



Volume 9 Number 2
Winter 2014–2015

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ISUAA—serving annuitants and survivors since 1971

President's message

First, thanks once again to TechZone for sponsoring this edition of the newsletter. Dave Greenfield and his staff at TechZone provide able technical assistance to the entire campus, including retirees, and have some great deals on computers and equipment as well. For those of us who are technologically challenged (and who isn't now?) they are a critical resource. Thanks again!

On November 20, Larry Alferink and I traveled to Springfield to attend the Sangamon County Circuit Court hearing on the case to hold SB1 unconstitutional. That day the court was to hear arguments from the attorneys to strike the state's affirmative defense and for summary judgment.

The State of Illinois had advanced an affirmative defense that, if SB1 fell within the prohibitions of the Pension Guarantee Clause of the Illinois Constitution, the state could still, under its "police power," find that our financial straits were so dire that it could make changes in pensions. SUAA, along with the other plaintiffs in the case, had filed a motion to strike that affirmative defense and, if it was stricken, for a summary judgment that SB1 was therefore unconstitutional.

Anticipating a packed courtroom, we arrived early and had time for lunch. While we were at lunch, we ran into the SUAA attorneys, John Carr and Aaron Maduff, who joined us briefly. We were able to discuss some of the more byzantine details of the case, so we knew what to watch for. Both are highly intelligent and extremely competent, and Larry and I came out of that lunch even more confident in our attorneys.

We were the first into the courtroom and literally got a front row seat. Within a few minutes, the room was packed with interested parties, representatives of other plaintiffs, labor unions, other lawyers and the news media. The lawyers for the five sets of plaintiffs and the government appeared and began the good-natured conviviality common among attorneys, even on opposite sides of the same case. At 1:30 p.m. sharp Judge John Belz entered the courtroom and the arguments began.

It is important to note that while there are five sets of plaintiffs, the interests of those sets do not always coincide. While the overall issues of constitutionality are essentially the same, each pension law has its own unique language and history. That is especially true with SURS recipients, many of whom had to make one or more specific choices regarding their pensions during their working lives, creating an even more clear exchange of consideration and agreement. Those nuances were clear throughout the arguments.

The state's argument went as follows: The Pension Clause was placed into the 1970 Constitution because, prior to 1970, there was absolutely no protection for "mandatory" pension benefits and they were considered by the courts to be a gratuity, or little more than a gift. Like any other gift, they can be withdrawn any time prior to actual possession. The pension clause therefore used contract language ("Membership in any pension or retirement system of the State... shall be an enforceable contractual relationship, the benefits of which shall not be diminished or impaired.") to ensure that there were legal rights to pensions. BUT, the state argued, since it is a "mere contract" and not an absolutely protected right, the state may, under emergency conditions, use its police power to unilaterally make changes in that contract for the greater public good.

Consider an electronic newsletter

Please give some thought to receiving your newsletter through email. You will save the organization postage and printing costs, and you will receive your newsletter several days earlier.

Recently we had some mail delivery issues. We use bulk mailing, which provides few guarantees on delivery dates. This presents real problems when we have deadlines, such as for luncheon reservations. We can control when you receive the email version; we cannot control the mail.

To receive the newsletter electronically, email Chuck at crmcgui@IllinoisState.edu and indicate you want to receive it by email. or, send the following to ISUAA, Campus Box 8000, Illinois State University, Normal, IL 61790-8000;

Name	Email
<input type="checkbox"/> Please delete my name from regular mail delivery	
<input type="checkbox"/> Please send my newsletter by both email and regular mail	

President's message, continued from Page 1

SUAA's position, and that of the other plaintiffs, was that there was absolutely no basis for that implied exception. A fair amount was made of *Lyle v. City of Chicago*, a 1935 case that held even the Great Depression was insufficient to reduce judicial salaries which were constitutionally protected. Similarly, in *Kanerva v. Weems*, the Illinois Supreme Court decision which held that insurance benefits were a constitutionally protected part of pension benefits, had solid language supporting SUAA's position.

The judge announced that he would have a decision by 2 p.m. the following day. At that time, Judge Belz issued a six-page opinion which concluded that, since there were absolutely no Illinois decisions supporting the state's position, he would grant the motions by SUAA and others, holding SB1 unconstitutional and making the injunction against enforcement permanent.

