



# The Annuitant

Newsletter of the Urbana-Champaign Chapter

State Universities Annuitants Association  
Spring 2013

## Survivor's Benefit Workshop 10 a.m., Friday, April 12, 2013

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 dies.

This program should be of benefit to SURS annuitants and their spouses, families or other eligible survivors. There is no fee for this program.

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

**WHEN:** Friday, April 12, 2013

**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.

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 to Feature Legislative Panel

SUAA-UIUC's spring meeting will be held Sunday, April 7 at the I-Hotel in Champaign. As is our custom, we'll begin with a social time and light refreshments at 1:30 to visit with friends and colleagues. The formal part of the meeting will begin at 2:00 PM.

The main feature of the 2013 spring meeting will be a presentation and discussion of major issues by a panel of legislators from the House and Senate of the Illinois General Assembly. Perhaps no legislative session in SUAA's history has included more issues of critical importance to SUAA members, whether retired or still actively employed. Retirees who have not yet joined SUAA are also welcome to attend. Whether it is the state's overall budget, health care benefits, "pension reform," regulations addressing returning to work after retirement or a host of other substantive issues affecting higher education in general, the spring 2013 session of the Illinois General Assembly has potential for landmark status.

Join other SUAA-UIUC members to get the latest information about measures under consideration from a panel of those who will help shape and determine the outcome of those measures. The panel will include the legislators whose districts include the Urbana-Champaign campus along with others with expertise in higher education.

The format for the panel presentations will include comments from each legislator followed by ample time for questions about the issues of greatest concern to SUAA-UIUC members. A brief business meeting will follow the panel's presentation.

Don't miss this terrific opportunity to get information directly from members of the General Assembly. Join us on Sunday, April 7 at 1:30 at the I-Hotel, Champaign.

## SAVE THE DATES: June 18 & 19 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 18-19, 2013. 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)).

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 2012-13

### Elected Leadership\* & Committee Membership

#### OFFICERS

##### President

Thomas F. Conry\*

##### Vice President

Terri Palumbo\* Membership

##### Secretary

Terry W. Ruprecht\* Membership

##### Treasurer

Gerald Brighton

#### Additional Executive

##### Committee Members

Gary Engelgau\* Communications

Barbara Hartman\* Communications

Jane Loeb\* Communications

Heidi Rockwood\* Communications

Stephen Rugg\* Legislative

Rick Schoell\* Legislative

Ginny Waaler\* Social Arrangements

Ron Webbink\* Communications

H.F. (Bill) Williamson\* Benefits

#### SUAA Foundation

H.F. (Bill) Williamson\*

#### OTHERS COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

##### Benefits

Mary Beastall

Stephen D'Arcy

Walter Tousey

##### Communications

Carl Larson

##### Legislative

Paul Dollins

Helen Satterthwaite

##### Membership

Mark Netter

Robert K. Todd

#### LIAISONS

##### To Campus:

Athalia Hunt

##### To Clark Lindsey:

Helen Satterthwaite

## 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.

SUAA was a leader in the effort to defeat the proposed amendment to the Constitution, CA49, which was on the ballot in the November election. First, we owe a BIG THANK YOU to our Executive Director, Linda Brookhart, who organized the campaign, to our Lobbyist, Dick Lockhart, who raised the issue of the dire implications of this amendment to retirees, to Paul Dollins who was co-chair of the SUAA working group that oversaw the implementation of the SUAA efforts. and to all the SUAA chapters, who contributed their time and money to this effort. I also wish to single out for praise our colleague, Professor Emeritus John Kindt, whose OP-ED articles in newspapers across the state served to educate many disparate groups about the implications of this constitutional amendment on the many organs of local government and state agencies and their employees, teachers and school boards, as well as retirees. But the fight is not over. As I mentioned last fall, the healthcare bill that was passed last spring was one that will have retirees paying part of their healthcare costs. The schedule of costs still has not been announced by the Director of CMS, and it is subject to concurrence by the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability (COGFA) of the General Assembly.

