



www.suaa-ui.org

The Annuitant

A publication of the UIUC Chapter
State Universities Annuitants Association

Spring 2018

Pam Cler, Editor

Spring Membership Meeting to be Held April 22

Kathleen Holden

The SUAA-UIUC Spring meeting will be held **Sunday, April 22** at the I-Hotel & Conference Center in Champaign. The afternoon begins with **social time at 1:30 pm; the meeting and program will start at 2:00 pm.**

On the agenda for the afternoon:

1) Election of 4 new members to the executive committee. Please see bios and information on these candidates on page 4.

2) How current technologies can be used to support successful aging and to enable autonomy and independence for older adults. This segment will be presented by Wendy A. Rogers, PhD, a Shahid and Ann Carlson Khan Professor of Applied Health Sciences at the University of Illinois. Her research interests include design for aging, technology acceptance, human-automation interaction, aging-in-place, human-robot interaction, aging with disabilities, cognitive aging, and skill acquisition and training.

3) Report of the Ad-Hoc Committee on Pensions
This session is intended to be an interactive discussion on the state of pension reform in Illinois.

President's Message

Richard Winkel

I believe that one measure of the relevance and success of our chapter of the SUAA is how vigilant we are in monitoring and protecting the annuity and benefits promised us by the State of Illinois throughout our careers. That is why I am concentrating in this report on the efforts of a recently established working group to undertake these tasks.

At its November 8, 2017 monthly meeting, the Chapter's Executive Committee authorized the formation of an ad hoc working group on pensions to assess proposed changes to our pension system, a topic very important to our members. To gather factual and actionable information, the Ad Hoc Pension Working Group (PWG) has begun reaching out to those who have knowledge and experience on the pension process and related issues. The PWG includes Bill Adams, Rick Schoell, Bob Rich, Steve Rugg, and me.

We began by studying the new Tier III hybrid plan (Tier III), as it now exists in statute (PA 100-0023, effective July 6, 2017). The statutory purpose is to shift pension costs for new employees to universities and school districts outside Chicago. The State Universities Retirement System (SURS) is required to implement Tier III, subject to approval by the Internal Revenue Service.

On December 7, 2017, PWG members Adams and Winkel met with Avijit Ghosh, the UI Interim Vice President and CFO. We discussed the likelihood of a trailer bill early in the spring 2018 session to clean up

Find us on 

Search for SUAA UIUC

(Continued on page 2)

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
SUAA-UIUC CHAPTER
2017-18**

** designates elected positions*

~ OFFICERS ~

President

Richard Winkel, Jr. * - *Legislative*

Vice President

William Adams * - *Legislative*

Secretary

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

Treasurer

Ron Webbink *

~ OTHER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ~

Pam Cler * - *Newsletter*

Barbara Hartman * - *Past President &
Membership*

Kathleen Holden * - *Programs*

Carol Livingstone * - *Communications*

Penny Nigh * - *Membership*

Robert Rich * - *Legislative & Website*

Stephen Rugg * - *Legislative &
Big 10 Retirees Conference*

Susan Trippiedi * - *Programs &
Arrangements*

~ OTHER COMMITTEES ~

Mary Beastall - *Benefits*

Katharine Kral - *Big 10 Retirees Conference*

Helen Satterthwaite - *Legislative*

Rick Schoell - *Legislative*

~ LIAISONS ~

Athalia Hunt - *Campus*

Helen Satterthwaite - *Clark-Lindsey*

~ STATE SUAA LEADERSHIP ~

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

(President's Message ~ Continued from page 1)

problems in the new legislation that interfere with its implementation. We learned that SURS estimates it would need 18 months or more to implement the hybrid plan. SURS must develop the Tier III plan, submit it for and obtain IRS approval, incorporate the plan in the SURS systems and administrative processes, and produce enrolment materials. The UI and SURS are participating in discussions or negotiations to either amend the Tier III plan by a trailer bill or propose administrative rule changes.

