Illinois State Annuitants Association Newsletter

THE WALL AND ASSOCIATION

Volume 8 Number 4 Spring 2014

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ISUAA—serving annuitants and survivors since 1971

President's message

I am pleased to welcome the Senior Professionals as a new sponsor for this newsletter. The organization offers programs that have been regularly featured in this newsletter. However, read on to find out about all the things its members contribute to the campus. Perhaps you would like to join Senior Professionals.

This newsletter is also sponsored by the ISU Credit Union. Stop by its new location on Airport Road or visit the office at 1309 South Center Street in Normal to thank the credit union for its support.

The new year has seen the advent of lawsuits to challenge the so-called "pension reform" bill that passed the Illinois Legislature in December. There are five lawsuits that have been filed thus far and more may follow. Of particular significance is the lawsuit filed by the State Universities Annuitants Association's (SUAA) attorneys in Champaign County, representing nine plaintiffs and covering different aspects of the bill. It is extremely important that SUAA did not join any of the other lawsuits as the State Universities Retirement System (SURS) has pension provisions that are not present in any of the other pension systems. Joining another suit would mean the lawsuit would likely have to focus on the lowest common denominator in all the pension systems and the legal arguments specific to SURS would be difficult to make. See "Pension lawsuits update" story for more details.

By now, I hope all of you that are on Medicare and required to make a decision on the new state Medicare Advantage program have chosen a Medicare Advantage plan or have decided to opt out and obtain an alternative health care plan such as Medicare supplement insurance. There have been problems in the rollout of these plans, and these problems are probably greater for those of you that live out of state. Hopefully, if you face any problems, they are resolved in a timely manner. See the "Medicare Advantage plans" story for a few problems of which we are aware. Expect changes in the plans for the coming year.

I am now completing my second and final term as president, a total of four years. The ISUAA president is limited to two terms by the *ISUAA Bylaws*. This will be the final newsletter I will be responsible for, although I expect to assist the new president with the issue produced this summer. It has been a challenging four years to say the least with state-imposed changes to both health insurance and pensions. But it has also been a pleasure to do my best to help serve your interests. I will continue as a member of the SUAA Executive Committee, so rest assured, I will stay involved. Of course, I was helped by a number of dedicated people who made possible whatever I helped to accomplish. I thank them for all the help they have provided and the help they have given to this organization.

Larry Alferink

Annuitants Association website

The web site has a new look! Check it out!

- 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



Primer on Senior Professionals

by Laura Kowalczyk

Senior Professionals is a membership-based organization of retired and semiretired people from Central Illinois with backgrounds in business, education, social service, trades, health care, and volunteerism. The brainchild of Charles Bolen, retired professor of music and former dean of the College of Fine Arts, the group was formed 25 years ago as a means to provide partnerships among retirees, Illinois State University students and faculty, and the community.

Senior Professionals members serve as valuable resources for various academic functions of the University, sharing their experiences, skills, and knowledge to enhance student learning outside of the classroom. Senior Professionals select their level of involvement, assisting with activities such as mentoring, conducting mock interviews, reviewing resumes, working at career fairs, participating in panel discussions, selecting award winners, answering questions during Welcome Week, and serving as ushers at commencement.

Senior Professionals offers creative learning experiences, cultural enrichment, and social interaction. Special events and unique programs for members are offered throughout the year and provide opportunities to socialize with members.

There are 163 members of Senior Professionals. To be a member, no prior association with Illinois State is required.

In addition, Senior Professionals offers lifelong learning programs, including Mornings with the Professors lectures, Academy of Seniors classes, and Classroom Journey bus trips. These programs are open to the public.

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Annuitants.IllinoisState.edu

For more information, visit SeniorProfessionals.IllinoisState.edu or contact Laura Kowalczyk, coordinator of Senior Professionals, at (309) 438-2818 or lakowa2@IllinoisState.edu.