The issue of "pension reform" remains as a big issue in the legislature. If we watch the nightly news and read the papers, it is obvious that the politicians on both sides of the aisle are fanning the flames to turn the pension issue into a CRISIS ISSUE so they can pass legislation that may cross the constitutional boundary of no impairment with the expectation that the courts will be lenient in granting legislative bodies broad powers to address crisis issues. Yet if we look at this issue in a rational way, paying down the unfunded liability on pensions can and should be done over period of time. Please read the Legislative Report for a comprehensive view on the pension issues at this time.

Please plan to attend our Spring Meeting on Sunday, April 7th where our featured program will be a legislative panel. We hope to have an informative session with our area legislators. All retirees and other members of SURS who have not yet retired are welcome at the meeting.

This spring's legislative session may be the most important of any since the founding of SUAA. Both active and retired members of SUAA have much at stake, and SUAA's success with the CA 49 effort demonstrates that our organization can have a real impact on policies affecting our benefits. If you know of active or retired colleagues who might be interested in joining us, please spread the word.

Agile communication with our members remains a problem. We have e-mail addresses for less than half of our 2040 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. There will be times during this current legislative session when direct contact between you and your legislator will be helpful to remind them of the consequences of legislative proposals that they will be voting on.

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## Nominations to the Executive Committee

At the spring meeting, four members are elected to the twelve-member executive committee for three-year terms. The four nominees selected according to Article V of the Bylaws are listed below. Additional candidates may be nominated from the membership by petition signed by no fewer than five members and filed with the President, Thomas Conry (tfc-3301@comcast.net) or the Secretary, Terry Ruprecht (twruuprec@mchsi.com) at least one week before the April 7 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 biographies of nominees added by petition will be available at the meeting.

**Thomas F. Conry** retired in 2006 after serving for 35 years on the faculty of the Department of General Engineering and then the Department of Industrial and Enterprise Systems Engineering at UIUC. In addition, he served as department head for eleven years (1987-1998), as Chair of the UIUC Senate Council in 1996-97, and was elected to the three-campus University Senates Conference for two terms, serving as Chair in 2001-2002. Before joining UIUC, he worked for General Motors for five years, and had summer work experiences with Sargent & Lundy, Engineers, NASA Lewis Research Center, and Caterpillar. He is a Life Fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME). He was a member of the Society's Committee on Finance and Investment from 1999-2004 and now serves on the Society's Board on Safety Codes and Standards. In retirement, Tom works part time in forensic engineering consulting with Ruhl Forensic, Inc. He served as President of the Urbana Rotary Club in 2008-2009. He was elected to the SUAA-UIUC executive committee in 2010 and has served as Secretary and President of the Chapter. He continues to be active in engineering accreditation work as an ABET program evaluator and is currently assisting his department in developing their self-study in preparation for next year's visit by ABET.

**Steve Rugg** is completing his first term as a member of the executive committee for the SUAA-UIUC Chapter, on which he serves as a member of the legislative affairs committee and as program chair for the Chapter's spring and fall meetings. He has also served as a member of the ad hoc Finance Committee for the statewide SUAA organization. Rugg retired from the University of Illinois in 2007 after a career that began in 1971 as a graduate assistant in the UIUC College of Education. From 2002 to 2007 he served as the UI's Vice President for Administration with concurrent appointments as Comptroller of the UI Board of Trustees and Treasurer of the University of Illinois Foundation. At this time he also served as the state's chief procurement officer for Illinois higher education. From 1976 through 2002 he held positions in the University's Office for Planning and Budgeting, including heading the office as Associate Vice President. Prior to coming to the UI

Rugg served for three years in student affairs positions at Dartmouth College, his undergraduate alma mater. He is a U. S. Army veteran. Steve serves as a founding trustee and is currently president of the Urbana Parks Foundation and as chair of the board for the Champaign County Design and Conservation Foundation. He is a member of the Community Advisory Council for Illinois Public Media (WILL Radio and Television), and a community member of the Building Committee for the University YMCA. In 2010 he and his wife, Deborah, completed two terms as members of the Krannert Council at the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts. The couple has two adult children and four grandchildren.