On January 10, 2018, Larry Curtis, as SURS Employer Representative, met with the PWG to discuss the Tier III plan and its implementation, ongoing negotiations between SURS and UI, and prospects of legislative action in 2018 spring session. On January 23, Jennifer Creasey, Senior State Director in the UI Office of Governmental Relations confirmed that the legislature might amend the Tier III statute in 2018 spring session. On February 1, Katie Ross, UI Human Resources met with the PWG and confirmed that UI and SURS are negotiating new rules to propose to the Joint Commission on Administrative Rules that would address the UI HR concerns over the Tier III plan and its implementation.

Based on these meetings, the PWG can offer some preliminary observations about the Tier III hybrid plan.

1. TRAILER BILL: SURS will probably need additional legislative action to implement. However, the initial trailer bill (Senate Bill 779) failed to pass both Houses before the end of the fall 2017 veto session and odds are against the legislature enacting trailer legislation in the 2018 spring session. Rather it is more likely that UI and SURS will negotiate and propose new rules to the Joint Commission on Administrative Rules to address the UI HR concerns.
2. SAVINGS IN THE STATE BUDGET: Far less than transformative savings for state and none in FY18.
3. TIMELINE: SURS estimates 18 months or more to implement the Tier III.
4. UI PAYS: Employee contribution will not cover cost for the hybrid plan; UI will have to make up the difference, which will be a substantial cost-shift to the UI.
5. NO FLEXIBILITY: Plan does not give UI any flexibility to contain costs.

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

6. **MULTIPLE TIERS:** Plan would create multi-tier pensions. This will have negative impacts for UI employee morale, recruitment and retention. In addition, funds for the new Tier III hybrid plan would be completely separate; therefore, funds for the new Tier III hybrid plan would not be available to the current pension fund and this would cutoff growing membership for the existing plans (Tiers I and II).
7. **NEW EMPLOYEES:** Tier III employees will have to pay significantly more than current employees do, and receive significantly less benefit.

The PWG is also studying the proposed \$107 billion pension bond sale. The proposed size of the bond would make it the largest sale by far in Illinois history. On January 30, 2018, Rep. Robert Martwick introduced House Bill 4371. The purpose of the bill is to shift payment for debt from annual GRF allocations to reduce the pension debt long-term bond payment at reduced interest rate and to even out the payments. SUAA believes that bonding done properly can help manage the State's unfunded pension liability and has provided members with a Fact Sheet and PowerPoint presentation with data compiled by Professor Runhuan Feng (University of Illinois) in conjunction with SUAA. The UI and SURS have taken no position on the bill.

The proposal has drawn criticism. John Filan (Crain's Chicago Business, January 29, 2018) is an opponent, even though he led the initiative for \$10 billion pension bond in 2003. His argument against HB4371 is that the timing in 2018 is bad, because the market factors are unfavorable compared to 2003. He says that the State no longer has an AA bond rating, which is now BBB- and the stock market was low in 2003, whereas on January 29, 2018 there was a peak market. Therefore, Filan argues, the odds are against getting an interest rate of 5.5%. Filan believes that the state would likely pay more.

The preliminary observations of the PWG are (1) that SUAA missed opportunities to ask for input from the UIUC Chapter about HB4371 prior to SUAA's pronouncement of support; and (2) nevertheless, the odds are against passage of the proposed pension bond legislation in the 2018 spring session.

The PWG will:

- (1) Tier III hybrid plan
 - a. Continue to identify, track, and study new or pending legislation related to Tier III hybrid plan and its implementation (PA 100-0023);
 - b. Continue to reach out to UI and SURS and others to find common ground and work together to improve PA 100-0023 by legislation or rulemaking;
 - c. Develop a recommended position for the Executive Committee and UIUC Chapter membership.
- (2) \$107 Billion Pension Bond Proposal
 - a. Continue to identify, track, and study HB4371 or other legislation related to pension bond proposals.
 - b. Continue to examine the evidence and rationale of SUAA for its support of HB4371.
 - c. Continue to develop recommended position for the Executive Committee and UIUC Chapter membership.

Please plan to attend our chapter's spring meeting on April 22, 2018 at the I-Hotel (see article on page 1). Our speaker will be Wendy A. Rogers, Ph.D. In addition, our chapter's Executive Committee has asked the Ad Hoc Pension Working Group to participate in a panel discussion on pension and health benefits and related issues.

