State Universities Annuitants Association
Board of Directors Meeting
Illinois State University Alumni Center
October 24, 2017
10:00 a.m.

The Fall Meeting of the State Universities Annuitants Association was held on October 24, 2017 at the Illinois State University Alumni Center in Normal, IL

The meeting was called to order by President Larry Alferink at 10 a.m.

A quorum was declared by the parliamentarian. The agenda was approved.

Representative Dan Brady addressed those in attendance. He then answered questions from the floor.

SUAA lobbyists John Carr and Ryan Keith provided an update on pending legislation. A trailer bill is expected to address some of the questions about the new Tier III. Carr and Keith also addressed SUAA's work on a proposal to use bonding as a way of smoothing the pension contribution ramp that the State now confronts. Keith noted that Rep. Brady did not mention current higher education employees and higher education retirees when he discussed political forces affecting the General Assembly. (The message to us is that we can turn up the volume.)

President Alferink presented a resolution to Linda Brookhart in recognition of her ten years of service to SUAA.

Treasurer Linda Branch made the Treasurer's report. She noted changes in SUAA policies and practices that have reduced operating expenses of the organization. She noted that soon the office's telephone system will have to be replaced. If membership increases sufficiently in the year ahead, a dues increase next year might be avoided.

The Treasurer presented a proposed budget for 2018 and the proposal was accepted unanimously.

Linda Guinn and Jo Gibson of the Membership Committee reported on current membership trends and membership recruitment techniques that work well. The SUAA Week membership drives at Heartland and Kankakee recently produced healthy increases in the membership of those chapters. Guinn and Gibson noted that the SUAA Foundation has an edited version of last summer's Foundation luncheon presentation on the Social Security offset provisions. The video can be used to demonstrate the work of SUAA and the SUAA Foundation. A showing on campus might attract persons who would be willing to join SUAA.

Brian Wojcicki of Cook Witter, Inc., previewed the 2018 elections.

A recommendation was made by Bob Kerr that the names of chapter presidents and related contact information be placed on the SUAA website to encourage regional communication and cooperation. After a short discussion, it was decided that this issue should be addressed in the Policies and Procedures Manual.

Foundation Chair Jan Cook reported on the work of the SUAA Foundation. She noted that the Foundation will act as SUAA's "service account" and not merely as a "savings account."

On behalf of the Legislative Committee, Co-chair Joe Grush moved to eliminate obsolete language in the Legislative Platform addressing the onetime need to return to income tax rates that were in effect prior to their expiration. The motion was approved.

Joe moved to add a Legislative Platform item relating to the need to improve Tier III benefits. The motion was approved. Joe moved to add to the Legislative Platform language supporting the use of bonding to support the pension systems. The motion was approved. A motion was made by the Legislative Committee to support taxation of retirement income in excess of $50,000 per year in return for legislative action to: a) treat all forms of retirement income the same; b) to increase the $50,000 retirement income exemption from income taxation each year at the current rate of inflation; and c) fully fund its legislative required pension system contributions. The motion was modified by passage of an amendment which proposed alternative language stating that SUAA "rejects taxation of retirement income" unless the three legislative actions cited above are taken. The amendment was seconded and passed on a standing vote. However, the amended motion failed.

President Alferink appointed Laura Saret (Oakton Community College Chapter) to the Membership Committee and William Peterman (University of Illinois at Chicago) to the Legislative Committee.

Amy Talkington explained the new SUAA app and how it could be used to advance SUAA chapters.

Linda Brookhart offered an Executive Director's report.

President Alferink adjourned the meeting at 3:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Gary Davis, Secretary