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The Annuitant

A publication of the UIUC Chapter
State Universities Annuitants Association

Spring 2025

Melinda Carr, Interim Editor

UIUC Provost John Coleman to Address SUAA-UIUC Meeting Sunday, April 27, 2025 at the I-Hotel and Conference Center

2:30 p.m. Reception | 3:00 p.m. Program

The Spring Meeting of the SUAA-UIUC Chapter will be held **Sunday, April 27, 2025**, in the Technology Room at the I-Hotel and Conference Center, 1901 S. First Street, Champaign.

John Coleman, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, for the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, will be the guest speaker. Provost Coleman will discuss current special initiatives and strategic planning processes. These initiatives include operational excellence, student success, generative AI solutions, and the investment for growth program.

A reception will begin at 2:30 p.m. with the presentation beginning at 3:00 p.m. A brief business meeting will be held following the program.

We hope you can join us in person for this meeting.

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SUAA President's Message – Spring 2025

Matt Wilson

As we welcome another season of renewal and possibility, I am reminded of the timeless phrase: “Hope springs eternal.” These words capture the resilience, optimism, and enduring spirit that define not only the changing seasons but also our journey in retirement.

Retirement is not an endpoint—it is a new chapter, rich with opportunities for growth, connection, and joy. With each day, we are given the chance to learn something new, to strengthen our bonds of friendship, and to contribute in meaningful ways to our families and communities.

As we look ahead, let us embrace the possibilities before us. Whether through volunteering, travel, creative pursuits, or simply cherishing time with loved ones, may we continue to find fulfillment and purpose. Even in times of volatility and uncertainty, hope is the foundation that keeps us moving forward—believing in better tomorrows, in new adventures, and in the beauty of life's unfolding story.

Rest assured, one thing is certain, SUAA and your UIUC chapter are working hard to preserve and protect a strong public pension system, healthcare benefits, and the general well-being of our membership. I once again encourage you to join one of our committees (Legislative, Communications, Membership, Program and Benefits). We are always looking for more volunteers and to increase engagement with our fellow members. If you have interest in serving on any of our committees, please send an email to president@suaa-ui.org.

SUAA-UIUC CHAPTER LEADERSHIP 2024-25

*(Committee assignments are shown in italics
indicates a member of the Executive Committee)

– OFFICERS –

President

Matthew J. Wilson* - *Program*

Vice President

Donald Uchtman* - *Investments*

Secretary

Vera V. Mainz*

Treasurer

Ron Webbink

– OTHER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE –

Melinda Carr* - *Membership, Communications,
Newsletter Interim Editor*

Robert Flider* - *Legislative*

Bettina Francis* - *Communications*

Tanya Gallagher* - *Communications*

Michael Hirschi* - *Benefits*

Melanie Loots* - *Membership*

John Marlin* - *Legislative*

Debora McCall* - *Program*

H. F. Williamson* - *Benefits, Membership*

– OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBERS –

Bill Adams - *Legislative*

Thomas Conry - *Legislative*

Steve Rugg - *Legislative*

Rick Schoell - *Legislative*

Richard Winkel - *Legislative*

– LIAISONS –

Cheryl Heck - *Campus*

Kathleen Holden - *Clark-Lindsey*

Megan Pearson - *Council of Academic Professionals*

– STATE SUAA LEADERSHIP –

H. F. Williamson - *SUAA Foundation Director*

– CHAPTER WEBSITE –

www.suaa-ui.org

Speaking of volunteers, I would like to thank three individuals who are completing their service to the Association this spring. The first is Ron Webbink who just completed his tenth year as chapter Treasurer. Ron did a wonderful job of keeping the finances of the chapter organized and wisely invested. This spring Ron will hand over the duties of chapter treasurer to Melanie Loots, who retired from her position as Senior Executive Associate Vice Chancellor last year and recently joined the chapter's executive committee.

The other two are John Marlin and Melinda Carr who are both completing their second three-year terms on the Executive Committee. John was my predecessor as Chapter President and did a brilliant job leading us through some of our most difficult times. Melinda has played a vital role in SUAA membership campaigns having co-chaired the Membership Committees at both the Chapter and State level. More importantly, she has done an outstanding job as co-editor (and now editor) of our Newsletter particularly when she handled all those tasks last spring after the sudden death of her co-editor Carol Livingstone. We look forward to John's and Melinda's continued involvement and contributions.

