

isuaa news

"ISUAA – serving annuitants and survivors since 1971"

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Co-Editors, Jack Hobbs and Parker Lawlis

Illinois State Annuitants Association Newsletter
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Parker Lawlis

It has been a privilege to serve as the President of the Illinois State University Annuitants Association. So many have contributed to the success of the activities and programs.

What a "NEW MEMBER" year! 300 new members for 2003-2004. This is the largest increase by any chapter in history! Membership has gone over 1,200 for the first time.

Next year, SUAA will be billing all members to renew their membership in ISUAA and SUAA. The dues have remained the same. Members on the dues-deduct-pay will see no change except that all members will be receiving membership cards from SUAA.

There is a need for all of us to be concerned about the State of Illinois financial woes. Each week a new initiative is added to the list of concerns for OUR PENSION AND BENEFITS.

Each of us needs to become more active in the process by contacting the local representatives: Senators Bill Brady and Dan Rutherford and Representative Dan Brady and Keith Sommer. ISUAA chapter representatives have met with them in

April to discuss our concerns. SUAA is becoming much more active for our benefit. The executive director will be a full time position and the legislative consultant has been added to the staff. Computerization can alert our chapter to impending and pertinent legislative activity in Springfield.

President Al Bowman has been named President of ISU. We all enjoy working with Al Bowman.

Thanks to all of you for your support, encouragement and contributions. Parker

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LEGISLATIVE REPORT
Tom Wilson, Legislative Co-chair

The Illinois General Assembly returned to work on April 20, 2004, and is currently scheduled for adjournment on May 21.

Major issues for SURS members include reduced funding for the State retirement systems and the State group health plan contract. The Governor's budget reduces the certified funding for the State retirement systems by \$525 million. The amount certified is the figure that actuaries have determined is necessary to keep the State on track to achieve 90% funding. (This means assets must cover at least 90% of liabilities by 2045.)

There is no real news to report on AFSCME-State of Illinois negotiations. As you probably know, the contract for our current health plan expires on 6/30/04. Usually, once a new contract with AFSCME is settled, the same terms get applied to other State employees and retirees. The State has developed plans to extend the sign up period for health care benefits into June.

The main thing we need to do in the next few weeks is to contact legislators and ask for their support for full funding of the State retirement systems. We need to remind actives that they need to be involved, because the full funding for the retirement system is more critical to their secure retirement than it is to those who are already retired.

**Addresses, phone nos., and e-mails
of government**

Governor (Democrat)

Rod R. Blagojevich

Office of the Governor
207 State House
Springfield, IL 62706
Phone: 217.782.0244
governor@state.il.us

State Senator, District 44 (Republican)

Bill Brady
105-A State House
Springfield, IL 62706
Phone: 217.782.6216
Fax: 217.782.0116
billbrady@senatorbillbrady.com

2203 Eastland Drive - Suite 3
Bloomington, IL 61704
Phone: 309.664.4440
Fax: 309.664.8597

State Senator, District 53 (Republican)

Dan Rutherford
105-B State House
Springfield, IL 62706
Phone: 217.782.6597
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danrutherford@danrutherford.com

320 N. Plum Street
Pontiac, IL 61764
Phone: 815.842.3632
Fax: 815.842.2875

State Representative, District 88
(Republican)

Dan Brady
2416 East Washington - Suite G
Bloomington, IL 61704
Phone: 309.662.1100
Fax: 309.662.1150
dan@rep-danbrady.com

200-8N Stratton Bldg.
Springfield, IL 62706

Phone: 217.782.1118
Fax: 217.558.6271

State Representative, District 106
(Republican)

Keith Sommer
121 W. Jefferson
Morton, IL 61550
309/263-9242
Fax 309/263-8187
e-mail sommer@mtco.com

US Representative, District 15
(Republican)

Timothy V. Johnson
1229 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: 202.225.2371
Fax: 202.226.0791
rep.johnson@mail.house.gov

2004 Fox Drive
Champaign, IL 61820
Phone: 217.403.4690
Fax: 217.403.4691

1 Brickyard Drive
Suite 201
Bloomington, IL 61701
Phone: 309.663.7049
Fax: 309.663.9880

(Local addresses and telephone numbers for members of the Illinois General Assembly and US Congress can be found at <http://www.legis.state.il.us> and choose Legislator Lookup. You can choose to search by address and all you need to enter is your complete 9-digit zip code. The ISUAA Directory includes the 9-digit zip code for almost all members.