Pension lawsuits update

The pension bill has generated five lawsuits on behalf of different retiree groups affected by Senate Bill 1. The first suit was filed in Cook County on behalf of the Retired Teachers Association and by the school administrators. This was soon followed by two lawsuits filed in Sangamon County by the two organizations representing retired state employees covered by the State Employees' Retirement System (SERS). The fourth lawsuit was also filed in Sangamon County by We Are One, a group of labor unions that represent current employees covered by union contracts. One of the SERS lawsuits includes one or more plaintiffs covered by all other pension systems as well, including SURS, and the We are One lawsuit also includes current employees at state universities and community colleges. These four lawsuits have been consolidated by the Supreme Court and will be heard in Springfield. These four lawsuits seek to establish the named individuals in a class action suit.

On March 6, a lawsuit filed exclusively on behalf of SURS participants was filed in Champaign County. The selection of Champaign County is important because SURS is located in that county and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is the largest employer in the county. This lawsuit does not seek to have the named plaintiffs serve as representatives in a class action suit as such a suit would add costs without adding benefits.

It is very important that the SUAA lawsuit exclusively represents SURS participants as SURS has provisions in the pension code that do not apply to any of the other pension systems, and these provisions also provide additional legal arguments to use in helping to prevail in court. For example, no other pension system gives participants a choice between a traditional plan, a portable plan, and a self-managed plan. Instead, non-SURS employees have no choice and are covered by the traditional defined benefit plan. The choice made by SURS participants means they signed a contract with the state regarding their pension benefits. If those individuals had known the state was going to change the terms of the traditional and portable defined benefit plans, they might have chosen the self-managed plan that would have protected the participants from action taken by the state once they retired. This means that the SUAA lawsuit not only can claim a violation of the nonimpairment clause of the Illinois Constitution provided for in Article 13, Section 5 but also can claim a violation of the contract provisions of the Illinois Constitution as well.

SURS is also the only pension system that provides the possibility that annuitants might have pension benefits determined by the money purchase formula. The state also seeks to diminish the effective rate of return provided by the money purchase formula, essentially making this formula largely irrelevant in computing pension benefits. Currently, about two-thirds of annuitants retire under the provisions of the money purchase formula.

The suit alleges that SURS will violate three sections of the Illinois Constitution as required by the passage of Senate Bill 1: the nonimpairment clause (Article 13, Section 5), the contracts clause (Article 1, Section 16), and the takings clause (Article 1, Section 15).

Arizona court case relevant to Illinois lawsuits

An interesting development that has bearing on the Illinois lawsuits took place February 22 when the Arizona Supreme Court reached a decision on a pension case involving elected judges in that state. Unlike in Illinois where the judges were excluded from the pension bill, Arizona took the opposite tack and sought to implement pension changes first on the judges. Arizona is particularly important because Arizona is one of only two other states that have protections of pensions written into their constitutions as Illinois has with the nonimpairment clause contained in its constitution.

Two retired justices filed the Arizona case in that state based on Arizona's nonimpairment clause in its constitution and on contract law. The Arizona Supreme Court ignored the contract clause argument and, based solely on the nonimpairment clause, struck down changes to the Arizona pension law, indicating that the language in the nonimpairment clause is quite clear and the attempt to diminish their pensions was clearly unconstitutional. The Arizona case does not have legal precedent in Illinois, because Arizona is in the 9th Federal Appellate Court Circuit. It is nevertheless a case that has value since there are not contradictory rulings in the United States Federal Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit that includes Illinois.

Medicare Advantage plans

I hope all of you who are covered by Medicare who were required to change health insurance plans have made a decision to either choose one of the Medicare Advantage plans offered where you live or to select an alternate plan such as a Medicare supplement plan not provided by the state. Hopefully, your choice is working out well as there have been some problems with the rollout. These problems seem to be greater for individuals who live outside of Illinois as health care providers in those states are not familiar with the insurance plan offered by United Health Care specifically for state of Illinois retirees. In some cases, these providers may have had bad experiences with other United Health Care plans and may not be aware that the state plan is both different and better than the other United Health Care plans. In addition, United Health Care may not have adequately trained all of its account representatives to understand what the Illinois plan offers, so when health care providers call and do not specifically ask for an account representative knowledgeable about the Illinois plan, they may not be given the correct information.

