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ISUAA—serving annuitants and survivors since 1971

President's message

Our thanks to TechZone for again sponsoring this newsletter. Information about products and services available to ISUAA members at a discount is provided below. Check out what the TechZone has to offer, and thank its staff for their support!

A number of events have transpired since our last newsletter. The Legislative Conference Committee that was established last summer to address pension issues failed to come to an agreement, and as expected, no pension legislation came to a vote during the fall veto session. However, unexpectedly, the four legislative leaders met and hashed out an agreement that the Legislature voted to approve December 3 and Gov. Pat Quinn signed December 6. Details of the legislation are provided in the "Legislative report" on Page 3.

In addition, retirees covered by Medicare Parts A and B were faced with the task of selecting new insurance coverage under the state's new Medicare Advantage plans. The choice period began November 12, and your decision needed to be postmarked by December 13, with a potential loss of state health insurance coverage if the required form was not returned by that date. There was no default insurance plan for those who did not return the forms. ISUAA sponsored four local workshops that were attended by around 600 people, and Rep. Dan Brady also sponsored two sessions at Heartland Community College where representatives from Central Management Services (CMS) described the major features of the new program. We hope all of our members were able to sign up by the deadline. There will be another choice period starting October 15, and we expect that there may be changes that occur during this year.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Spring Luncheon. We are again featuring the key lime tart that was such a hit last spring, and as always, the luncheon provides an important opportunity to renew acquaintances with old friends and catch up on what is happening in their lives. William Mabe, the executive director of the State Universities Retirement System (SURS), has agreed to be our guest and will provide us an update of how SURS is doing and how pending legislation might impact your pensions.

Larry Alferink, ISUAA President

Annuitants Association website

- Why join ISUAA
- History of ISUAA
- How to join
- Survivors assistance information
- Newsletters
- Parking on campus for retirees
- Meetings and events schedule
- Contacting your legislator
- Legislative platform

Annuitants.IllinoisState.edu

Jess Ray, Web page coordinator



ISUAA year in review 2012–2013

by Larry Alferink

ISUAA membership on June 30 was 1,376 compared with 1,411 a year ago. Much of this decrease is due to the deaths of an unusually large number of our members compared with recent history. There has been more than a 50 percent increase in the “In memoriam” section of our last two *Directories*.

ISUAA continued to have one of the lowest dues structures of any of the 56 chapters of SUAA and is one of the few that do not charge chapter dues for spouses or partners. While ISUAA continued to benefit from income from other sources, the chapter again finished the year with a financial deficit, absorbed by reserve funds. Therefore, the Executive Committee decided that the decrease in our chapter’s assets had reached a point where it was prudent to seek a dues increase, and the membership voted at the annual meeting to increase annual chapter dues by \$3, effective January 1, 2014. The chapter also sought additional support from the University, and then President Al Bowman agreed to provide a recurring contribution of \$1,000 on July one of each year.

The Illinois State University Foundation continued to provide generous support, especially for the membership database and the directory, and continued operation of the retiree hotline, (309) 438-4311. Four Illinois State-affiliated areas sponsored newsletters, helping offset a portion of this expense. The State Universities Annuitants Association Political Action Committee (SUAAAction) provided generous support for chapter leaders to attend political

fundraisers where they could continue to cultivate the chapter’s relationship with legislators. Jan Cook regularly attended Civil Service Council meetings to keep its members informed about events that may impact them and was recognized for these efforts with an Esprit de Corps Award at the Founders Day activities in February.

The Survivors Advocacy Team continued to be a source of chapter pride. Team members monitored obituaries to obtain names of annuitants who have died and contacted and assisted survivors as needed. A seminar on survivor planning took place in the fall.

At the Fall Luncheon Bowman shared his optimistic view of a difficult financial situation for the University. The Illinois State Madrigal Singers delighted members with their performance at the annual Holiday Luncheon. In the spring, Jeff Houch substituted for Bill Mabe, who was called away at the last minute to attend to SURS business. Houch presented an informative talk about the financial health of SURS and SURS legislation. The annual dinner meeting took place in June with board elections and presentation of distinguished service awards being the primary agenda items. Linda Brookhart joined Larry Alferink to discuss pending pension legislation and to alert the members to educate themselves about health insurance options in preparation for plans that the state would be proposing later in the year. Various local charities benefitted from canned goods and other items donated at the luncheons/dinner. In addition Box Tops for Education and Campbell’s Labels for Education were collected for Metcalf School.

The ISUAA board of directors and committee/task chairs met six times. ISUAA was represented at the annual state meeting of SUAA in Springfield, and the fall meeting was hosted by Illinois State at the Alumni Center. Alferink served as SUAA membership co-chair and in June was elected as one of six at large directors of SUAA.