On October 27, our chapter hosted its 2024 Fall Meeting, where we heard from SUAA Executive Director Bryan Soady, who provided detail on a strategic plan which will bring more visibility and a clearer identity to the Association. He also described his efforts working with legislators and other stakeholders around the state of Illinois to develop policy and legislation which will, if successful, modify the CMS procurement code as it relates to procedures and decisions around selecting health insurance plan providers.

Please make plans to join us at the Spring Meeting, which will be held at the I-Hotel and Convention Center on Sunday, April 27. A reception will begin at 2:30 p.m., followed at 3:00 p.m. with a presentation by John Coleman, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Provost Coleman will discuss current special initiatives and strategic planning processes. These initiatives include operational excellence, student success, generative AI solutions, and the investment for growth program.

I look forward to seeing you there!

Summary of SUAA-UIUC Fall Chapter Meeting Notes

The Fall Meeting Program for UIUC Chapter of SUAA was held on October 27, 2024, at the iHotel and Conference Center. The featured speaker was Kristen Houch, SURS Director of Legislative and Stakeholder Relations and Executive Director Brian Soady was present to give a report.

The SUAA UIUC Secretary has provided the following notes as an overview of the program. A recording will be available at a future date for those who could not attend.

- President, Matt Wilson started the meeting at 3:00 p.m. Bill Williamson introduced Kristen Houch, Director of Legislative and Stakeholder Relations with SURS. Houch gave a summary of issues SURS is working on, including the Tier 2 Safe Harbors plan and the inequity between Tier 1 and Tier 2 members. She was asked about the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and its affect on SURS members. This is a Social Security rule that reduces a worker's Social Security retirement or disability benefits if they also have pension benefits from work where they did not pay Social Security taxes – the situation with those receiving SURS benefits. She stated that she didn't think there were any plans to change the current provisions of the rule.



- Williamson gave a short Membership report that was also on page 9 of the Fall 2024 Annuitant. His message was that if you are a member, please become more active. Williamson also noted the Foundation report on page 10 of the Annuitant, mentioning the scholarship and grant program as one that members might want to take advantage of. Tanya Gallagher and he attended the Big Ten Retirement Association meeting this summer. One outcome of that meeting is they are arranging for the Chapter to help campus organizations publicize research programs relevant to members. There were no other reports.

- Brian Soady, Executive Director and CEO of SUAA gave a summary of the current business SUAA is working on. He noted that SUAA cannot invest its way out of the underfunding of the program. At this time, they are working with We Are One to promote a Tier 2 rally during the November 13, 2024, veto session. With regards to the legislative platform, they are working on a National Retiree Appreciation Day. Soady noted that there has not been a Tier 2 challenge based on the Safe Harbor issues. SUAA has filed an amicus brief as a friend of the court on this issue. Soady said that they are working on a Strategic Plan and will report to the membership when completed.

The meeting ended at 3:45 pm. Twenty-eight people attended in person. The meeting was recorded and will be posted to the website.

SUAA – UIUC Executive Committee Election

Nominating Committee: Melanie Loots, Tanya Gallagher and H.F. Williamson

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 require the consent of the nominees. All nominees must be chapter members.

William (Bill) Buesing is the Foreman of the systems and controls shop electricians at the University of Illinois. Bill came to work here in 2012 and spent 10 years working in an electrical repair position as a motor route electrician. Bill's 30 years of work experience consists of Nuclear Power Plant refuel support, electrical construction in building trades as a Journeyman Wireman from IBEW local 601, Certified Instrumentation Technician in a chemical refinery manufacturing Synthetic Alcohol and Di-ethyl Ether, and 10 years in Lamp manufacturing for General Electric.

Bill has a certificate from Universal Technical Institute in Chicago; a certificate from the US Department of Labor NJATC for completing a bona-fide apprenticeship program; a certificate from Parkland College for Electrical Journeyman construction; and is a level "A" certified Instrumentation Technician through Electrical Power and Research Institute. In his role at the University, he oversees 16 Full time Electricians, 2 Electrician Sub-Foreman, and manages day to day shop operations for the 55 shop UES DDC electricians.