Find us on 

Search for SUAA UIUC

Nominations & Upcoming Election 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 below were selected according to Article V of the Bylaws. Additional candidates may be nominated from the membership by petition signed by no fewer than five members and filed with President Richard Winkel (rwinkeljr@live.com) or Secretary Bill Williamson (billw@illinois.edu) at least one week before the April 22, 2018 meeting. Nominees added by petition will also appear on the chapter website (www.suaa-ui.org) 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.

Meet Your Candidates

(In no particular order)

Tanya Gallagher is Professor of Speech and Hearing Science, the Timothy J. Nugent Professor in Rehabilitation Research, and former Dean of the College of Applied Health Sciences from 1998-2016. She received her BS, MA and PhD degrees from the University of Illinois and prior to joining the faculty in 1998 served on the faculties of the University of Michigan Medical School and the McGill University Faculty of Medicine. Dr. Gallagher has held several leadership positions including serving as the President of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, the President of the International Association of Logopedics and Phoniatrics, the President of the Communication Sciences and Disorders Clinical Trials Research Group, and as an advisor to the National Center for Treatment Effectiveness Research in Communication Disorders. She has received the most prestigious awards in her field, has published extensively and is an internationally recognized scholar in language disorders and treatment outcomes.



Deb Stone is the Director of Academic Human Resources at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Stone joined the University in 2001 as a member of the UI-Integrate team charged with the development of the Human Resources components of Banner. The majority of her time on the project was spent as the Associate Project Lead for HR. In 2004, after the Banner go-live, she joined the Office of Academic Human Resources as an Associate Director and assumed the role of Director in 2006. Stone is proud to hold degrees from both Eastern Illinois University and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. In addition to higher education, she has been self-employed, worked in K12, and the utility industry, in which she had more than ten years of human resources experience. Her HR work prior to the Univer-

sity had a particular focus on Compensation and Benefits, including retirement plans. At the University, Stone serves on many System and campus level committees, including the Urbana Senate's Faculty and Staff Benefits Committee, and she analyzes potential impacts of proposed legislation and/or changes in benefits and SURS for both employees and the University. She has served in a leadership position with the Illinois chapter of CUPA-HR, as well as being an active member of a consortium of HR directors from all the Illinois public universities and the Big Ten Academic Alliance HR directors. Stone is a presenter each year at the Urbana campus' Preparing for Retirement Seminar, which is intended for those employees who are eligible to retire within 5 years or less.



Wynne Sandra Korr is professor emerita in the School of Social Work at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She retired in 2017 after having served for fifteen years as dean of the School. Korr received her PhD in psychology from the University at Buffalo. She began her career as a program evaluator for the Illinois Department of Mental Health. Her 37-year career as a social work educator began with her appointment to the faculty of the Jane Addams College of Social Work at UIC in 1980. In 1994 she went to the University of Pittsburgh where she directed a doctoral program. Her primary area of research has been on mental health policy and services. She is also interested in innovation in the nonprofit sector -- both as a scholar and as a mentor of young social entrepreneurs. She volunteers in the community through her service on the United Way community impact committee and on the board of the East Central Illinois Community Foundation. You can spot her strolling her neighborhood with her standard poodle and talking with the birds.

Continued on next page

Jennifer M. Creasey - Jennifer joined the University of Illinois in March 2014, recently stepping into the role of Senior Director of State Relations. Before that she was with AARP Illinois, and previously served as Deputy Director of Boards & Commissions/Agricultural & Environmental Affairs in the Office of Governor. Jennifer has also worked in a number of political internships in both Washington DC and Springfield. She has a BA in both Political Science and Speech Communications from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign and was selected for the Dunn Fellowship program after graduation in 2004. Jennifer went on to complete her Master's from the University of Illinois, Springfield in Political Science.

Jennifer represents the University in both the Capitol and the community to advance its priorities. She is also responsible for outreach, state legislative advocacy efforts, strategic partnerships, and management or relationships around the state. Through this work, she works very closely with the U of I legislative caucus and U of I alumni throughout the state. In 2016 she was nominated to participate in the U of I Edgar Fellows Program. Before coming to the U of I, she was the AARP staff lead for State Healthcare Legislation and implementation of the Affordable Care Act for the AARP Illinois Legislative Office. She is a member of the Springfield YMCA board, and an active member of a number of community and professional development groups.

