



www.suaa-ui.org

The Annuitant

A publication of the UIUC Chapter
State Universities Annuitants Association

Spring 2021

Carol Livingstone, Editor

UI Exec VP to address Spring Meeting

Kathleen Holden

The SUAA-UIUC annual meeting will be held on **Sunday, April 25 from 1:30 to 3:00 pm**. At this time, we anticipate that the meeting will be held via Zoom. SUAA-UIUC members will receive an email one month prior to the event, with either location or Zoom details; the information will also be posted on the [SUAA-UIUC website](http://www.suaa-ui.org). Starting at 1:30, participants are welcome to join the Zoom session and chat informally. At 2:00 pm, **Barbara J. Wilson**, Executive Vice President and Vice President for Academic Affairs for the University of Illinois System, and Professor in the Department of Communications, will speak about the role of the U of I System and the changing landscape of higher education during budget constraints and a global pandemic, and the innovative plans that the system has for the future. Dr. Wilson's contributions to the UIUC campus include serving as Department Head in the Department of Communications from 2002 to 2009. She spent five years in the Office of the Provost as vice provost and then executive vice provost, providing campus leadership on strategic and financial planning, faculty hiring, training and promotion, and innovative academic programs. In 2014, she was named the Harry E. Preble Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, before being appointed Interim Chancellor from 2015-16. Barbara serves as the second most senior executive and the chief academic officer for the U of I System since 2016. Dr. Wilson received her B.A., M.A and Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and before joining the University of Illinois in 2000, she was on the faculty at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Questions will be welcomed following her presentation.

A short business meeting follows, including election of board members (*see page 4*).

President's Report

John Marlin, President, SUAA-UIUC

This is my second report to you as your chapter president. It has been a pleasure to work with the rest of the chapter leadership through this difficult year. As I noted last fall, it remains important that all of us who have earned a pension (and those of us who are still earning it) remain vigilant in protecting the annuity and benefits that the State of Illinois promised throughout our careers. This is particularly relevant during the current discussions and activity regarding taxes, equity, and regional politics.

We continue to track pension and health care benefit issues, state funding, and other related concerns, and take active steps to educate and inform legislators, executive officers, and other policymakers about relevant issues. It is also important that we interact with the public and keep our membership informed. We have committees working on these matters that need the input and ideas of new members. If you are interested in getting more involved in our activities, please let me or an Executive Committee member know. We would be pleased to have you as a member of one of the committees.

Another way to be involved is assisting our continuing membership campaign. We had a successful mail campaign earlier this spring and hope to continue that momentum. Personal contact with friends about joining is an effective activity. I hope that you will contact me or one of the members of our Membership Committee listed elsewhere if you would like to help.

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**SUAA-UIUC CHAPTER
LEADERSHIP
2020-21**

(Committee assignments are shown in italics)

~ OFFICERS ~

President

John Marlin - *Program*

Vice President

Wynne Korr - *Legislative*

Secretary

Melinda Carr - *Membership*

Treasurer

Ron Webbink

~ OTHER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ~

William Adams - *Legislative*

Marissa Brewer - *Communications*

Bettina Francis - *Communications*

Debbie Kemphues - *Communications*

Kathleen Holden - *Program*

Carol Livingstone - *Communications,
Newsletter and Webmaster*

Donna Miller - *Program*

Deb Stone - *Benefits*

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

~ OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBERS ~

Mary Beastall - *Benefits*

Thomas Corey - *Legislative*

Barbara Hartman - *Membership*

Robert Rich - *Legislative*

Steve Rugg - *Legislative*

Rick Schoell - *Legislative*

Richard Winkel, Jr. - *Legislative*

~ LIAISONS ~

Cheryl Heck - *Campus*

Robert Gillespie - *Clark-Lindsey*

~ STATE SUAA LEADERSHIP ~

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

Thomas Conry - *State Vice President*

~ CHAPTER WEBSITE ~

www.suaa-ui.org

(President's report ~ continued from page 1)

Elsewhere in this newsletter, you will see the plans for our spring Annual Meeting to be held electronically on April 25. The agenda will include the election of four members of our Executive Committee; our speaker will be Barbara Wilson, Executive Vice President of the University of Illinois. I hope that you will join us as we look forward to a productive year.

