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The Annuitant

A publication of the UIUC Chapter
State Universities Annuitants Association

Spring 2019

Carol Livingstone, Editor

Spring Membership Meeting April 28

Pension Issues: A Discussion with State Legislators

The SUAA-UIUC spring meeting will be held on **Sunday, April 28** in the Technology Room at the I-Hotel and Conference Center, 1900 S. First St., Champaign. The afternoon begins with a social time at 1:30 p.m. and the formal session will start at 2:00 p.m.

Please join us as we discuss the legislative process and the potential changes in pension benefits that could be passed in the spring session. We are inviting a panel of legislators to attend our meeting and give us their thoughts on ways in which the General Assembly might address the state budget and how that could impact pensions and benefits earned by higher education employees and retirees. We have invited the state senators and representatives from our local region.

We will be asking their advice about proposed changes in pending legislation and, as we advocate for participants in the State Universities Retirement System, how best to engage legislators to communicate our concerns. Following reports from the legislators, members will be encouraged to ask questions and provide feedback. We hope you can attend; it is important for our representatives to hear about our ideas and concerns.

Also on the agenda are a presentation of key results from our recent SUAA-UIUC opinion survey and a short business meeting with election of officers. See page 4 for biographies of the nominees.

President's Report

Richard J. Winkel, Jr.

As the SUAA-UIUC Chapter, we are your chapter on campus and your voice! We advocate for our members, including current employees, annuitants, or their spouses or survivors.

Over the years, we as a local chapter have advocated to preserve and protect higher education, SURS pension system, healthcare plans, and other benefits earned by University employees or annuitants, or their spouses or survivors. We have focused on protecting benefits for all SURS members (current and future) beneficiaries. And we have worked closely with SURS to educate employees about current and proposed benefit changes resulting from legislative actions.

However, we decided this year that we needed ask you your opinion on how to solve the pension crisis. Why? Because we believe that SUAA needs to hear your opinions as a guide as it shapes its legislative platform and develops its strategy to effectively advocate for you in Springfield.

That is exactly why we, as the Executive Board of the UIUC chapter of SUAA, for the first time, created an anonymous online opinion survey with questions on the issues confronting our members and we encouraged you as a SURS participant to complete the survey.

(Continued on page 2)

**SUAA-UIUC CHAPTER LEADERSHIP
2018-19**

** designates elected or appointed members
of the Executive Committee*

Committee assignments are shown in italics

~ OFFICERS ~

President

Richard Winkel, Jr. * - *Legislative*

Vice President

William Adams * - *Legislative*

Secretary

Penny Nigh * - *Secretary/Membership*

Treasurer

Ron Webbink

~ OTHER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ~

Marissa Brewer * (*appointed to fill vacant term*)

Tanya M. Gallagher * - *Legislative*

Kathleen Holden * - *Program*

Wynne Sandra Korr * - *Legislative*

Carol Livingstone * - *Communications,
Newsletter and Webmaster*

Robert Rich* - *Legislative*

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

Deb Stone * - *Benefits*

Susan Trippiedi * - *Program/Arrangements*

~ OTHER COMMITTEES ~

Mary Beastall - *Benefits*

Melinda Carr - *Membership*

Barbara Hartman - *Membership*

Katharine Kral - *Big 10 Retirees Conference*

Helen Satterthwaite - *Legislative*

Rick Schoell - *Legislative*

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

~ LIAISONS ~

Athalia Hunt - *Campus*

Helen Satterthwaite - *Clark-Lindsey*

~ STATE SUAA LEADERSHIP ~

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

Melinda Carr - *State Co-Chair*

(President's message ~ continued from page 1)

On February 20, 2019, the survey was posted online, and, as I write this report on March 3, 2019, we have closed the survey. I am pleased to report that 540 persons invested a few minutes of their time to complete the survey that has provided us with valuable information about their positions on the issues. Thank you!

Based on an analysis of the tabulated survey results from our members, the UIUC chapter will prepare a position paper on the relevant issues with recommendations. We will also share the actual results from our survey. When completed, we will deliver the paper to the executive director of the SUAA as the state organization prepares its platform next fall.

In the meantime, as we advocate for our members, we will share the paper and survey results with our local legislators and the University administration.