In addition some of the problems seem to be the result of circumstances that Central Management Services (CMS) did not consider in implementing the plan. An example of this is that when

In memoriam

Sandra Bray	1/3/2014
Lois Brubaker	12/22/2013
Lois Corcoran	2/14/2014
Gordon Hartke	2/22/2014
Arlan Helgeson	2/21/2014
Barry Moore	1/30/2014
Wanda Nicolaides	12/25/2013
John Taylor	2/24/2014
Charles White	2/4/2014

an annuitant dies, their spouse is no longer covered by the Medicare Advantage plan but reverts to the health plan they had this past year. Unfortunately, there are at least 13 SUAA members who were caught in particularly difficult circumstances because their spouses died between the time that they made the choice of which Medicare Advantage plan they wanted and the time that plan went into effect. In some cases, these individuals were told that they would no longer have any health insurance. In at least one case, a member of the Illinois Legislature had to intervene on behalf of their constituent on the last day their existing insurance was in effect.

I hope problems such as these will work themselves out over time.

ISUAA Bylaws changes proposed

The *ISUAA Bylaws* have not been updated since 1996, and several items require change. We will have a proposed set of changes to the *Bylaws* available at Annuitants.IllinoisState.edu/Announcements and will vote on these proposed changes at the annual meeting in June. Please review these changes before the meeting, especially if you plan to attend.

The major change is that the current *Bylaws* limit chapter dues to \$6 per year. Last year, the membership voted at the annual meeting to increase dues to \$7, but when we discovered this provision of the *Bylaws*, the change in dues was limited to the \$6 as provided for in the *Bylaws*. The Executive Board does not think that this provision is appropriate in the *Bylaws*, especially given the challenges that have developed in recent years. Should the new *Bylaws* be approved, the dues increase approved at last year's annual meeting will take effect following this year's meeting.

Health insurance costs to rise

As a reminder, on July 1, those annuitants who are covered by Medicare will see their health care costs increase to 2 percent of their pension from 1 percent of their pension. Annuitants who are not covered by Medicare will see their health insurance costs increase to 4 percent of their pension from 2 percent of their pension.

2014 Benefit Choice Fairs

A Benefits Choice Fair is scheduled for 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Thursday, May 1, in the Circus Room at the Bone Student. Illinois State University has invited the state-sponsored vendors for health, dental, vision, and life insurance plans so that they are available to answer questions. The University has also invited representatives from the investment plans offered through the state.

For those of you participating in the Medicare Advantage plans, representatives for these plans are not part of the May benefits choice period. Instead, an opportunity to make a choice regarding these plans will take place in October–December during the Medicare choice period.

Retiring? Time to submit new membership form

For those employees who are retiring in the near future and who pay their ISUAA/SUAA dues through payroll deduction, it is important to remember that you will need to complete a new membership form arranging for your dues to be deducted by SURS rather than Illinois State University's payroll. If you submit your new membership form before you retire, your first dues payment will likely be deducted from your second pension check. The membership form is available at Annuitants. Illinois State.edu/Downloads/MembershipFormAnnuitants.PDF or by contacting Larry Alferink at (309) 454-3814 or alferink@Illinois State.edu. Thank you for your continued support!

Helping Hamper

by Jan Cook

The Helping Hamper for our June dinner will support the St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry in downtown Bloomington. The pantry can use any canned or packaged food, especially fruit, coffee, and tea. The pantry also appreciates our history of donating soap and deodorants to help folks stay presentable as they work or look for work during Illinois' steamy summer.

Our March collection for the Salvation Army's Safe Harbor Shelter included cash, coffee, tea, cereal, and fruit for the more than 50 residents; lip balm and cough drops for help with this year's bitter cold days; packages of bar soap for the shower rooms; and sanitary products for the female residents.