In conclusion, I would like to thank my predecessor Rick Winkel for his role in leading the chapter as its President. Rick has stepped down as a member of the Executive Committee, and will continue to be active, especially as a member of the legislative committee. I am pleased to announce that H. F. (Bill) Williamson has agreed to serve as his successor on the Executive Committee. Bill is a long-time member and former chapter president.

SUAA-affiliated groups

In addition to the regional chapters like SUAA-UIUC, three state-wide SUAA-affiliated organizations exist, each supported by member contributions and each with a unique purpose. As a SUAA member, you may receive occasional communications and appeals from these organizations. To contribute to any of these, visit the state SUAA website at suaa.org.

SUAA Foundation was established in 1989 to provide for the welfare of SUAA members and their families. Emergency assistance and scholarship funds are available, as are funds for professional development. Application information is available from the state website listed above. Contributions to the foundation are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by IRS regulations.

SUAAaction is a grass-roots political action committee that funds state candidates on both sides of the aisle who solidly support maintaining pension benefits and work to improve higher education in Illinois. Contributions are not tax-deductible.

SUAA Legal Fund is a war chest that allows SUAA to pay legal costs when forced to go to court to defend benefits and pensions. Contributions are not tax-deductible.

COVID-19 vaccines – Answers from a UI expert

Debbie Kempfues

As the pandemic has surged across the nation, we've had fears for our loved ones, friends, and ourselves. The United States' accelerated vaccine development has given us a mixture of hope and concern, and we continue to have many questions. Fortunately for us, we have Dr. Jeff Woods, from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, to help us with some of those questions.

Dr. Jeff Woods is the Mottier Family Professor of Kinesiology and Community Health, Director for the Center on Health, Aging, and Disability, and Associate Dean for Research, in the College of Applied Health Sciences. He has responded to some of our questions below.

What are the benefits of getting the vaccine?

The vaccine teaches your immune system to recognize the SARS-CoV2 virus that causes COVID.

Unvaccinated, you are susceptible to the virus and may develop severe symptoms and even death in extreme instances. Vaccinated, your immune system fights off the virus so that you are either asymptomatic or so that the symptoms are significantly lessened. Some people are more susceptible than others; the elderly and those with certain conditions may be at greater risk. Data indicate that the available vaccines are safe and the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are ~94% effective at preventing hospitalization and death. You must get both doses of the vaccine to achieve this level of protection. Some experience vaccine-related side effects (especially after the second injection in the case of Pfizer and Moderna vaccines) such as fatigue, body aches, and fever that may last a day or two. The risk of side effects associated with the vaccine, however, is minimal relative to the benefits.

If I have already had COVID, do I still need to be vaccinated?

Yes, but not for some period (e.g. 30 days) after your symptoms have ended. There is some evidence that re-infection is possible and we do not yet know how long immunity lasts from natural infection with the virus. Vaccination will provide added protection even



Dr. Jeff Woods

if you have been infected. Data is being gathered on how long the vaccines provide protection.

After I've received both vaccinations, is it safe to see family and friends?

You are safe as long as you adhere to the current public health guidelines including social distancing and mask wearing. This is because we do not yet know whether getting a COVID-19 vaccine will prevent you from spreading the virus. Until that information is available and public health departments and the CDC revoke the restrictions, continue to act as if you or others are infected.

How long after I receive my vaccinations will it be safe to travel, especially by plane?

Any time you travel and are in close contact with people there is a risk for spread of the virus. Studies have not yet demonstrated risk specific for air travel. After you've been vaccinated, you need to continue with public health mitigation strategies when traveling including mask wearing, social distancing, and hygiene.

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SUAA - UIUC Executive Committee Election

Carol Livingstone

At the annual meeting in the spring, four SUAA-UIUC chapter members are elected to the twelve-member Executive Committee for three-year terms. Executive Committee members may serve for two consecutive terms if reelected. The Nominating Committee, appointed by the Executive Committee, has proposed a slate of four members according to Article 4.2 of the chapter bylaws. The biographies of these nominees are presented below. Additional nominations shall be requested from the floor. Such nominations required the consent of the nominees. All nominees must be chapter members.

