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The Annuitant

A publication of the UIUC Chapter
State Universities Annuitants Association

Spring 2017

Pam Cler, Editor

SUAA-UIUC 2017 Spring Meeting

UIUC Chancellor Robert Jones

Featured Speaker

Kathleen Holden

The 2017 spring meeting of the SUAA-UIUC Chapter will be held Sunday, April 30 at the I-Hotel and Conference Center in Champaign. The meeting will begin with social time at 1:30 p.m. with the formal meeting starting at 2:00 p.m.

UIUC Chancellor Robert Jones will be the featured speaker. He will offer observations and reflections on his experiences during his first year as the Chancellor of UIUC.

Robert J. Jones became the 10th chancellor of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign on September 26, 2016. Dr. Jones, who served as president of the University at Albany, State University of New York (SUNY) since 2013, is an experienced and accomplished scientist and research university leader. He is the first African-American scholar to serve as chancellor at Illinois. Dr. Jones' tenured faculty home at Illinois is in the Department of Crop Sciences, College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES).

In addition to the comments from Chancellor Jones, we will hear a brief update on the "State of the State," by Professor Robert Rich.

President's Report

Barbara Hartman

The latter part of February I spent a delightful week in Iceland. This was a trip sponsored by the state office of the State Universities Annuitants Association and arranged by Collette Vacations. Organizations which agree to sponsor such trips receive \$100 from Collette for each person who signs up. There were 16 of us on this tour. The highlights included a walking tour of Reykjavik, Thingvellir's rugged rift valley (a UNESCO World Heritage site that marks the point where the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates meet), the geothermal fields of Geysir that erupt every few minutes, stunning waterfalls, the northern lights, the Eyjafjallajokull volcano (aka as E15) which erupted in 2010 sending ash into Europe and disrupting flights, the black sand beach, and swimming in the warm waters of the Blue Lagoon. The next SUAA-sponsored adventure through Collette is scheduled for September 28-October 6 and will go to Panama. Details can be found at www.suaa.org. If that destination is on your bucket list, consider signing up through SUAA.

For the past few years, the UIUC campus has held a pre-retirement conference for employees. Each year our chapter has been asked to make a presentation about SUAA and to staff a table with information about us. This year is no different. On April 29, we will again participate in this important endeavor.

(Continued on page 2)



**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
SUAA-UIUC CHAPTER
2016-17**

** designates elected positions*

~ OFFICERS ~

President

Barbara Hartman *

Vice President

Terry Ruprecht * - *Membership/Past Pres*

Secretary

Jane Loeb* - *Communications*

Treasurer

Ron Webbink *

~ OTHER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ~

William Adams * - *Legislative*

Pam Cler * - *Newsletter*

Kathleen Holden * - *Programs*

Penny Nigh - *Membership*

Robert Rich* - *Legislative*

Susan Trippiedi * - *Programs*

H. F. (Bill) Williamson * - *Benefits*

Richard J. Winkel, Jr. * - *Legislative*

~ OTHER COMMITTEES ~

Mary Beastall - *Benefits*

Stephen Rugg - *Legislative*

Helen Satterthwaite - *Legislative*

Rick Schoell - *Legislative*

~ LIAISONS ~

Athalia Hunt - *Campus*

Helen Satterthwaite - *Clark-Lindsey*

~ STATE SUAA LEADERSHIP ~

Thomas Conry - *State Vice President*

H. F. (Bill) Williamson - *Foundation*

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(President's Message cont. from page 1)

We have begun planning for the Big 10 Retirees Association conference in 2019 which our chapter will host. It will be in early August of that year at the IHotel. In our Fall 2016 newsletter, I reported on the Big 10 conference which was hosted by University of Nebraska retirees. In August of this year, a few of us will head to Purdue. These meetings are valuable as each group shares information about their programs and services.