Bill has served on many campus committees as well. He is a former State Universities Civil Service Advisory Committee member, University of Illinois Staff Advisory Committee member, SUAA liaison for Staff Advisory council, and Chancellors Service Excellence Selection Committee representative.

Bill has been a long-time member of SUAA and a strong supporter and advocate for SUAA as it

continues to promote its mission of protecting State University Annuitants through advocacy, education, and stewardship. He has served previously as the liaison for the Staff Advisory Council to the UIUC Chapter's Executive Committee and looks forward to continuing his participation on that group.

Debora (Debbie) McCall is completing her first term on the SUAA-UIUC board where she has served as Chair of the Program Committee. She retired January 1, 2022, after serving 36 years with the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Urbana-Champaign. During her career, Debbie held several Civil Service and administrative professional positions, culminating with the position of Executive Assistant Dean for Administration, the position she held until her retirement. Her more than three decades of service at the University of Illinois provided her with numerous opportunities to serve and lead UIUC campus organizations. Debbie served as Chair of the campus Faculty and Staff Emergency Fund Committee from 2007-2021. She also served a two-year term as President of The Secretariat (now the Illinois Administrative Professionals group). A member of that organization since 1990, she served as a member or chair of every committee in the organization. Nationally, Debbie served a two-year term as Midwest Representative of the Deans' Assistant Group of the American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC) and served on its Executive Board. In addition to her current role on the SUAA-UIUC Executive Board, she also serves as a member of the UIUC Faculty/Staff Assistance and Well-Being Services Advisory Committee.

Megan Pearson is a Library Services Coordinator with the Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois (CARLI) at the University of Illinois System Offices. After earning her MS in Library and Information Science at the Urbana-Champaign iSchool in 2020, Megan began her career with the University of Illinois as a Metadata Services Specialist at the UIUC Main Library. In 2023 she joined CARLI to coordinate the Illinois Digital Heritage Hub, the Illinois Hub for the Digital Public Library of America.

Megan has served on several campus committees. She served as Secretary, then Co-Chair on the UIUC Library's Committee of Academic and Civil Service Professionals. She later served as a District 1 Representative on the UIUC Council of Academic Professionals (CAP), which included serving as the CAP liaison to both the University Senate Faculty and Academic Staff Benefits Committee and the UIUC Chapter of the State Universities Annuitants Association (SUAA) Executive Committee.

Megan is a strong supporter and advocate for SUAA as it continues to promote its mission of protecting State University Annuitants through advocacy, education, and stewardship. Having served previously as a liaison for the Council of Academic Professionals, she looks forward to continuing with the UIUC SUAA Chapter's Executive Committee.

Donald Uchtmann – Don is completing his first term on the SUAA-UIUC board where he serves as Vice President and chaired the Audit Committee. Don is a Professor Emeritus in the Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics. His research and teaching

focused on legal issues in agricultural taxation, agricultural biotechnology, and natural resources. He has published numerous legal articles and coauthored a textbook on agricultural law. His professional and community service includes serving as President of the American Agricultural Law Association and Chair of the CUMTD Board of Trustees. Uchtmann has served as Vice-Chair of the UIUC Senate Executive Committee and Chair of several Senate committees. He served as President of the UIUC Chapter of the Amer. Assoc. of U. Professors (2006-2009). From 1987-1996, Uchtmann served as interim head of his department and then as Assoc. Dean of ACES and Director of U. of Illinois Extension. He has presented papers, conducted research, or served as a consultant in Brazil, Great Britain, France, Italy, Germany, The Netherlands, Poland, Russia, Kazakhstan, China, and Japan. Uchtmann received his B.S. in agricultural science (honors) from the U. of Illinois, his M.A. in economic development from the U. of Leeds, England, and his J.D. (cum laude) from The Cleveland State University. His recognitions include the American Agricultural Law Association's Distinguished Service Award (2012) and the Academic Excellence in Agricultural Law Award (2011).