SUAA-UIUC Goes Social !

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



Search Facebook for

SUAA UIUC

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 (richw@suaa-ui.org) or Secretary Penny Nigh (nigh@suaa-ui.org) at least one week before the April 28, 2019 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 (nominees appear in no particular order):

Kathleen Holden holds degrees in Social Work from UIUC, and the majority of her career was spent as an administrator at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign. Following her retirement in 2006, Holden returned to the campus to be the founding director of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI), retiring in 2012. Her interests have always centered around not-for-profit programs, which is reflected in her community service on the boards of the United Way, the Humane Society, Allerton Park and Conference Center and most recently, Clark Lindsey Village. Holden's work with OLLI sparked an interest in programs for older adults and currently, she is working with individuals on campus and in the community to pursue a World Health Organization Age-Friendly designation for the twin cities of Urbana and Champaign. She believes it is important to work on behalf of current and future UIUC retirees, and hopes to continue that work as a second-term member of the Executive Committee.

Bill Adams has spent most of his professional career in higher education. After twelve years at Washington State University, he moved to the University of Illinois Urbana/Champaign in 1990, working there until his retirement on June 30, 2012. At UIUC, he held positions in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences as Budget Officer; in the Provost's Office as Associate Provost for Budgeting and Planning; and finishing his career as Associate Chancellor and Chief Staff in the Office of the Chancellor. Postretirement, he assisted with special projects in the Office of the President and is now fully retired. Bill and his wife, Carolyn, reside in Urbana. Bill is currently serving as Vice President of the SUAA-UIUC Executive Board.

John C. Marlin holds a PhD in entomology from the University of Illinois. He served as executive director of the Coalition on American Rivers during the 1970s helping protect Allerton Park and numerous Midwestern rivers from dam projects. He was appointed to the Illinois Pollution Control Board in 1983. He was at the Prairie Research Institute's Illinois Sustainable Technology Center from 1993 until he retired in 2010. He worked on many issues including the relationship between tires and disease spreading mosquitoes, livestock waste, and beneficial use of river sediment. He is in both SURS and SERS. John is active in local conservation organizations and on the board of the local Land Conservation Foundation and a member of Grand Prairie Friends. His family was well known for growing woodland wildflowers during the 80s and 90s. He is still involved with pollinator conservation, native plants and river issues. Military history is one of his hobbies. He lives in Urbana with his wife, Diane.

Richard J. Winkel, Jr. is Deputy Executive Director, Prairie Research Institute. PRI is an applied research institute of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign that houses five large scientific surveys covering a wide range of expertise including biology, water resources, climate, geology, sustainable technology, and archaeology. Winkel is the former Director, Office of Public Leadership, Institute of Government and Public Affairs, University of Illinois, where he was responsible for administering the Edgar Fellows executive leadership program, and its alumni. Winkel was an Illinois state senator and a state representative. Winkel practiced law for 24 years. Winkel earned his undergraduate degree at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (B.A. Economics, 1979) and law degree at DePaul University College of Law (J.D., 1982).

SUAA Foundation

H. F. (Bill) Williamson

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

- (1) To provide for education and dissemination of information regarding issues affecting the welfare of members of SUAA. In this regard, the Foundation provided almost the entire funding for the statewide SUAA Education Campaign. It also funded a luncheon at last June's Annual Meeting in Springfield at which a representative from Central Management Services discussed how their part of the state benefits system works.
- (2) To support to those Chapters establishing Survivor Assistance Programs. For this purpose, the staff at the State Office helped the Foundation Directors to design and disseminate a Survivor Assistance brochure to all Chapters.
- (3) To provide emergency assistance to SUAA members who are in need of financial support. To

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

The newest Foundation activity is a proposed Scholarship Program to provide support for SUAA members, their spouses, children or grandchildren who are enrolled in post-high school programs. The final decision on this program will be made by the Foundation Directors at our annual meeting this summer. Once approved, information on the program will be available on the Foundation link at the state SUAA website. You can also contact me (billw@suaa-ui.org) for the latest information.

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 at the state web site (www.suaa.org).