We also had 179 Box Tops for Education and 142 Campbell's Soup Labels for Metcalf School.

We continue to collect Box Tops for Education to support the PTO's service projects for Metcalf School. Each box top can be redeemed for 10 cents. The box tops are stamp-size rectangles on many products, including Betty Crocker, Scott tissues, and Progresso soups. Hang on to them! They help our children!

Annual meeting and dinner

The ISUAA annual meeting and dinner is scheduled for Wednesday, June 4, 2014, in the Old Main Room in the Bone Student Center. The program will include a brief update on ISUAA/SUAA business and the election of officers and board members. The terms of President Larry Alferink, Secretary Janet Bremner, and Directors William Ducett and Chris Schwelle are expiring. Nominating Committee Chair and Director Jan Cook will present the committee's slate of candidates. The chapter's Distinguished Service Award will be presented as well. The *ISUAA Bylaws* need to be updated, and there will be a vote on proposed changes.

This is the one event where ISUAA intentionally subsidizes the cost of the meal to encourage members to attend. The cost is only \$13. All members are encouraged to attend.

Senior Professionals spring programs

Communicating in a Diverse World

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

Alumni Center, 1101 North Main Street, Normal John R. Baldwin, professor and coordinator in the School of Communication, and Sandra Metts, professor emeritus in the School of Communication

\$35 for members of Senior Professionals and \$45 for nonmembers.

To register, visit SeniorProfessionals.IllinoisState.edu or call (309) 438-2160.

Teebirds open to all annuitants

Special welcome to new retirees! Teebirds are retired faculty/staff members (or spouses/significant others of retirees) who meet on Thursday mornings for nine holes of golf. The group's home course is Illinois State University's Weibring Golf Club, but we sprinkle in other area courses for variety. Weekly play alternates between individual scoring and scrambles.

Do you like to play 18? Usually a number of players opt to go the second nine!

The first date of play will be May 8 with coffee and treats at 8 a.m. at the Weibring Golf Club and the first tee time at 9 a.m. Play will continue weekly until October 9. No golf will be played July 3.

Illinois State annuitants and spouses get a special perk at the Weibring course: nine play dates for \$100, which is good only in 2014.

Annual membership dues of \$10 go toward weekly prizes and support of social activities—the group has monthly lunches or coffees

For more information, visit isuteebirds.net, or contact Gerry Chrisman at teebirds@yahoo.com, Dave Williams at davedbw@ fastmail.us, Pete Whitmer at petewhit8@aol.com, or Pat Grogg at pgrogg@IllinoisState.edu.

How time flies

by April Karlene Anderson

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

150 years ago—1863-1864

• The Board of Education gave President Richard Edwards permission to hire L. B. Kellogg as a teacher for the spring term, "at a salary not exceeding \$500 per annum for the remainder of the present academical year." It was also decided that Kellogg would "be allowed a salary of \$550." Kellogg also graduated from the University that term, earning "the highest honors of the institution" along with seven other classmates. A year later, Kellogg moved to Emporia, Kansas, and became the first principal (president) of the newly established Kansas State Normal School, now known as Emporia State University.

100 years ago—February 1914

- June Rose Colby presented a written "sketch" of Ella Flagg Young who was on the Board of Education for 25 years. The piece appeared in *The Business Woman's Magazine*.
- Student groups began discussing the creation of a student government. Among the groups to participate were the Young Men's Christian Association and the Ciceronians.
- "Yesterday, after an absence of several weeks, Stanislas Arseneau's fountain pen found its way back to its master, who says that never again will he sacrifice a loose article about his person in an effort to entertain a young lady by coasting down a hill without a sled, however worth such an experiment may be," *The Vidette* reported.
- The Metcalf building was dedicated and officially opened.
- "Warning—Miss Bridges will never marry a man who doesn't like cats," *The Vidette* reported.