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. The SUAA Foundation has four major purposes: (1) To provide for education and dissemination of information regarding issues affecting the welfare of members of SUAA; (2) To support those Chapters establishing Survivor Assistance Programs and (3) To provide emergency assistance to SUAA members who are in need of financial support, and (4) To support a scholarship and grants program for members of SUAA and their families.

The most popular activities are a Scholarship Program and a Grant Program. The former offers six scholarships of \$1000 each to applicants who are a SUAA member or the spouse/partner, child/stepchild or grandchild/step-grandchild of a SUAA member.

The latter offers two grants of up to \$1000 per grant annually for professional development activities (travel expenses are excluded) for applicants who are SUAA members in good standing and currently employed at an Illinois institution of higher education. Further information on either program is available on the Foundation link at the state SUAA website.

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 SUAA website (suaa.org)

Benefits Report

One of the most important services SUAA provides is monitoring changes in benefits programs for SURS annuitants. Members receive monthly briefings detailing bills or proposals before the Illinois Legislature that might affect the pension or benefits of annuitants. The SUAA State office shared the following information which is **not** applicable if you are on the state's TRAIL Program, i.e., you are on the state's CVS/Aetna's Medicare Advantage plan. This information is specifically for state employees, retirees, and their dependents who are currently on a **Health Alliance** insurance plan.

From Illinois Central Management Services (CMS):

“In February 2025, Illinois Central Management Services learned that Health Alliance's regional, individual, and group insurance plans are discontinuing. CMS is working to ensure each affected member – which includes State employees, retirees, and their dependents – experiences a smooth transition. Affected members will need to take action to select a different plan during the Benefit Choice Open Enrollment period, which is May 1, 2025, to June 2, 2025.” If this applies to you, we encourage you to read the FAQs provided by CMS on the background of the discontinuation of the Health Alliance plan(s) and what affected members should do to find a new plan. You may access that page at this link: <https://cms.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/cms/documents/New%20Plan%20Selection%20Health%20Alliance%20FAQs.pdf> Should you have further questions, you may contact CMS' My Benefits Service Center at 844-251-1777.

i-card Discounts- See the perks available with an I-card at <https://www.icardperks.uillinois.edu/discounts/>. Current retiree discounts with the I-card include AAA membership, Brookdale Senior Living, mobile phone repairs, pest control, dining, Curtis Orchard, Curves, Do It Best Hardware, GNC Savoy, Kirby's Firestone, Ohman Optometry, Rogers and Hollands Jewelry, Triple T Car Wash, and Urbana Acupuncture.

Human Resources also maintains a list of services available to retirees such as library access and free tuition for university courses. Visit https://humanresources.illinois.edu/retirees/benefits_services.html to explore the options available.

Hand-in-hand with your I-card is your net ID and password, which are required for access to online resources at the university. Contact UIUC's Technology Services at (217) 244-7000 if you have not established your net ID or if you have forgotten your password.

Faculty/Staff Assistance and Well-Being Services (FSAWS) - The services of this University of Illinois Human Resources office are available free of charge for retirees, employees, and members of their households. Services include assessments, short-term counseling, crisis services, and referrals to appropriate resources.

FSAWS also coordinates the Faculty/Staff Emergency Fund for employees in a financial crisis. Retirees are not eligible to receive FSAWS emergency funds; retirees in need can apply to the SUAA Foundation (see page 5) for assistance. However, anyone can support this program by mailing a personal check payable to the “University of Illinois Foundation” (indicate Faculty and Staff Emergency Fund in memo line) to: University of Illinois Foundation, P. O. Box 734500, Chicago, IL 60673-4500. For more information, the Foundation web site is <https://uif.uillinois.edu>

FSAWS is located at 1011 West Springfield, Urbana. Appointments are strongly encouraged; phone (217) 244-5312 for an appointment. For more information, visit their website: <https://humanresources.illinois.edu/about/culture-learning-engagement/faculty-staff-assistance-and-well-being-services/>

Important Sources of Information about Your Pension & Benefits

State Universities Retirement System (SURS)

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

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

Fax: (217) 378-9800

Address: 1901 Fox Drive,
Champaign, IL 61825- 2710

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. Information on programs such as buyouts is also available. 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.

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 website, 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.

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).

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 website. Visit the website to join or renew.