**Richard M. Schoell** (Rick) retired in August of 2009 from the University of Illinois at twenty two years of service. He served as Executive Director for Governmental Relations from 1998 until 2009 and as Director of Federal Relations from 1987 until 2009. As Executive Director, he had primary responsibility for the management of the federal and state governmental relations programs for the three UI campuses. He served on the Council for Federal Relations of the Association of American Universities and the Council on Government Affairs for the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges. Before joining UI, Rick served five years as Director of the Illinois State Legislature's Washington D.C. office, and for three years as research analyst for the Illinois Commission on Intergovernmental Cooperation in Springfield, IL. He is currently a member of the SUAA-UIUC executive committee and its legislative committee. He also serves as a member of the Carle Foundation Community Advisory Board and the Carle Auxiliary and is active in the Kiwanis Club. He co-hosts the jazz show "Medicine Wheel" for WEFT.

**Virginia Waaler** (Ginny) retired from the UI in 2009. She began her career at UIUC as a part time staff member in admissions and records. In 1984, Waaler moved to an administrative support position in the College of Business' Executive Development Center (EDC), with responsibilities for preparations for executive conferences. In 2000, she became Director of the China Executive Leadership Programs, through which EDC brought managers, directors and administrators from China to Urbana to attend management programs offered by UIUC faculty through the EDC. She continued as Director when the program moved to International Programs and Studies. In the process of providing more than 165 management programs to some 2000 Chinese executives, she made many trips to China to promote the University of Illinois. She is a member of the Urbana Public Arts Commission, the CU Symphony Guild Board, and is active in other volunteer organizations. She has served one term on the SUAA-UIUC executive committee, on which one of her responsibilities is handling all arrangements for the spring and fall chapter meetings.

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## SUAA Spring 2013 Legislative Update

### Pension Reform

Both the fall, 2012 veto session and January, 2013 “lame duck” sessions of the 97th General Assembly concluded with no action on pension reform. This occurred despite continued urging from the Governor and the House Speaker’s willingness to put off consideration of a controversial “cost shift” proposal. That change would reassign from the state to school districts and the governing boards of public universities and community colleges a portion of the employer’s share of retirement programs for which the state is now solely responsible for teachers outside Chicago and public university employees. Several measures were discussed, including a new bi-partisan effort headed by Senator Daniel Biss and Representative Elaine Nekritz, but no action was taken.

Pension reform remains a critical issue for Illinois. Down-grading of Illinois’ credit rating in mid-January due to continued inaction on a pension funding plan only served to heighten the visibility of Illinois’ last-in-the-nation pension funding status and the importance of reaching agreement to begin the long-term process of improving pension funding.

Senate Bill 1 for the spring legislative session is a pension reform proposal from Senate President Cullerton. (The status of being the first bill introduced doesn’t give a legislative proposal any substantive advantage but usually designates an area of great importance to legislators.) Senate Bill 1 is unusual in one respect: it is configured in two parts – the first is preferred actions on pension reform while the second provides alternative actions intended to go into effect immediately if any portion of the first part were subsequently ruled unconstitutional after implementation. Including a remedy against Constitutional invalidity prior to passage of legislation is unusual if not unique.

Senator Biss (SB0035) and Representative Nekritz (HB0098) also have filed new versions of their bipartisan pension reform legislation. Descriptions of the provisions of all three bills – and others that will come – can be found on the SURS web site ([www.surs.org](http://www.surs.org)) by clicking the “legislation” button.

