



# SUAA/SIUE Chapter News

[www.siue.edu/suaa](http://www.siue.edu/suaa)



Dear Members,

We hope this newsletter finds you well and settled into a new enjoyable, yet limited, lifestyle. We are all anxious to return to 'before Covid' activities, but we must put everyone's health and safety first.

Your Chapter Board meets virtually to discuss and plan how we can offer added value opportunities to our members. Know we are actively advocating on your behalf at both the local and state levels.

Be well. Be safe.

## **Chapter Meeting Postponed**

You may recall from our June newsletter that your Chapter Board was considering a virtual Chapter meeting in August or September. After discussing the length of time for a meeting, guest speakers, and reports, it was decided to offer a virtual Chapter event instead featuring the scheduled guest speaker, Attorney Wesley Coulson of Coulson Elder Law. The event occurred via Zoom on September 16. If

you were unable to attend this event 'Better Estate Planning' (or 'How to Avoid those Bad Heir Days'), you can access the recorded event at <https://www.siu.edu/suaa/chapter-activities/components/event-listing-suaa.shtml>

### **SUAA's Rich History on SIUE Campus**

While going through paperwork, a member retiree found a Fall 1994 newsletter from the Myllan Smyers (SIUE) Chapter - the original name of our Chapter.

Here is an excerpt from that newsletter:



For several years the State University Annuity Association (SUAA) has sought to convince the Illinois state legislature to put SURS, and other Illinois retirement systems, on a sound financial basis. If nothing were to be done beyond the funding levels of recent years your retirement system was scheduled for bankruptcy in 2018....Much hard work by SUAA, and other organizations, paid off recently when both houses of our legislature approved their conference committee bill SB 533. Our chapter president, Arnold Franke, was in attendance on March 29 in Springfield when Governor Edgar signed it into law. The bill provides that, starting July 1, 1995, the state will begin a 15-year phase in of a 35-year amortization schedule to achieve a 90% funding level in 50 years. The 90% level is expected to be actuarially sound, but its adequacy is to be reviewed every five years. A second part of the bill, at least as important, provides for continuous funding. This means, in effect, that the funding for the retirement systems will come "off the top" each year, just like the interest on state bonds for example, without having to wait for specific legislative debate and action...

### **Campus Information**



SIUE began welcoming students back to campus in August. A Health and Safety Pledge was developed for students, faculty, and staff that is consistent with its values: **Citizenship, Excellence, Inclusion, Integrity**. Check it out here <https://www.siu.edu/about/announcements/coronavirus/training-safety/index.shtml>

### **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 Kelly Thompson-Hess  
SIUE Chapter Board Member  
Business/Administrative Associate, Student Financial Aid



I became a member of the SIUE SUAA chapter not only because it can have a direct impact for me but also my family. Between myself, my husband and my parents, we have a combination of more than 100 years invested in SIUE. To protect the future of annuitants, it is important to show our governmental leaders that the earned benefits should continue to be respected for past, current, and future employees of our University. I believe SUAA does that while educating members and monitoring proposed legislation.

### **SURS Updates**

We hope you received and read the Summer 2020 SURS Advocate. In it you'll note SURS has redesigned the Self-Managed Plan (SMP) including a new name, a new default investment option, a new simplified best-in-class fund line-up, new planning and educational tools, and a new record keeper. You can also maintain access to retiree health insurance (if you are eligible) without giving up access to your entire account balance.

In addition, SURS announced a new voluntary supplemental defined contribution plan called the SURS Deferred Compensation Plan (DCP) providing members to save more and generate additional income in retirement. Both these enhancements launched September 1. Be sure to get all the details and other important information here <http://www.surs.com/sites/default/files/advocate/summer2020advocate.pdf>

## Legislative Affairs

Members are reminded to pay particular attention to all deadlines for registering to vote, for requesting mail in ballots, for returning mail in ballots etc. Check this link to the Illinois Board of Elections for details <https://www.elections.il.gov/>

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

November 17, 18, 19 and December 1, 2, 3 VETO SESSION (101st)

## SUAA State Office

### Graduated Income Tax Proposal

On June 17th SUAA offered a Zoom presentation to members and guests on the proposed Illinois Graduated Income Tax. Speakers included Dr. Karen Kunz, Associate Professor, West Virginia University and Scott Pattison, Deputy executive director, Multistate Tax & Senior Fellow with the University of Ottawa Institute of Fiscal Studies and Democracy. If you missed the presentation and Q & A, check it out on SUAA's webpage at [www.suaa.org](http://www.suaa.org)

In addition, Graduated income tax resources were shared via an August 18th email to all SUAA members:

[SUAA Graduated Income Tax Amendment Position- August 2020](#)  
[Flyer for Graduated Income Tax Amendment](#)

And finally, SUAA is hosting two additional Zoom Q & A sessions to members and friends: <https://suaa.memberclicks.net/assets/docs/2020AnnualMeeting/Graduated%20Income%20Tax%20Invitation%20Final.pdf>

**Annual Meeting** scheduled September 30 via Zoom (business to be conducted includes election of officers, 5-year ByLaws review - delegates certified by their Chapters will vote). All SUAA members are invited to attend and can register at [www.suaa.org](http://www.suaa.org). Note there is a \$25 registration fee.

**Fall Meeting** scheduled October 28, 2020 via Zoom (business to be conducted includes approval of 2021 Budget and Legislative Platform - delegates certified by their Chapters will vote). All SUAA members are invited to attend; however, details for registering are not yet available.

## SUAA Foundation


Reminder that SUAA Foundation benefits are available to you including financial help during a crisis and educational scholarships to SUAA members, spouse/partner, child, or grandchild. 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 at <https://www.suaa.org/suaaction>. The SUAAction Committee will soon list recommended candidates to support on this site.

Stay up to date with your SUAA/SIUE Chapter by visiting our web site: <http://www.siue.edu/suaa/>

Keep us and the State SUAA office apprised of changes to your email address. For instance, if you retire and decide to stop using your SIUE email account, let us know the new, preferred email address you will be using. That allows us to be able to communicate more directly with you.



**State Universities  
Annuity Association**

**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](http://www.suaa.org) or email [suaa@suaa.org](mailto:suaa@suaa.org)

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