ISUAA again published the popular *Chapter Directory*. There were four newsletters and the chapter website (Annuitants.IllinoisState.edu) to keep members informed. Communications continued to be enhanced by minibriefings emailed to members with a valid email address on file with SUAA.

While there were several contenders for the issue of the year, the winner was the defeat of the constitutional amendment (the Constitutional Amendment 49 campaign) that might have reduced the constitutional protection provided by the nonimpairment clause. SUAA was the only organization that was authorized to oppose this amendment outside of its membership under regulation of such activity by the Illinois State Board of Elections. ISUAA played a major role in producing a majority vote opposing this amendment in McLean County. A runner-up was the negotiations between CMS and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), establishing the rates that would be withheld from pension checks beginning on July 1, 2013. Based on Senate Bill 1313 that passed in the spring 2012 legislative session, this was the first time that annuitants were charged a premium for health insurance.

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Annuitants.IllinoisState.edu

Legislative report

In June the Legislature established a conference committee representing both chambers. The conference committee met during the summer with the goal of developing a legislative proposal on “pension reform” to be voted on during the fall veto session. By the time of the fall veto session, the committee still was unable to reach an agreement, and there was no vote on pension reform during the veto session.

However, pushed by House Speaker Michael Madigan, the four legislative leaders agreed to meet. Madigan told members to hold December 3 and 4 for a possible vote on pension reform and other issues. Over Thanksgiving weekend, the leaders reached an agreement and briefed members of the Legislature on the elements of their plan. The actual language of the legislation was finally available in a 325-page document amending Senate Bill 1 that was provided to members of the Legislature approximately 36 hours before the scheduled vote on the measure. On the morning of the vote, it was still unclear if the plan would pass as it was opposed not only by those representing state workers and retirees but also by conservatives opposed because the bill included language “guaranteeing” future state payments. Nevertheless, the Senate approved the bill with 30 yes votes, the bare minimum required for approval. It subsequently passed the House with 62 votes, two votes more than the 60 votes required in that chamber. The bill makes major changes for all participants in the tier 1 defined benefit plan.

For retirees, the picture is mixed. For those with lower pensions, they will be unaffected and will continue to receive a 3 percent compounded cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) every January 1. The COLA will be subject to a cap. The amount of pension above \$1,000 times the number of years of service will not be used in computing the cap, and no COLA will be computed on pension amounts greater than \$30,000, no matter how many years of service. The pension cap will be adjusted for inflation each year.

There is some confusion caused by a provision included for individuals covered by Social Security as they would use a multiplier of \$800, not \$1,000, which would seemingly reduce the COLA further. Some members have asked if this constitutes double jeopardy because their Social Security benefit is already reduced by 40 percent or more due to the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) offset in Social Security. You should understand that this \$800 multiplier does not apply to any member in SURS. A percentage of employers in the State Employees’ Retirement System (SERS) retirement system participate in Social Security. The \$800 multiplier applies only to these individuals.

For current employees, the news is much worse. While they benefit from a 1 percent reduction in their contributions to the pension system during the years of their employment, a reduction in funding from whatever source is never a good outcome for the pension system. This 1 percent reduction is an effort to try to persuade the Supreme Court that current employees have been given a consideration for the diminishment in their pensions that would otherwise undoubtedly be found unconstitutional. If you are a current employee, you may ask if that consideration is even close to being large enough to offset what you will experience. First, in

In memoriam

William Birky.....	10/20/2013
Wesley Calef.....	4/16/2013
Connie DuBois.....	9/16/2013
Florence Hays.....	9/12/2013
Ted Jackson.....	9/20/2013
James Johnson.....	10/21/2013
Robert Kief.....	10/19/2013
Faye Mansfield.....	9/1/2013
Calvin Miller.....	11/22/2013
Maurice O’Connell.....	9/24/2013
Elizabeth Pope.....	10/5/2013
L. Edward Wells.....	10/20/2013

addition to the limitations on their COLA faced by all retirees, they face the possibility of receiving no COLA during up to five years in retirement. Secondly, those with high salaries have the portion of their salary that can be applied toward computing their pension capped at approximately \$110,000 (a figure that will be adjusted for inflation). This could definitely make it more difficult to recruit and retain university presidents, vice presidents, deans, and medical, engineering, and computing faculty, among many others. In addition to hurting employees, this could significantly dampen the role of universities as drivers of the Illinois economy. Finally, younger employees will see their retirement age go up by as much as two years.