SUAA State & Chapter News

Legislative Update

Robert Rich

The legislature and the Governor continue to disagree over a "balanced budget". Three key dimensions which are: a tax increase, pension reform, and reducing the debt thru spending cuts. The tax increase also includes a debate over adopting a progressive income tax, which would involve a constitutional amendment; pension reform which is well covered in Rick Winkel's President's message (page 1 in this newsletter); and debates over spending cuts that also include disagreements over spending levels for education and higher education.

We do not expect much significant legislative activity until after the primary and the Gubernatorial election in November.

Chapter Treasurer's Report Year Ended December 31, 2017

Ronald F. Webbink

SUAA represents annuitants and employees of Illinois Public Universities and Colleges. The UIUC Chapter has no employees, only volunteers. The SUAA office in Springfield has employees whose principle duty is advocacy on behalf of SURS annuitants, to protect our retirement and survivor benefits. Of your \$41 annual dues, \$33 was for SUAA and \$8 for our Chapter, SUAA-UIUC. For the year, the Chapter's share of dues was \$17,372. Each dollar was used as follows:

| | |
|--|----------------------|
| <i>The Annuitant newsletters (Spring & Fall)</i> | <i>\$0.17</i> |
| <i>Meetings (local, regional, and state)</i> | <i>\$0.29</i> |
| <i>Website development and maintenance</i> | <i>\$0.04</i> |
| <i>Gain (loss) in reserves</i> | <i><u>\$0.50</u></i> |
| <i>Total</i> | <i>\$1.00</i> |

SUAA Foundation

H. F. (Bill) Williamson

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

1) *To provide education and dissemination of information regarding issues affecting the welfare of SUAA members.* In this regard, the Foundation provided almost the entire funding for the statewide SUAA Education Campaign. It also funded the luncheon at last year's Annual Meeting in Springfield at which John Meyers of the Springfield Social Security Office described to SUAA chapter directors from across the state how SURS benefits and Social Security benefits interact for employees who can qualify for both.

2) *To provide support to those Chapters establishing Survivor Assistance Programs.* For this purpose, the staff at the State Office helped the Foundation Direc-

tors to design and disseminate a Survivor Assistance brochure to all Chapters.

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

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

Interesting Facts - Celebrating 150 Years of History at the University of Illinois

1867 - A bill passed the Illinois General Assembly on February 25, authorizing creation of an Illinois Industrial University. Three days later Governor Richard J. Oglesby signed the bill into effect, granting the University its charter. On March 12, John Milton Gregory is elected first regent of the University.

1868 - Illinois Industrial University opens its doors on March 2, with three faculty members. The first student, James Newton Matthews of Mason, Illinois, enrolled in agriculture. On March 11, Willard Flagg Bliss was named the first professor of agriculture.

1874 - January 3, women are admitted to the university for the first time.

1885 - June 19, Illinois Industrial University is renamed the University of Illinois.

1901 - July 6, the Board of Trustees purchases squirrels for campus. (Yes, that's right!)

Many more interesting history timeline facts can be found at <http://150.illinois.edu/timeline>

Benefits Report

Mary Beastall and H. F. Williamson

Since we are in a changing environment regarding benefits issues, it is important that members keep informed through the SUAA Chapter (www.suaa-ui.org) and State websites (www.suaa.org). The State Universities Retirement System (SURS) and Central Management Services (CMS) websites are also good resources. Contact information for these websites appears at the end of this report (p. 9).

Claim Payment Delay:

Funding availability for the Quality Care Health Plan, HealthLink OAP, Aetna OAP and Quality Care Dental Plan is based on State revenue which fluctuates from month to month. Claim payments are released according to available funding. This is a reminder that updated information regarding such delays appears on the CMS website under State Employee benefits (Claim Payment Delays). A late payment will include an interest payment on claims that take longer than 30 days. Due to a large bond issued by the State last November, CMS was able to fund group health insurance and reduce a portion of the payment backlog.