Please plan to attend our chapter's spring meeting (*see article on the front page*). In addition to the speaker (Chancellor Robert Jones), four members of the executive committee will be elected. The bios of the nominees appear on the next page.



Nominations & Upcoming Election to the Executive Committee

At the spring meeting, four members are elected to the twelve-member executive committee for three-year terms. The four nominees below were selected according to Article V of the Bylaws. Additional candidates may be nominated from the membership by petition signed by no fewer than five members and filed with President Barbara Hartman (blh45@comcast.net) or Secretary Jane Loeb (jloeb@illinois.edu) at least one week before the April 30, 2017 meeting. Nominees added by petition will also appear on the chapter website (www.suaa-ui.org) as time allows, and all nominees will be included on the ballot presented at the meeting. A hard copy of the biographies of nominees added by petition will be available at the meeting.

Meet Your Candidates

Lawrence DeBrock, Professor of Finance and Dean Emeritus, College of Business, earned his Ph.D. in Economics from Cornell in 1980. He served as the ninth Dean of the College of Business from 2009-2015. Prior to that, he served as Interim Dean, Acting Associate Dean of Faculty as well as Associate Dean for Graduate and Professional Programs in the College of Business. Professor DeBrock has long been associated with the Illinois MBA and has won many awards in teaching, including the Campus Award for Excellence in Graduate and Professional Teaching in 2001 and the Campus Award for Distinguished Undergraduate Teaching (the Luckman Award) in 1992. His research interests lie in the area of applied microeconomics and focus on topics in industrial organization, regulatory issues, health economics, and labor economics. He is currently in his 38th year on the faculty at the University of Illinois.



Carol Livingstone retired as Associate Provost for Management Information in July, 2013 after serving in that role for about 28 years. Prior to assuming that role, she served as a visiting assistant professor in the Department of Business Administration and Acting Director of the MBA Program. She holds a Ph.D. in Physiology, an M.B.A. from Columbia University, and a B.S. in Life Sciences from Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Since retirement, she enjoys music, singing weekly as a volunteer at the Champaign County Nursing home, and with the UI Oratorio Society, the McKinley Presbyterian choir, an all-woman bluegrass group (the Coneflowers), and the late Willie Summerville's community gospel choir. She frequently volunteers with the Garden Hills School Food Pantry and serves as president of the Ocean Grove Auditorium Choir in Ocean Grove, NJ, where she and husband, retired Prof. Daniel Grayson, summer.

Penny Nigh has been at the University of Illinois since 2005, where she is an Administrative Aide in the College of Applied Health Sciences Dean's Office, and also supports the Center on Health, Aging, and Disability. Penny is currently an elected member of the Staff Advisory Council, President of the Secretariat and was appointed to fill a vacancy on the SUAA Executive Committee.

Penny came to the University after she and her husband sold their business, Midwest Smokehouse, Inc., of which she was the President and CEO. Prior to that, she was the Activity Director for Ford County Nursing Home and served as the Regional Representative for the Illinois Activity Professionals Association (IAPA) as well as, the Program Chair for the Corn Belt Activity Directors Association (CBADA). She has also served on PTO committees, advisory committees, and as a Girl Scout Leader.



Robert F. Rich retired as Director of the University of Illinois Institute of Government and Public Affairs and Professor of Law, Political Science, Medical Humanities and Social Sciences, Community Health, and Health Policy and Administration. He is currently lecturing and working on a new book on public learning. Rich was the Director of the Institute of Government and Public Affairs from 1986-1997, and from 2005-2012. In 2004, he was a Visiting Scholar at the Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Social Law in Munich. In the 2002-03 academic year, Rich was the Mercator Professor at the Humboldt University in Berlin where he has also been appointed as a Permanent Fellow in the European Center for Comparative Government and Public Policy. In March of 2010, Rich was invited to give the "Edward M. Kennedy Memorial Lecture" at the Kennedy Museum in Berlin, Germany.

He is the author of eight books and over 50 articles in the areas of health law and policy, federalism, information policy, and science and technology policy.