Among pension-change measures being considered are these:

- Cost-of-living increases delayed until age 67 (or 5 years after retirement)
- Cost-of-living freeze for the next five to six years
- Limit on cost-of-living increases to the first \$25,000 (\$20,000 if a person is a State Employees Retirement System retiree who receives Social Security due to contributions made to Social Security through their State employment)
- A 2% increase in employee contributions phased in over two years with strengthened measures for action against the State if it failed to make its required contribution
- Phased-in increase in retirement age for employees younger than 45 for those hired before January 1, 2011
- Cost shifting to local school districts and public university governing boards
- Basing an employee’s pension on his or her salary or the wage base for Social Security, whichever is lower
- Requiring certain amounts to be transferred from the State’s general revenue fund to the pension stabilization fund - if the State tries to skip payments, the retirement systems could go to court to enforce the law
- A cash balance plan for employees who began work after January 1, 2011
- The deletion of tying the cost-of-living allocation to health insurance remains in place

### Health Insurance Issues

*New Charges.* At the time of this writing no new information was available on cost changes for retiree health insurance. Public Act 97-0695 became effective July 1, 2012 and applies to the rates public employees, including those in higher education, will pay for state provided health insurance coverage for both themselves and their dependants. The Director of Central Management Services is authorized to establish the rate schedule which then must be submitted to the State’s Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR) for approval before implementation can occur. It is important to note that the state provided health insurance program is incorporated into the collective bargaining agreement for many state employee GROUPS, including AFSCME, and final resolution is contingent on the outcome of the negotiating process that is still underway.

*HMO Contract Update.* This past fall the State awarded a contract to Health Alliance HMO to provide health care coverage to state employees, retirees, and their dependents. Effective January 1, 2013, the new contract runs for 3 ½ years (until June 30, 2015).

### 2013-2014 Budget Outlook

While much has been written or broadcast about pension reform, this spring’s legislative session will also determine the operating budgets for all state activities for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2013. Although there have been some modestly encouraging signs that the Illinois economy is improving, progress is slow. More importantly the state remains in the grip of a substantial structural budget deficit. That is, appropriations for state-supported activities remain well above the revenue that the state takes in each year. This comes after a substantial “temporary” tax increase; despite several years of budget reductions in many agencies; an accumulated

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back-log of bills; and substantial time delays in getting appropriations to the agencies for which they are intended. As has been widely publicized, Illinois' pension obligations continue to grow, as do payment requirements for pension debt. Even if effective pension reform measures are implemented, for the immediate term it appears that further reductions in state support for many state activities is a real possibility.

### **SUAA Survey**

Given the increasing likelihood that some element of pension reform will happen in this spring's legislative session, the statewide SUAA organization distributed a brief electronic survey to its members in late January to gain insight into members' views. The response rate to the survey was nearly 45% -- a high rate indicating deep interest and concern among SUAA members. Results of the survey and any actions taken by the SUAA organization will be published on the state web site ([www.suaa.org](http://www.suaa.org)).

### **Constitutional Amendment Defeated**

With overwhelming support from the General Assembly in the spring, 2012 session, a measure related to pensions for public employees was placed on the statewide ballot for the November, 2012 election. SUAA was among the first organizations to raise question about the proposal, whose convoluted, confusing language left many readers uncertain about the impact of the proposal. SUAA mounted an extensive -- and ultimately, effective -- campaign to warn voters of the dangers and uncertainties the amendment's adoption would produce. While all SUAA members who worked long hours on the effort to defeat this ill-advised approach deserve our thanks, special mention should go to UIUC Professor John Kindt for his tireless and well-focused efforts to publicize the limitations and dangers of the proposed amendment. Eventually opposed by many educational associations and other organizations, the amendment was defeated.