Benefits Choice Periods:

The CMS Benefits Choice period for Medicare-eligible annuitants and their Medicare-eligible dependents is in the fall. An annuitant who is Medicare-eligible will not qualify for this period if that annuitant has a dependent who is not eligible for Medicare on the annuitant's health insurance through the State. During the Benefits Choice period, an annuitant may choose to opt out of health insurance. When opting out, an annuitant may lose other benefits. Be sure to read the CMS information carefully before making a decision. Thus far any annuitant and dependent must be Medicare-eligible before the beginning of the Benefits Choice period, the date being determined by CMS.

The Benefits Choice period for annuitants and dependents who are not Medicare-eligible is in the spring. Again, be sure to read the opting out information carefully.

CMS has hired an online vendor to assist with the administration of the State's insurance programs. Members will view and make changes to their coverage through the MyBenefits Marketplace website (www.MyBenefits.illinois.gov). According to the SURS website, SURS will no longer assist with processing health insurance coverage for its members, but members have the option to call a State group insurance customer service representative (1-844-251-1777) or TTY 1-844-251-1778). Detailed information will be included in the Benefits Choice materials.

Flu Shots:

Free flu shots have been available in the fall at McKinley Health Center for employees and retirees in the State insurance plan. Be sure to monitor the McKinley website (mckinley.illinois.edu) or the CMS website for updated information and dates. Flu shots for seniors are available at some pharmacies and other entities, and these are usually covered by insurance.

Did You Know?

The members of the Chapter Benefits Committee will continue to review and update the information on benefits available to retirees and other annuitants in issues of *The Annuitant* and on the Chapter website (<http://suaa-ui.org>). Most of these will be of interest wherever these individuals are living. Some benefits will be principally for those living in the Champaign-Urbana area. These include (a) benefits associated with I-Cards; (b) access to Faculty/Staff Assistance Services; (c) clinics in departments on the UIUC campus providing various services and (d) programs and facilities available to promote fitness and improved health.

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

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

Audiology Clinic and Speech-Language Pathology Clinic. These are both in the Department of Speech and Hearing Science. The Audiology Clinic (217-333-2230) provides services to individuals of all ages who may be experiencing hearing difficulties, with such services including hearing assessment. The Speech-Language Pathology Clinic (217-333-2205) serves individuals of all ages who have communicative impairments. Further information is available on the departmental website at <http://shs.illinois.edu/clinics>.

Fitness/Exercise Programs & Facilities

SilverSneakers Programs. All SilverSneakers members have access to facilities and wellness programs throughout the country. For a listing of facilities and more information, visit SilverSneakers at: <https://www.silversneakers.com>.

The Lifetime Fitness Program. This program is sponsored by the Department of Kinesiology and Community Health and is designed for residents of the Champaign-Urbana area who are age 55 or older. The program has also teamed up with Silver Sneakers, thus giving access to facilities and some classes at no cost and providing a discount for other classes. Activities include group fitness, individual training and aquatics. Members of OLLI receive a 20% discount on fees. Further information can be found at:
<http://lifetimefitnessprogram.kch.illinois.edu>.

Campus Recreation. Retirees may continue (or start!) using Campus Recreation facilities such as CRCE and the ARC for an annual fee of \$480 which can be paid by having a monthly fee of \$40 deducted from their SURS annuity. Your spouse/partner can be added for an annual fee of \$276. More information about membership is available at the Campus Recreation website: <http://www.campusrec.illinois.edu/>.

Walking in UI Armory. Those interested in walking for fitness at the UI Armory may not be aware that seniors 55 and over may purchase a lifetime registration for \$25 rather than pay the \$3 daily fee. Visit the website at the following URL: www.uiarmory.com or call 217-333-8333 for further information.

Stay Informed About Your Benefits

Within SUAA, you can visit the state web site at www.suaa.org and the Chapter website at www.suaa-ui.org. We recommend that you contact Central Management Systems concerning questions about health care benefits and the State Universities Retirement System about your annuity. Contact information for those offices and further information about what is available on those sites is shown on the next page.

Benefits, cont. next page

**Your SUAA-UIUC chapter now
has a presence on Facebook!
Please like and share us....**

Find us on 

Search for SUAA UIUC

State Universities Retirement System (SURS)

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

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

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

Street Address: 1901 Fox Drive, Champaign, Illinois 61820

The SURS website provides access to a wide variety of topics and events of interest to its members.

