

SIUE SUAA CHAPTER BOARD MEETING

September 4th 11:00 a.m.

Zoom meeting

Meeting Minutes

The meeting opening with board members participating by Zoom sharing their personal stories of coping with the pandemic this past summer.

John Jennetten requested a volunteer to serve as a voting delegate to participating in the September 30th SUAA meeting. John and Nobby Emmanuel have agreed to participate and our chapter is entitled to a third voting delegate. Jo Gibson will participate as a voting member of the SUAA Board of Directors. John must submit names of our delegates to SUAA by September 10th. Cost for meeting registration is open to any board member and cost is \$25. reimbursable by the chapter.

David Ault presented the Treasurer's Report a copy of which was send to the board in advance. The balance in our SIUE account was \$8142 as of August 31, 2020. Expenses will likely be down this year with most meetings held by Zoom and we will not likely have an in-person chapter meeting in the near future.

Jo Gibson reported our chapter membership dropped to 441 and the statewide SUAA membership declines are a continuing problem. We are experiencing more deaths of members each month than we are adding new members. Our focus needs to remain getting current employees to join SUAA. Jo reported on discussions at the SUAA Board meeting the prior day suggesting the possibility of pooled efforts between chapters in offering programs. This could be greatly beneficial, especially to smaller chapters without the resources to provide programming. Hopefully by providing value added programs at the chapter level we can gain and retain membership. Jo also discussed several possible topics for future chapter newsletters.

Keith Becherer reported that a major concern of new SIUE employees is dealing with the student debt they have accumulated. We should consider programs that would help with their financial planning which could include planning for retirement in addition to current expenses and student debt. New options for refinancing federal student loan debt are now available.

We discussed the status of our relationship with SIUE Human Resources. Nobby has not received a response to prior requests to have SUAA information included in new employee orientation via recorded video, materials, or links to our chapter website. He and John Jennetten will set up a meeting with Morris Taylor, the new Vice Chancellor for Administration to seek improved communication and collaboration with HR. Keith Becherer will also pursue this matter in regular meetings he has with HR staff. Ann will review the SIUE website to see if our links are still there and/or where we might be added to HR orientation programs.

We discussed the possible support of the Graduated Income Tax amendment that will be on the November 3rd ballot. Following adoption of the SUAA Legislative Platform, the SUAA Board of Directors adopted a position supporting the amendment. A recent mailing from SUAA President Linda Guinn provided a fact sheet and a poster for possible use by chapters. David Ault clarified that the amendment only allows the State to create a Progressive Income Tax replacing the language that currently allows the State to levy only a flat rate tax on its definition of taxable income. If the proposed amendment to the State Constitution passes in November, a companion piece that established an initial set of rates would become effective on January 1, 2021. The proposed rates in the companion legislation are subject to change should the General Assembly decide to do so in either a special session or the session that begins in January. SUAA is planning another informational program to be offered by Zoom in September. It was agreed that need to be cautious about using SIUE email resources to announce our position. John Jennetten would draft a letter to the editor for approval by the board to be sent to area media.

Submitted by
John Jennetten