### **Stay Tuned – Stay Active**

This spring's legislative session should be one of great interest to all SUAA members. Our local chapter remains grateful for all members' efforts to communicate our positions to key policymakers. Our chapter position statement and fact sheet are posted on the chapter web site ([www.suaa-ui.org](http://www.suaa-ui.org)) and updates of new information will be provided as decisions are made. As noted elsewhere in this publication, the SUAA-UI spring meeting on April 7 will include a panel discussion from local legislators for up-to-the-minute news.

## **Report of SUAA-UIUC Fall 2012 Meeting**

The UIUC Chapter of SUAA held its fall meeting on October 21. The main speaker was Professor Robert Rich, recently retired as the UI's Director of the Institute of Government and Public Affairs, who provided a preview of the upcoming election. The proposed Constitutional Amendment also received considerable discussion.

### **National Election Review**

Professor Rich commented on two demographic trends: the steady rise of the Latino population in the U. S. and among voters; and the aging and rising life expectancy for the population.

Rich noted that most polls suggest a very close election, and he expected President Obama to win, Congress to remain divided, and both houses of the Illinois General Assembly to remain in Democratic hands. He identified five critically important areas of national concern for the future: (1) Medicare funding; (2) Medicaid coverage and funding; (3) Social Security solvency; (4) addressing the budget deficit and the "fiscal cliff"; and (5) foreign policy issues in the Middle East and Iran.

### **Constitutional Amendment**

Professor John Kindt outlined concerns with the proposed Constitutional Amendment, including unclear and hard to understand language, failure to address the past failure of the state to pay for its share of the retirement programs, reduction in representative government, a false suggestion that benefits are often improved via narrowly passed measures, and its threatening nature to the quality of education at all levels. He noted SUAA had led the statewide fight to oppose the amendment.

### **UI-SUAA President's Report: Dues Increase; Health Insurance**

President Tom Conry reported that the statewide SUAA Directors approved a dues increase of \$6.00 at the Fall Meeting. That amount was deemed necessary by an ad hoc finance committee to keep SUAA operating at current levels in the face of severe and prolonged attacks on public employee benefits, including those for retirees. He also commented on two important aspects of our health insurance. First, the "temporary" extensions of health insurance coverage programs implemented in July -- including that for Health Alliance -- had been further extended. The second concerned the new cost structure for retiree health insurance which will mean that all annuitants, even those with 20 or more years of service, will pay some share of their health insurance. CMS is determining the details as part of contract negotiations with AFSCME.

The SUAA-UI Board is monitoring the health insurance situation closely, and will post updated information as soon as it becomes available. He urged all who have Internet access to monitor the web sites of both SURS ([www.surs.org](http://www.surs.org)) and Central Management Services ([www.benefitschoice.il.gov](http://www.benefitschoice.il.gov)) for updates on health insurance issues.

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## SUBSCRIBING TO INSIDE ILLINOIS

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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**

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

## Campus Day of Service

Last month Chancellor Phyllis Wise announced that April 20th will be the first Community-Campus Day of Service, on which UIUC units and individuals connected with the University are encouraged to engage in service projects of benefit to the community. One program in planning will involve packaging 146,000 meals—one thousand for every year since the UI was chartered. These will be donated to food banks and distributed to needy families locally. A total of 350-400 volunteers are needed for this project alone, and the campus is partnering with United Way and Rotary Clubs to organize others as well. The SUAA-UIUC executive committee enthusiastically supports this effort, and chapter members are encouraged to volunteer. To learn more or to register to volunteer go to <http://go.illinois.edu/DayOfService2013>.

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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 age at death (when known), and the date of death for those individuals whose death notices appear between July 20, 2012 and February 7, 2013.

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.

