

**STATE UNIVERSITIES ANNUITANTS ASSOCIATION**  
**UIUC SUAA Chapter Annual Meeting**  
**Minutes for April 19, 2026**  
**Web site: [www.suaa-ui.org](http://www.suaa-ui.org)**  
**Facebook Site: <https://www.facebook.com/SUAA.UIUC/>**

1. The Spring Meeting Program is attached to these minutes. Approximately 20 attended in person. Vice President Don Uchtmann started the meeting at 2:55pm and introduced Treasurer Melanie Loots. Loots gave her report, see 2(a), below.

At 3:00 pm Uchtmann introduced Associate Athletic Director for Business Operations at UIUC Kam Cox. Cox earned his undergraduate degree at Auburn University before going on to earn a law degree from Vanderbilt University. In summer 2021, Cox was recruited to UIUC just before the NCAA approved the Name Image Likeness (NIL) money option for student athletes.

Cox's topic was "Changes and Opportunities." Kam discussed NIL-related developments, shared insights on how NIL is impacting Illinois, and explored what these changes mean for the future of college athletics. His slides are available on the SUAA UIUC website. Due to technical difficulties, a recording of his talk will not be available.

Cox's topic bullets were: Evolution of Student-Athlete Benefits, Student-Athlete Mobility & Eligibility, Power of the Big Ten Conference, Our Advantages, and Importance of Support. He noted that college athletics is in an intense period of disruption. The issue is navigating this period and coming out ahead. The story starts with the Alston Case ruling by the Supreme Court (see summary, [Harvard Law Review](#)). This ruling state that the NCAA has no special latitude with respect to the anti-trust law.

Student athletes can now earn third party money for third party work. Various schools/states were taking various approaches to regulation, which led to chaos. Another case was looking at whether schools could directly pay players. This was the [House case](#). The settlement of this case started last year, which gives the opportunity for colleges and universities to share their revenue with athletes competing in their sports program, but this is institution specific. Different schools sponsor different number of sports, and support specific sports to different levels. The College Sports Commission is working on how the NIL and cap structure. Currently, schools pay players directly, but players can go out on their own and make third party NIL deals. One question is whether money boosters pay is pay-for-play or real third party work.

Cash compensation created a new type of incentive to earn money. Cox discussed the issues with student transfer options. Students can now transfer an unlimited number of times. One question still pending is whether the NCAA can limit the time period student athletes can compete.

Cox believes UIUC is showing some success for player recruitment. The House case changed the number of scholarships that could be given out. Previous to the House case, many athletes had partial scholarships. Now schools can restrict roster spots but do not have restrictions on the number of scholarships they can grant.

The talk ended at 3:45 pm. Uchtmann thanked Cox for a very informative talk.

2. Uchtmann called the business meeting to order.

a) The first order of business was the presentation of candidates for Chapter Executive Committee for 2026-2029, as put forward by the nominating committee and approved by the Executive committee. The candidates were Melinda Carr, Tanya Gallagher, Vera Mainz, and H. F. Williamson. There were no nominees from the floor. Nominations were closed and the candidates elected by unanimous vote of those present.

b) Uchtmann gave the Chapter President's report, and noted that:

- The UIUC Chapter is the oldest and second largest of the 53 campus chapters which make up SUAA.
- Currently, we have over 1300 members; historically, we led the effort to create a state-wide advocacy organization – SUAA – in 1971, the year after our chapter's birth.
- Fast forward to this year: two members of our Chapter's Executive Committee have had major leadership roles in the state-wide SUAA organization – **Tanya Gallagher** serving on the SUAA Board of Directors and **Bob Flider** serving on the SUAA Legislative Committee.
- This summer, on June 25-26, our Chapter will host (at the I-Hotel) the 2026 Annual Conference and Business Meeting of SUAA and its 53 chapters.
- We need to remember that SUAA (the state umbrella organization and this chapter's creation), with support from all 53 campus chapters, does most of the "heavy lifting" regarding our mission: *"preserving and protecting a strong public pension system, healthcare benefits, higher education, and the general well-being of its members"*.
- SUAA's Executive Director, **Bryan Soady**, leads SUAA from his Springfield office; he has been working hard to strengthen SUAA's Government Relations Team; our own **Bob Flider** (former mayor, state legislator, and now UIUC's Director of Community and Government Relations) recently acknowledged the enhanced capabilities of our Springfield Office regarding Governmental Relations.
- The SUAA website and its UIUC Chapter website are the primary tools for keeping members informed and engaged, with our chapter also publishing a newsletter – ***The Annuitant*** – now being distributed only electronically.

