

2004-2005 Issue No. 1, August 1, 2004

Co-Editors, Jack Hobbs and Jan Cook

Illinois State Annuitants Association Newsletter Published Quarterly Illinois State University, Normal IL 61790-1300

Inside:	
President's message	page 1
New officers	page 2
New retirees	page 3
Foundation breakfasts	page 3
Legislative report	page 4
Springfield watch	page 4
Changes in campus network	page 5
Redefining Normal	page 6
Internet survey	pages 8-9
Luncheon reservation	page 8
Dues Payment Status	page 9
Directory update	page 10
Why join Annuitants?	page 10
Dues deduction information	page 11
v 1	ages 12-13
Recent deaths	page 14

Jan Cook

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As we watch the process of developing a budget for the state of Illinois, we sometimes think that Illinois government moves very slowly. But this Spring other governmental decisions have moved very fast indeed!

1. On April 29 ISU employees and retirees read that the Health Insurance Company options for the fiscal year starting July 1 would not include 2 of the most popular local HMOs. When the Pantagraph asked Parker Lawlis how annuitants would respond to the change, he said that he was meeting the members of our Legislative Committee in the Faculty/Staff Commons the next morning at 10 to discuss that issue.

A lot of annuitants must read the Pantagraph over breakfast or before. About 55 of us were at that 10 a.m. discussion. Later that day, many of us phoned, wrote and e-mailed our representatives about the problems such a sudden change would generate.

The legislature decided to hold hearings about the decision and the process by which it was reached. Parker Lawlis and Tom Wilson attended. Major concerns were the lack of concrete information about what the approved plans would cover, and the lack of time in which to make a choice about the next year's health care. After the legislative hearing, Central Management Services (CMS) decided to postpone a decision on the proposed changes, giving them more time to study the issues. This proposal may return.

2. On July 1, all of the HMOs that provide health coverage to state employees raised the co-payments for prescriptions, typically from \$5 to \$7 for generic drugs and comparable figures for non-generics. This is only a \$2 or \$4 change per prescription filled, but it amounts to a 40% increase in cost over the year. There was no advance notice given. In the week after July 4th, the Champaign paper had an article on the change, and on the lack of notification to employees and retirees. Other Illinois papers didn't catch it. CMS sent out a memo well after the effective date of the fee increase.

We are told that these and other changes in benefits are occasioned by the new AFSCME contract. As of July 1, that contract had not been made public, but its provisions were affecting us, and we couldn't plan for them without information.

In tight budget times, every state expenditure is open for examination. There can be pressure to make quick decisions. But spending decisions affect vast numbers of people. They should be discussed openly so that legislators and bureaucrats can learn the pros and cons of specific plans before they take action. We need to be part of the discussions. To do that, we need timely facts about what is being discussed.

The article "Keeping in Touch With Springfield" on page 4 describes a way to subscribe to SUAATalk, an annuitants' benefits newsletter which is distributed by e-mail. John Terwilliger of SUAA gets useful news posted promptly.

For matters that affect ISU only, ISUAA will strive to send notices by email to members who give us their email addresses. Surface mail often can't get delivered fast enough to keep up with the pace of the changes under consideration.

<u>Meanwhile we have great plans for</u> <u>the Fall Luncheon</u> (see reservation form on page 8). The menu consists of Swiss steak, parsley buttered potatoes, green beans, and a choice of either fresh fruit cup or carrot cake for desert.

OUR OFFICERS FOR 2004-2005

President: Janet Cook *Vice-President*: Sharon Quiram *Secretary*: Carolyn Bartlett *Treasurer*: Paul Schertz

Board Members: Don Kachur Christ Schwelle Andy Nappi Jude Boyer

OUR COMMITTEE CHAIRS FOR 2004 - 2005

Insurance Yvonne Houghman Golf Committee Pete Whitmer Nominating Committee Peter Whitmer Social Committee Shirley Bottomely, Kay Curtis Legislative Committee Tom Wilson. Co-chair David Wiant, Co-chair Membership Committee **Christ Schwelle** State Association Directors Jan Cook **David Strand** Paul Schertz Parker Lawlis Chuck Taylor

ISUAA TASKFORCE TEAMS FOR 2003-2004

Archivist: Jo A. Rayfield Historian: Elaine Dunbar Auditor: Chuck Taylor Web Page Designer: Richard Erzen Chapter Directory: Dona Meador Shirley Bottomley Survivor's Advocacy Team: Mary Liverman

WELCOME TO THE NEW RETIREES!