UIUC Chapter Items of Note....

Fall 2016 Meeting Notes

Jane Loeb

The full membership of the UIUC chapter of SUAA held its annual fall meeting October 8 at the I Hotel, with Linda Brookhart, Executive Director of the statewide organization as the featured speaker.

Chapter President Barbara Hartman opened the meeting at 2:00 pm, welcomed members, and introduced John Kindt, UIUC Professor of Law and Economics, who had requested time at the meeting to make comments on the constitutional amendment concerning use of transportation tax funds that was on the upcoming ballot. He directed the group's attention to a News Gazette editorial on the topic.

President Hartman then introduced Linda Brookhart, SUAA Executive Director, who reported on current status of retiree health insurance negotiations and also provided a legislative update. She reported on problems faced by the state's public universities resulting from the longstanding budget impasse. She noted that higher education has been one of the important commodities from which Illinois has profited.

Concerning "pension reform", she reported that action involving pensions of those already retired are unlikely in the near future, although those currently employed are likely to face efforts to further reduce benefits.

Mary Beastall reported to the chapter as chair of the Benefits Committee. She reviewed the new method for signing up for TRAIL, and also provided details on an information meeting for Medicare recipients to be held in the near future.



Treasurer's Report

Year Ended December 31, 2016

Ronald F. Webbink

SUAA represents annuitants and employees of Illinois Public Universities and Colleges. The UIUC Chapter has no employees, only volunteers. The SUAA office in Springfield has employees whose principle duty is advocacy on behalf of SURS annuitants and participants, to protect our retirement and survivor benefits. Of your \$41 annual dues, \$33 was for SUAA and \$8 for our Chapter, SUAA-UIUC. For the year, the Chapter's share of dues was \$13,440.

Each dollar was used as follows:

<i>Newsletter (SPI6 & FA16)</i>	<i>\$0.22</i>
<i>Meetings (local, regional, and state)</i>	<i>\$0.39</i>
<i>Website (development/maintenance)</i>	<i>\$0.03</i>
<i>Gain (loss) in reserves</i>	<i><u>\$0.35</u></i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$1.00</i>

Benefits Report

Mary Beastall and H. F. Williamson

Since we are in a changing environment with regard to benefits issues, it is important that our members stay informed through the SUAA state website (www.suaa.org) and the websites of Central Management Services (CMS) and the State Universities Retirement System (SURS) discussed below. At the end of this report are boxes with full contact information for SUAA, SURS and CMS.

Benefits Choice Periods

The Central Management Services Benefits Choice period for Medicare-eligible annuitants and their Medicare-eligible dependents is in the fall. An annuitant who is Medicare-eligible will not qualify for this period if that annuitant has a dependent who is not eligible for Medicare on the annuitant's health insurance through the State. During the Benefits Choice period, an annuitant may choose to opt out of health insurance. When opting out, an annuitant may lose other benefits such as vision and prescription coverage. Be sure to read the CMS information carefully before making a decision. Thus far any annuitant and/or dependent must be Medicare-eligible before the beginning of the Benefit Choice period, the date being determined by CMS.

The Benefit Choice Period for annuitants and dependents who are not Medicare eligible is in the spring. Again, be sure to read the opting out information carefully.

CMS has hired an online vendor, Morneau Shepell, to assist with the administration of the State's insurance programs (*see earlier article on p. 9*). Members will view and make changes to their coverage through the MyBenefits Marketplace website. According to the SURS website, SURS will no longer assist with processing health insurance coverage for its members, but members have the option to call a State group insurance customer service representative (1-844-251-1777 or TTY 1-844-251-1778). Detailed information will be included in the Benefits Choice materials.

Repayment of Survivor Refund:

On page 9 in this newsletter is information from SURS about the repayment of survivor refunds taken at retirement. Those annuitants who are members of an additional retirement system such as TRS should have also received information from that system about repayment. The information was sent only to those annuitants who took a survivor refund.