Within days, the Attorney General's Office (let's call them "the appellants") filed its notice of appeal to the Illinois Supreme Court, and shortly thereafter asked the Court for an expedited schedule. Appeals commonly take at least nine to 12 months. The expedited schedule asked to Court to conclude its work by May of 2015, in order that the Legislature would have the benefit of its ruling as it approached the FY16 budget process. SUAA and the other successful parties (let's call them "the appellees") have objected, saying effectively that there is too much at stake for a hasty proceeding. The Attorney General's motion was pending at the time of this granted and the case will proceed on an expedited schedule. The SUAA Brief is due on February 15, and the State's reply is due on February 27.

Illinois State Annuitants Association Newsletter

Published quarterly

Illinois State University Annuitants Association
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Normal, IL 61790-8000

Annuitants.IllinoisState.edu

What is next? The appeals process will take at least a few months. At that time, the results could take us in a variety of directions:

- First, we could lose. In that case, the Supreme Court will in all likelihood send this back to the trial court for further proceedings. Those proceeding will almost certainly include a lengthy and expensive hearing with evidence surrounding the issue of whether Illinois is in dire enough financial straits to justify its welching on its contracts. That case will involve a number of (paid) expert witnesses and a lot of legal arguments. Regardless of the outcome, there will almost certainly be another appeal to the Illinois Supreme Court.
- Second, and more likely, we could win. If so, the case is over, but then the Legislature will have the opportunity to do its work again. That will of course mean that SUAA and its lobbyists will have to work overtime to make sure that what they do does not negatively impact its members, including its currently working members. AND, SUAA is a friend of higher education, so any legislative solution that negatively affects our state institutions of higher education (such as, for example, pushing the costs of pensions down to the institutions) would have to be considered very carefully.
- Finally, we have a major public relations issue to deal with. The public perception of higher ed pensions is not positive, and we have to worry constantly about the possibility of popular efforts within the Legislature to amend the constitution and remove or limit our protection.

The end result is, we are in a war, and will be for a long time, and long wars are expensive. Please consider gifts to the SUAA Legal Fund, 217 E. Monroe St. Suite 100, Springfield, IL, 62701. When you do, please consider how much you have to lose in this fight.

Chuck McGuire, ISUAA President

Spring Academy of Seniors

\$35 (four sessions)—Senior Professionals members

\$45 (four sessions)—non-members

For the Our World of Local Art and World War I series, attendees have an option to pay \$15 at the door for an individual session.

Our World of Local Art

March 17, 19, 24, 26

Tuesdays/Thursdays

9:30–11:30 a.m.

Photography

Tuesday, March 17

Ken Kashian, Photographic Services director, Illinois Farm Bureau

Rhondal McKinney, professor emeritus, School of Art, ISU

Sculpture

Thursday, March 19

Herb Eaton, Eaton Studio & Gallery

Melanie Hunter, Pierce Hunter Studio

Painting

Tuesday, March 24

James Mai, professor, School of Art, ISU

Michael Wille, interim director, School of Art, ISU

Printmaking

Thursday, March 26

Morgan Price, assistant professor, School of Art, ISU

Sarah Smelser, associate professor, School of Art, ISU

World War I: Impact and Consequences

March 30, April 2, 6, 9

Mondays/Thursdays

1:30–3:30 p.m.

Breakdown: The Origins and Outbreak of World War I

Monday, March 30

Ross Kennedy, professor, Department of History, ISU

Britain and the Great War: Some Consequences of Total War

Thursday, April 2

Richard Soderlund, assistant professor of history, ISU

WWI Weapons and Their Effects

Monday, April 6

Daniel Stump, professor and academic advisor, History Department, ISU

The Great War in the Middle East

Thursday, April 9

Issam Nassar, associate professor, Department of History, ISU

Seen and Also Heard: Sound and Music in Cinema

April 28, 30, May 5, 7

Tuesdays/Thursdays

9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Shari Zeck, associate dean, College of Fine Arts, ISU

Eastern Europe: A Century of Unfinished Business

May 13, 20, 27, June 3

Wednesdays 9:30–11:30 a.m.