New Retirees. Do you
current members know
any of these?
Diana K. McMann
Timothy J. Duffy
Dennis W.Cappitelli
Vickie L. Wilson
Richard E. McMann
Aubrey A. MacCannell
Anthony L. Ostrosky
Walker D. Wyman
Neva R. Gipson
Mary A. Krumholz
Charles S. Ross
Terry W. Oberhardt
Nancy R. Kline
Sandra S. Hursey
Connie J. Ley
Patricia Arnold
Beverly A. McAllister
William C. Rau
Harry L. Campbell
Sandra D. Harmon
Beverly E. Stevens
Martha A. Benjamin
Patricia M. Eckhardt
Lawrence E. Spence
Judith D. Redemer
Susan Lenski
Marsha E. Polacek
Richard A. Fulton
Nathaniel L. Sims
Susan Lenski
Rosemary G. Stockle
Richard M. Grinnell
Janet Brank
John Wm. Berger
Michael R. Virlee
Roberta B. Wojcik
Malba Langhoff Nehrt

FOUNDATION SPONSORED BUFFET BREAKFASTS

In September 2004 and April 2005 (specific dates tba), the ISU Foundation will sponsor annual breakfast buffets for all ISU annuitants. They will mail invitations to all ISU retirees on the SURS list, and accept responses by phone or mail. At our request, they are expanding the menu to include not only muffins/bagels, juice and hot beverages, but also bowls of fresh fruit for the benefit of folks on diabetic or low-carb diets.

We are grateful for their consideration in this regard, especially since the fruit is expensive. If you find that you will <u>not be able to attend</u> a buffet for which you sent in a reservation, please make a point of calling in a cancellation so that they can notify catering to lower the number of servings prepared. (As with weddings, the bill is figured by the number of individual reservations, not by group rates.)

ISUAA CALENDAR 2004

Wednesday, Aug.11: Board Meeting, Spotlight Room 2 – 5 pm

Wednesday September 8: Fall Luncheon Meeting, Ballroom 11:30 –2 pm *September tba:* Foundation Breakfast, Bone Student Center *Friday October 15:* Deadline for copy for November newsletter

Wednesday, November 10: Board Meeting, Spotlight Room 2 – 5 pm

Wednesday, December 8: Holiday Luncheon Meeting, Ball room 11:30 -3

ISUAA LEGISLATIVE REPORT Tom Wilson, Legislative Co-Chair

The Illinois General Assembly was scheduled to adjourn on May 21. However, at the time of this writing (July 15), they are still in session (though not much is getting done).

A major issue for retirees and actives this year was reduced funding for the State retirement systems. The Governor's budget reduced the certified funding for the 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 (assets are at least 90% of liabilities). Many of you contacted the Governor and legislators to support full funding for the retirement systems, especially SURS. The State has now agreed to full funding for fiscal year 2005, although it will probably have to borrow money to achieve this.

The Central Management Services (CMS) contracts for health care services were badly handled and created a huge mess. Many of you contacted State officials, especially about the elimination of some health care providers, and CMS did alter its original decisions. We need to pressure CMS to make the process more open and provide more time for participants to study the alternatives and make informed decisions about their health care. SUAA took a step in this direction at its annual meeting in June. The delegates voted unanimously to contact the Governor and the four legislative leaders to pressure CMS to adopt a more transparent decision-making process.

You also helped to defeat the Governor's proposal to merge all the State retirement systems into one large unit. SUAA supported the autonomy of SURS to make investments in the best interests of its members. It appears that we have won that battle for now, but the issue may well arise in the near future.

Co-Chair Dave Wiant and I have placed a summary copy of the agreement between AFSCME and the State in the Commons Area of the Bone Student Center (NE corner of the first floor). The portion of greatest interest to us is pages 6-8 where the health care changes are discussed. Feel free to go in and read this if you are interested. As you probably know, retirees can park free in the Bone Center lot when there is no special event. When you leave, just show your retiree parking permit (also free—retirement has its advantages!)