Immunizations:

Free flu shots have been available in the fall at the McKinley Health Center for most members, often in October. Be sure to monitor the McKinley Health Center website for updated information (<http://www.mckinley.illinois.edu>). There are some immunizations that are covered by Medicare health insurance plans, an example being the pneumonia vaccine. However, the DPT vaccine (the diphtheria, tetanus, and acellular pertussis adult vaccine) is covered under the Medicare Part D prescription plan. Some health providers also charge a fee for administering this immunization, and this fee may not be covered. The cost of administering an immunization does vary by provider so it is a good idea to check costs when choosing to have an immunization that is not covered by your health insurance.

Claim Payment Delay:

The CMS website contains updated information on the payment of claims as follows:

“The State of Illinois’ Quality Care Health Plan, HealthLink OAP, Coventry OAP and Quality Care Dental Plan are self-insured plans with funding provided through Legislative appropriations, State revenue and a small amount of employee premiums. Funding availability is based on State revenue, which fluctuates from month to month. At this time funds remain insufficient to pay claims on a normal schedule, and we cannot estimate when a regular payment schedule will resume.”

Go to the CMS website noted at the end of this article to get further information and to learn of the current payment schedule.

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Did You Know?

The members of the Chapter Benefits Committee will continue to review and update the information on benefits available to retirees and other annuitants in issues of *The Annuitant* and on the chapter website: <http://www.suaa-ui.org>. Most will be of interest wherever these individuals are living. Some benefits will be principally for those living in the Champaign-Urbana area. These include the following:

Access through I-Cards. Retirees with I-Cards have access to many benefits on campus and in the community. If a retiree does not have an I-Card, that retiree can go to the Illini Union Bookstore ID Center on the first floor. Retiree status will be verified and an I-Card issued. In addition to benefits on campus, the I-Card serves as a free pass on any Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District (MTD) bus.

Employee Assistance Program. The services of the Faculty Staff Assistance Program are available free of charge for employees, retirees and family members or significant others living in their households. Services include assessments, short-term counseling, crisis services, and referrals to appropriate resources. The offices are located at 1101 West Springfield, Urbana. (Phone 217-244-5312, website <http://fsap.illinois.edu>).

Campus Recreation. Retirees who want to continue (or start!) using Campus Recreation facilities such as CRCE and the ARC can now have the membership fees deducted from their SURS annuities. The fee is \$40 per month and your spouse/partner can be added for just \$23 per month. You can join at any time and start the deduction at that point. More information is available at <http://www.campusrec.illinois.edu>, the Campus Recreation website.

Walking in UI Armory. Those who are interested in walking for fitness at the UI Armory may not be aware that seniors aged 55 and over may purchase a lifetime registration for \$25 rather than pay the daily \$3 fee. For further information, visit the Armory's website at http://fightingillini.com/sports/2015/3/24/uiarmory_info.aspx.

Stay Informed About Your Benefits

Within SUAA, you can visit the state web site at www.suaa.org and the Chapter website at www.suaa-ui.org. We recommend that you contact Central Management Systems concerning questions about health care benefits and the State Universities Retirement System about your annuity. The contact information for those offices and further information about what is available on those sites is shown in the following boxes.

Central Management Services (CMS)

Benefits Information for State Employees

CMS uses your personal information on file with SURS. **Remember to keep your personal information up to date with SURS.**

URL: <http://www.illinois.gov/cms/Employees/benefits/StateEmployee/Pages/default.aspx>

Phone: 800-442-1300

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State Universities Retirement System (SURS)

The SURS home page provides access to a number of topics of interest to our members such as the schedule of the “Post-Retirement Seminars” held in Champaign each fall and spring. The “Life Events” link at the top of the home page provides a link to the “Death of a Member” site which contains instructions on the steps that survivors should take when this event occurs. The steps presented there are similar to those discussed in the Survivor Assistance Workshops offered in the past.

