

**STATE UNIVERSITIES ANNUITANTS ASSOCIATION**  
**UIUC Chapter Executive Committee**  
**Minutes for October 14, 2020 Zoom Meeting**  
**Web site: [www.suaa-ui.org](http://www.suaa-ui.org)**  
**Facebook Site: <https://www.facebook.com/SUAA.UIUC/>**

Attending: Bill Adams, Marissa Brewer, Melinda Carr, Bettina Francis, Kathleen Holden, Athalia Hunt, Wynne Korr, Carol Livingstone, John Marlin, Donna Miller, Ron Webbink, H. F. Williamson.

**I. Call to Order and Introductions:** President Marlin called the meeting to order with a quorum present about 1:34 p.m.

**II. Approval of minutes for September 9, 2020:** The minutes from the last meeting were approved. Holden moved, Brewer seconded and the motion was carried.

**III. Review of meeting schedule**

- A. Fall Executive Committee Meetings, 2020: November 11, December 9.
- B. SUAA Fall State Meeting: October 28, 2020
- C. Fall Chapter Meeting: December 6, 2020
- D. Spring Executive Committee Meetings, 2021: January 13 (if necessary); February 10; March 10; April 14; May 12, June 9.

**IV. President's Report:** Marlin

Marlin reported six delegates were present at the state annual meeting. Zoom bylaws were updated and there was an election of new officers. About 140 people were present, and they did a roll call vote of those attending by Zoom.

There was a brief discussion about the December 6 chapter meeting. The voting process will be by Zoom (with an option for people to call in). The voting process will be confirmed before the meeting. Voting information will appear on the first page on the fall newsletter, under voting procedures to make sure it is clear that only members may vote.

Two columns have been published by Jim Dey of The News-Gazette and Mike Frerichs' statement related to retirement income.

The past chapter membership poll regarding the retirement issue is posted on the website. He noted the state graduated income tax Zoom meetings in which they stated the fair tax would not impact retirement income. It will be important to monitor any changes on retirement income as the election period ends.

**V. Treasurer's Report:** Webbink

The Treasurer provided the report covering activities from January 1, 2020 through September 30, 2020. Updates included receipt of monthly dues for July, interest on the checking account, and payment of delegate registration for the annual state meeting.

*NOTE: When purchasing anything where an invoice is sent to the UIUC-SUAA Chapter, please send to Ron Webbink's home: 3407 Mill Creek Ct. Unit 4, Champaign, IL 61822*

**VI. Action/Discussion Items**

- A. Review of Annual State Meeting on September 30, 2020  
Six delegates attended and emergency bylaws were approved.
- B. Planning for State Fall Meeting on October 28, 2020 (delegates were certified by October 8).  
Certifications have been completed for this meeting. (State deadline to certify voting delegates is October 23).
- C. Planning for Fall Chapter Meeting on December 6, 2020  
A decision will be made on whether to announce in Eweek (considering the potential to increase attendance).
- D. Planning for Fall *Annuitant*  
Livingstone reported SURS will provide an accurate count for annuitants, usually about 12,000. Final copy will go to the printer on October 15. Any final edits from the Executive Committee were requested as soon as possible the morning on October 15.

A reference to other retirement systems will be considered for posting on the chapter website with an explanation about the systems.

E. Discussion of Progressive Income Tax Amendment

There was general discussion about whether the chapter would support the tax amendment. The SUAA state organization supported the amendment publicly, and it was legally done as part of our status as a 501c4 organization.

Opinions were expressed about the outcome of the vote, and whether there would be tax increases on retirement income if it fails. Problems noted were deletion of the sentence related to double-taxation (causing people to think they might be double-taxed), targeting millionaires and billionaires, and fear of unrestricted access to funds for state legislators.

A News-Gazette editorial was published on October 14 in opposition to the amendment. The Chicago Tribune also came out against it in favor of pension reform.

## VII. Reporting Items

A. Membership: Carr, Hartman, Williamson

Williamson reported there was a significant loss in membership down to 1663. More membership recruitment is needed. The UIUC Chapter is now the second largest to NIU after 50 years of being first.

B. Legislative Committee: Adams, Korr, Rich, Rugg, Schoell, Winkel

No report at this time.

C. Communications Committee/Newsletter/Website: Brewer, Francis, Kemphues, Livingstone

Livingstone plans to update the website with the bylaws proposal. The bio for Ralph Matire should include his title in Eweek.

The Annuitant will provide connection information. In addition, a reminder email will be sent to members about the chapter meeting, along with a link to the Zoom meeting. The state office also will be contacted to post an update on the website.

D. Benefits Committee: Beastall, Stone, Williamson

Eligible SURS members should be receiving a brochure from Medicare Advantage. This includes United Healthcare or HMO. Benefit Choice webinars have been scheduled through November.

**Note:** The Armory is now closed for walking.

Williamson shared information from the Senate. SURS board appointments for Aaron Ammons and Fred Giertz will end in 2021 and an election will be announced.

## VIII. New Business

Note regarding future meetings: the Zoom number included in October's meeting notice from Brewer will be the same every time.

## IX. Adjournment and Next Meeting

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Holden, seconded by Livingstone, and approved unanimously at about 2:25 p.m. Next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, November 11, 2020 at 1:30 p.m.