Treasurer's Report for the Year Ended December 31, 2018

Ronald F. Webbink, SUAA-UIUC Treasurer

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 \$13,642. Another \$879 in interest was accrued on reserves. Each dollar was used by your chapter as follows:

The Annuitant newsletter (Spring and Fall issues, printing cost)	\$0.22
Meeting expenses (local, regional, and state)*	0.64
Website development and maintenance	0.04
Miscellaneous (postage, office supplies, etc.)	0.01
Gain (loss) in reserves	0.10
Total	\$1.00

*Includes venue booking fee to host 2019 Big 10 Retirees Conference.

Benefits Report

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

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

Claim Payment Delay

Funding availability for the Quality Care Health Plan, HealthLink OAP, Aetna OAP and Quality Care Dental Plan is based on State revenue which fluctuates from month to month. Claim payments are released according to available funding. Due to a large bond issued by the State in November 2017, CMS was able to fund group health insurance and reduce a portion of the payment backlog. A late payment will include an interest payment on claims that take longer than 30 days.

Updated information regarding such delays appears on the CMS website under State Employee benefits (Claim Payment Delays) – see link on page 7. As of the beginning of March, claims from September 2018 are being paid.

Benefits Choice Periods

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

CMS information should be carefully reviewed when considering this choice.

Current employees and non-Medicare eligible annuitants/dependents. The annual CMS Benefit Choice period will be later this spring, typically during the month of May, changes effective July 1. CMS will release information regarding options closer to the beginning of the Benefit Choice period.

Medicare-eligible annuitants (if all dependents are also Medicare-eligible). The annual Benefits Choice period for the Medicare Advantage plans is in the fall, typically mid-October through November, with coverage changes effective January 1.

I am an annuitant. How do I know which Benefit Choice period applies to me? CMS will send information to you for the appropriate Benefits Choice period. You will not be eligible for the Medicare Advantage Benefits Choice period unless you and ALL of your dependents are covered by Medicare as of September 30.

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 (www.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.

Of particular importance is the “Guide to Benefits and Services available to University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Retirees” prepared by Illinois Human Resources which is on their web site: <http://humanresources.illinois.edu/retirees/benefits-services.html> The guide includes such items as (a) benefits associated with I-Cards; (b) access to Faculty/Staff Assistance Services; (c) clinics in
(continued on page 6)

(Benefits Report, continued from page 5)

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. Retirees without an I-Card 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 others in their households. Services include assessments, short-term counseling, crisis services, and referrals to appropriate resources. The office is located at 1101 West Springfield, Urbana. (Phone 217-244- 5312, website <http://humanresources.illinois.edu/fsas>). You can support this program either (a) by mailing a personal check (indicate Faculty and Staff Emergency Fund in memo line) to: University of Illinois Foundation 1305 West Green Street, MC-386 Urbana, IL 61801 or (b) visiting the Foundation web site (<https://uif.uillinois.edu/how-to-give>) for information on the many other ways to donate.

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

Fitness/Exercise Programs & Facilities

SilverSneakers Programs. Some State-provided health plans for retirees include coverage for the SilverSneakers program. All SilverSneakers members have access to facilities and wellness programs throughout the country. For a listing of facilities and more information, visit the SilverSneakers website at: www.silversneakers.com.

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

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

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

Bookmark our webpage:

www.suaa-ui.org

Important Sources of Information about Your Pension & Benefits

State Universities Retirement System (SURS)

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

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

Fax: (217) 378-9800

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

Street Address: 1901 Fox Drive, Champaign

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

During tax season, copies of 1099-R forms can be downloaded from the site.

Central Management Services (CMS) (For State Employees)

URL: illinois.gov/cms/benefits

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

Email: CMS.Ben.BCS@illinois.gov

CMS negotiates all benefit packages for employees and retirees.

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

State Universities Annuitants Association (SUAA)

URL: www.suaa.org

Phone: (217) 523-4040

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

Email: suaa@suaa.org

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

MyBenefits Marketplace

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

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

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

TRAIL (Total Retiree Advantage IL)

URL: illinois.gov/cms/benefits/trail

(follow link to “State Insurance Program”)

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

(same as MyBenefits)

Fax: (844) 676-1725

Email: cms.ben.medicarecob@illinois.gov

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

Social Security and Medicare (Champaign Office)

Social Security URL: www.ssa.gov

Medicare URL: www.medicare.gov

Phone: (877) 819-2593

(800) 325-0778 (TTY)

Address: 101 S Country Fair Dr, Champaign

Medicare: A Primer for SURS Participants

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

(The following information is for persons who are eligible for Medicare based on work and age, not disability). If you or your spouse (or ex-spouse) worked at least 40 quarters paying into Social Security, you may be eligible for Medicare. The State Employees Group Insurance Program **requires** you and any covered dependents to enroll in Medicare when eligible for free Medicare Part A insurance. Warning: late enrollment may also result in a penalty: a higher premium payment.