Finally and perhaps most importantly, you can use the “Member Login” link at the top of the page to learn how to reach what is essentially your own home page. After entering your username and password (established on your first visit), you can view a wide range of information about your annuity including your entire payment history and your current payment information. You can also change such items as your address, beneficiaries, phone number or email address, and your Federal Income Tax withholding status. For those in the Champaign area without easy computer access, SURS has set up a kiosk computer station in the lobby for its members. The receptionist is available to assist annuitants using the kiosk.

URL: *http://surs.com/*

Phone: 800-ASK-SURS (800-275-7877) or 217-378-8800 **Fax:** 217.378-9800

Mailing Address: SURS, P.O. Box 2710, Champaign, IL 61825-2710

Street Address: 1901 Fox Drive, Champaign, Illinois 61820

State Universities Annuitants Association **(SUAA)**

SUAA advocates for preserving retirement and healthcare benefits for participants in the State Universities Retirement System. Their advocacy is on behalf of retirees, current employees, and their dependents and survivors.

URL: *www.suaa.org*

Phone: 217-523-4040

Address: 217 E Monroe Street, Ste 100
Springfield, IL 62701

Email: *suaa@suaa.org*

State News....

Legislative Update

Robert Rich

Little has changed since we last reported to you. Illinois now has the dubious record of the longest standing period without a budget for any state in the nation. There seems to be little hope of agreement on a comprehensive fully developed budget before the next election. The Senate – Democrats and Republicans together – have proposed what they call a “Grand Bargain”. This represents a package of bills which must be passed together – all the components – or it will not be enacted. The components included are: an income tax increase from 3.75 percent to 4.95 percent, a broad sales tax, an increase in the minimum wage, borrowing money to pay off overdue bills, expanding casinos, and pension reform. This represents the first time that a bi-partisan solution has been proposed.

At this point in time the package has been revised to eliminate the pension reform component and Governor Rauner has indicated he cannot accept the “bargain”. Speaker Madigan has not indicated where he stands. Our best guess is that a budget will not be agreed upon before the next election. It is also unclear whether any of the components from the “bargain” will be enacted. This situation is creating serious issues for Public Higher Education in our state and the longer it continues the more difficult it will become for the smaller institutions.

It is worth noting that the components in the budget continue to represent problems which must be addressed and that a balanced budget also must be enacted.

SUAA Foundation Emergency Assistance Fund

H. F. (Bill) Williamson

I represent the UIUC SUAA Chapter on the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee of the SUAA Foundation, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that is a separate arm of SUAA. Each chapter of SUAA appoints a member to the SUAA Foundation Board, and the Board elects the Foundation Executive Committee. The Foundation has three major purposes:

(1) To provide for education and dissemination of information regarding issues affecting the welfare of members of SUAA. In this regard, the Foundation provided almost the entire funding for the state-wide SUAA Education Campaign last spring. The purpose of that campaign was to educate SUAA members and the general public on the significant contributions that higher education makes to their local communities.

(2) To provide support to those Chapters establishing Survivor Assistance Programs. For this purpose, the

Foundation staff designed and disseminated a Survivor Assistance brochure to all Chapters.

(3) To provide emergency assistance to SUAA members who are in need of financial support.

To meet this purpose, the Foundation Board has approved an **Emergency Assistance Program** to provide support for SUAA members who are facing a sudden need for funds to cope with a crisis situation. Chapter leaders may request assistance of up to \$1500 on behalf of individuals who have been SUAA members for at least five years. If you or someone you know is such an individual, please contact the Chapter President or another member of the Chapter Executive Committee so that the application process can begin.

We hope that you will consider providing support to the Foundation so that we can continue these programs. Contributions can be made using the “Contribute to Foundation” button on the State SUAA home page (<http://suaa.org/index.php>) or by mailing a check payable to “SUAA Foundation” to: SUAA Foundation; 217 E. Monroe Street, Suite 100; Springfield, IL, 62701.