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, IL 61821

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.

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.

We strongly encourage you to have 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. Download the membership form today from the www.suaa-ui.org/join.htm website; complete, sign, and submit the form as directed. Your dues will be deducted monthly when your current membership expires.

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.

Dues are only \$47 per year – \$39 goes to the state SUAA organization and \$8 stays with our local chapter.

Your support is essential and we hope that this information will persuade you to join us! 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. Download the membership form today from the www.suaa-ui.org/join.htm website; complete, sign, and submit the form as directed. Your dues will be deducted monthly.

What has SUAA done for you?

- Represented all SURS participants and beneficiaries by suing the State of Illinois over Senate Bill 1 (Public Act 098-0599), pension reform. The Supreme Court found the law unconstitutional, saving average pensioners HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS over the course of their retirement.

- Led the charge to defeat adding a new section to Article XIII, Section 5 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 eliminating the "pension clause".
- Lobbied and held a "town hall" meeting when TRAIL Medicare Advantage plan changes threatened retiree health coverage.

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 healthcare 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.

To join as a new member, to renew your membership, or to change to payroll deduction, visit our webpage at www.suaa-ui.org/join.htm for easy instructions.

Treasurer's Report for the Year Ended December 31, 2024

Ronald F. Webbink, SUAA-UIUC Treasurer and Melanie J. Loots, Treasurer-designate

SUAA represents annuitants and 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 2024 revenues and expenses for SUAA-UIUC were:

TOTAL REVENUES*		14858.46
Dues	9751.47	
Interest	5106.99	
TOTAL EXPENSES*		14168.51
The Annuitant newsletter (printing)	6495.38	
Meeting Expenses (local, regional, state)	7650.14	
Website Hosting	22.99	
GAIN (LOSS) IN RESERVES*		689.95

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

Biennial Audit of Chapter Financial Records

Don Uchtmann

Association bylaws, effective December 6, 2020, require an audit of financial records in even numbered years. The Executive Committee appointed John Marlin, Mike Hirschi, and Don Uchtmann (Chair) to conduct an audit which was completed in December 2024. The audit report contained the following summary:

1. Treasurer Records were complete and well organized.
2. The audit of the period Nov. 1, 2022, through Oct. 31, 2024, revealed no significant anomalies.
3. The Audit Committee thanks Ron Webbink for his excellent cooperation during the audit and for his nearly eleven years of greatly valued, dedicated, meticulous, volunteer service as Treasurer of the SUAA-UIUC Chapter.

The report offered six recommendations. In general, they addressed management of the chapter's cash flow needs and reserves, updating signatures on accounts, modifying when only one signature is required on a check, and recommendations regarding the transition from our retiring Treasurer, Ron Webbink, to our newly appointed Treasurer, Melanie Loots. The recommendation regarding signatures on accounts was adopted at the December meeting of the Executive Committee. The remaining recommendations were adopted at the February meeting.



Meet Our New State SUAA Executive Director Bryan Soady

W. Bryan Soady, CAE, comes to SUAA with more than two decades of government relations and non-profit organization experience. After receiving his

master's degree in political management from George Washington University in Washington, D.C., he returned to Illinois and began his career as a part of the University of Illinois at Springfield's Legislative Internship program and then he served as a full-time Legislative Analyst with the Illinois House of Representatives. After serving in the Office of Legislative Affairs with the Department of Central Management Services and being active in Illinois House elections, Mr. Soady began a position with the Community Bankers Association of Illinois (CBAI) where he spent nearly a decade representing their interests. In early 2008, he turned his attention to the Illinois Chiropractic Society (ICS) and effectively

advocated the Illinois General Assembly for passage of major legislation on behalf of the Chiropractic profession.

In late 2009, he founded StateHouse Solutions where he pursued and represented various clients until being hired exclusively by the American Red Cross in Illinois in March of 2012. Bryan was promoted to become Executive Director of the American Red Cross Serving South Central Illinois in Fall, 2014. He completed his Certified Association Executive (CAE) designation in 2017, before assuming the role of Executive Director with the Illinois Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs. Most recently, he served as the Associate Executive Director of Government Relations with the Illinois Association of School Boards from 2022-2023. Bryan is a proud new grandfather of 1 and a single father of two; his oldest son Zeph turns 33 this year and his daughter Shalee (Mom) will be 25. He brings this wealth of advocacy and non-profit management experience to SUAA as well as the experience of representing his own family members (mother and aunt) who are themselves survivor annuitants of SURS.