While the bill provides a “guarantee” of payments to the pension system, a provision long overdue, this guarantee is meaningless in the long run. The Legislature can repeal this provision.

SUAA legal fund

Several years ago, SUAA established a legal fund when legislative attacks on member pension benefits began to occur. However, SUAA never actively sought donations for the fund, because, if the money was never needed, it was unclear what SUAA would do with these funds. It is no longer unclear.

The Executive Committee has voted to obtain legal counsel to challenge provisions contained in Senate Bill 1, the recently passed pension legislation. We have selected a law firm to represent us. The funds donated will be used solely to pay legal fees associated with obtaining legal advice and filing the lawsuit and expenses associated with this effort, and, if necessary, the appeal. At this time, the Executive Committee has decided to pursue legal action solely on behalf of SUAA as there are differences between SURS and the other retirement systems, and there are also differences between SUAA and the other retiree groups. There are potential legal benefits of having different organizations filing lawsuits in different jurisdictions as it increases the likelihood that the Supreme Court will decide the case. We can revisit the decision later after we have established how best to represent your interests, but we don’t want to compromise those interests at the beginning of this process. It is expected that the initial lawsuit will cost approximately \$100,000.

Continued on Page 4

The Carbondale Chapter issued a challenge to other SUAA chapters to donate funds to help support the effort to defeat Constitutional Amendment 49. I expect we will soon receive a similar challenge to contribute funds for the support of this lawsuit. Nearly every chapter of SUAA did so. We contributed approximately \$1 on behalf of each of our members for the Constitutional Amendment 49 campaign. This lawsuit is even more important than defeating Constitutional Amendment 49, and I expect that the Executive Committee will consider this challenge when we meet in January. Please send whatever you can afford to contribute to the SUAA state office, indicating that the contribution is for the SUAA Legal Fund. This is an investment in your future. Note that your contributions are not tax deductible.

Pantagraph, WJBC Interviews

Larry Alferink was interviewed by Kurt Erickson for a front-page article December 3 in *The Pantagraph* on the pension reform legislation. Alferink also appeared on the Jim Fitzpatrick show on WJBC the afternoon of December 10.

Technology discounts available for retirees

TechZone, a department of Illinois State University, offers discounts and buying assistance to all members of the University community, including annuitants, on personal computers, tablets, software, peripherals, and supplies. TechZone can help you purchase everything from complete computer systems to printer ink. TechZone offers the flexibility of shopping online from home or working with its staff for personal assistance through the buying process.

TechZone keeps some of the most popular Apple computers, iPads, iPods, and cables in stock while other models can be customized and ordered online. Vendor partners also include Dell, HP, and Lenovo, as well as numerous other sources for peripherals. All vendors meet high standards for competitive pricing, quality products, customer service, warranty, and repair.

To shop online or for store hours, visit TechZone.IllinoisState.edu. An active University Login ID (ULID) and password are required. For more information, send an email to TechZone@IllinoisState.edu or call (309) 438-8334 if you don't have an active ULID/Password. Like TechZone's Facebook page or follow TechZone on Twitter to be apprised of the latest tech news and deals.

The TechZone Sales Center is located on the second floor of the Bone Student Center across from Barnes & Noble.

The TechZone Service Center also has a walk-up counter in the Bone Student Center for basic tech questions, ULID password resets, and on-site Apple, HP, Dell, and Lenovo hardware warranty repairs. Stop by if you need assistance.

Senior Professionals spring programs

Academy of Seniors

\$35 (four sessions)—Senior Professionals members

\$45 (four sessions)—nonmembers

For the artist series, attendees may also pay \$15 at the door for an individual session.

Our World of Local Art Through the Eyes of Local Artists

Tuesdays and Thursdays; March 18, 20, 25, and 27
9:30–11:30 a.m.

Globalization and the New World Economy

Tuesdays; April 1, 8, 15, and 22
1:30–3:30 p.m.

A Normal Time? The Birth of Modern America, 1945–1960

Thursdays; April 17 and 24, and May 1 and 8
1:30–3:30 p.m.

Communicating in a Diverse World

Wednesdays; May 14, 21, and 28, and June 4
9:30–11:30 a.m.

Mornings with the Professors

\$35 (five sessions)—Senior Professionals members

\$45 (five sessions)—nonmembers

Attendees may also pay \$15 at the door for an individual session.

Shakespeare the Populist

Friday, April 4
9:30–11:30 a.m.

Political Philosophy

Friday, April 11
9:30–11:30 a.m.

Beyond Formal Education: Where the Best Education is Found

Friday, April 18
9:30–11:30 a.m.

