



Minutes of the June 21-22, 2018

State Universities Annuitants Association Annual Meeting

at the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel in Springfield, IL

The meeting was called to order on at 11:45 a.m. on Thursday, June 21 by President Larry Alferink. President Alferink introduced Dr. Al Bowman, Executive Director of the Illinois Board of Higher Education. Dr. Bowman spoke on “Financial Challenges Facing Public Universities.” Dr. Lazaro Lopez’ addressed the directors on “The Transformation of Public Education.” Dr. Lazaro is the Chair of the Illinois Community College Board.

Nominees for election to the SUAA Executive Committee were introduced. Directors discussed SURS issues with a panel of SURS executives including Martin Noveen, Executive Director; Douglas Wesley, SURS Chief Investment Officer; and Kristin Houch, SURS Legislative Liaison.

Dan Long, former Executive Director of the Illinois Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability discussed the recently passed 2018-129 state budget. The budget includes a new, optional pension buyout mechanism.

Ryan Keith and Toby Trimmer, public relations consultants discussed issues in chapter relations. They emphasized the importance of sending a single, consistent message to legislators. When a chapter has reservations about SUAA policies adopted by the Executive Committees, the chapter’s first move should be to discuss its concerns with the Executive Committee. The SUAA staff and its consultants are working a slide presentation that will explain the good that SUAA does for active SURS members and for retirees as well. The presentation will be made available to local chapters. The meeting recessed at 4:35 p.m.

At 8:55 a.m. on Friday, June 22 the annual meeting continued with the distribution of ballots to elect officers and members of the SUAA Executive Committee.

Rep. Robert Martwick reported on “Pension Debt Issues and Possibilities.” Martwick told the directors that he believes that a SUAA supported proposal to amortize the current pension debt in Illinois is viable and that it is attracting increasing interest and support.

Linda Brookhart, SUAA Executive Director added her observations about issues facing the General Assembly.

The directors heard reports from Jan Cook, President of the SUAA Foundation; Jo Gibson, SUAA Membership Co-Chair; Linda Branch, SUAA Treasurer; Chuck McGuire, SUAA Bylaws Committee Chair; and Linda Brookhart, SUAA Executive Director. Executive Director Brookhart presented membership awards to the SUAA chapters at the College of Lake County, Kankakee Community College, Heartland Community College and Lake Land Community College. Gifts were presented to retiring Executive Committee members David Steinberg, Linda Branch and Joan Lerner.

Results of the SUAA election were announced. Linda Guinn was elected SUAA State President. Larry Alferink was elected SUAA State Treasurer. Newly elected directors serving on the Executive Committee include: Pat Wenthold (Region 1), Barbara Holthaus (Region 2) and Jo Gibson, (Region 3). The Executive Committee will appoint a SUAA member to fill the vacancy that currently exists in the office of SUAA Vice President.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, by Gary Davis, Secretary