Matthew J. Wilson – Matt retired January 2019, after a 26-year career in alumni relations and fundraising with the University of Illinois. He joined the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences on the Urbana campus in 1993 as Director of Development then moved to the University of Illinois Foundation where he served as Senior Regional Director covering Chicago and other cities in the upper Midwest on behalf of all three universities. From 2013-2019, Matt served as Associate Vice President at the University of Illinois Alumni Association, where he managed alumni engagement programs including the worldwide Illinois alumni club network. He also worked on planning and fundraising for the Richmond Family Welcome Gallery at the Alice Campbell Alumni Center. Prior to his career with the University, Matt served as an intern in the Governor's office and later as a Legislative Liaison for the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs (now DEOC) in Springfield. He earned both his BA in Political Science and MBA from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Matt resides in Champaign with his wife and two college-aged daughters. In post-retirement, Matt works as a wealth advisor at William Blair & Company.

Marissa Brooke Brewer -- Marissa seeks a second term on the SUAA-UIUC board, where she sits on the Communications Committee. She leads the advocacy efforts in the Office of Governmental Relations for the University of Illinois System. In this role, she runs Illinois Connection, which is the UI's grassroots advocacy program. Through this program, alumni, students, faculty and friends serve as advocates for the University to ensure support from the state and federal governments.

She is also the Chair of the U of I System Advocacy Committee and serves as an active member of the System's Corporate Relations Council, Council on Government & External Relation and Wellness Committee and the Data Website Committee. Additionally, she sits on the Public Higher Education Legislative Advocacy Professionals Steering Committee which is a national organization and the Illinois Coalition to Invest on Higher Education which focuses specifically on the state of Illinois. She is also a member of Washington DC Illinois State Society. Originally from Texas, Marissa began her career as a legislative aide in Washington DC for a U.S. Congressman, advising him on a variety of issues, including education policy. While in D.C., She gained extensive experience in legislative advocacy, federal lobbying, politics and elections. Marissa relocated to central Illinois from Washington, D.C. in 2009 to work for Illinois State University as the Associate Director of Development and Governmental Relations where she served as the University's liaison to Illinois members of Congress and their staff, federal agencies and other organizations. She transitioned to the University of Illinois Alumni Association to help lead the advocacy efforts in 2013. Marissa currently holds a master's degree in Political Science from the University of Illinois Springfield and a Certificate in PAC and Grassroots Management from the Public Affairs Council.

Wynne Sandra Korr -- Wynne is completing her first term on the SUAA-UIUC board where she serves as vice-president and on the Legislative Committee. Wynne is professor and dean emerita in the School of Social Work at the University of Illinois at UrbanaChampaign. She retired in 2017

(continued on next page)

(Nominations, continued from previous page)

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.

Deb Stone -- Deb 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 University 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. Deb seeks her second term on the board.

Treasurer's Report for the Year Ended December 31, 2020

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 principal duty is advocacy on behalf of SURS annuitants, to protect our retirement and survivor benefits. Of your \$47 annual dues, \$39 was for SUAA and \$8 for our Chapter, SUAA-UIUC. The 2020 revenues and expenses were:

Total revenues		\$16,525
Dues	\$14,312	
Interest	\$932	
2019 Big Ten Retirement Association Conference reimbursement	\$1,281	
Total Expenses		\$5,678
The Annuitant newsletter (printing)	\$3,977	
Meeting expenses (local, regional, state)	\$1,681	
Website hosting	\$20	
Gain (loss) in reserves		\$10,847

Ralph Martire speaks on Illinois budget outlook

Carol Livingstone

Speaking at the SUAA-UIUC fall meeting on December 6, Ralph Martire left no doubt about his opinion of the failed constitutional amendment to allow Illinois to have a graduated tax: “I really have to say it was a lost opportunity for the state and it was a really bad vote by voters”. Dr. Martire, the Executive Director for the Center for Budget and Tax Accountability and Arthur Rubloff Endowed Professor of Public Policy at Roosevelt University, said a graduated tax could have raised \$3.6 billion annually by increasing taxes only on the top 3% of Illinois taxpayers while decreasing taxes on the other 97%. With the failure of the amendment, Illinois will have no choice but to continue its over-reliance on property taxes to fund education, will continue to reduce allocations to higher education, and according to Moody’s analytics, will have to implement across the board cuts “of austerity that would have significant implications for the delivery of core education, healthcare, corrections, and other services.”