Advocates for Aging Care (AAC)



Advocates for Aging Care (AAC) is a non-profit, volunteer-run organization focused on addressing the crisis in the shortage of skilled nursing care for older citizens and their families in Champaign County. Champaign County is the most underserved of Illinois' 102 counties. In fact, most counties have an excess of beds -- no other has a deficit to the extent Champaign has. A recent Market Study and Needs Assessment confirmed that out of 700+ skilled

nursing beds needed by 2026, our County is short over 300 beds, having only 60% of the beds we need. But it is going to take the efforts of the entire county to remedy this situation. AAC is working to with stakeholders and the University of Illinois to create an innovative, contemporary, high quality skilled nursing facility in our community so that instead of people having to leave the community for this care we might attract people to Champaign County. To read the report and access information and resources relating to elder care in Champaign County, please see the AAC webpage at advocatesforagingcare.org.

If you would like to join in this effort or receive updates, please email advocatesforagingcare@gmail.com or complete the contact form on the web page.

In Memoriam

Below is the name of each SURS participant from the Urbana-Champaign campus and allied agencies
who passed away between July 1, 2024 and December 31, 2024.

Source: Freedom of Information Act request from SURS –Melinda Carr

Adams-Smith, Mary D.	Faullin, John I.	Lewman, Beverly	Rafii, Keyvan J.
Allegri, Francesca Ann	Fields, A. Belden	Liang, Jie Lee Allan	Resek, Robert F.
Anderson, Steven C.	Fosdick, Lloyd L.	Lindsey, Esther C.	Riddell, David L.
Anderson, Thomas F.	Fullen, Mark D.	Linton, Norma A.	Rinkenberger, John J.
Ang, Alfredo J.	Gale, Kathryn J.	Lipscomb, Carrie D.	Robbins, Ronald Eugene
Avelism Mary S.	Gentry, James D.	Loeb, Peter	Roosevelt, Patricia H.
Bash, Charles W.	Glennon, Julia C.	Long, Michael J.	Ruprecht, Terry
Becker, William P.	Goodenough, Shirley R.	Lutz, Larry M.	Ryan, Linda R.
Bitzer, Donald Kay	Grafton, Sarah Dean	Lybarger, Duane K.	Sabelli, Nora J.
Black, Lydia A.	Gray, Clayton D.	Maclay, Joanna William	Sarnecki, Robert Sue
Bokenkamp, Alice J.	Greene, Amelia J.	Malloy, Thomas Kay	Shade, Connie K.O.
Brady, Paul T.	Guither, Harold J.	Mancuso, Anthony Ivanhoe	Simmons, Jerry L.
Brandon, John	Gullerud, Ernest Lee	Marder, Herbert K.	Slater, Mary D.
Bransley, Rebecca C.	Gusloff, Myrna A.	Masel, Rich	Smith, Michael W.
Bright, Frances	Halberstadt, Derrol L.	Mason, Janis L.	Southwood, Kenneth M.
Brill, Earl E.	Harrison, Roberta S.	Massey, Gary H.	Spencer, Larry J.
Brooks, Barbara A.	Hatchett Shirley E.	Mattingly, Theresa	Sperberg-McQueen, C. J.
Brown, Paul F.	Hays, Catherine	McFarland, Sharon J.	Stafford, Sidney T.
Brown, Richard	Helman, Sandy W.	McKenze, L. Elizabeth D.	Strubhar, Mary Jane
Bryson, Judith A.	Henager, Stephen M.	McMillan, James J.	Sturdevant, James J.
Buchanan, Relva J.	Henry, Jorja W.	Menkhaus, Jane W.	Switzer, David L.
Burton, Shirley A.	Hieser, Jerry H.	Miebach, Elinor	Tittle, Sherrill Ann
Campbell, Eddie Susan	Higgs, Carolyn Mciver	Mihm, Richard A.	Trees, Morris A.
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