KEEPING UP WITH SPRINGFIELD Jan Cook

A number of changes to retirement benefits have been proposed in Springfield this past year.

Tom Wilson, Dave Wiant and Parker Lawlis have been alert and outspoken on our behalf, but we all know that more voices have more influence on politicians.

The State Universities Annuitants Association, SUAA, has set up an e-mail listserve on which they post immediate news from Springfield and related articles and editorials from papers around the state. If you want to get copies of this information as it is sent out, you can add yourself to their automatic mailing list by sending the following message, with no subject line:

TO: Majordomo@eiu.edu <no subject line> MESSAGE: subscribe suaatalk end

Some days there is no news (and that's good news). But it seems that many issues are showing up without advance notice. It's a good idea to stay informed.

Dr. Mark Walbert, Associate VP for Information Technology, sent this statement to the Annuitants Association Annual Meeting on June 2. We have forwarded it to all of the annuitants for whom we have e-mail addresses, since you are the members most likely to be affected by the proposed changes. He has asked us to circulate a 3-question survey about how people use the ISU system. See survey and results on page

CHANGES IN THE CAMPUS NETWORK VIA DIAL-UP MODEM

Mark Walbert

Illinois State University has been suffering through several years of budget cuts in its General Revenue fund. The six units that report to me have collectively shouldered this burden, too, losing about 31% of our overall budget over the last three fiscal years. Because of this decline in funding, we are faced with the need to reevaluate spending on a number of existing services. One of those services is access to the campus network via dial-up modem. The manufacturer of the dial-up modems we use has announced an end of life date of June 30, 2004 on the modem hardware currently in use at the University. It will cost approximately \$100,000 to replace all of this hardware. If we eliminate all dial-up modem service, Illinois State University will save in excess of \$110,000 annually in telecommunications costs for telephone line rentals and system maintenance and will not have to spend an additional \$100,000 in FY05 to replace the hardware.

There are two reasons why the University is investigating the economic feasibility of continuing to be in the dialup modem service business. First, the use of the University modem service is rapidly declining. Between September of 2001 and September of 2003, the number of persons using the modem service dropped by 61%. This trend has continued since September. The principal cause of this decline in demand stems from the general move away from dial-up access to the Internet toward high speed connection options, such as DSL or cable modem service. With the completion of the final RESNET wiring project in June of 2004, all on campus faculty, staff and students will have direct access to high speed Internet service. Off campus users too continue to seek alternative, higher speed, residential access methods from private Internet service providers. Many off campus apartment owners are now providing free high speed Internet service with their apartments. While the demand for dial-up modems is declining the cost to the University of offering this service continues to increase.

The second reason is security. As you are no doubt aware, the University has had to devote an increasing amount of resources toward the detection, prevention, and eradication of viruses and worms that spread over the Internet or through email. While we can, and are, doing everything to on-campus computers protected, we do not have the resources to guarantee that home computers are similarly protected. Allowing home computers access to the campus network through our dial-up modem pool increases the University community's vulnerability to virus and worm attacks. On an annualized basis, the University is spending over \$500,000 on hardware and software as well as labor hours devoted to fighting these viruses and worms.

The University's response to these events is as follows.

1. Starting July 1, 2004 all on-campus access to the University data networks through dial-up modems will end and the number of modems accessible from off campus will be reduced by 53% to 196 modem lines.

2. A tentative date of January 1, 2005 has been proposed by Telecommunications and Networking for the total elimination of all remaining dial-up modem service. Over the next several months a final decision on the total elimination of all remaining modem service will be made. This decision will involve further discussions with campus end-users and a final administrative review before any action is taken. Unfortunately, a major hardware problem during that time could result in the permanent shutdown of all university modem service without prior warning. Please check the Telecommunications and Networking Web site (http://www.tnss.ilstu.edu). As new information is received, it will be posted there.

