

STATE UNIVERSITIES ANNUITANTS ASSOCIATION
UIUC Chapter Executive Committee
Clark-Lindsey, Simon Dining Room
<http://www.suaa-ui.org>
Minutes for April 13, 2016

Attending: Mary Beastall, Pam Cler, Thomas Conry, Gary Engelgau, Barbara Hartman, Robert Rich, Steve Rugg, Terry Ruprecht, Agnes SanMiguel Helen Satterthwaite, Ginny Waaler, Ron Webbink, H. F. Williamson,

I. Call to Order. Hartman called the meeting to order at 1:34 p.m.

II. Approval of minutes. The minutes for the meeting of March 9, 2016 were approved.

III. Review of Meeting Schedule

- A. Executive Committee:** May 11, June 8, August 10 (traditionally there is no meeting in July).
- B. Spring Chapter Meeting:** April 24 at the I Hotel and Conference Center
- C. State SUAA Annual Meeting:** June 21-22 in Springfield, IL
- D. “Save Higher Ed” Statehouse Rally:** April 20 in Springfield, IL
- E. Big 10 Retirees Association:** These will be this August at the University of Nebraska

IV. President’s Report: Hartman and Waaler reported on their experiences with the “House Calls” program offered for those in UnitedHealthCare. As noted on their web site, this is an in-home clinical visit provided at no additional cost to eligible members in many of their Medicare Advantage plans, even those who are healthy and may regularly see their primary care physician. Both reported that the visits went well.

V. Treasurer’s Report: Webbink presented the report on the activity for March, 2016 as well as for the Year to Date for the figures available. The State Office is behind in disbursing dues collected so there was no information for February and March. A motion to accept the Treasurer’s report was approved.

NOTE: When purchasing anything where an invoice is sent to the UIUC-SUAA Chapter, please have it sent to Ron Webbink at his office address: (Dept. of Astronomy), 1002 W Green, M/C 221, Urbana, IL 61801-3074.

VI. Reporting Items

- A. Membership.** Ruprecht reported that the Chapter membership was down from 2043 in January to 2028 in early April. There were 14 new members and 29 losses: 13 deaths and 16 who cancelled SURS deduct or did not renew by check.
- B. Legislative Committee.** Rugg and Rich reported that there were no major changes to report. They discussed briefly the strongly critical comments made by Speaker Madigan about Governor Rauner.
- C. Communications Committee.** Cler was complimented on how well the Newsletter looked. Hartman and Engelgau led a discussion of the future for the maintenance of the web site. The first task will be to choose a “supervisor” who will continue monitoring the site and providing instructions to the webmaster. We could then select a new webmaster. Engelgau said that his grandson could continue but it would be better if there were someone local and easier to contact. Webbink reported that there had been over 17,000 visits last year.
- D. Benefits Committee.** Beastall described how well the staff at Mayo worked with their patients. Williamson reported on the recent Senate Faculty/Staff Benefits Committee meeting and email from the Liberty Justice Center concerning the March 24 Illinois Supreme Court decision.
- E. Spring General Meeting.** Rugg reported he had talked with President Killeen about the meeting. Waaler reported that there will be cookies.
- F. State Education Campaign.** Williamson reported that the State Executive Committee has approved a statewide education campaign to “educate SUAA members and the general public on the significant contributions that higher education makes to their local communities.” This has been funded principally

by a grant of \$20,000 from the SUAA Foundation. A memo has been sent to Chapter Presidents outlining the nature of the campaign. It will involve yard signs and posters as well as “static window clings” to stick on the windows of willing retailers. Chapters will be encouraged to send an “email blast” to current employees on campus informing them of SUAA’s actions in hopes of getting more to join SUAA.

G. State Executive Committee. Williamson reported on the recent meeting of the Committee. There were lengthy discussions of the education campaign and the budget. There were also reports on (1) the state income tax study by a group chaired by Bob Rich which is collecting data on taxes across the country; (2) a proposed membership campaign which is particularly important given we have been losing members statewide over the past year (between January, 2015 and April, 2016, state membership fell from 16,079 to 15,664 (a loss of 2.6%), and (3) some minor change to be proposed in the bylaws.

VII. New Business

Ruprecht reported on his search for a table drape/cover/banner. His proposal to purchase a “flexible” banner which adapts to various length tables was approved.

VIII. Adjournment and Next Meeting. The meeting adjourned at about 2:35 p.m.. The next meeting will be Wednesday, May 11, 2016 at 1:30 p.m. in the Clark-Lindsey Simon Dining Room.

Prepared by H. Williamson, Interim Secretary