

Minutes and Action Items from SUAA Board Meeting 4/30/2014

Attending: Norris Manning, Jo Gibson, Liz Tarpey, Janet Hunsche and John Jennetten

June 16th SIUE SUAA Chapter Meeting:

Linda Brookhart has been confirmed as the main speaker. The primary objective of the meeting is to increase SUAA membership in the SIUE SUAA Chapter. Invitations will be sent to both current SIUE employees and retirees. John will contact Linda and ask her to keep her presentation brief, focusing on a update on the lawsuit but to focus primarily on the benefits of SUAA membership. We want allow adequate time for audience questions and input. Jo Gibson and/or John Jennetten will speak about the benefits of joining the SIUE Chapter. **“What do you want from SUAA?”** Time will be allocated to seek input from audience regarding what they want in benefits from the state SUAA organization and the SIUE Chapter. Liz Tarpey will hand out index note cards during registration for participants who prefer to put their questions in writing. John Jennetten will moderate the Q and A session. John will ask Karen Take to give the Treasurer’s Report in writing at the end of meeting to save time. We will dispense with the Minutes of last year’s annual meeting since we do not have a Secretary.

The Mississippi-Illinois room has been reserved and seating arranged for 120 participants.

We will offer a light lunch like we did last year. John will contact Events Services Office in MUC to make the arrangements. For current members we will ask them to bring a friend who might be interested in SUAA membership who is not currently a member.

John will obtain gift cards (amount to be determined) from Barnes and Noble for Bob Schutzius, Norman Showers and Pat Patsloff and make an announcement at the meeting recognizing their prior service to the SIUE chapter.

Invitations:

1. Email message to retirees to be send via Retiree Listserve by Doug McIlhagga. Message will encourage members to bring a friend to learn about the benefits of membership. John will draft.
2. Email message to current SIUE employees inviting them to come and learn about SUAA. We need an attention grabbing headline. John will contact Doug McIlhagga to send this one out. John will draft.
3. Post card mailing to current SIUE Chapter members. Janet Hunsche and Jo Gibson will use Direct Mailing service to get this postcard invite sent. John J. will draft the card. Estimated cost is approximately \$1.00 per mailing which includes the card stock. Target mailing date is May 19th.
4. Post card mailing to all SIUE retirees. John will check with Sherrie Senkfor about getting an electronic list so we can possibly send out a postcard. We will compare with the current member list to avoid duplication and save mailing costs. Last year we got the list too late due to legal reviews of our requests and we received paper copy not an electronic one. John will draft the message stressing the benefits of membership to retirees.
5. Invitation by letter to SIUE staff retiring this year. John will draft. We will contact Sherry Senkfor to obtain the list of retirees to date.

John will set up a meeting with Sherrie Senkfor to obtain lists of previous retirees and those expected to retire this year as well as other items and to learn about a replacement HR liaison since we learned that Debbie Bayne is no longer at SIUE.

We discussed the outstanding request for payroll deduction of SUAA dues for current SIUE employees. We decided to advise HR that will not pursue this request at the present time as SIUE has advised that they would only do an annual dues deduction. Jo Gibson and others advised that this would not adequately support our membership increase goals. Jo will advise HR of our decision. We will focus on check payment for current employees and SURS deduction for retirees. We will contact HR about getting SUAA membership brochures placed in the retirees packets at SIUE HR.

John Jennetten and Jo Gibson will attend the SUAA Regional Meeting in Springfield on May 14th which deals with constitution and by-law changes. John passed around the handouts provided by Lynn Heidinger-Brown from her attendance at the SUAA Regional Meeting that was held the previous week at SIUC. Lynn advised John the attendance was small. The audience expressed many concerns with the legislative changes to our pensions. The SURS video presentation and handout are also available on-line on the SURS Website. The SUAA presentation on the proposed changes to the constitution and by-laws went smoothly, unlike the unfortunate hostile confrontations at the Northern Regional meeting.

John congratulated Jo Gibson on her appointment by Bruce Appleby to the SUAA membership committee. She has also been appointed to the SUAA nominations committee. SUAA is seeking someone from SIUE, if possible, to run for Regional Director, Southern Region (the regions depend on the changes to the SUAA constitution and By-laws).

We discussed the future possibility of SUAA sponsoring a retirement planning seminar with the SIUE Office of Continuing Education. Cheryl Brunsmann is the SIUE contact.

Jo Gibson provided a written and oral report on the work of the Membership Committee. The committee was scheduled to meet immediately following our board meeting. John congratulated the committee on their appropriate goals and diligent work to increase membership.

Our participation in the SIUE Benefits Fair was an excellent opportunity for us to promote visibility of SUAA. We drew the winning name of Holly Cox as the winning of the drawing for a one year free SUAA membership from the SIUE Benefits Fair. Jo Gibson will obtain a check from Karen Take to pay the dues to SUAA on her behalf. Jo will also use the emails we gathered on the contest entry drawing to send an email encouraging their membership in SUAA.

We were also represented and handed out membership brochures at the recent SURS presentation for SIUE employees and retirees. According to staff who attended, the significance and impact of the legislative changes to pensions caught some staff by surprise,

particularly the potential error in the date which affects the Money Purchase formula. SIUE SUAA membership stands at 423 as of last month, with 41 members who are current employees. Norris Manning pointed out that there is a link to SUAA on HR portion of the SIUE Website.

John reported that no legislative visits had been conducted since our last meeting. He will be in touch with Deanna Taylor to schedule a meeting with State Senator Andy Manar. SUAAAction recently sent out a message soliciting contributions to the SUAA PAC.

The SUAA Annual Conference in Springfield is scheduled for June 17th and 18th. John Jennetten, Jo Gibson, Janet Hunsche and Deanna Taylor are tentatively scheduled to attend. Hotel reservations need to be made at the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel in Springfield as well as conference registrations once they are available on-line.

Linda Brookhart is scheduled to speak to the SIUE Faculty Senate on May 1st.

We will make arrangements and communicate via email regarding the June 16th meeting. If necessary, we will schedule another board meeting prior to that date.

Submitted by:
John Jennetten, President
SIUE SUAA.