Many faculty, staff, and annuitants with whom I have spoken about this, have expressed concern that, were it not for Illinois State's modem pool, they would have no access to the Internet. In fact, a number of companies provide dial-up access to the Internet for as low as \$9.95 per month [e.g., Netscape (www.netscape.com) and NetZero (www.netzero.net)].

I promise to take your concerns forward as we begin the review process to see what funding options and alternative service options are available to us for dial-up modem service. I assure you that we will look at every option available to the campus community for providing dial-up access to the Internet before we make a decision. We will not leave you without any opportunity to connect to the Internet. Thanks for listening! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

THE MEANING OF YOUR GIFTS TO REDEFINING "NORMAL"

Pat Grogg

It's a truism of communication: Words don't mean, people do. To speak of The Campaign is just rhetoric. To speak of the work of hundreds of faculty and staff is to affirm that people make a difference.

The purpose of education is to make a difference in individual lives and in society as a whole. Without dedicated faculty and staff helping students to see inside and outside of themselves, education wouldn't happen.

When retirees make a gift to the Family Campaign (our piece of Redefining "normal"), they continue the legacy of their life's work beyond the impact they made while on the job.

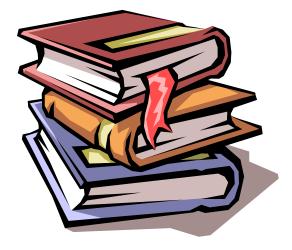
New donors are coming up quite regularly now among the annuitants. Some of us waited to be sure there was just the right project. That was the case with Past President of the University Annuitants Association, Edna Johnston. "Reading about some of the wonderful gifts to the Redefining "normal" campaign—support for new or existing programs, scholarships, even funding academic chairs-made it hard to decide where to direct my gift, until I found a way to accomplish two goals at once. I would contribute to an existing scholarship and, at the same time, pay honor to a colleague."

Edna goes on to say "Claiming Phebe M. Scott as a friend, colleague, and mentor is an honor. Contributing to the Phebe M. Scott Endowment Fund for Professional development for Women in the School of Kinesiology and Recreation and the Health Education Program is a pleasure."

Not all funds or projects are as big a mouthful to say as the full title of the Phebe Scott fund—but all projects that benefit the educational mission of Illinois State University are worthy of your consideration.

Your contributions of time and talent created the Illinois State University of today. Your cash gift, pledge, or estate bequest help build the ISU of tomorrow.

The next issue of Family Campaign Action News with a full roster of all donors to the Family Campaign will come out on September 7. Will your name be there? Questions? Call Pat Grogg at 438-5962





RESERVATION FORM FOR THE FOR THE FALL LUNCHEON MEETING		
Wednesday, September 8, 2004, Serving: 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., BALLROOM of Bone Student Center. (A representative of Parking Services will be available at the end of the luncheon. She will have the short forms we fill out each year, and the new 2004-05 Parking tags. With this tag, you can get out of the Bone Parking Lot free as you leave the luncheon.)		
Names of those attending		
Reservemeals at \$9.00 each. Total amount \$		
Preferred dessert: Fresh fruitCarrot cake		
Make check for total amount payable to: ISUAA and mail check and this reservation form by Tuesday, Aug. 31, 2004, 2004 to Kay Curtis 1118 W. College Ave. Normal, IL 61761-4247, Phone 309 452 4753 <u>kacurtis@ilstu.edu</u>		
SURVEY OF INTERNET USERS (SAMPLE)		
1. Do you have a home computer that is connected to the Internet?		

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. I don't know.
- 2. If so, how do you connect?
 - a. Dial-up modem (56k or slower).
 - b. DSL.
 - c. Cable modem.
 - d. I don't know how.

3. If you use a dial-up modem to connect to the Internet from home, do you connect to Illinois State's modem pool? (The access phone number would be 438-8210.)

- a. Yes
- b. No. The connection is through ______.
- c. I don't know.

SURVEY RESULTS

Response rate: Of 781 surveys sent:

125 replies by Sat. 4:30 p.m. (16% in 26 hrs.)

187 replies by Sun. 5 p.m. (24% in50 hrs.) 244 replies by Thurs. 2:30 p.m. (31% in 6 days)

272 replies by Thur. 7/15/04 (35%)

Question 1: Do you have a home computer that is connected to the Internet?

