

STATE UNIVERSITIES ANNUITANTS ASSOCIATION
UIUC Chapter Executive Committee
Clark-Lindsey, Simon Dining Room
<http://www.suaa-ui.org>
Minutes for November 13, 2013

Attending: Mary Beastall, Gerald Brighton, Tom Conry, Gary Engelgau, Barbara Hartman, Athalia Hunt, Jane Loeb, Mark Netter, Robert Rich, Steve Rugg, Terry Ruprecht, Helen Satterthwaite, Rick Schoell, Ron Webbink, Ginny Waaler, Bill Williamson

I. President's Report

- A. Call to Order by President Terry Ruprecht at 1:35 p.m.
- B. Approval of minutes for October 9, 2013 was moved and seconded; minutes approved.
- C. Review of schedule of meetings for rest of year:
 - (1) Exec Committee Meetings 2013: Nov 13, Dec 11, Jan 8, Feb 12
 - (2) Spring General Meeting—needs to be scheduled soon.
- D. President's Report –
 - (1) Terry Ruprecht thanked committee members for their work before and during the October 20 Fall General Meeting, which went well despite the challenge of very large attendance. Ginny Waller reported that she had sent a thank you note to the I hotel staff for their work on-the-spot to deal with the overflow crowd, and that the I hotel had charged considerably less than usual for the overflow room because it was already set up for another function.
 - (2) Terry Ruprecht reported that the Oct 22 employee expo went well, with record attendance, and pointed out that the SUAA and SURS tables are always adjacent and people are confused about who we are. He suggested we need a placard identifying us as “**THE** Association for Retirees”. Gary Engelgau thanked the volunteers who manned the table.
 - (3) President Ruprecht indicated that the Oct 29 Directors' meeting evidenced surprisingly little controversy about the deficit budget. Tom Conry indicated that he has supported the budget because the deficit is small, and Linda Brookhart does need to move a part time person to full time, one source of the deficit. He suggested that regular small dues increases may be more palatable than periodic larger ones.
 - (4) Terry Ruprecht reported that a recent meeting he and Tom Conry had with Jim Leonard and staff provided confirmation that the United Health Service (UHS) PPO is the only way to access Carle services under the state plans, as Carle will be out of the Coventry Advantra network. Carle will bill UHS, and the facility fees will be covered. Terry then discussed Governor Quinn's openness to another RFP structured so that Health Alliance could compete, suggesting this might occur in 2015. No additional meetings are scheduled with Carle, but the door is open should additional problems with the state health plans arise. Discussion ensued concerning the UHS option provided by the state, including questions concerning preapproval as yet to be resolved.

II. Treasurer's Report

Before presenting his report, Gerry Brighton suggested renaming the Executive Committee the “Health Insurance Discussion Group”. He pointed out that newsletter costs drove up expenditures in the past month. Gary Engelgau noted that while the chapter pays for printing, the UIUC covers the cost of mailing. Tom Conry moved and Mark Netter seconded approval of the treasurer’s report; motion passed.

NOTE: When purchasing anything where an invoice is sent to the UIUC-SUAA Chapter, please have it sent to Gerry Brighton’s home address, so that the bill may be paid promptly.

III. Action Items

- A. Honorarium for Perry and Associates: Terry Ruprecht proposed that we offer an honorarium to Perry and Associates for the considerable help provided in understanding and communicating with membership about health insurance changes. In addition to a presentation at the membership meeting, Richard Perry researched the RFPs, read the proposals, attended the first meeting with the Carle directorate, spoke with Janice Bonneville in advance of her presentation to the chapter, and remains willing to help in the event further consultation is needed, e.g., should another RFP be issued by the state. Following discussion, Steve Rugg moved and Gary Engelgau seconded that an honorarium in the amount of \$2500 be provided to Perry and Associates, with the understanding that we be provided additional consultation should any major changes to the state health insurance plans occur. Motion passed.

IV. Reporting Items

- A. Membership: Barbara Hartman announced that with 37 new members and 9 lost (2/3 of whom have died), membership stands at 2022. She reported that a member of the EIU chapter who lives here would like to be involved with us as well as with the EIU chapter. Bill Williamson noted that the current SUAA constitution allows for dual membership, with dual dues. The decision was to refer her to our website for information.
- B. Legislative Committee/Political Action: Rick Schoell indicated that legislative action on Chicago Park District pensions that affects current as well as future retirees has already sparked a lawsuit, and is discussed as a possible precursor to legislative action to affect state employee pensions. Notably, the legislation limits the COLA to simple interest payment of the lesser of 3% or ½ of CPI, with 3 no-COLA years stipulated. Speculation ensued concerning pension “reform” measures that may be undertaken. Rick Schoell also reported on a small supplemental capital allocation to UI and indicated that the big action of the veto session was the same sex marriage bill.
- C. Communications Committee: Gary Engelgau reported there were more than 1500 visits to the website in March and April, and 1500 in October. Terry Ruprecht asked that he find out the definition of a “visit” and Bill Williamson questioned whether it includes visits that occur through the state website.
- D. Spring Meeting Planning: deferred for later action.
- E. Newsletter: Reimbursement of publication costs remains an issue because more than \$500 is owed the chapter, thus requiring registration as a vendor with a federal identification number. The chapter has made multiple attempts to resolve this. However, the state office of SUAA believes that chapters are independent in this regard, while we had believed the state office has the vendor registration. Tom Conry reported that this function belonged with the state office when he was chapter president, and Gerry Brighton confirmed that the chapter has never filed

an I90 and thus is not a non-profit entity. Terry Ruprecht and Gary Engelgau will continue to attempt to resolve this issue.

- F. Benefits Committee: Mary Beastall reported that Dental coverage will continue for those retirees who elect to opt out of the state health insurance. She also reported that last year's Benefits' Choice booklet contains proof of "creditable coverage" for drugs that year (needed for the purchase of Medicare Part D insurance). Discussion ensued concerning the circumstances under which those opting out of the state health plans might be viewed as having "guaranteed insurability/issue".

V. New Business: none undertaken

VI. Adjournment and Next Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 3:28 p.m. Next meeting will be Wednesday, December 11, 2013 at 1:30 p.m. in the Clark-Lindsey Simon Dining Room.