Kathleen Montgomery, associate professor, Department of Political Science, IWU

Annuitants Association website

- Announcements
- Why join?
- How to join
- Contacting your legislator
- Legislative news
- History of ISUAA
- Survivor assistance information
- Newsletters
- Organization
- Parking on campus
- Meetings and events schedule

Annuitants.IllinoisState.edu

Jess Ray, web page coordinator



Mornings with the Professors

\$35 (five sessions)—Senior Professionals members

\$45 (five sessions)—non-members

Fridays 9:30–11:30 a.m.

STATE and Be Heard: A snapshot of Communication Sciences and Disorders at ISU

April 3

Jennine Harvey, assistant professor, Department of Communication Sciences & Disorders, ISU

From the Mountains of the Philippines to the Shores of Lake Superior: An Archaeological Quest to Understand the Relationship between People and Things

April 10

James Skibo, Distinguished Professor and chair, Sociology & Anthropology, ISU

Contemporary Music for Ancient Instruments

April 17

Jeremy Brunk, assistant professor of Music, Millikin University

West Africa—Oil, Minerals, Terrorists and Disease

April 24

Olukayode Ajayi, instructional assistant professor, Politics & Government, ISU

Biodiversity and Conservation in Costa Rica

May 1

R. Given Harper, George and Ella Beach Lewis, endowed chair of Biology, IWU

Classes are held at Illinois State University's Alumni Center, 1101 N. Main St., Normal. For more information, go to SeniorProfessionals.IllinoisState.edu or call (309) 438-2160.

The University Club—spring semester 2015 events

Kay Wilson and Bob Preston

The University Club is open to all Illinois State University faculty, staff, administrative professionals, and annuitants. We provide an informal and friendly environment where we gather on a weekly basis to socialize with friends and make new ones. During our Discussion Hours short talks are presented where we learn about the University and the local community and have an opportunity to get to know our very diverse and interesting colleagues from across the University. You do not have to be a member to attend and we strongly encourage all who are interested in any of our programs to drop in.

Discussion Hours: We meet every Friday with the exception of academic holidays from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the Faculty/Staff Commons of Bone Student Center. The first meeting for the spring semester will be held on Friday, January 16. Additional information about all events and activities can be found on our website: Uclub.IllinoisState.edu. These talks are also listed on the main ISU Events Calendar. Continuing program support for the University Club is provided by the offices of the provost and president.

Gourmet Dinners: Throughout the academic year, 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 wine for each table with coffee, tea and dessert, all for a reasonable price. Attendees are encouraged to bring guests. The dinners are prepared by the ISU Catering Service chefs and are served in the Founders Suite in the Bone Student Center. The dates for the spring semester are Saturday, February 7, and Saturday, March 28. Reservations are due two weeks in advance of the dinner dates. Please check our website for menus (Uclub.IllinoisState.edu/dinners). Mail-in reservation forms can also be found on the website.

Dine Out Programs: The Dine Out program at local restaurants is complementary to our U-Club Gourmet Dinners. Each month a dinner or luncheon will be arranged for 15 to 30 U-Club members, guests and friends to enjoy. The times, format, and locations vary widely and reservations are limited and required. Please go to the U-Club Gourmet Dinner website at Uclub.IllinoisState.edu/dinners/ for general information. Contact Jane Liedtke at (309) 663-8796 or at janeliedtke@yahoo.com to be added to her email list to receive specific information and a reservation form for each Dine-Out luncheon or dinner.

There is another new dining opportunity with the Gourmet Meet-Up program where you just show up at a certain time and place without a reservation for fellowship and food. You can go to Uclub.IllinoisState.edu/dinners/dine_out/ to see a complete Gourmet Meet-ups schedule. Contact Jane Liedtke at (309) 663-8796 or

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.



janeliedtke@yahoo.com if you have any questions. Just show up! No reservation, no pre-pay.

Scholarships Awards: On December 5, 2014, we awarded 10 \$500 scholarships to ISU undergraduate and graduate students who were academically top achievers and who were also involved in giving back to the University and community through service. The funding for these scholarships was provided by donations from our members. This year was the 25th anniversary of the University Club Scholarship Awards Program. One of the most satisfying aspects of this program is that our donors get a chance to meet and learn about the superb students who are the recipients. We encourage all who are interested in supporting our academically talented and socially engaged students to consider supporting this program in the future.