With an e-mail survey, one expects answer "A. Yes.", but we received three answers of "B. No." One said he uses Web TV. The others did not explain.

Of the **269** "A" answers, **135** (**50%**) chose **a**. Yes **a**. Dial-up **a**. ISU connection. One of these had dual access: with dial-up and DSL

Of the 269 "A" answers, 32 (12%) chose	a . Yes a . Dial-up b . Non-ISU connection.
Of the 269 "A" answers, 1 (0.4%) chose	a . Yes a . Dial-up c . Don't know
Of the 269 "A" answers, 11 (4%) chose	a . Yes b . DSL a . ISU connection.
Of the 269 "A" answers, 19 (7%) chose	a . Yes b . DSL b . Non-ISU connection.
Of the 269 "A" answers, 43 (16%) chose reply	a . Yes b . DSL c . Non-ISU connection or no
Of the 269 "A" answers, 19 (7%) chose	a. Yes c. Cable Modem

Six respondents (2%) just said "A."

DUES PAYMENT STATUS Paul Schertz, ISUAA Treasurer

You may check on your dues payment status by referring to the mailing label on your most recent newsletter. Some examples are: "DUES YR 03/04" This means that your dues are paid through the 2003-2004 year ending June 30, 2004; "DUES YR 04/05" This means that your dues are paid through the 2004-2005 year ending June 30, 2005; "DD702" This means you have signed up to have your dues deducted from your annuity check. You signed up in July of 2002. A "DD703" code would mean your dues deduction began in July of 2003, an "DD803" would mean August 2003 etc. If you have signed up to have you dues deducted, you do not need to re-enroll each year.

TELEPHONE DIRECTORY UPDATE

The Office of Human Resources is updating the Retirees section of the ISU telephone directory. Please check your name, address, phone number, and e-mail address in last year's ISU telephone directory. If any of the information is incorrect, please enter the corrections below and return it to the Office of Human Resources (Campus Box 1300). Please respond by August 9, 2004 , in time for the new directory.				
NAME	PHONE #:			
ADDRESS				
WINTER ADDRESS (months)				
E-MAIL ADDRESS				
CELL PHONE #				

WHY SHOULD YOU JOIN THE ANNUITANTS ASSOCIATION?

Illinois State University Annuitants Association (ISUAA) State University Annuitants Association (SUAA)

Join for a financial PURPOSE!

* The Associations work through state legislators and the governor's office to improve retiree and survivor benefits. Examples of these successes are...

* Gaining a 3% annually compounded annuity increase that will, for example, provide \$164,889 extra income in the first twenty years for an annuitant initially receiving \$24,000 annually.

* Gaining approval of Senate Bill 95 that provides for improved funding of the annuity program, and approval of other bills that assure funding for that bill.

* The ISUAA efforts at the local level have gained benefits for retirees, such as reduced golf fee passes at the ISU Golf Course,

Complimentary theatre tickets, computer courses for annuitants, and the opportunity to serve on ISU committees and sub-committees.

* The Associations produce newsletters that provide information on retirees' and survivors' benefits, pending legislation, and matters affecting members.

Join for personal PLEASURE!

* Membership provides an opportunity to maintain contact with retired colleagues and to meet new ones through special dinners and events.

* Members of ISUAA can attend 5 meetings a year to obtain the latest information about benefits and enjoy entertainment and socialization.

ANY ONE OF THE ABOVE BENEFITS IS ENOUGH TO JUSTIFY THE \$25 MEMBERSHIP FEE! So, if you are a retiree, or if you are working but are eligible for an annuity, a retired spouse, an annuitant spouse, or a surviving spouse, **JOIN NOW** AND HELP US RETAIN AND IMPROVE YOUR RETIREMENT PACKAGE!

HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE ANNUITANT ASSOCIATIONS

Membership Categories and Fees (Membership year: July 1st to June 30th)

The membership is considered a package, including both ISUAA and SUAA. To join ISUAA, you must also join SUAA.

The fee for membership in **both** associations is \$46 (SUAA dues are \$38, ISUAA dues are \$8).

