16, 11	Walters, Ethel Lou, 85, 10/18/11
Inman, Betty, 74, 12/31/11	Webster, Goldie, R., 79, 10/25/11
Irvin, Eugene Wilson, 98, 11/29/11	Weinard, Ruth Elizabeth, 86, 12/13/11
Jackson, Adele Bell, 84, 11/14/11	Whitehead, Billy H., 73, 9/18/11
Kesler, Clyde E., 89, 12/30/11	Williams, Nancy Sue, 66, 9/23/11
Kobel, Harry Elden, 81, 12/22/11	Zangerl, Arthur, 59, 12/16/11
Kramer, Berendina Vos, 87, 12/8/11	

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## **Communications Committee**

*Gary Engलगau*

Jane Loeb stepped up to be Editor of this issue of The Annuitant. Jane, a special thanks for volunteering. In this regard, we would like to encourage others to volunteer their help. We continue to need a volunteer to edit the newspaper, and someone willing to work on "IN MEMORIAM" would be great. Liaison with Inside Illinois to assure we provide our members the best way to keep connected to information about the University is another way to assist. In addition we encourage suggestions on how we can improve our service to members through our communications, both in print and electronically.

We have redesigned our website, [www.suaa-ui.org](http://www.suaa-ui.org). I am the current web master and will be leaving the board in a few years. Volunteers with web site skills would be very helpful in assuring an easy transition as well as offering the potential to improve our electronic communications. For example, we should be thinking of how to take more advantage of email and starting to explore the use of social media. Because of the wide diversity in our membership, from long term retirees to recently hired employees, we believe we need to offer several modes of communication, including print.

We also could use help and suggestions with sections of our web site. For example, our "Useful Links" connect to a multitude of resources on retirement and health issues. Someone willing to present short introductions to the information available, and the best way to access it within the site, could be very useful to our members.

Please give us your suggestions for ways we can improve our service to members, and volunteer to help if at all possible. Refer to HELP WANTED in this issue for the best ways to contact us and additional ways you can help us be of better service to our membership.

## **Date of Interest to SUAA-UIUC Chapter Members**

### **UIUC Retirement Education Conference**

**Sunday Afternoon, April 1, 2012**

Activities and Recreation Center (ARC)  
201 E. Peabody Drive, Champaign

Prior Registration Required at <http://nessie.uihr.uillinois.edu/retirementseminar>  
Contact University Human Resources at 217-333-2599 with questions

Current employees planning toward retirement will be offered presentations by representatives of SURS, SUAA, Fidelity, TIAA-CREF, campus HR and UPB Benefits covering topics such as (a) tasks prior to retirement; (b) calculating benefits and explanation of formulas under the various SURS plans; (c) how some public employee pensions may affect social security benefits (i.e., the effect of government pension offset and windfall elimination provision laws); (d) financial planning and strategies following retirement. The program will conclude with a presentation by SUAA on how we can protect our retirement benefits, and on current efforts at pension reform. A copy of the program is available at the Chapter website: <http://www.suaa-ui.org>.





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## **ANNUAL SPRING MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

### *The Membership Committee*

As of February 1, 2012, our chapter members totaled 2084, which represents an increase of 6 members. Of our current members, 1384 pay their dues via the SURS dues deduction method while the remaining 700 make their annual payment by check or PayPal. In the fall of 2011, SUAA also began payroll deduction for current University employees. We highly encourage all members to opt to have their dues deducted at their next renewal--this method benefits SUAA by keeping costs down. Not only is it an economical benefit for SUAA, it is also a convenience to members by making renewal automatic.

We wish to point out that while the organization's membership (2084) is substantial, it still represents only a small portion of all UIUC retirees who receive benefits from SURS and are eligible to join. At this critical time, we are asking you to encourage others to join and support our association as we fight for your benefits; membership in SUAA is economical when considering what the organization is attempting to protect. We are working for you and we need your participation and assistance!

### **Why should you join SUAA?**

- SUAA, founded in 1971 as a voluntary membership association, continues its vigilance to preserve and protect the pension system, the healthcare plans and all other benefits provided for the well-being of the 208,000 State Universities Retirement System (SURS) participants and beneficiaries.
- SUAA provides continuous tracking of pension and healthcare benefit matters, state funding, along with other related concerns.
- SUAA works with its membership to assure legislators, executive officers and other policy makers are knowledgeable about member issues.
- SUAA is the only advocacy organization that focuses solely on preserving pension and healthcare benefits for the public universities' and community colleges' employees - both active and retirees - their spouses and survivors and SURS members who live out of state.
- SUAA membership affords the opportunity to interact and build relationships with other members of SURS through the local chapters on each public university and community college campus.
- SUAA membership provides a communication network through newsletters, legislative bulletins, websites, workshops and meetings that informs and updates you on both local and state issues relative to and focused on pension and healthcare benefits.

The Spring Meeting is scheduled April 22, 2012. We hope you are able to attend as your participation provides an opportunity to exchange information vital to UIUC retirees.

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## **New Membership Forms**

There are now three SUAA membership forms for UI due to the success of the UIUC Chapter in working with others to allow current UI employees to deduct their SUAA dues from their pay. The forms are as follows: 1) one for annuitants that includes both the annual payment and the SURS dues deduction options; 2) one for current UI employees choosing dues deduction from their pay; and 3) one for current UI employees choosing the annual dues payment. Total annual dues are \$33, and this includes the Chapter dues of \$8.

Send a membership form to: State Universities Annuitants Association, 217 E. Monroe, Suite 100, Springfield IL 62701. A form with a dues deduction requires an original signature, and a form with an annual payment should include the check. See page 10 in this issue.





State Universities  
Annuitants Association

*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  
**RETIRES 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:**

- \$ 2.75 member monthly deduction
- \$ 5.50 member & spouse monthly deduction
- \$ 33.00 member annual cash payment
- \$ 66.00 member & spouse annual cash payment
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ SUAA Foundation Contribution (voluntary)

**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: \_\_\_\_\_



State Universities  
Annuitants Association

**Please Mail Signed Form To:**  
217 East Monroe, Suite 100  
Springfield, IL 62701  
217-523-4040

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

**Select Action to Take:**

- \_\_\_ 1. Activate Payroll Deduction
- \_\_\_ 2. Terminate Payroll Deduction

**Select Employee Pay Schedule:**

- \_\_\_ 1. Monthly
- \_\_\_ 2. Bi-weekly

**Membership Type:**

- \_\_\_ Active Employee

Employee UIN: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_  
State: \_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Chapter Dues Amount:**

- \$ 2.75 employee's monthly deduction  
(annual deduction total of \$33.00)
- \$ 1.38 employee's bi-weekly deduction  
(annual deduction total of \$33.00)

**Signature Required for Payroll Deduction:**

I hereby authorize the University of Illinois to deduct, each month, the amount as certified by SUAA as the current rate of dues. The initial deduction will begin within 30 days of receipt of this dues deduction authorization by the University of Illinois. The dues deduction will continue until termination is requested in writing.

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



State Universities  
Annuitants Association

*Make all checks payable to: SUAA*  
*Mail membership application to:*  
SUAA  
217 E. Monroe, Suite 100  
Springfield, IL 62701

**SUAA Membership Application**

University of Illinois  
Urbana-Champaign Chapter

**CURRENT EMPLOYEES ONLY**  
**ANNUAL CASH PAYMENT**

**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:**

- \$ 33.00 Member annual cash payment
- \$ 66.00 Member & Spouse annual cash payment
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ SUAA Foundation Contribution (voluntary)

*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.*

## 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.com](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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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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