c) The Treasurer's Report was given by Treasurer Melanie Loots at 2:55 pm. The report (see **attached**) is for fiscal year 2025, which goes from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026. Income exceeded expenditures in calendar year 2025 to date, giving a surplus in the account. One of the major factors in the surplus was that in Fall 2025, for the first time, a paper copy of the *Annuitant* was not published. This saved the chapter a substantial amount in printing costs, leading to the surplus.

d) Katie Ross gave the Benefits Committee report, see **attached** report. Ross noted that specific events of interest to SUAA-UIUC members are indicated in the report. Much of this information is also on the chapter facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/SUAA.UIUC/>

e) Robert Flider gave the Legislative Committee report, see **attached** report.

f) At the conclusion of the business meeting, Uchtmann thanked:

- President, Matt Wilson for his leadership the past three years,

- Secretary Vera Mainz, Treasurer Melanie Loots, and other members of the Executive Committee for their contributions to a successful year,
- Robert Flider and Tanya Gallagher for their valuable contributions to SUAA at the state level,
- Melinda Carr for her work with *The Annuitant*, and
- Debra McCall for her initiative and leadership in organizing this meeting.

3. The Meeting ended at 4:15 pm.

4. Due to technical problems, a recording of this meeting will **NOT** be available on the SUAA UIUC website.

**Treasurer's Report for the Year Ended December 31, 2025**  
**Melanie J. Loots, SUAA-UIUC Treasurer**

SUAA represents employees of Illinois public universities and colleges. The UIUC Chapter has no employees, only volunteers. The SUAA office in Springfield employs individuals whose primary duty is advocacy on behalf of SURS annuitants to protect our retirement, survivor, and health insurance benefits. Of your \$47 annual dues, \$39 is for SUAA and \$8 for our Chapter, SUAA-UIUC. The 2025 revenues and expenses for SUAA-UIUC are shown below.

<b>Total Revenues*</b>		<b>\$18,843.15</b>
Dues	\$12,410.44	
Interest	\$4,931.36	
UIUC Support for CCFD Insert	\$1,501.35	
<b>Total Expenses*</b>		<b>\$9,299.21</b>
<i>The Annuitant newsletter (printing)</i>	\$1,428.79	
Meeting Expenses (local, regional, state)	\$7,650.14	
Website Maintenance and Fees	\$818.63	
Supplies	\$78.46	
<b>Gain (loss) in Reserves*</b>		<b>\$9,543.94</b>