That same website allows you to type in the number of any bill as HB 3183. You can scroll down and read the status and fiscal notes about each bill)

ISUAA Strategic Plan

The Executive Committee reviewed the Strategic Plan for 2003-2004, and the five items were addressed during the year. The primary achievement was to increase membership in ISUAA. The second achievement was the contact with our State Representatives to explain the concern our members have regarding the pension and other benefits.

Spring Meeting, June 2, 2004

The Spring Meeting of the ISUAA will be held at the Ballroom of the Bone Student Center on June 2, 2004 at 5:30 p.m. You will find the reservation form on page 7 of this Newsletter. The menu will be BBQ Pork with Bun, Grilled Chicken Breast with Bun, cold Slaw, Baked Beans, cookies and brownies, drink \$10.00 per person.

ISUAA Executive Board

The ISUAA Executive Board will meet on May 14th, 2004 in the Spotlight Room BSC at 2:00 p.m.

Tee Birds Golf

Attention...*Annuitants, spouses and surviving spouses interested in playing in the golf league this summer.*

The closing of Royal Links has caused us to be a little more creative in arranging a golf schedule for Tee Birds.

After several phone calls, meetings, visits to courses and a cup of coffee the committee has planned an interesting golf season. Please plan to attend an organizational meeting on May 6, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. at the University Club (Faculty Commons) in Bone Student Center.

We will collect the usual \$45.00 participation fee at that time. League play will begin May 13 thru September 2. It is our intent to play 13 times at the ISU Course with additional play times arranged at area courses.

ISU golf course will sell annuitant, spouses, and survivors a 9 hole 10 play card for \$50.00 and cart rental will be \$6.00 per person. This figures to be \$5.00 for each 9 hole round or \$11.00 with cart. Tee times begin at 8:00 a.m. (Note **Spouses and survivors must be members of the ISU Annuitants Association) We suggest that you purchase your card in May so you will be ready for play on May 13th.

Questions call: Mary Liverman 452-4181 or Pete Whitmer 828-9550.

**Illinois State University
Golf Course Fee**

The retiree program did not change from last year-10 9-hole rounds for \$50, valid M-Th excluding holidays.

The change that some of your group may be interested in is the M-TH Pass (\$450) is now also valid on F-S-S-H after 2:00pm with a \$10 co-pay green fee.

Important dates for your calendar!!!

June 2, 2004—Wednesday, Annual ISUAA Dinner, Ballroom, BSC, (Doors open at 5:00 p.m.)

June 10 & 11, 2004, Annual Meeting of SUAA, Springfield, Il—Any member that would like to attend.

July 14, 2003 –Wednesday ISUAA Board Meeting, Spotlight Room, Bone Student Center, 2:00-5:00 p.m.—All Board Members

Annuitants and Survivors

Annuitants and survivors can obtain a Redbird Card on the second floor of the Bone Student Center. The card will assist you with ISU activities. Survivors need to contact Jan Beer, Human Resources, for a letter to present at the card office for identification.

Braden Rebates

If you haven't already done so, submit your Braden rebate request to Sue Lock (Phone No. 438-8843), Office of Human Resources, ISU, Campus Box 1300, Normal, IL 61790-1300.

For your additional reference, Ms. Locke's email address is sdlocke@ilstu.edu

Help Needed at Graduation by the Disability Concerns Office

Ann Caldwell, Director of Disability Concerns Office, is asking the ISUAA to assist at graduation time to assist persons with disabilities to get around at the time of the graduation exercises. (May and December)

Let us Hear from You

Please send us your suggestions, ideas about issues we should be addressing, and stories about you as well.