Retirees can register at the “Member Website Login” link at the top of the home page. Once registered, you will have a personal homepage with information about your annuity and payment history. You can also change your address, beneficiaries, phone number/email address and federal tax withholding status. SURS also has a kiosk computer station in their lobby for its members.

Central Management Services (CMS)

Employees Benefits pages for State Employees:

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

Phone: 800-442-1300 or 217-524-4784
TTY: 866-277-5669

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

State Universities Annuity Association (SUAA)

SUAA advocates on behalf of State Universities Retirement System retirees, current employees, and their dependents and survivors to preserve retirement and healthcare benefits.

URL: www.suaa.org

Phone: 217-523-4040

Address: 217 East Monroe Street, Ste 100
Springfield, IL 62701

Email: suaa@suaa.org

MyBenefits Marketplace

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

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

MyBenefits is an online vendor that administers the State’s insurance programs. Any changes to members’ insurance coverage is now done through the MyBenefits Marketplace website. SURS will no longer assist with processing health insurance coverage for its members. However, members have the option to call a State group insurance customer service representative at the number above.

Help Us Recruit New Members to SUAA!!

The members of the Chapter's Executive Committee ask your help recruiting new members to the State Universities Annuitants Association (SUAA). To help with this task, the information below is provided as a recruitment tool. Those eligible to join SUAA are current employees, retired individuals, their spouses and their survivors who will or are receiving benefits from the State Universities Retirement System. Please spread the word!!

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

Through Voice, Action, Mission and Visibility SUAA . . .

- Represented all SURS participants and beneficiaries by suing the State of Illinois for Public Act 98-0599– Pension Reform; the law that was ruled ***unconstitutional*** by the Illinois Supreme Court, thereby saving the average pensioner hundreds of thousands of dollars during their pension's lifetime.
- Prevented a bill from becoming law that would have created a slippery slope towards abolishing tuition waivers for university personnel – community colleges could be next.
- Led the charge to defeat the addition of Section 5.1 to Article XIII of the State Constitution – SUAA CA 49 Ballot Initiative – an initiative that would have been an attack on SURS employees and retirees.
- Actively lobbies the legislature to prevent legislation from becoming law that would harm active and retired

SURS members, such as attempts to change the “pension clause” in the Illinois Constitution.

- Continues support for legislation that strengthens healthcare and pension benefits for SURS members – SUAA acts as your voice in Springfield.
- Provides legislative updates through SUAA Mini-Briefings which cover topics of interest that affect everyone in the SURS system.
- Works to make sure higher education continues to be a quality commodity in the State of Illinois.
- Advocates for an ensured future for the College Insurance Program (CIP health Benefits).
- Protected faculty who were forced to take furloughs due to revenue shortages caused by the lack of a state budget between fiscal years 2015 to 2016.

These are reasons why you should become a member of SUAA!

To join, use the application on the SUAA website: <http://www.suaa.org/join-suaa-now>.

UIUC Chapter dues are \$41/year - \$8 goes to the chapter - \$33 goes to the state SUAA office

IN MEMORIAM

Pam Cler

As a service to readers, this list of deceased employees and annuitants is taken from information provided by the Illinois News Bureau. The following listing gives the name, age at death (when known), and the date of death (when known) for those individuals whose death notices appeared between August 24, 2017 and February 22, 2018.