Pharmaceutical Chemistry and the Modern Drug Market: From Magic Tonics to Neurotransmitters and Protease Inhibitors

Friday, April 25
9:30–11:30 a.m.

Why Are There No Spelling Bees in Korea

Friday, May 2
9:30–11:30 a.m.

All classes will be held at Illinois State University's Alumni Center, 1101 North Main Street, Normal.

Classroom Journey Bus Trip

\$50—Senior Professionals members

\$60—nonmembers

Meandering Through McLean County

Thursday, May 15
8 a.m.–4 p.m.

For more information, visit SeniorProfessionals.IllinoisState.edu or call (309) 438-2818.

Retiree information hotline

Have a question? Need an answer? Don't know whom to contact? Call (309) 438-4311, the phone line answered by Human Resources just for retirees and surviving spouses. Staff will either direct you to the needed resource or take your name and number and have someone follow up with you.



How time flies...

by April Karlene Anderson, university archivist
Dr. Jo Ann Rayfield Archives at Illinois State University

150 years ago—December 1863

- There were staffing changes reported at the December Board of Education committee: “William L. Pillsbury was appointed Principal of the Model School, at the opening of the Fall Term, with a salary of \$1,000; Miss Marian Hammond was appointed Assistant in the Model School, at the beginning of the Fall Term, with a salary of \$500.”

100 years ago—December 1913

- Faculty members prepared and provided a Thanksgiving meal to students on campus who could not go home for the holiday. Dinner was held in the art rooms.
- A call for the end of gambling in Normal went out in *The Vidette*. In lieu of cash prizes, participants would receive candy or, in some cases, cigarettes. “Cigarettes are not handled by any of the dealers in Normal. This is well and good. But gambling, as great an evil as the cigarette, is allowed to stay among us.”

75 years ago—December 1938

- Seven Illinois State Normal University students were chosen for the *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges*.
- *The Vidette* reported that President Raymond Fairchild was named an American Airlines admiral for always traveling with the airline. When asked about this title, Fairchild commented on how nice the trips are and that he routinely met celebrities on his flights. Some of the names mentioned were Eugene Colotte, Kit Carson, and Daniel Boone—though it would appear these were the names of the pilots for Fairchild's flights.
- The Winter Dance was held December 16 with “Josie” in attendance. Josie had never been seen by anyone on campus but was already a legend. Josie, rumored to love blondes and N Club men, would be making her debut at the dance as well as a ticket prize.
- Blackfriars voted to perform *We Want Men*. The show would be “a satirical viewpoint of the situation on this campus.”

50 years ago—December 1963

- The Redbird Rooters began. Robert Bone was the first member of the club.
- Students and professors were still reeling from the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Many editorials exploring their thoughts and emotions were featured in *The Vidette*.
- The new pool in Horton Field House was opened. It was a T-shaped pool that was inaugurated by the University swim team on December 13. The swim team was defeated by Loyola but came back to beat Bradley.

25 years ago—December 1988

- Erin Burin, political science major, was nominated for the Harry Truman Scholarship, a national scholarship award.
- James Alt, a Redbird football wide receiver from 1977–1980, filmed his movie *Life, Time* on campus.
- The women's Basketball entered the Top 20 Coaches Poll at No. 20.
- James Worby, a senior and member of the Student Body board of directors (precursor to the Student Government Association), announced his candidacy for Normal mayor.

Helping hamper

by Jan Cook

Our collection at the Spring Luncheon will benefit the Salvation Army's Safe Harbor Shelter for the homeless on Washington Street in Bloomington. The shelter provides beds, shelter, breakfast, and supper for 35 men and 15 women. The shelter would appreciate coffee, tea, oatmeal, pasta, large cans of vegetables, and fruit. These folks can use commercial-size packages of supplies if you shop the warehouse stores and see a good sale. The residents also can use pocket-size lip balm and personal care items. The shelter tells us that the women like fragrant lotions.

We continue to collect Box Tops for Education and (Soup) Labels for Schools to give to the Metcalf School PTO. From the December Holiday Luncheon, we donated 120 Labels and 308 Box Tops. They receive 10 cents each for the Box Tops, and use the Labels to pay for items from the Campbell's school catalog.

The donations to the Clare House Soup Kitchen at our Holiday Luncheon included fruit, pasta, coffee, tea, mustard, candy, and even some scrubber sponges for the countertops. Thank you all so much!