Martire debunked the popular notion that runaway spending by politicians in Springfield has caused the growing deficits seen in the state budget, showing that discretionary spending (in real dollars, adjusted for population growth) has decreased in every area except early childhood education over the past twenty years. The growth in pension payments is due to interest, not increases in benefits paid out to retirees; in fact, pension payouts are decreasing every year due to the decreased payouts for employees in the new “Tier 2” retirement plan (see graphic).

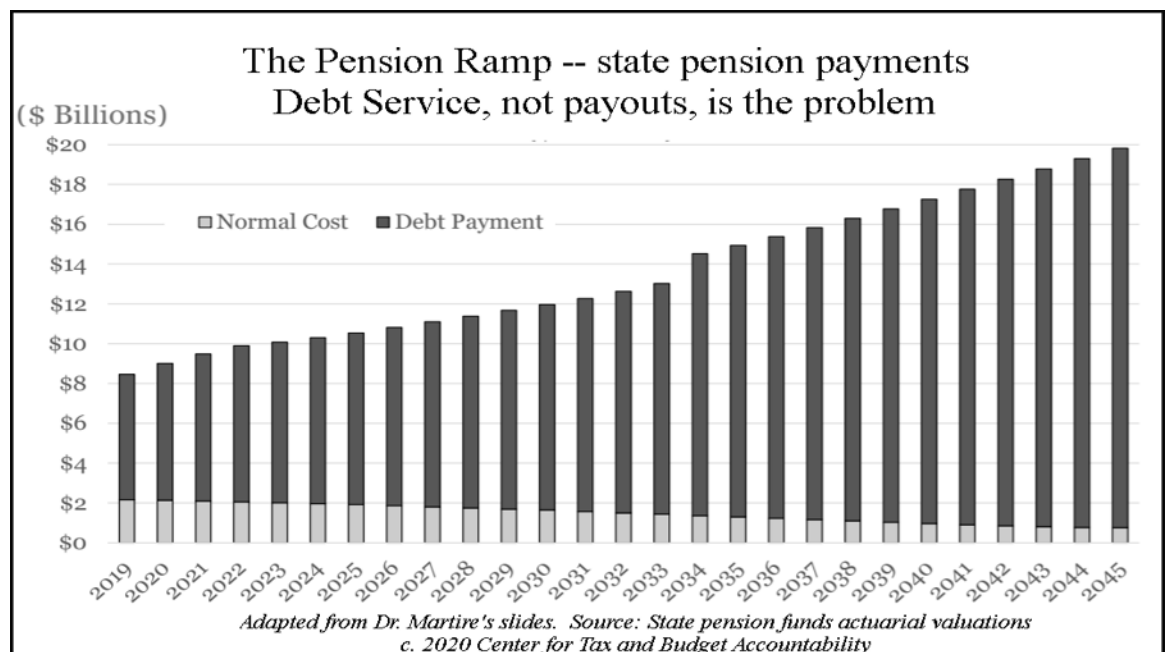
Facing a projected deficit of \$14 billion now and future deficits even larger, Illinois will need to raise revenues or reduce costs. Martire discussed three possible approaches.

1) Reduce pension payments by reamortizing the pension debt. Pension contributions are mandated by a 1995 law that spread payments over a fifty-year period, increasing the payment due each year. Reducing the interest rate on the pension debt is the simplest way to cut the annual payments due and current record-low interest rates make such a plan very attractive. Such a plan was proposed last year and failed to gain support in Springfield.

2) Increase the income tax. Martire predicted the income tax rate will go to 6 or 6.5% with some tax relief aimed at lower income taxpayers. Martire debunked the popular belief that the wealthy are leaving Illinois due to high income tax rates; in fact, between 2010 and 2018, 1.6 million Illinoisans moved to states with higher income taxes and only 1.2 million moved to states with lower income taxes.

3) Expand the sales tax to include services; \$2 billion a year could be raised by taxing services taxed in Wisconsin and Iowa.

The Center for Budget and Tax Accountability is a bi-partisan think tank committed to ensuring that state, federal, and local work force policies are fair and just and promote opportunity for all regardless of race, ethnicity, or income level. The SUAA-UIUC fall meeting was held via Zoom; a recording of the entire meeting is available on our website www.suaa-ui.org, along with a copy of Dr. Martire’s slides.