Anderson, David Michael, 38, 12/27/12  
Anderson, Thomas Ray, 82, 9/22/12  
Anstine, Kathleen, 67, 7/28/12  
Auteberry, Deborah Lynn, 59, 11/30/12  
Barger, Leon Robert, 77, 10/3/12  
Bateman, Felice D., 90, 2/04/13  
Bateman, Paul T., 93, 12/26/12  
Beamer, Paul D., 98, 10/15/12  
Beard, William E., 66, 10/16/12  
Beck, Lilian H., 90, 1/21/13  
Bernard, Richard Lawon, 86, 12/20/12  
Boastick, Marilyn, 79, 10/10/12  
Brownfield, Lois M., 86, 11/10/12  
Carroll, Robert Wayne, 82, 12/8/12  
Coburn, Leonard, 91, 1/11/13  
Collins, Hubert B. "Hubie", 72, 8/18/12  
Cooper, Lillie E., 93, 12/3/12  
Cox, Dorothy M., 88, 12/20/12  
Dale, Francis G., 76, 1/5/13  
Dalton, Cheri, 63, 8/7/12  
Day, Judith A., 74, 11/22/12  
Demlow, Patsy L. (Pointer), 72, 12/4/12  
Dissman, Roma "Jean", 72, 2/2/13  
Donhowe, Peter Arthur, 74, 10/19/12  
Ducoff, Howard S., 89, 8/28/12  
Edwards, Robert Justin, 86, 1/2/13  
Ehrlich, Gert, 86, 8/10/12  
Eilbracht, Euline Dallas, 89, 8/29/12  
Eilbracht, Lee Paul (Coach), 88, 1/2/13  
Esgar, James Russell, 64, 7/30/12  
Estes, Don Eugene, 59, 7/21/12  
Foster, Wesley Benjamin, 83, 8/24/12  
Frankenberg, Julian M., 74, 1/13/13  
Gilles, Alice Elizabeth "Betsy" Dunkle, 84, 10/6/12  
Graham, Walter F., 57, 7/30/12  
Guttenberg, Albert Z., 90, 7/16/12  
Hansen, Pamela Sue, 59, 1/4/13  
Harris, Robert Raymond, 71, 9/24/12  
Hicks, James A., 68, 1/25/13  
Hinderer, Eugene C., 88, 1/12/13  
Hinton, Charlotte, 87, 10/23/12  
Hobbs, Milton, 84, 10/21/12  
Houk, Mary A., 88, 8/30/12  
Hoyt, William Robert, 92, 8/10/12  
Johansen-Wood, Janis, 74, 1/5/13  
Johnson, Debra Wilcox, 59, 10/30/12  
Jones, Dollie Mae, 71, 9/25/12  
Katz, Helen Nancy, 66, 7/23/12  
Knust, Herbert, 77, 8/22/12  
Kraatz, James Melville, 76, 1/1/13  
Kreer John B., 84, 3/17/12  
Kuo, Benjamin C., 81, 6/12/12  
Lewis, Rosalind D., 66, 9/10/12  
Manuel, William R., 81, 11/27/12  
Mathews, John Neil, 81, 12/21/12  
Mayor, Ross, 72, 10/15/12  
McGlamery, Marshall Dean, 80, 1/25/13  
McKinney, Penny C., 57, 9/6/12  
McPherson, Donna F. Knudson, 100, 1/12/13  
Meisami, Esmail, 70, 1/22/13  
Mewes, Keith A., 49, 1/8/13  
Mitsdarfer, Joseph Charles, 92, 1/12/13  
Moore, Terry Gene, 63, 11/28/12  
Mowry, Richard R., 86, 8/20/12  
Newman, Horace Wayne, 94, 9/23/12  
Nishida, Toshiro, 86, 8/15/12  
Ormsbee, Allen I., 85, 7/13/12  
Orr, Daniel, 79, 6/6/12  
Overman, Dennis, 76, 9/24/12  
Payette, Roland F., 86, 1/16/13  
Pedersen, Curtis Oneal, 77, 7/10/12  
Perrino, Daniel J., 91, 8/17/12  
Peterson, Walter Robert "Pete", 93, 9/5/12  
Plue, Alvin, 92, 10/11/12  
Pritchard, Catherine Ann "Nan", 78, 1/20/13  
Risley, William Ogle, 91, 1/13/13  
Robertson, James Mueller, 96, 11/22/12  
Saathoff, Ruth W., 100, 10/27/12  
Sanderson, Milton W., 102, 12/12/12  
Sanford, Katherine Louise, 88, 12/27/12  
Schleis, Thomas H., 62, 7/19/12  
Schultz, Harold Francis "Bud", 90, 11/9/12  
Scouffas, John, 88, 11/1/12  
Sergiovanni, Thomas Joseph, 75, 1/4/13  
Shannon, Mark, 56, 10/14/12  
Shavitt, Isaiah, 87, 12/8/12  
Spurgeon, Stanley, 86, 12/10/12  
Sprugel, Catherine "Kay" Cornwell, 95, 7/18/12  
Streeter, Harrison, 86, 4/10/12  
Sylavong, Bounthanh, 64, 1/16/13  
Thompson, Donald Larry, 69, 1/15/13  
Vasser, Elizabeth, 89, 12/26/12  
Vollmer, Darrell E., 57, 12/15/12  
Wall, Cynthia Ann, 50, 9/29/12  
Watterson, Deborah (Cooley), 58, 12/4/12  
Weaver, Howard E., 88, 3/15/12  
Weiler, Ivan Jeanne, 77, 7/12/12  
White, Charles Ed, 77, 11/8/12  
Williams, Benjamin T., 81, 10/16/12  
Wimmer, Thomas "Sonny" Jr., 80, 8/16/12  
Wingstrom, Charles Buron, 91, 1/4/13  
Winkelhake, Claude A. "Wink", 92, 7/21/12  
Woese, Carl R., 84, 12/30/12  
Yoss, Kenneth M., 86, 8/4/12

