



SUAA/SIUE Chapter News

www.siue.edu/suaa



Dear Members,

We hope this newsletter finds you well and enjoying new found activities as we navigate this different normal together. The novel coronavirus disrupted many planned activities, and our Chapter events were no exception. Your Chapter Board regrouped recently to discuss how to move forward as reopening occurs. Know that we will put everyone's health and safety foremost as we plan our next steps.

Be well. Be safe.

Chapter Meeting

Our originally planned June 1st Chapter Meeting is being rescheduled for late August/early September. It may be offered via Zoom technology. For those who cannot attend live, we'll record and post to our Chapter website to view later. We are fortunate to have individuals on our Board who can make that happen! An announcement will be forthcoming with details later this summer.

Celebrating 47 years!

Our Chapter has a rich history on the SIUE campus. Our plans to celebrate with the campus community in early April 2020 had to be postponed. Look for a future announcement when we can again enjoy gathering on campus.

An excerpt from 'SUAA Through the Years 1971-1991'

On March 30 1973 Myllan Smyers gathered a small number of SIU-E retirees to discuss the formation of a chapter of SUAA. Invitations later went to all retirees and on April 4, 1973 the SIU-E Chapter of SUAA was formed. Smyers became President, Maurice Fitzgerald, Vice President and Gladys Daniels, Secretary/Treasurer. On August 23, 1973 then President Rendleman of SIU-E acknowledged the local chapter and immediately pledged his office's support and gave free parking to all member annuitants of the SUAA Chapter. There were then 29 members. By 1975 over 100 members and guests were attending meeting. This chapter has been serving the University Community in many ways over the years.



Today SIUE SUAA Chapter membership numbers 455 which includes active employees and retirees as well as their spouses and beneficiaries. The entire SIUE community will be invited to join us.

Racial Harmony



Your Chapter Board recognizes that despite efforts to create a more inclusive Nation we are not where we should be. We remain a divided country. Hence, it is necessary that we find ways individually and collectively to contribute in meaningful ways to build a more harmonious community and to bring us together. The Board joins the SIUE community in its unwavering commitment to building a campus culture that is consistent with its values to be a more inclusive community. To that extent we lend our support to engage the campus community in The Anti-Racism Task Force. The Task Force is a symbol of SIUE's enduring commitment to racial equity, a hub of activity to centralize cultural humility in professional practices, and an affirmation of the University's institutional value of *Inclusion*.

SIUe Campus Information

There are several Teams that are working together to develop a strategic plan in accordance with the COVID19 guidelines from the Governor's Office. The Administration, faculty, staff and students are all coming together during these daunting and challenging times. We wish the SIUE Leadership Team the very best during these extraordinary times. For further information get the latest SIUE COVID-19 updates here <https://www.siu.edu/about/announcements/coronavirus/>

Stay Strong

While you are encouraged to limit your activities and physically distance yourself, use a face cover and be diligent about practicing good hygiene, do find ways to connect socially with colleagues, friends and family, be engaged in outdoor activities and read the comics...humor is great for the soul.

Trivia

Name the last five SIUE Chancellors...bonus: name the first Chancellor...

Name the third residence hall...

Name the Basketball Arena...

Name the first Cougar mascot...

Name the buildings that recognize individuals...

Not sure of the answers...try calling a friend...

YOUR SUAA SIUE CHAPTER BOARD

John Jennetten, President; Nobby Emmanuel, Vice President, Lora Miles, Secretary; David Ault, Treasurer; Jo Gibson, Membership Coordinator; Keith Becherer; Jan Caban; Bill Retzlaff; Stephanie Robbins; Michael Schultz; Connie Stamper-Carr; David Steinberg; Kelly Thompson-Hess; Ann Emmanuel, Website Content Manager

Meet Keith Becherer

SIUE Chapter Board Member
Director of SIUE Campus
Recreation
Past President SIUE Staff Senate



I have been a member of the SIUE SUAA Chapter for approximately ten years because I know the importance of political advocacy for University employees. It is important to have lobbyists, legislative experts and advocates in Springfield, IL on a daily basis sharing our message and having our voices heard. The greater the membership base, the greater the chances are that we can protect our earned benefits for all retired, current and future employees!!!

Legislative Affairs

May 20-24 Illinois Legislature met to established the budget

June 10 Governor signs FY 2021 Budget

See SUAA Mini-Briefings for details www.suaa.org (member log-in, under NEWS)

November 17, 18, 19 and December 1, 2, 3 VETO SESSION

November 3 General Election Day (referendum on the November ballot regarding the state adopting a graduated income tax structure)

SUAA State Office

The Springfield office is open for business!

June Annual Meeting postponed; will be rescheduled (business to be conducted includes election of officers, 5-year ByLaws review). Zoom meeting was offered on Graduated Income Tax. Additional graduated income tax resources to be shared in upcoming Mini-Briefing.

Fall Meeting scheduled October 28, 2020 (business to be conducted includes approval of 2021 Budget and Legislative Platform)

SUAA Foundation

Remember that SUAA Foundation benefits are available to you including financial help during a crisis. Check out those benefits and/or donate here <https://www.suaa.org/suaa-foundation>

SUAAction

SUAA's political action committee provides our members and chapters a multitude of ways to get involved in the political process. Detailed information is outlined in their June 17, 2020, letter to members as well as at <https://www.suaa.org/suaaction>



Protecting Your Tomorrows Today
Through **VOICE**, Action, Mission and Visibility

Be One of the Many VOICES
Advocating for ALL Current Employees and Retirees of SURS

Are You Up-To-Date on Legislation Affecting You?
For Information Visit www.suaa.org or email suaa@suaa.org

LINDA BROOKHART - Executive Director * 217 E. Monroe, Springfield, IL 62711 * 217-523-4040