Benefits Report

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

Benefits do change, and 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. Contact information for these appear later in this newsletter.

Benefits Choice Periods

CMS will send information to you for the appropriate Benefits Choice period with detailed information included in the Benefits Choice materials. Members view and may make changes to their coverage through the MyBenefits Marketplace website, 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). There is an option to opt out of coverage, but this can have considerable impact. Thus the CMS information should be carefully reviewed. The annual CMS Benefits Choice period for the Medicare Advantage TRAIL (Total Retiree Advantage IL) is in the fall with coverage changes effective January 1. You will not be eligible for TRAIL enrollment unless you and ALL of your dependents are Medicare-eligible prior to the fall Benefits Choice period, the date determined by CMS. The TRAIL information includes a checklist for Medicare enrollment. There is a detailed article regarding Medicare in the [spring 2019 Annuitant](#) which is available on the Chapter website. The Benefits Choice for those not eligible for TRAIL is in the spring, usually in May.

Claim Payment Delays

Funding availability for the Quality Care Health Plan, HealthLink OAP, Aetna OAP and Quality Care Dental Plan is based on State revenue, which fluctuates. 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). As of February 22, 2021, delays for Quality Care Health Plan, Healthlink OAP, and Aetna OAP were about two months behind; Aetna HMO had no delays. Quality Care

Dental (administered by Delta) had payment delays of six weeks for in-network providers and 16 weeks for out-of network providers.

COVID-19

Check the CMS website for insurance coverage for COVID-19. If you have a University i-card, you are able to have the saliva-based test for the virus at one of the campus testing sites. The [fall 2020 Annuitant](#) has further information regarding this testing. The Champaign-Urbana Public Health website (c-uphd.org) contains information about COVID-19 and the vaccine availability for those residing in the area.

Benefits and Services

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 the Chapter website (<http://suaa-ui.org>). 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 the office website: <http://humanresources.illinois.edu/retirees/benefitsservices.html>

The guide includes such items as (a) benefits associated with i-Cards; (b) access to Faculty/Staff Assistance Services; (c) clinics in the UIUC campus departments that provide services; (d) computing services; (e) educational benefits and (f) facilities available to promote fitness and improved health.

Programs for physical fitness

Information on the following fitness programs can be found on the indicated websites:

SilverSneakers: <https://www.silversneakers.com>

Lifetime Fitness:

<https://lifetimefitnessprogram.kch.illinois.edu>.

Campus Recreation:

<https://www.campusrec.illinois.edu>.

Walking in the UI Armory. www.uiarmory.com.

Check this website for updated information regarding the availability of the Armory for walking. At press time, the floor was still closed to walkers.

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, Suite 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. Members 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 a 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

Help Us Recruit New Members to SUAA!!

SUAA's strength and effectiveness depend directly on the number of members. If you are already a member, encourage your colleagues, friends, and family members who are SURS participants to join. Show them this newsletter and send them a link to our chapter's website (www.suaa-ui.org) so they can see the work that is being done on their behalf in Springfield and here in Champaign-Urbana. If you are a user of social media, "like" the SUAA UIUC Facebook page and "share" its postings so your friends can see them. **If you are not already a member, your support is essential and we hope that this information will persuade you to join us!**

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 \$47 per year – \$39 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 \$3.92 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 – Your support through membership dues is important as we continue work to protect the future of our pension system, health benefits, higher education and general welfare of our membership. Visit our web page at www.suaa-ui.org/join.htm for easy instructions.

In Memoriam

Marissa Brewer

Below is the name, age at death, and the date of death of each SURS participant from the Urbana-Champaign campus and allied agencies who passed away between July 1, 2020 and December 30, 2020. Source: FOIA request from SURS