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## **Communications Committee**

*Gary Engelgau*

The Communications Committee is responsible for the publication of the two editions of The Annuitant each year, the Chapter website: [www.suaa-ui.org](http://www.suaa-ui.org), and the Chapter email: [suaa.ui@gmail.com](mailto:suaa.ui@gmail.com). Email is reviewed on most days, the website is updated at least monthly and more often if the legislature is dealing with pension and benefits issues. It is also important for members to review the state-wide organization's (SUAA's) website: [www.suaa.org](http://www.suaa.org). It has regularly posted Mini Briefings on legislative activity when the Illinois Legislature is in session.

Email is the best way to contact SUAA-UIUC and SUAA statewide. In turn, if we have your email address we do, on occasion, use it to send timely information to members, as does the SUAA state office. All membership information is kept by the Springfield SUAA office so if we have your email, so do they.

Please let us know if there is information you believe we can furnish the membership that we currently do not. Since this edition of our newsletter is going to all SURS retirees connected with the Urbana-Champaign campus, please do consider joining the UIUC chapter of SUAA if you are not currently a member. SUAA was quite effective in the effort to stop the passage of the Constitutional Amendment that appeared on our last ballot. The larger the membership, the better equipped we are to represent the need for equitable treatment of retirees. Our voice in advocacy for our pension and benefits is only as loud as the size of our membership.

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

### **UIUC SUAA Chapter Spring Meeting**

April 7, I-Hotel. 1:30 p.m.

Social time; 2:00 p.m. meeting begins.

*(See page 1 for further details.)*

### **Survivors' Benefit Workshop**

April 12, SURS headquarters, 10:00 a.m.

*(See page 1 for further details.)*

### **Community-Campus Day of Service**

April 20.

*(See page 6 for further information.)*

### **State Annual SUAA Meeting**

June 18-19, Springfield.