75 years ago— February/March 1939

- The Vidette reported a snowstorm halted registration and stranded returning students: "By noon, the number had greatly increased, but there were so many students still stranded in stalled trains, small towns and the outlying country, that the administration decided to extend registration day to Tuesday so that snow bound students could be cared for." Even the registrar was stranded by the snow!
- Illinois State Normal University was the largest faculty in the National Education Association in the United States with 100 percent faculty membership.
- The flu hit campus hard. One hundred students and 14 faculty got sick, many of whom went to Brokaw Hospital for treatment. The hospital was overwhelmed, and students were asked not to visit their sick friends because of fears that the illness would spread further across campus.
- *Life* magazine photographed scenes on campus for its March 27 issue. Elizabeth Russell's fourth grade class at Metcalf School

caught the eye of the photographer, and the class became the main feature in the article.

50 years ago— February/March 1964

- R. Sargent Shriver was to speak to the campus the week of February 17–21 to kick off Peace Corps week. However, Shriver bowed out of the engagement saying, he "found it necessary to cancel his tour to the Midwest in order to fulfill his duties as director of President (Lyndon) Johnson's campaign committee to end poverty, to which he was recently appointed." Journalist and future Johnson White House Press Secretary William Moyers spoke in Shriver's place.
- The Vidette reported that Walt Disney had written President Robert G. Bone asking for a photograph of Jesse Fell. Though Disney did not indicate what the photograph was for, it was widely presumed it would be for his forthcoming exhibit on Abraham Lincoln that was to be featured in the Illinois Building at the New York World's Fair. The exhibit was to be the debut of Disney's animatronic technology and the basis for the Disney World attraction Hall of Presidents. Bone did send a photograph—a color print of a Jesse Fell painting.

25 years ago—February/March 1989

- Julian Bond spoke on campus February 6 in honor of Black History Month. He gave a speech titled "Today's Issues Facing Black America."
- In "Tips from the Tenant Union," an article written by the Student Tenant Union, the group suggested potential roommates sign a Roommate Tenant Agreement so that both parties know what would be expected of them.
- Illinois State University launched an installment payment plan for tuition payments.
- This marked the last semester for Fell Hall to be used as a residence hall.
- David McBurney, the first modern Reggie the Redbird, "retired"
 February 25 after his last home men's basketball game as the
 mascot. McBurney graduated later that term. The team beat
 Southwest Missouri State University (now Missouri State
 University) 77-58 in his final game.
- Bill Cosby performed March 4 to an almost sold-out Redbird Arena.

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.



ISUAA 2014 calendar

May 1, 2014 • 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Illinois State University Benefits Fair

Circus Room, Bone Student Center

May 14, 2014 • 2–3:30 p.m. ISUAA board with committee chairs
Spotlight Room,
Bone Student Center

June 4, 2014 • 5:30–7:30 p.m. ISUAA annual meeting and dinner*
Old Main Room,

July 9, 2014 • 2–3:30 p.m. ISUAA board with committee chairs
119 Alumni Center

*Reservation required

Bone Student Center

Directory update: New information

Nancy Bragg	njbragg1@gmail.com
John A. and Anne E. Dossey	jdossey@ilstu.edu
Robert L. and Betty Duncar	betty.duncan@frontier.com
Patricia Foltz	pafoltz@ilstu.edu
Joan E. Legge	wmjoanlegge@frontier.net
Anthony E. Liberta	Anthony.liberta@frontier.com
George and Sally McCoy	
	Apartment 206
Ted C. McNaney Jr	tmcnaney@frontier.com
James Moon	32 Stonewood Circle
	Fairfield Glade, Indiana 38558
Clarence L. Moore	clmoore1@frontier.com
	2664 Chandler Drive
Linnea Sennott	lsennott@tampabav.hr.com

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 II, 61790-8000

Alferink speaks at Civil Service Council, AP Council, and Academic Senate

ISUAA President Larry Alferink made a series of presentations about the SUAA lawsuit opposing implementation of Senate Bill 1, the pension bill. He made a presentation to the Civil Service Council January 21, to the Administrative Professional Council February 12, and to the Faculty Caucus of the Academic Senate March 5. In all cases, he described why it was important to have a lawsuit specific to SURS because of provisions in the SURS pension code that do not apply to any other pension system.