Anderson, Barbara Ledora Butts, 88, 12/7/17
Armstrong, Barbara Ann, 69, 11/22/17
Ashby, Gary Lee, 78, 8/23/17
Bagley, Ronald Dean, 79, 12/17/17
Baniassadi, Elizabeth "Betty", 91, 1/9/18
Barker, Marilois, 78, 2/17/18
Broccardo, Alfred, 69, 10/20/17
Carter, Bernadine, 93, 10/28/17
Cheek, Robert J., 93, 1/25/18
Chiu, See-Wing, 64, 11/26/17
Clements, Jesse A. "Tony", 68, 6/9/17
Cobb, Rosalee June, 90, 1/9/18
Craft, Charles Vincent Joseph "Charlie", 81, 8/30/17
Creech, Mary Elizabeth Butts, 89, 12/15/17
D'Urso, Steven J., 65, 2/16/18
Davis, Nancy L., 85, 10/12/17
Day, Donald "Don" Lee, 86, 2/19/18
Deal, Carl, 86, 9/6/17
Dobrovolny, Jerry, 10/27/17
Dysart, Kathleen M., 69, 10/23/17
Eastin, Margie "Pud", 92, 1/12/18
Eddleman, Teddy Georgia, 92, 12/15/17
Edwards, Belva M., 95, 1/14/18
Eriksen, Charles Walter "Erik", 95, 2/16/18
Everence, Betty Ann, 83, 9/11/17
Fitzsimmons, James "Jim" Patrick, 71, 10/9/17
Folts, Jeanne Synon, 91, 12/30/17
Frederick, Rick, 61, 1/21/18
Gunji, Ken, 83 9/30/17
Hamilton, David R., 83, 11/1/17
Hanson, Sharol L. "Sherry", 69, 12/3/17
Harroun, Jack Theodore, 92, 2/18/18
Hubler, Alfred Wilhelm, 62, 1/27/18
Hudson, Marjory A., 90, 12/19/17
Hughes, C. E. "Gene", 90, 11/22/17
Jamison, Terry L., 63, 9/10/17
Jones, Edward Eugene, 65, 1/5/18
Kahr, Toby Yale, 85, 10/27/17
Koehler, Roseanne Janice, 93, 12/27/17
Kuhlman, Donna, 79, 12/19/17
Langendorf, David Bruce, 64, 12/24/17
Lawrence, David B. "Dave", 80, 1/1/18
Leblebici, Huseyin, 69, 10/5/17
Lockmiller, Marvin, 86, 8/30/17
Mackey, Robert Duane, 79, 1/30/18
Mahannah, C. Rex, 86, 2/16/18
Matz, Charles Edward "Chuck", 64, 11/25/17
May, Jack Arthur, 87, 9/10/17
Mildred Luther, 91, 9/25/17
Mosborg, Robert J., 94, 12/6/17
Nicholas, Steven, 69, 12/4/17
Patterson, Jean Frazier, 12/9,17
Pelczar, Richard, 75, 9/29/17
Perrero, Barbara J., 75, 12/13/17
Peterson, Kevin Daniel, 36, 1/29/18
Porter, Rosemary, 86, 11/22/17
Powell, John Roger, 83, 10/4/17
Ramm, William Dentler, Jr., 62, 9/17/17
Rasner-Harris, Theresa, 59, 9/3/17
Raymond, Kenneth Earl, 78, 1/23/18
Rebecca, Sammy Joseph, 87, 7/24/17
Rogers, Randy B., 62, 12/17/17
Rosenfield, Eva Claire, 97, 12/31/17
Rothbaum, Melvin, 91, 10/7/17
Rubenking Meador, Marisa Lu, 62, 11/3/17
Schroeder, Walter E., 91, 9/29/17
Shiple, David L., 76, 11/5/17
Siders, Marcia Lynne, 72, 10/15/17
Smith, LaVerne Elizabeth, 85, 11/13/17
Spodek, Bernard, 86, 12/3/17
Statzer, Kenneth Neil, 79, 2/2/18
Swarr, Ralph, 89, 11/28/17
Teague, James Richard "Dick", 70, 2/4/18
Thow, George "Bruce", 87, 10/6/17
Vermillion, Joe B. Jr., 84, 1/14/18
Wassom, Phillip Andrew, 62, 12/12/17
Welch, John Wrinkle, 73, 12/15/17
Wheatley, Helen Lucille, 90, 1/10/18
Willfong, Elsie, 99, 2/12/18
Williams, Frank M., 95, 1/15/18
Wingler, Rita Jo, 79, 11/19/17
Woodard, Robert James, 75, 9/14/17
Works, Bernhard "Bernie", 10/28/17
Wyatt, Arthur "Art", 90, 11/17/17
Yates, Barbara Ann, 83, 8/11/17
Zehr, John E., 88, 2/5/18
Zeiders, Robert Scott, 77, 11/24/17

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

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Permit No. 75
Champaign, IL