University Club: Spring semester 2014 events

by Kay Wilson and Bob Preston

University Club (U-Club) is open to all faculty, staff, administrative professionals, and annuitants. We provide an informal and friendly environment where we gather on a weekly basis to socialize and meet old friends. During our Discussion Hours, short talks are presented where we learn about the University and the local

Continued on Page 6

ISUAA 2014 calendar

March 5

11:30 a. m.–1:30 p.m.
ISUAA Spring Luncheon
Old Main Room,
Bone Student Center*

March 12

2–3:30 p. m.
ISUAA board with
committee chairs
119 Alumni Center

May 14

2–3:30 p. m.
ISUAA board with
committee chairs
119 Alumni Center

June 4

5:30–7:30 p. m.
Annual meeting/dinner
Old Main Room,
Bone Student Center

To be announced

Annual Benefits Fair
Social Security Workshop
Spring Survivor Benefits
Workshop*

*Reservation required

Directory update: New information

Following is updated information for the *2013–2014 Annuitants Directory* that you received in November.

Nancy Braggni.....bragg1@gmail.com
William T. and Wanntte Brown..... (309) 452-2037
Dennis Cappitelli dwcappi@comcast.net
Kenneth E. Jameskengladys1947@yahoo.com
Josephine Klawitter1603 Braden Drive
Dixie Lewis (309) 287-0000
Frank Matsler fnmatsler@IllinoisState.edu
Janis Nehrtjmnehrt@frontier.com
Gwen Pruyne.....1200 E. College Ave. Apt. 317,
..... gwenpruyne@gmail.com
Destiny Robertson..... awrdsr@frontier.com
Doris Ryandories@comcast.net
Linda Sorrells lmsorrells@aol.com
Fred A. Taylor (309) 829-7352
..... ataylor1@comcast.net
William D. Walterswdwalte@aol.com

University Club, continued from Page 5

community and have an opportunity to get to know our very diverse and interesting colleagues from across the University.

Free membership: Complementary membership in the University Club this year has been extended to ALL Illinois State annuitants, faculty, staff, and administrative professionals. Please take advantage of this opportunity and drop in on any or all of our programs.

Discussion Hours: We meet every Friday, with the exception of academic holidays, from 3:30–5:30 p.m. in the Faculty/Staff Commons of Bone Student Center. Visit uClub.IllinoisState.edu for more information and a list of currently scheduled talks. These talks are also listed on the main Illinois State University Events Calendar. Continuing support for U-Club is provided by the Offices of the Provost and President.

Gourmet Dinners: U-Club offers two Gourmet Dinners each semester. These dinners are an opportunity to enjoy fine food with a central theme or food from a particular country. The main dishes are served family-style, and the dinner includes carafes of red and white wine on each table with coffee, tea, and dessert for a reasonable price. Attendees are encouraged to bring guests. Dates and menus are listed at the beginning of each semester at uClub.IllinoisState.edu/Dinners. An online reservation link and mail-in reservation forms may also be found on that Web page.

Dine Out Program: The U-Club has started a new Dine Out Program that is complementary to our current U-Club Gourmet Dinners. Once a month from October through April, a dinner or luncheon will be arranged for 15 to 30 U-Club members and friends to enjoy. The times, format, and locations will vary widely, and reservations are limited and required. Please go to the U-Club Gourmet Dinner website for details and a reservation form. For more information, contact Jane Liedtke at (309) 663-8796 or janeliedtke@yahoo.com.

Scholarships: On December 6, we awarded 10 \$500 scholarships to undergraduate and graduate students who were top academic achievers and who were involved in giving back to the University and community through service. The funding for these scholarships was provided by independent donations from our members.

ISUAA Directory update

Please use this form to correct information in the *2013–2014 Chapter Directory*. Please respond ASAP. If the information in the *Directory* was correct/complete, you do not have to complete this form.

Name _____
Phone _____
Spouse's name _____
Address _____
Email _____

Send to ISUAA, Campus Box 8000, Normal, IL 61790-8000.

Spring Luncheon reservation form

11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 5, 2014

Old Main Room, Bone Student Center • Speaker: William Mabe, executive director, SURS

Names of those attending: _____

Please reserve _____ meals at \$15 each. A check for \$ _____ payable to ISUAA is enclosed.

Appetizers

Pimiteoui salad with ranch and raspberry vinaigrette

California blend vegetables

Rolls and butter

Entrees

_____ Beef lasagna (names) _____

_____ Portabella and spinach risotto stack (names) _____

Desserts

_____ Fruit cup as dessert (names) _____

_____ Key lime tart as dessert (names) _____

Reservations MUST be received NO LATER than **February 19**.

Please mail the reservation form no later than February 17 to ensure delivery by February 19 to Illinois State University, ISUAA, Campus Box 8000, Normal, IL 61790-8000.



Visit IllinoisStateHomecoming.com