*\*Totals may differ from sum of line items due to rounding.*



# SUAA UIUC Benefits Committee Report

**Presented by Katie Ross**

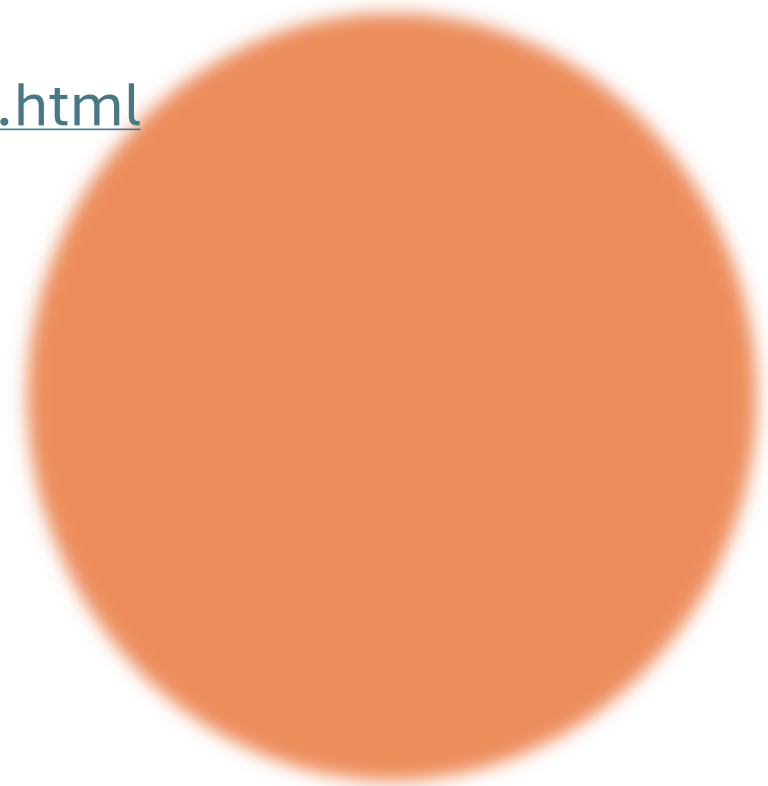
**katross@uillinois.edu**

**Follow SUAA.UIUC on Facebook for all links**

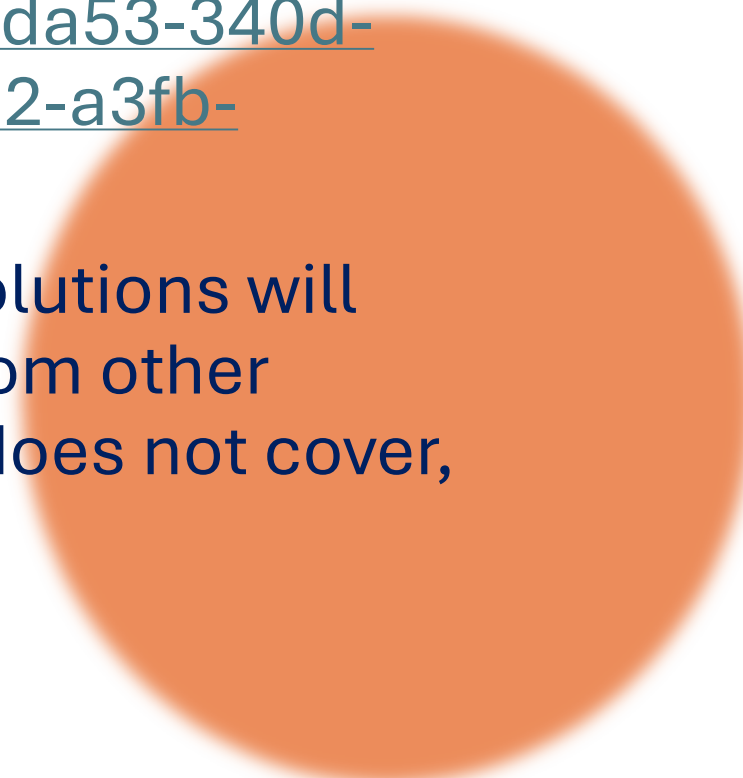
**<https://www.facebook.com/SUAA.UIUC>**

# Be Well Illinois: Financial Wellness Programs


- April 22 - Webinar: Psychology Behind Saving Money
- April 6 – May 3: Smart Money Challenge
- Register for both at <https://cms.illinois.gov/benefits/stateemployee/bewell.html>



# State SUAA Webinar: Medicare 101 and Q & A

- April 23, 10:00 AM
  - Registration required
  - <https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/cc9fda53-340d-4da3-9401-d88ffad6fd33@cb9ee1c1-b452-41b2-a3fb-8e65db8cd363>
  - Micky Kearns and Zac Maa of Key Retirement Solutions will discuss the TRAIL coverage and how it differs from other Medicare offerings, what Medicare covers and does not cover, and how to shore up those holes in coverage
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# SURS Semiannual Stakeholder Meeting and Townhall

- April 30, 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM
  - Registration required
  - <https://surs.org/event/surs-semi-annual-stakeholder-meeting-and-townhall-2/>
  - SURS Executive Director, Chief Investment Officer, and Director of Legislative and Stakeholder Relations provide updates on SURS benefits, investments, legislation, and funding, Q & A
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# SEGIP Benefit Choice for Active Employees & Non-Medicare Retirees

- May 1 through June 1, 2026
- Coverage effective July 1, 2026
- Benefit Choice Booklet will be posted May 1 at <https://cms.illinois.gov/benefits/stateemployee/fy2027-benefits-choice-resources.html> and at <https://tinyurl.com/SEGIP-Group-Insurance>
- Booklets will be mailed to arrive by May 1
- Benefit Choice Fair: May 6 at iHotel, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM with presentation at 10:00 AM and repeated at 2:00 PM

# benefit choice



## STATE MEMBERS

To obtain more information about your Health Benefits, with the State Employees Group Insurance Program (SEGIP) visit:

<https://tinyurl.com/SEGIP-Group-Insurance>

### You will find:

- State Employees Benefits Handbook & State Retiree, Annuitant and Survivors Benefits Handbook.
- SEGIP Benefit Choice Booklet.
- MyBenefits Web Portal.
- Optional Tax Programs: MCAP, DCAP, HSA, CSP.
- Premium E-Payment Option.
- Insurance Forms, Flu Shots Schedule, & more.