Two specific requests for information:

1. What benefit/services would you most like to see the campus provide retirees?

2. Your interest in serving on _____committee(s)
Send to: ISUAA Chapter, Nelson Smith Building, Box 1300, Normal Il. 61761

Retirement Income Planning Workshop

The Illinois State University Annuitant's Association is sponsoring a financial planning workshop for members to be held on Thursday, April 29. It includes planning our retirement income, preparing for long-term care, and enhancing our income while remaining philanthropic. Kevin Kingston, CLU and Chartered Financial Consultant will lead the workshop beginning at 10:00 A.M. in the Founder's Suite of the Bone Student Center. Other contributors will be Roger Laramee, Director of Planned Giving at Illinois State University, and Parker Lawlis, President of the Annuitant's Association. Refreshments will be served during the workshop, which is free to participants. Questions should be directed to Roger Laramee at 309-438-8184.

SUAA News Release

On Monday, March 15, the SUAA Board of Directors formally approved centralizing dues organization wide. This means that nearly 7,000 single dues payment members will receive a dues notice from SUAA on or about April 15th. The notice will clearly identify SUAA and the chapter you are a member of, and will include a return pre-addressed envelope. The new membership management system will allow the organization a uniform system for the dues billing process and eliminate

delays in depositing member dues payments and improved reporting. Dues payments will be transferred electronically eliminating the risk of losing money transfers and will also reduce mailing costs

All members including those on the dues deduction payment option will receive a SUAA membership card. Some SUAA chapters already offer a membership card but now the service will become universal. The membership card will contain important contact information that will help members know where to call for certain kinds of assistance.

Clearly, the membership management system is a major change for chapters and SUAA with members benefiting through more efficiency and lower costs. For questions about the new system you may call Paul Schertz, Treasurer, at (309) 963 4610 or the SUAA Central Office at 888/547-8473.

ISUAA/SUAA DUES DEDUCTION AUTHORIZATION AND DUES PAYMENT FORM
For New Members Only (Current Members Will Be Billed)

Section "A"

If you want your ISUAA/SUAA dues deducted from your monthly annuity check, please complete only Section "A".

Name _____ Spouse's
Name _____ Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____
e-mail _____

Social Security Number* (self) _____ *SURS must have the SS number for its record keeping.

I hereby authorize the **State Universities Retirement System (SURS)** to deduct each month the amount as certified by the State Universities Annuitants Association as the current rate of dues. This deduction is to start as soon as possible and will continue until I inform SURS otherwise. I also authorize SURS to provide change of address information to the ISUAA/SUAA.

Dues: Retiree: \$2.08/month _____ Retiree and Spouse: \$3.83/month _____ Surviving Spouse: \$2.08/month _____

New Application Only
Signed _____ Date _____

MAIL to State Universities Annuitants Association, 3085 Stevenson Drive, Suite 301, Springfield, IL 62703

Section "B"

If you do not want your ISUAA/SUAA dues deducted from your monthly annuity check or are a pre-retiree, please complete only Section "B".

Name _____ Spouse's name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____
Zip _____ Phone _____
e-mail _____

**MAIL to State Universities Annuitants Association, 3085 Stevenson Drive, Suite 301, Springfield, IL 62703
Make checks payable to SUAA**

Dues: Retiree: \$25.00 _____ Retiree and Spouse: \$46.00 _____ Surviving Spouse: \$25.00 _____ Pre-Retiree: \$25.00 _____

New Application Only

RESERVATION FORM FOR THE
ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

Wednesday, June 2, 2004, 5:30 p.m. (doors open at 5:00)
BALLROOM of the ISU Bone Student Center

Names of those attending _____

Reserve _____ meals at \$10.00 each. Total amount \$ _____

Make check for total amount payable to: ANNUITANTS ASSN., and mail check
and this reservation form by May 19, 2004 to BARBARA GLENN, 57 Ravenwood
Circle, Bloomington, IL 61704

WE REGRET TO REPORT THE DEATHS OF:

(most recent listed first)

Keith C. Davidson	April 10, 2004
Mildred A. Wilfong	April 7, 2004
Allen L. Smith	March 28, 2004
Lyle M. Young	March 23, 2004
Barbara E. Kuntz	March 8, 2004
Philip Butler	March 6, 2004
Eileane D. Fielding	March 4, 2004
Jerry Curl	March 2, 2004
Valerie J. Witten	February 7, 2004
Ivan L. Kidd	February 5, 2004
Margaret H. Cleary	February 4, 2004
Caroline D. Gordon	January 1, 2004

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