You may also voluntarily give to the **SUAA Foundation** by adding \$1 to your dues. The Foundation provides information about legislation and social issues, as well as about health and legal benefits. It also recognizes members who serve, or who have served, the associations.

Both associations use the following eligible member categories:

ANNUITANT: Person receiving a SURS annuity now.

PRE-RETIRED: Person employed at ISU, but who is eligible to receive a retirement annuity.

SURVIVING SPOUSE: Spouse of a deceased annuitant, now receiving a SURS annuity.

SPOUSE: Spouse of an annuitant or pre-retired, not eligible for the other three categories.

(Pays only state dues, and receives a complimentary ISUAA membership.)

DUES DEDUCTION

Those who receive a pension from SURS, now have the option of having their local and state dues deducted from their monthly pension payment. If you are now receiving a pension and decide to take this option, please complete Form A and your dues will be automatically deducted for the coming year (July 1, 2003- June 30, 2004) and each year thereafter. If you select this option, complete Form A but do not send a payment. However, if you wish to make a contribution to the SUAA Foundation, you must send a check but only for the amount you wish to contribute. If at any time in the future you decide to return to the annual payment option, you may do so.

If you elect to pay your dues annually as you have in the past, please <u>complete</u> Form B and enclose your check.

ISUAA/SUAA DUES DEDUCTION AUTHORIZATION FORMS

Section "A"

If you want your ISUAA/SUA	A dues dedu	icted from	your me	onthly and	<u>nuity che</u>	<u>ck*</u> ,
please complete only Section ' they must pay their dues annu Name	ally; please u	se Section		eceive a po	ension ch	eck,
Spouse's						
Name		Address	S			
 City	State	Zip]	Phone	
()	_					
e-mail address						
Social Security Number*(self)_ SSN for its record keeping.				_*SURS n	nust have	the
Winter address (if applicable)						
Street	_City		State_	Zip		Pho
ne ()						
I hereby authorize the State U month the amount as certified University Annuitant's Associat as soon as possible and will co SURS to provide change of addr	by the Illin tion as the cu ontinue until l	bis State U rrent rate of inform SU	niversit f dues. 7 JRS othe	y Chapter This deduc	r of the S tion will	State start
Dues: Retiree: \$2.08/month	Retiree and S	Spouse: \$3.8	33/month	Surv	iving Spo	use:
\$2.08/month						
New Application	Renewal					
Signed			_Date			
MAIL to ISUAA TREASURER, Illin Normal, IL 61790-1300	nois State Unive	ersity Annuit	ants Asso	ciation, Can	1 npus Box 1.	300,

If you wish to make a voluntary contribution to the SUAA Foundation, make your check payable to the ISU Annuitants Association and mail it to the above address.

ISUAA/SUAA DUES PAYMENT FORM

Section "B"

Name		•	2.
Address		-	
City	State	Zip	Phone
()			
e-mail address			
Winter address (if applicable) Street	City	Sta	.teZip
Phone ()			
Dues: Retiree: \$25.00 Retire	ee and Spouse: \$46.0	0 Surviving	Spouse: \$25.00
Pre-Retiree: \$25.00			
New Application	D		

Campus Box 1300, Normal, IL 61790-1300

If you wish to make a voluntary contribution to the SUAA Foundation, please include it in your check made payable to the ISU Annuitants Association and mail it to the above address.

Annuitants Association Illinois State University Campus Box 1300 Normal, IL. 61790-1300 NON-PROFIT ORG. U. S. POSTAGE PAID ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY

WE REGRET TO REPORT THE DEATHS OF:

Mildred Wilfong	April 7, 04
Keith Davidson	April 10, 04
Josephine B. Voorhees	April 22, 04
David B. Chesebrough	April 29, 04
Helene R. Prangl	May 18, 04
Ruth Cleary	May 24, 04
Margaret Peasley	May 29, 04
Mayme Phillips	June 26, 04
Elsie Pohlmann	July 3, 04
David Wright	July 12, 04
Irene M. Barclay	August 2, 04

Illinois State Annuitants Association Newsletter Published Quarterly Illinois State University, Normal IL. 61790-1300