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 their staff for personal assistance through the buying process.

TechZone keeps some of the most popular Apple computers, iPads, iPods, and accessories in stock while other models can be customized and ordered online. Major vendor partners include Dell 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, visit TechZone.IllinoisState.edu. An active University Login ID (ULID) and password are required. For more information, send an email to techzone@ilstu.edu or call (309) 438-8334 if you don't have an active ULID/password. On the webpage, you can like the TechZone Facebook page or follow it on Twitter for the latest tech news and deals.

Hours for the TechZone Sales Center, which is on the second floor of the Bone Student Center across from Barnes & Noble, can be found on the website. The Service Center also has a walk-up counter for basic tech questions and on-site Apple, HP, Dell and Lenovo hardware warranty repairs. Stop by if you need assistance.

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.

Our December collection for the Clare House Soup Kitchen included coffee, tea, canned soup and broth and fruit, black pepper, and Scotch-Brite scrubbers for countertops.

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 60 labels and 100

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. Labels are on Campbell's and Progresso soups, Betty Crocker products, and Hefty and Glad bag packages.

The donations to the Clare House Soup Kitchen at our Holiday Luncheon included fruit, pasta, coffee, tea, mustard, candy, and some scrubber sponges for the countertops.

Thank you all so much!

How time flies

by April Karlene Anderson

University archivist, Dr. Jo Ann Rayfield Archives at Illinois State University

150 years ago—1864

- The \$70,000 secured toward building the Normal University building (i.e., Old Main) was paid back in full. Judge A.J. Meriman, county judge of McLean County, appeared on December 14, before the Board of Education and "produced his vouchers, which show that the said subscription has been fully paid by said county and the vouchers approved." Proceedings of the Board of Education of the State of Illinois, Meeting Minutes, December 14, 1864, page 5.

100 years ago—December 1914

- The new term started in December and a writer for *The Vidette* warned the new student teachers at the training school to be sharp. The writer warned that students may take the first week with ease but they should always be aware that the faculty would be "sizing up" the new educators. *The Vidette*, December 16, 1914 (Vol. 27, No 13, page 1)

ISUAA calendar



ISUAA spring luncheon*

11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.
March 4
Old Main Room,
Bone Student Center

ISUAA Board with committee chairs

2–3:30 p.m.
March 11
119 Alumni Center

ISUAA Board with committee chairs

2–3:30 p.m.
May 13
119 Alumni Center

*Reservation required

Annual Meeting and Dinner

5:30–7:30 p.m.
June 10
Old Main Room,
Bone Student Center

Social Security Workshop

To be announced

Spring Survivor Benefits Workshop*

To be announced

Annual Benefits Fair

To be announced

75 years ago—December 1934

- Students held a "Depression Dance" on December 8. Sponsored by the University Club, the dance promised to be the "bright light of the social activity on campus." The dance sponsors also promised "a regular hard-time party" and attendees were invited to come dressed in appropriate costumes. *The Vidette*, December 6, 1934 (Vol. , No 47, page 1)

50 years ago—December 1964

- The United States space program was the topic of discussion on December 3 when Walter Burke, vice president and general manager for spacecraft and missiles, and Robert Hagen, vice president for advanced product planned, both with McDonnell Aircraft Corporation, spoke at Horton Field House. The men discussed their respective programs and also spoke on a topic entitled "Is God Relevant in the Space Age?" The discussion was sponsored by the ISU Social Science Club, which also created and dropped a full-scale model of a Mercury capsule on campus. *The Vidette*, December 3, 1964 (Vol. 77, No 26, page 1)
- Construction on the Schroeder Hall Annex and the Centennial Hall addition were wrapping up in December and it was expected they would open in time for the new semester. It was also announced that Cardinal Court would be razed. At the time, it was unclear what would happen with the property. *The Vidette*, December 10, 1964 (Vol. 77, No 27, page 1 & 4)

25 years ago—December 1984

- Two new degree programs were approved by the Illinois Board of Higher Education; a bachelor's degree in international finance and a master's degree in writing. The degree programs would start the following fall term. *The Daily Vidette*, December 6, 1984 (Vol. 97, No 77, page 1)

Larry Lyons to headline ISUAA Spring Luncheon

BREAKING NEWS: ISU Athletic Director Larry Lyons will be the guest speaker at the spring Luncheon, to be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 4, in the Old Main Room of the Bone Student Center.