*(See page 1 for further details.)*





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# ANNUAL SPRING MEMBERSHIP REPORT

## *The Membership Committee*

As of February 1, 2013, our membership was over 2,000 strong! While the organization's membership 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 ask you to join if you have not yet done so or to encourage others to join in order to support our association as we fight for your benefits; membership in SUAA costs little, especially when considering what the organization is attempting to protect in these very trying times for retirees. **We are working diligently and need your participation and assistance in continuing the fight against current attempted changes affecting our pensions and benefits!** (*Membership forms can be found on page 10 of the newsletter.*)

### 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.
- **SUAA** membership assists in building a knowledge base in order to better understand how each element of legislation can affect pension and healthcare benefits for both today and for tomorrow.
- **SUAA** membership allows direct involvement in the legislative process through coordination of a clear **VOICE** and visibility as a solid advocacy organization that protects the pension and healthcare benefits of the participants and beneficiaries enrolled in the SURS.
- **SUAA** membership offers assistance to spouses and survivors of annuitants by providing them with important information to aid them in receiving all rights and benefits to which they are entitled.

In the fall of 2011, SUAA added 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.

The Spring Meeting is scheduled April 7, 2013. We hope you are able to attend as your participation provides an opportunity to exchange information vital to UIUC retirees.

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## Membership Forms

As in the past, there are three SUAA membership forms for UI in order to allow current employees to deduct their SUAA dues from their pay. The forms are as follows:

- One for annuitants that includes both the annual payment and the SURS dues deduction options
- One for current UI employees choosing dues deductions from their pay
- One for current UI employees choosing the annual dues payment.

Total annual dues are \$39 which includes chapter dues of \$8. Send membership form (and payment if paying by check) to:  
State Universities Annuitants Association | 217 E. Monroe, Suite 100 | Springfield, IL 62701

A form with a dues deduction requires an original signature. Forms can be found on page 10 in this issue.



State Universities  
Annuitants Association

**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:**

- \_\_\_ Retiree
- \_\_\_ Retiree and Spouse/Partner
- \_\_\_ Spouse/Partner
- \_\_\_ Surviving Spouse/Partner
- \_\_\_ Supporter

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Spouse/Partner: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_  
State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Chapter Dues Amount:**

- \$ 3.25 member monthly deduction
- \$ 6.50 member & spouse monthly deduction
- \$ 39.00 member annual cash payment
- \$ 78.00 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

**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: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Chapter Dues Amount:**

- \$ 3.25 employee's monthly deduction  
(annual deduction total of \$39.00)
- \$ 1.63 employee's bi-weekly deduction  
(annual deduction total of \$39.00)

**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

**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:**

- \$ 39.00 Member annual cash payment
- \$ 78.00 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.

Make all checks payable to: **SUAA**

Mail membership application to:

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

Please Mail Signed Form To:

217 East Monroe, Suite 100  
Springfield, IL 62701  
217-523-4040

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## 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).

## Getting Involved

If you would like to increase your participation and involvement in SUAA-UIUC, we suggest you attend an Executive Committee meeting. They are held in the Board Room in the main building of Clark-Lindsey Village, 101 W. Windsor Road, Urbana. There is free parking on the circular drive within the Village. Meetings are held 1:30pm on the second Wednesday of each month, except for January and July when meetings are called only if necessary. Typical adjournment is 3:30. Our web site, [www.suaa-ui.org](http://www.suaa-ui.org), presents future meetings dates and approved minutes on its Home Page.

Our web site is the best source for up to date information about our Chapter. The state-wide organization's web site, [www.suaa.org](http://www.suaa.org), is also an excellent resource. If you have given us your email address it has been shared with SUAA and you should receive Mini Briefings, regular updates on breaking information about legislative action regarding pensions and benefits.

The best way to communicate with the Executive Committee is by email to: [suaa.ui@gmail.com](mailto:suaa.ui@gmail.com).

The Communications Committee monitors that email, usually on a daily basis. Should you wish to address a particular officer or committee, your message will be forwarded to accomplish that.

Should you have comments or concerns, or wish to become more involved, please contact us using this email.



**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
SUA-UUC Chapter  
364 Henry Administration Building, MC-346  
506 S. Wright St.  
Urbana, IL 61801-3689

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