You (and your dependents) must contact the Social Security Administration (SSA) to determine Medicare eligibility **three months prior to the month you (or they) turn age 65**. Active employees need enroll only in Medicare A; annuitants and their dependents must enroll in both Medicare A and B. You will be charged a monthly premium for Medicare B that is income-dependent; Medicare will write you after you enroll to tell you the amount of the premium. 2019 rates vary from \$132 to \$460 per month, depending on 2017 income.

You can apply for Medicare via the web at <https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/medicare>, at a local Social Security office, or call 800-722-1213. **If your eligibility is based on the work record of a spouse or former spouse, you cannot enroll online** and must make an appointment at a local SSA office. Wait times for appointments can be up to two months, so it is important to begin this process no later than three months before your birthday month.

Medicare coverage begins the first day of your birthday month assuming you enrolled ahead. In most cases, your existing CMS/SURS health insurance becomes your “secondary” medical insurance; you will continue to be covered by the vision and drug plans offered through CMS until you become eligible to elect a Medicare Advantage program during the fall benefits choice period. You will receive a Medicare card in the mail and should provide a copy to CMS, your insurance carrier, and your health care providers when it arrives.

Most new Medicare participants enrolled by September 30 must select a Medicare Advantage

supplement plan during the next Benefits Choice period in October and November; coverage will begin January 1. There are two exceptions: (1) Medicare participants whose birth month is October, November, or December must wait to select a Medicare Advantage plan during the Benefits Choice period the following fall. (2) If you have dependents covered under your insurance, you may not select a Medicare Advantage plan until **you and all dependents** are covered by Medicare. Note: all these dates are subject to change.

The state-offered Medicare Advantage Plan, TRAIL (Total Retiree Advantage Illinois), includes medical, vision, and drug coverage; you may select TRAIL or any of the many Medicare advantage policies available, but be sure to check what the plan covers. **Effective Jan. 1 after you are eligible to elect a Medicare Advantage plan, your State-provided vision and drug coverage will terminate, so you must select a Medicare Advantage plan or you will lose that coverage.** Most Medicare-eligible annuitants choose one of the TRAIL programs offered by CMS because the cost is subsidized depending on your years of service. Sign up at mybenefits.illinois.gov.

Even after you enroll in a Medicare Advantage plan, you will be required to continue your income-dependent Medicare Part B premiums; you will also be required to pay Medicare Part D (drug) premiums if your Medicare Advantage Plan has drug coverage. Part D rates vary from zero to about \$77 per month depending on your income level.

Once you have selected a Medicare Advantage program, you will remain enrolled in it year to year and do not have to do anything to renew coverage except to pay your Medicare B & D premiums. Each fall during the Benefits Choice period you will be given the option of selecting another Medicare Advantage plan, and you should review your coverage each year given your current health needs and the costs of each plan.

For more information, read the documents on Medicare available from CMS. (see page 7).

SUAA - UIUC Fall Chapter Meeting, October 28, 2018

H.F. (Bill) Williamson

The 2018 fall meeting of the SUAA-UIUC Chapter was held on Sunday afternoon, October 28 at the iHotel in Champaign. There was an excellent turnout to hear the panel discussion from the members of the Chapter's Ad Hoc Committee on Pensions moderated by Chapter President Rick Winkel. The members of the group were Bill Adams, Steve Rugg, and Rick Schoell.

Among the questions addressed were:

- What is the role of our chapter in the legislative process?
- How important is it for our chapter to be proactive as advocates, or should we wait and see what happens in the legislative process and react?
- What is the bond-financed buyouts of pension benefits that passed in the spring session (in the BIMP bill), and are there concerns about how it might be implemented?
- What advice is there about reported efforts to change the Illinois Constitution?