Repayment of Survivor Refunds to Restore Survivor Benefits

(12/19/16 email from SURS)

On July 29, 2016, Public Act 99-0682 was signed into law allowing certain Traditional Plan annuitants the opportunity to repay their survivor refunds taken at retirement to make survivor benefits available to their spouse/civil union partner. Eligible SURS retirees may restore their survivor's benefits by making a one-time, irrevocable election to repay their lump-sum survivor contribution refund or additional annuity, with interest.

To be eligible, a SURS annuitant must meet the following requirements:

- Retired before June 1, 2011, and received a refund or additional annuity equal to the amount of his or her survivor contributions at retirement; **and**
- Party to: (1) a civil union or out-of-state marriage that was effective or recognized in Illinois as a "civil union" on or after June 1, 2011; (2) an in-state marriage that was effective on or after February 26, 2014; or (3) both.

This does not apply to members who were married in Illinois or had out-of-state marriages recognized in Illinois as "marriages" prior to February 26, 2014. To make the election, annuitants must complete and return the Repayment of Refund election form to SURS, along with proof of their valid marriage or civil union, on or before Dec. 28, 2017, the end date of the one-year election period. The election form and more detailed information is available at www.surs.org on the home page.

After receiving the election form, SURS will provide the annuitant with a letter that includes the cost for repayment and the payment options. The cost will include the amount of their lump-sum survivor contribution refund, or the total of all survivor contributions that were elected to be paid as additional annuity payments, plus interest on each of those payments from the original date the payment(s) were issued up to the date of repayment

Interest will be compounded at the actuarially assumed rate of return, which is currently 7.25 percent. Payment must be completed prior to the death of the annuitant and received no later than 24 months from the date the election to repay is received by SURS.



Electronic Insurance Forms Now Available via Third-Party Vendor Website

Posted 09/30/2016 (SURS Website)

Effective September 30, 2016, the State Universities Retirement System's (SURS) assistance with the enrollment of all member, retiree and survivor health insurance coverage will change.

The Department of Central Management Services (CMS) has hired a third-party online vendor, Morneau Shepell, to assist with the administration of the State Employees Group Insurance Programs. SURS role going forward will be to communicate retiree and survivor insurance eligibility and to collect health insurance premiums from SURS pension payments. **SURS will no longer assist with processing health insurance coverage changes for our members.** Beginning Sept. 30, 2016, paper forms will no longer be accessible or accepted for changes through the State Universities Retirement System.

This change will impact all SURS members who are eligible for coverage through the College Insurance Program and State Employees Group Insurance Program. This also includes members enrolled in the Total Retiree Advantage Illinois (TRAIL) Medicare Advantage plans.

Beginning Sept. 30, members will view and make changes to their coverage through the MyBenefits Marketplace website at www.MyBenefits.illinois.gov. Members will access this website by using the ID assigned by the Department of Central Management Services. If a member does not have their ID and wishes to log in, they will be able to retrieve it through the

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website's self-authentication process. Members will also have the option to call a State of Illinois Group Insurance customer service representative for further assistance or to enroll over the phone, Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. CST, toll free at 1-844-251-1777 or TTY toll free at 1-844-251-1778.

Following is a reprint of the letter sent to members:

Dear Group Insurance Member,

We have exciting news to share with you. The State of Illinois has partnered with Morneau Shepell to offer a new web-based online enrollment platform entitled MyBenefits Marketplace. All plans administered by the State of Illinois, including the State Employees Group Insurance Program (SEGIP), the College Insurance Program (CIP), the Teachers' Retirement Insurance Program (TRIP) and the Local Government Health Plan (LGHP) will utilize this enrollment platform beginning in September 2016.

This site is designed specifically for you to streamline your benefit options into a one-stop shop for your insurance needs. This includes learning more about your current insurance benefits, making enrollment decisions, changing your current coverage and finding contact information for all your plan administrators.