He will discuss the ISU Athletic Program and our recent successes in football, volleyball, soccer and other sports, together with the remarkable success of our athletes in the classroom. A reservation form is included in this newsletter.

Join us to hear Larry and celebrate ISU Athletics!

ISUAA year in Review 2013-2014

Larry Alferink

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 ISU at the University Alumni Center. Larry Alferink served as one of six at-large directors of SUAA. ISUAA membership on June 30 was 1,375 compared to 1,376 a year ago.

The ISU Foundation continued to provide a generous amount of support, especially to the membership database and the directory. Human Resources continued operation of the retiree hotline (309-438-4311). Six ISU- 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. The Survivors Advocacy Team monitored obituaries to obtain names of annuitants who have died and contacted/assisted survivors as needed.

The fall 2013 luncheon provided an opportunity for the membership to listen to then-President Timothy Flanagan. The ISU Madrigal Singers delighted members with their performance at the annual holiday luncheon. In the spring, Jeff Houch presented an informative talk about SURS. The annual dinner meeting took place in June with board elections and presentation of distinguished service awards the primary agenda items. 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 Schools" were collected for Thomas Metcalf School.

ISUAA again published the popular chapter directory. There were four newsletters and the chapter website (Annuitants.IllinoisState.edu) to keep members informed.

While there were several contenders for the issue of the year, the winner was the implementation of a new health insurance plan for retirees covered by Medicare. As a new insurance program, there was considerable confusion about which options members should choose. ISUAA held four sessions and Alferink provided information to more than 600 of our members and others.

YES, MY GIFT MATTERS.

GIFT DESIGNATION

- ISU EXCELLENCE FUND—supports the University's area of greatest need (3065065)
 RED AND WHITE SCHOLARSHIP FUND—general scholarship fund (2323000)
 COLLEGE/DEPARTMENT/OTHER: _____

PAYMENT OPTIONS

___ **OPTION 1:** Check. A check for my gift of \$ _____ payable to Illinois State University Foundation is enclosed.

___ **OPTION 2:** Credit Card:

VISA MASTERCARD DISCOVER AMERICAN EXPRESS

A single gift in the amount of \$ _____

A recurring gift in the amount of \$ _____,
ending on ____/____/____ (month/day/year),
to be paid: monthly quarterly semiannually annually

Name on card Account number

Expiration date Signature

___ **OPTION 3:** Make a gift online at IllinoisState.edu/Giving.

DONOR INFORMATION

Name(s)

Address

City State ZIP

Preferred email address

() _____
Preferred phone number

FURTHER GIVING INFORMATION

___ I (and/or my spouse/partner) work for a matching gift company:

___ I would like more information on including Illinois State University in my estate plans

___ I have already included the University in my estate plans.

Office use only: AG00000000 2015ISUAA0 43



ISUAA Directory update

Please use this form to correct information in the 2015 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 4

Guest speaker, Larry Lyons, ISU Athletic Director

Name(s) of those attending _____

Please reserve _____ meal(s) at \$17 each. A check for \$_____ payable to ISUAA is enclosed.

Appetizers

House salad, ranch dressing, fat-free vinaigrette

Entrees

____ Beef lasagna _____ (names)

____ Vegan portobello and risotto stack _____ (names)

California blend vegetables, rolls and butter, iced tea, ice water, coffee, decaf coffee

Desserts

Key lime tart _____ (names)

Fresh fruit cup _____ (names)

Reservations MUST be received NO LATER than **February 20**. Please mail the reservation form no later than February 18 to ensure delivery by February 20 to Illinois State University, ISUAA, Campus Box 8000, Normal, IL 61790-8000

This document is available in alternative formats upon request by contacting the Annuitants Association at (309) 438-4311.

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