

STATE UNIVERSITIES ANNUITANTS ASSOCIATION
UIUC Chapter Executive Committee
Clark-Lindsey, Simon Dining Room
<http://www.suaa-ui.org>
Minutes for August 13, 2014

Attending: Mary Beastall, Pam Cler, Barbara Hartman, Jane Loeb, Terri Palumbo, Terry Ruprecht, Steve Rugg, Rick Schoell, Ginny Waaler, Ron Webbink, Bill Williamson

I. President's Report

- A. Call to Order was issued by President Terry Ruprecht at 1:32 p.m.
- B. After correction of several errors, approval of minutes for June 11, 2014 was moved and seconded (Webbink, Waaler); minutes approved as amended.
- C. Review of schedule of meetings for rest of year:
 - (1) Exec Committee Meetings 2014: Sept 10, Oct 8, Nov 12, Dec 10.
 - (2) Big 10 Retirees' Association Meeting: August 8-10, Tom Conry in attendance.
 - (3) Fall General Chapter Meeting: Sunday, October 19, 2014 at the I Hotel.
 - (4) UI Employee Expo: October 21, 2014, Illini Union Rooms A,B,C.
 - (4) State Directors' meeting: October 29, 2014.

II. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Webbink noted that a CD earning .1% matures this month. The penalty for withdrawal is high, so it was decided not to renew it but to hold it against possible future needs arising from the lawsuit. Ron Webbink then raised issues concerning the costs of the fall newsletter, and the portions of the bill the campus Charitable Fund Drive should pick up due to its insert. Since the Chancellor's office pays for mailing, it is the print costs that need to be split between the chapter and the fund drive. Their costs include both the cost of printing the insert itself, and the cost of printing extra newsletters required because they want to send the insert to the entire SURS constituency (only SUAA members normally receive the fall newsletter). Pam Cler/Terri Palumbo will therefore need to get the charges split in this manner by UpClose, and Terry Ruprecht will follow up with University staff concerning the extra charges they should cover. Approval of the Treasurer's Report was moved and seconded (Williamson, Waaler), and the Report was approved. *NOTE: When purchasing anything where an invoice is sent to the UIUC-SUAA Chapter, please have it sent to Ron Webbink's on-campus address (103 Astronomy, 1002 W. Green, MC221, Urbana, IL. 61801), so that the bill can be paid promptly.*

III. Action Items

- A. SUAA-UIUC Chapter lifetime membership for Gerald Brighton: Terry Ruprecht proposed that we honor Gerry Brighton's very long service as treasurer by offering him a lifetime chapter membership. After enthusiastic discussion this proposal was endorsed unanimously. Barbara Hartman will determine whether his membership is currently paid via annuity deduction.
- B. State Directors' meeting: Those in attendance described the meeting and its outcomes. It was noted by several that the parliamentarian had done an excellent job. While the bylaws revisions did not pass, Steve Rugg noted that the rationales for them were clearly outlined by the representative from ISU. The vote under the old bylaws elected a majority of downstate

- representatives to the state EC. Unfortunately, only the last hour and a half of the meeting was devoted to an update on the SUAA lawsuit that had been carefully prepared by the legal team.
- C. Update on SUAA lawsuit: Terry Ruprecht and others expressed concern that the legitimate elation over the Supreme Court's decision in the insurance case not be taken to mean that the suit over the pension revisions would follow the same course. On August 29 the State has to make its response to the suit, after which the SUAA legal team will go to work on our response. Steve Rugg reported that there had been a hearing yesterday about the process to be undertaken in making adjustments to insurance withholding due to the Supreme Court decision, and the matter was remanded back to a lower court. Repayments will occur sometime in the future. He further commented that Linda Brookhart had given very good examples of people hurt by the insurance changes, and several people commented that SUAA lawyers had been impressive.
 - D. Update on SUAA Action and Legal Funds: Both funds need cash, the former for lobbying activities and the latter to pursue the lawsuit. Steve Rugg reported that the state office will send a solicitation for legal fund contributions to all retirees with annuities above \$40,000.
 - E. United Health denial of claims due to coding errors: Mary Beastall reported that Carle is in the process of fixing the coding errors that have led to some denials of claims for payment of the facility charge. ETA of the "fix" is not yet known.

IV. Reporting Items

- A. Membership: Barbara Hartman reported that no July numbers were yet available from the Springfield office, but that at the end of June membership was down 2, from 2037 to 2035, due to eight deaths, six failures to pay, and an almost compensating twelve new members. Total potential member pool numbered 15675 at the end of June.
- B. Legislative Committee/Political Action: Rick Schoell reported that he had verified that all legislative information on the chapter website is up to date. As to the upcoming elections, he reported that many races seem to be close, and that pension revisions will get revisited once the current cases and races are settled. The veto session will occur around November 19th.
- C. Communications Committee: Terry Ruprecht noted the need to reappoint this committee, which has lost members. Mary Beastall suggested that Gary Engelgau should continue to serve on it, if willing, since he is continuing with the website. With Pam Cler stepping in as newsletter editor, she too needs to be added. One committee member's EC term ends next year (Rockwood), and a nominating committee will be needed in the fall to fill that position.
- D. Spring meeting: Ginny Waaler reported that the I hotel is confirmed for October 19. As a result of discussion she will arrange for a larger room (>200). Steve Rugg indicated that Jeff Brown will participate in the program, a discussion of pension reform nationally and how it is playing out here. He will discuss the UI's position relative to other institutions on pension and benefits. Bob Rich will discuss the state's options for pension revisions should the Supreme Court uphold the protection provided pensions in the constitution. Linda Brookhart will provide an update on the lawsuit.
- E. Newsletter: Pam Cler reported that Monday of that week had been the deadline for her receipt of articles and that most had been received.
- F. Benefits committee: Bill Williamson reminded the committee that he continues to represent the Chapter on the Senate Faculty Benefits Committee as Ex Officio member, designated by the Chapter President.

V. Adjournment and Next Meeting. Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m. Next meeting will be Wednesday, September 10, 2014 at 1:30 p.m. in the Clark-Lindsey Simon Dining Room.