The online system will be user-friendly and comprehensive with the goal of providing information 24/7 and allowing you to make changes in real-time. The site will not only allow you to make benefit elections during open enrollment, but will also allow you to add/or drop dependents midyear due to a qualifying change in status, or correct personal information. The website will be up and running September 2016, with all your benefit information as well as educational information and interactive tools.

This new website is www.MyBenefits.illinois.gov. This innovative system is accessible via your computer, smartphone or tablet. Of course, you also have the option to call a customer service representative for further assistance or enrollment over the phone, Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. CST toll free at 1-844-251-1777 or TTY toll free: 1-844-251-1778.

Members newly eligible for the TRAIL Medicare Advantage Program will be required to enroll online during the 2017 TRAIL Open Enrollment period, which runs October 14 – November 15, 2016. If you are currently enrolled in TRAIL and would like to make a change, you must do so online to change your elections.

To access this website that is customized explicitly for you, you will be required to register on the website using information pertinent to you for self-authentication. Once registered, you will be provided your CMS-issued Employee ID Number (EIN), which you will need whenever you login to this site. For your convenience, your CMS-issued Employee ID Number (EIN) is listed at the top of this letter. You will want to retain this document for your records as your EIN will be your login ID. However, if you lose your EIN, you will be able to retrieve it through the self-authentication process. Your EIN will also be located at the top of each of your Benefit Confirmation Statements.

Welcome to MyBenefits Marketplace!! We know you'll love it.

*MyBenefits Marketplace
www.MyBenefits.illinois.gov
toll free number 1-844-251-1777
or TTY toll free number: 1-844-251-1778
Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. CST*

You might be interested in....

Automatic SUAA Dues Deduction

Did you know you can pay your annual SUAA dues through Automatic Dues Deduction (for SURS annuitants) or through Automatic Payroll Deduction (for active UIUC employees)? To find out when and how to make that change, contact Sue Sitki, Membership Director at the Springfield office of SUAA. She can be reached by phone at 217-523-4040 or by email at sue@suaa.org.



OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute)

(Reprinted with permission from OLLI)

OLLI (the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Illinois) is a member-centered community of adult learners that is supported by the Bernard Osher Foundation, the Illinois Office of the Provost, and the generous donations of OLLI members and community partners. It is part of a network of 119 OLLI programs across the United States, and there are over 155,000 members nationwide.

OLLI at Illinois was launched in the fall of 2007 with 11 courses and 297 members. News of this exciting program dedicated to the pursuit of lifelong learning spread quickly, and we now have more than 1,300 members and offer more than 40 courses per semester. In addition to classes in the fall and spring semesters, OLLI offers a dynamic schedule of programs and activities that includes lectures, study groups, travel opportunities, and collaborations with the Illinois campus and the communities in and around Champaign-Urbana.

For more information, visit the OLLI website at olli.illinois.edu or contact them by phone at 217-244-9141 or email at OLLI@illinois.edu.

SUAA Mini-Briefings and News Updates

One of the benefits to your SUAA membership is that you may receive the Mini-Briefings and news updates by email. If you are not receiving them and would like to, send your name, chapter affiliation (UIUC) and email address to suaa@suaa.org. You may also go to SUAA's home page at www.suaa.org where you will find links to the Mini-Briefings, news and a wide variety of beneficial information dedicated to preserving and protecting our pension system, health-care benefits, and general well-being of its membership.



U of I Celebrates 150 Years

Did you know that 2017 marks the sesquicentennial anniversary of the University of Illinois? Much has happened in the University's 150 years of existence since 1867. The celebration of this sesquicentennial spans 15 months and will highlight the University's many past accomplishments and its vision for the future.

If you would like to learn more about this celebration, go to <http://150.illinois.edu/about.html>. There you will find a wealth of information including a historical timeline, a schedule of events, major projects and shared stories. Enjoy the celebration!!



**University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
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