# State Employees Group Insurance Program

## Retiree Health Plan

### Rounded Rates for FY 2027

Years of Service at Retirement (1)	Contribution Percentage	QCHP Coverage		HMO Coverage	
		Medicare	Non-Medicare	Medicare	Non-Medicare
		Total Rate = <b>\$715.44</b>	Total Rate = <b>\$1,524.45</b>	Total Rate = <b>\$857.12</b>	Total Rate = <b>\$1,573.57</b>
0	100%	\$ 715.44	\$ 1,524.45	\$ 857.12	\$ 1,573.57
1	95%	\$ 679.66	\$ 1,448.22	\$ 814.26	\$ 1,494.89
2	90%	\$ 643.89	\$ 1,372.00	\$ 771.40	\$ 1,416.21
3	85%	\$ 608.12	\$ 1,295.78	\$ 728.55	\$ 1,337.53
4	80%	\$ 572.35	\$ 1,219.56	\$ 685.69	\$ 1,258.85
5	75%	\$ 536.58	\$ 1,143.33	\$ 642.84	\$ 1,180.17
6	70%	\$ 500.80	\$ 1,067.11	\$ 599.98	\$ 1,101.49
7	65%	\$ 465.03	\$ 990.89	\$ 557.12	\$ 1,022.82
8	60%	\$ 429.26	\$ 914.67	\$ 514.27	\$ 944.14
9	55%	\$ 393.49	\$ 838.44	\$ 471.41	\$ 865.46
10	50%	\$ 357.72	\$ 762.22	\$ 428.56	\$ 786.78
11	45%	\$ 321.94	\$ 686.00	\$ 385.70	\$ 708.10
12	40%	\$ 286.17	\$ 609.78	\$ 342.84	\$ 629.42
13	35%	\$ 250.40	\$ 533.55	\$ 299.99	\$ 550.74
14	30%	\$ 214.63	\$ 457.33	\$ 257.13	\$ 472.07
15	25%	\$ 178.86	\$ 381.11	\$ 214.28	\$ 393.39
16	20%	\$ 143.08	\$ 304.89	\$ 171.42	\$ 314.71
17	15%	\$ 107.31	\$ 228.66	\$ 128.56	\$ 236.03
18	10%	\$ 71.54	\$ 152.44	\$ 85.71	\$ 157.35
19	5%	\$ 35.77	\$ 76.22	\$ 42.85	\$ 78.67
20+	0%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

(1) The rates shown for less than 8 years of service apply to survivors.

## Mainz, Vera V

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**From:** suaa@memberclicks-mail.net on behalf of SUAA@SUAA.org <suaa@memberclicks-mail.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 20, 2026 4:19 PM  
**To:** Mainz, Vera V  
**Subject:** SUAA Statehouse Report 4.20.26

The House's Third Reading Deadline was this past Friday. As of Friday, a total of 339 bills have passed the House this legislative session, 37 of them introduced by Republicans and 302 introduced by Democrats. There are 22 legislative session days remaining until adjournment. And now a look at a couple of bills SUAA is tracking:

HB 5319 (Katz Muhl-D), which would allow community colleges to offer a baccalaureate degree, passed out of Executive Committee but was voted on by the House prior to "Third Reading Deadline" last Friday. The bill has been re-referred to the Rules Committee.

HB 1581 (Ammons-D), the Equitable University Funding Bill, which would increase higher education funding by \$130 million over the next ten years and disperse the additional dollars to higher education institutions based on a "fair funding formula," was also not brought up for a House vote and was re-referred to the Rules Committee.

It is possible that both these bills may receive an extension prior to the end of session, and it should also be noted that there are identical Senate bills for each of these issues still active. That said, even if neither the House nor Senate bills are brought to a vote this session, there is still a groundswell of legislator support for Equitable University Funding and bipartisan support for community colleges offering limited baccalaureate degrees. SUAA expects further conversations around these issues will continue even if the bills are not signed into law this session.

SUAA has a bill that is currently in the Senate Appropriations Committee, SB 3413, sponsored by Sen. Robert Martwick. The bill would require the Department of Central Management Services to designate one or more individual CMS employees as "Health Care Ombudspersons." The bill, "...Specifies that the primary goal of the Health Care Ombudspersons shall be to answer questions and generate information useful to participants in the program of group health benefits provided under the Act and, when possible, to resolve any issues between members and third-party providers of services established under this Act." The Act in question is the State Employees Group Insurance Act.

SUAA proposed this bill because we know many of our members have health care questions related to their state-provided healthcare and/or Aetna. We think the CMS should have expert(s) on hand who can efficiently answer questions and/or resolve healthcare issues between an individual and Aetna. The bill has not yet been heard in committee, though it did receive a committee deadline extension to April 24/this Friday.

Earlier today, members of SUAA staff and the UIC chapter met virtually with House Majority Leader Robyn Gabel.

Leader Gabel discussed the status of the Equitable University Funding bill and other legislation she is championing, as well as SUAA's Ombudsman Bill. She also took questions from members on legislation related to healthcare, Tier 2 pension reform, and the state budget. Leader Gabel thanked SUAA for continuing to stay involved in the legislative process.

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This email was sent to [mainz@illinois.edu](mailto:mainz@illinois.edu) by [SUAA@SUAA.org](mailto:SUAA@SUAA.org)

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