Adams, Charles A., 97, 10/27/20	Casale, Thomas C., 98, 12/30/20	Faullin, Jack H., 86, 08/22/20
Airsman, Maureen T., 74, 08/22/20	Chrestman, Betty A., 82, 08/24/20	Feldt, Alexandra Maryetta, 34, 09/17/20
Anderson, Richard J., 91, 12/04/20	Christensen, Cathy I., 69, 09/21/20	Fletcher, Gilbert B., 85, 11/09/20
Anderson, Robert F., 81, 11/12/20	Collins, James E., 74, 12/13/20	Forshier/Jenkins, Jennifer L., 57, 12/11/20
Appel, Carole S., 84, 11/14/20	Cowan, Frank L., 69, 08/11/20	Frankie, Wayne T., 69, 10/23/20
Ayers, Helen Z., 98, 08/16/20	Dalton, Edwin D., 83, 09/19/20	Freeman, Theodore A., 95, 07/07/20
Beard, Kenneth V K., 83, 07/03/20	Davis, Charles H., 82, 09/24/20	Friedman, Paul A., 83, 08/16/20
Bell, Paul L., 64, 11/20/20	Davis, Mae K., 72, 11/27/20	Gardner, Oral E., 95, 11/17/20
Benn, Omer, 95, 07/11/20	De Velder, Anne C., 75, 10/01/20	Garret, Diana R., 100, 12/07/20
Bettridge, Jean B., 76, 12/04/20	Decker, Loren E., 94, 10/14/20	Gentry, Bob D., 85, 12/08/20
Bien, Minh Cong, 55, 08/11/20	Dickey, Gerald E., 88, 09/15/20	Geraci, Ann Irene, 67, 09/15/20
Bone, Judi A., 81, 11/20/20	Ditzler, Donald E., 94, 11/08/20	Gerdemann, Janice O., 95, 09/04/20
Brodsky, Noel, 59, 08/03/20	Doane, Bennie B., 92, 08/04/20	Gonzalez, Nelly S., 90, 11/29/20
Brown, Maristella, 65, 09/14/20	Dodd/Casey, Carolyn S., 77, 12/28/20	Grahl, Mary Joyce, 88, 09/28/20
Brown, Thomas H., 79, 09/16/20	Doebel, Paul J., 92, 11/18/20	Greek, Gene A., 83, 12/28/20
Brownfield, Joyce M., 79, 09/22/20	Donahue, Joseph M., 73, 08/13/20	Gregory, Eugene H., 88, 08/17/20
Bruner, Edward M., 96, 08/07/20	Donaldson, Carlos F., 60, 09/17/20	Hacker, Joseph F., 86, 09/04/20
Bruns, Paul B., 85, 11/18/20	Duckworth, Jon P., 67, 10/08/20	Hallett, James H., 82, 10/16/20
Buetow, Dennis Edward, 88, 11/18/20	Duff, Franklin L., 94, 12/11/20	Hansen, Richard R., 65, 11/06/20
Burch, Richard D., 86, 11/01/20	Durkin, Mary D., 93, 07/06/20	<i>(continued on next page)</i>
Burdette, Gregory Dean, 54, 10/26/20	Eastin, Angela K., 61, 10/29/20	
Burman, Wallace S., 70, 08/20/20	Elam, Betty J., 86, 08/19/20	

COVID-19 vaccination *(continued from page 10)*

With the appearance of multiple variants on the virus, do you think we will need to have annual COVID shots in the future, as we do for the flu?

That is entirely possible. We just don't know enough about the variants and the original strain yet to answer that. We do know that if people are unprotected that the virus will continue to mutate to evade our immune systems. This is another reason why it is important, now more than ever, to get vaccinated and stop the spread of the virus and prevent further mutations.

Is there a goal for when we will start feeling safe and get back to a new normal?

The goal is to return to normal as quickly and as safely as possible. Proper adherence to mitigation strategies, regular virus testing, and vaccinations are all tools we must combat spread of the virus. If these tools are not used, then it will take longer for us all to get back to a new normal. CDC guidance can be found at www.cdc.gov: continue to social distance, wear face coverings, and frequently wash your hands, with the promise of a new normal in 2021.

Does SUAA have your email address?

If you have not received email recently from the statewide SUAA organization or our local chapter, chances are good that your email is missing or out-of-date in the SUAA database. With in-person gatherings discouraged, SUAA and SUAA-UIUC both rely on email as the fastest and most effective way to reach members.

If you are able to log on to the suaa.org website, you may correct your email there by selecting "Update your profile" from the Member Access page. However, if we have no email for you, you will not be able to log on and make corrections yourself. Instead, email Kathy Walbert at kathy@suaa.org, or call her at (217) 523-4040 and she will update your record.

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