***Don't miss the
Spring 2019 Meeting!
1:30 Sunday, April 28
at the I-hotel***

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– Best way to keep up! –

Following the panel presentation, there were reports from members of the Chapter's Benefits and Membership Committees.

Deb Stone discussed the following topics regarding member benefits:

- The TRAIL open enrollment period
- The status of the dispute between AFSCME and the State of Illinois (CMS) regarding health insurance and benefits.
- The change in the Money Purchase formula effective July 2, 2019
- The status of the current claim payment delays

She also noted that the "old" staff retiree I cards (the ones with the white background) will expire on February 1, 2019. A new card can be obtained at no cost (and quite efficiently according to colleagues who have made the replacement) at the ID Center on the first floor of the Illini Union Bookstore at the corner of Wright and Daniel Streets.

H. F. (Bill) Williamson reported for the membership committee. He noted that there has been a gradual decline in membership at both the state and chapter level. The membership committee has set a goal of having each current member recruit at least one new member during the coming year and hopes that everyone attending will help us achieve that goal.

Those attending also were asked to recognize the outstanding contributions of outgoing Newsletter Editor Pam Cler. She has done an excellent job of continuing the tradition of service in this position. Rick Winkel asked that anyone attending who might be interested in this position or who knew of someone else who might be to contact him with that information.

Help Us Recruit New Members to SUAA!!

SUAA's strength and effectiveness depend directly on the number of members. Please encourage any colleagues, friends, and family members who are SURS participants to join. Show them this newsletter, send them a link to our chapter's website (www.suaa-ui.org), or encourage them to attend a chapter meeting so they can see the work that is being done on their behalf in Springfield and here in Champaign-Urbana. If you're a user of social media, "like" the SUAA UIUC Facebook page and "share" its postings so your friends can see them.

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

What has SUAA done for you? (From the SUAA website suaa.org)

STOPPED CONSTITUTIONAL THREATS

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

PROMOTED HIGHER EDUCATION'S FUTURE

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

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

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

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

In Memoriam

Carol Livingstone

As a service to readers, this list of deceased employees and annuitants is taken from information provided by the Illinois News Bureau. The following listing gives the name, age at death (when known), and the date of death (when known) of those individuals whose death notices appeared between September 13, 2018 and February 23, 2019.

Addy, Alva "Tad" Leroy, 82, 11/16/18
Armbrust, Edward J., 79., 1/15/19
Bernard, Paul P., 89, 1/9/19
Blackburn, Nancy J., 77, 11/22/18
Blaylock, 85, 11/19/18
Block, Roy, 90, 9/7/18
Blunier, Susan, 53, 12/2/18
Brine, Belle Anna, 60, 11/8/18
Brown, Richard "Don" Donald, 92, 1/13/19
Buck, William Boyd, 85, 10/18/18
Campbell, John Roy, 85, 11/17/18
Chapman, James W., 80, 2/1/19
Corray, Judith "Judy" Arlene, 79, 11/20/18
Denny, Terry, 88, 11/1/18
Deters, Rita Josephine, 94, 9/14/18
Dodd, Carolyn Margaret (Rexroat), 80, 9/5/18
Donaldson, Willetta Mae, 78, 2/2/19
Donchin, Emanuel "Manny", 10/10/18
Dugan, Kenneth Nelson, 84, 10/29/18
Durbin, Edward E., 87, 12/21/18
Easley, Elizabeth F., 92, 2/1/19
Elam, Danny L., 86, 1/7/19
Elliott, Wanda, 88, 1/27/19
Elmer, Charles "Chuck" D., 89, 1/11/19
Foster, Doris Patricia "Pat", 83, 12/22/18
Gasser, Les, 70, 10/16/18
Goodwin, Paula Jo, 62, 12/2/18
Gordon, Marjorie Ellen "Marge", 92, 10/20/18
Guiher, Lois B., 99, 2/12/19
Gustafson, Alvin E. 88, 10/18/18
Henson, Phillip I., 85, 10/19/18
Hewing, Mary Ann, 84, 9/4/18
Hewing, Timothy Gerard, 54, 9/2/18
Ides, Raymond, 73, 8/16/18
Jackson, Norma Yvonne, 84, 1/24/19
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