

## **SUAA SIUE Chapter Meeting December 6, 2016**

The meeting was called to order at noon by President John Jennetten. There were approximately 60 persons present.

Chancellor Randall Pembroke gave the welcome and recognized State Senator Bill Haine, State Representative-Elect Katie Stewart, SIU President Randy Dunn and SUAA Executive Director Linda Brookhart. He thanked the retirees and current employees who attended. He also highlighted several achievements of SIUE during the past year.

President Randy Dunn spoke to the group. He also thanked Sen. Haine and Rep.-elect Stewart and the organization of SUAA. He said that he appreciates the service to retirees and current employees that SUAA provides. He encourages employees to join whenever he can do so.

Stephanie Robbins, our SUAAAction liaison, introduced our speaker for the afternoon, Senator Bill Haine.

Senator Haine provided information on the process of trying to pass a budget. His comment was: "it always seems darker before it turns pitch black". The State has tax revenue of 32 billion but the amount that must be expended by court order is 38 billion. He could not give advice as to what we could do and indicated that "this is a dire time". There is no cooperation between the legislature and the governor. He then spent some time answering questions from the floor.

John Jennetten introduced Linda Brookhart, Executive Director of SUAA. She said media reports are sometimes incorrect. She said the meetings between the governor and legislative chairs are not helping. She is not sure if any deals can be made. She said we should keep an eye on what is going on with the Chicago teachers as whatever happens to them could be something that might impact the rest of the state employees. Legislation to eliminate or revise the Social Security Pension Offset and WEP may be introduced in the next Congressional session. She provided handouts of the bill with an overview.

John Jennetten then continued the meeting by thanking Anne Hunter for her service and in playing a major role in designing the SIUE SUAA website. Anne has resigned as a board member due to other obligations. The board voted to donate \$100 to the University Staff Senate Scholarship in her honor.

John then welcomed Michael Pulley as the newest member of the SIUE SUAA board.

David Ault gave the detailed treasurer's report for the past year. The current balances in our accounts are: \$777.00 in the chapter's checking account at the Credit Union and \$7329.59 in the chapter's SIUE account.

Jo Gibson presented the Membership Report. She said that the good news was that our membership has been steady but also disappointing, in that it has been level and not growing. One of her concerns is the non-renewals of members. She encouraged everyone to recruit one individual to join. There were applications and bookmarks available for members to take and pass on. There were also flyers available to take describing how SUAA benefits Tier I, Tier II, and SMP members. Jo also reminded everyone that through our membership in SUAA we are a collective voice in Springfield.

John stated if anyone is interested in volunteering for any of our chapter committees, they are welcome to join and should contact him. He suggested giving a friend a membership as a gift for the holidays. He reminded the audience that donations to the SUAA Foundation are tax deductible.

The meeting was adjourned. At 1:15 PM.

Deanna Taylor  
Secretary