

STATE UNIVERSITIES ANNUITANTS ASSOCIATION

UIUC Chapter Executive Committee

Web site: <http://www.suaa-ui.org>

Minutes for *December 14, 2011*; Clark-Lindsay Meeting Room

Attending: Mary Beastall, Gerald Brighton, Tom Conry, Steve D'Arcy, Paul Dollins, Gary Engelgau, Jane Loeb, Mark Netter, Terri Palumbo, Steve Rugg, Terry Ruprecht, Rick Schoell, Bob Todd, Ginny Waaler, Bill Williamson

I. Call to Order and President's Report

- A. Meeting was called to order by President Conry at 1:32PM.
- B. Minutes for the meeting of November 9, 2011 were approved with a one word change.
- C. Schedule of meetings was reviewed:
 - Meetings of the Exec Committee: February 8, March 14, April 11, May 9, June 13
 - Spring general meeting, SUAA-UIUC Chapter: exact date to be determined, sometime in April '12, perhaps May '12.
 - Big Ten Retirees' Meeting: Ohio State Univ, August 3-5, 2012
- D. President's Report: Conry appointed a nominating committee of Beastall, Dollins, and Rugg.

II. Treasurer's Report (Brighton):

- Receipts for November were \$77; disbursements were \$102.
- Fund balance on November 30 was \$86,853 (\$47,001 CDs + \$39,852 checking)
- Report was accepted.

III. Action Items

A. Plans for spring General Membership Meeting, 2012

Target dates include 4/15 and 4/22 and early May; no new info on program. There was brief discussion of potential alternate speakers in the event Chancellor Wise cannot make it.

B. Benefits Committee

Committee proposed a four-point plan (in accompanying handouts) for helping annuitants deal with late payments/reimbursements from health insurance carriers. The problem is most acute for out-of-state retirees, where the financial ills of the state of Illinois are not commonly understood. The four steps are as follows:

1. Send an alert letter to the membership about medical and insurance payment protocols (draft letter was provided). Two letters may be required: one for all SURS annuitants, another for SUAA members.
2. Assist members w/ written documentation to get dunning health care creditors to desist.
3. An "annuitant emergency assistance fund" to provide funds for health care payments on behalf of members - in selected cases - within dollar limits yet to be determined. These funds would be in the form of a grant, with requested repayment when the health insurance carrier finally makes payment to the member/annuitant.
4. Collect and analyze member complaints about health care payment issues to better understand the scope and scale of the problem.

General Exec Committee discussion was supportive of the Benefits Committee proposal, understanding that specific administrative limitations (in terms of funded amounts and qualifying annuitants) will be exceedingly important. A motion to approve the general concept, pending final details, was made, seconded, and approved.

C. Dues Increase

On December 1, dues increased to \$33 annually for SUAA members both retired and still employed.

D. Payroll Deduction

It is not known when the UofI will begin the payroll deduction process. Conry will contact Brenda Butts at UofI to find out more.

E. **Exec Committee meeting in January?**

Committee members to hold the date of Jan 11, 2012 open. Necessity of meeting will be determined later.

IV. Reporting Items

- A. **Membership (Palumbo):** A net decrease of 1 in membership was reported for November; from 2093 to 2092, consisting of eight new members and nine drops.
Letters were sent to 55 non-renewers; 11 of them re-signed. More of the non-renewer letters will go out in future months.
- B. **Legislative Committee/Political Action (Rugg, Schoell):**
- No action in the fall veto session on pensions, except for the “pension abuses” issue.
 - Some legislators have stated they will vote for SB512 in 2012 unless “something better” is in the offing.
 - A big question remains, “How many legislators will vote to decrease state pensions in an election year?”
 - Recent large-scale tax breaks for major companies (e.g. Sears, CME, etc) were a little surprising, considering the financial condition of the state
 - Senate will not reconvene until 1/31/12; House later.
 - Question: Is there an SUAA-endorsed alternative to SB512? Will there be one?
 - Fully-covered health insurance for retirees continues to be a major concern.
- C. **Benefits Committee (Beastall):**
Covered under Action Items
- D. **Communications Committee (Engelgau):**
- The committee advocates a simple one-pager to members explaining the importance of a current email address (and requesting same).
 - The SUAA website redesign was done for under \$250 ... a bargain.
 - Jane Loeb will be the new newsletter editor.
 - A motion was made to raise the reimbursement rate for webmaster from \$20 to \$25/hr. It was seconded and passed.
- E. **Nominating Committee [Dollins(chair), Beastall, Rugg]**
- Will establish dates and times for nominations sessions with other Exec Committee members
 - Need to fill four positions
 - any existing list(s) of names for nomination should be forwarded to Dollins

V. New Business

-none

VI. Adjournment and Next Meeting

The Meeting was adjourned at 3:25 PM. Next scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, February 8, 2011 at 1:30 p.m. in the Clark-Lindsey Board Room. The Jan 11 date should be held open by Exec Committee members.