2014 Illinois Shakespeare Festival

This season's Illinois Shakespeare Festival lineup has a built-in perk for subscribers: While each production will stand on its own, there is a thread that runs through all three plays. *Elizabeth Rex*, by Timothy Findley, features Queen Elizabeth, who has just seen William Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing* and spends the evening in the company of Shakespeare and his players. She strikes up an unlikely friendship with the actor who played Beatrice; meanwhile, Shakespeare is writing a new play called *Antony and Cleopatra*, which Elizabeth soon discovers is actually about her.

The festival will also produce *Much Ado About Nothing*, which will be presented as the very production Queen Elizabeth saw, and *Antony and Cleopatra*, starring theater veteran Deborah Staples, who also plays Queen Elizabeth, in the role of Cleopatra. Tom Quinn returns in the role of Shakespeare.

Previews begin July 8, and the season closes August 9. The Improvised Shakespeare Company will return as special guests by popular demand, performing Saturdays at 6 p.m. This summer's Theater for Young Audiences production, *Shake Shake Shake Your Shakespeare*, by local playwright Nancy Steele Brokaw, will run Wednesday and Saturday mornings at 10 a.m., free of charge.

The festival introduced some new elements last summer, such as weekend matinees, a heat and rain stage in case of inclement weather, and running times under two hours (plus intermission).

Entering its 37th season, the Illinois Shakespeare Festival has become one of the most reputable Shakespeare festivals in the nation. For more information, visit TheFestival.org or by calling (866) IL-SHAKE.

ISUAA annual meeting and dinner reservation form

5:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 4, 2014

Old Main Room, Bone Student Center

Name(s) of those attending					
Please reservemeal(s) at \$13 each. A check for	r \$ payable to ISUAA is enclosed.				
ENTREES Oven fried chicken					
	(name)				
Vegetable lasagna					
	(name)				
Please indicate dietary restrictions:					
·	(name)				
Fruit cup as descert for those on dietary restrictions					

Reservations must be received by May 19.

Mail your reservation no later than **May 17** to Illinois State University, ISUAA, Campus Box 8000, Normal, IL 61761-8000. Please, no late or phone reservations.



For more information, visit **Homecoming.IllinoisState.com**



Annuitants Association

Campus Box 8000 Normal, IL 61790-8000

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

YES, MY GIFT MATTERS.

GIFT DESIGNATION

☐ ISU EXCELLENCE FUND-supports th	e University's area of greatest need (3065065)	Name(s)			
\square red and white scholarship fun	ND-general scholarship fund (2323000)				
☐ COLLEGE/DEPARTMENT/OTHER:		Address			
PAYMENT OPTIONS		City	State	ZIP	
OPTION 1: Check. A check for n	ny gift of \$ payable to				
Illinois State University Foundatio	n is enclosed.	Preferred email address			
OPTION 2: Credit Card:					
□ VISA □ MASTERCARD □ DIS	SCOVER	Preferred phone number	☐ mobile	home	
\square A single gift in the amount of \$					
	recurring gift in the amount of \$, nding on/(month/day/year),	FURTHER GIVING INFORMATION			
-	terly \square semiannually \square annually	I (and/or my spouse/partne	er) work for a matching gift o	work for a matching gift company:	
Name on card	Account number	I would like more information on including Illinois State University in my estate plans.			
Expiration date	Signature	I have already included the	University in my estate plan	s.	
OPTION 3: Make a gift online at	IllinoisState.edu/Giving.	Office use only: AG00000000	2014ISUAA0 43		

DONOR INFORMATION

Please mail this form to the Illinois State University Foundation, Campus Box 8000, Normal, IL 61790-8000.