

SUAA/SIUE Chapter Newsletter

Dear Members,

We hope this newsletter finds you healthy and safe as we begin a new year.

Your Chapter Board continues to meet virtually to discuss how we can offer added value opportunities to our members and effectively advocate on your behalf at both the local and state levels.

Be well friends.

Fall Chapter Meeting

The SIUE Chapter of the State Universities Annuity Association (SUAA) hosted its first virtual fall chapter meeting via Zoom on Thursday, December 10, 2020. Our featured speaker was Dr. Kenneth Moffett, Professor and Department Chair in Political Science at SIUE. His topic was: *What Do The 2020 Election Results Mean for Higher Education?*

We also adopted our Chapter's updated bylaws. You can access the bylaws as well as the video of our guest speaker at: <https://www.siue.edu/suaa/chapter-activities/12-10-2020.shtml>.

Fall Chapter Event Recap

Your SIUE Chapter offered a virtual Chapter event featuring 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.siue.edu/suaa/chapter-activities/meeting-minutes-videos.shtml>

In addition, Wes Coulson has graciously invited all of you subscribe to his free newsletter and Elder Law Minute videos at <http://coulsonelderlaw.com/weekly-newsletter/>

These timely and informative newsletters and videos are especially welcome during this unprecedented time. You can unsubscribe at any time, but we bet you won't!

Campus Information

Chancellor Pembroke delivered the annual campus address on October 27th:

<https://www.siue.edu/about/chancellor/address-to-the-university.shtml>

SIUE moved almost all in-person courses to on-line after the Fall Break; however 130 courses were approved for in-person courses after submitting rationale to the Office of the Provost.

Our very own Board Member Michael Schultz is SIUE's COVID-19 Coordinator. Students must test negative before returning to campus Spring semester. Enforcements are in place for faculty and staff as well. Incentives will be offered to encourage everyone to get tested.

Chancellor Pembroke said a Conversation of Understanding organized by the SIU system is scheduled 5-7 p.m. on Jan. 26. Panelists Clinical Professor Lakesha Butler and Director of Health Services Riane Greenwalt will address concerns for minority populations related to COVID-19, getting vaccinated and the history of racial disparities in healthcare. For more information, visit SIUE's COVID-19 information page at: <https://www.siue.edu/about/announcements/corona-virus/>.

Meet Jan Caban



SIUE Chapter Board Member
Facilities Management,
Electrician

I love that SUAA is an advocate for all state university employees, not just its members! I have learned what SUAA does for me through departmental co-workers that have gone before me. I

became a board member because I wanted to keep my current co-workers informed regarding legislative issues affecting our pension, healthcare, and other benefits. Our SUAA members have been a constant watchdog force in all legislative matters with respect to our benefits. Having used my tuition waiver benefits, I appreciate the way SUAA has strived to preserve that along with all our benefits!

SURS Updates

Four SURS trustees' terms expire July 2021. Be sure to participate in these important elections, from signing petitions (before January 31) to actually voting for trustees (April 1 - May 3). For detailed information, click here <http://www.surs.com/news-article/121820/secure-online-petitions-available-trustee-election>

SUAA State Office

Fall Meeting was held October 28, 2020 via Zoom (business conducted included approval of 2021 Budget and Legislative Platform). Both were adopted and the 2021 Legislative Platform can be accessed here <https://www.suaa.org/legislative-platform>.

SUAA is turning 50! We plan to celebrate this milestone all year long! Stay tuned.....

As part of our 2021 membership drive, SUAA will be mailing a January letter to 40,000 individuals who are not SUAA members (those who are 50 years old and five years from retirement plus those who have been retired for no longer than four years). The letter will highlight how the individual benefits from SUAA advocacy efforts while also encouraging them to become a dues paying member to strengthen our voice locally and in Springfield.

SUAA Foundation

Again this year the State Universities Annuity Association Foundation is asking for you to consider being charitable to its mission:

1. Support for education and dissemination of information regarding issues affecting the welfare of members of the State Universities Annuity Association (SUAA).
2. Emergency assistance to SUAA members who need financial support.
3. Support to those Chapters establishing Survivor Assistance Programs.
4. Scholarships to students seeking degrees, eligible technical/trade programs, and eligible certificate programs. There are also grants awarded for professional development activities. (A donation can be made specifically for the scholarship program.)

SUAAAction

What is the difference between SUAA and SUAAAction?

SUAA has the ability to lobby, promote, and endorse, but no ability to contribute to attend fundraisers or financially support legislators or the executive offices. There is an Illinois law that prevents 501(c)(4)'s from having a political action committee or using the organizations' membership money to contribute politically. However, there is nothing that prevents the formation of a separate IRS 527 designated organization to assist.

SUAAAction was formed to assist SUAA by providing the finances to access legislators and the executive officers through fundraisers. This is why we need you to join SUAAAction in addition to SUAA.

Together, the organizations have been successful. We want to make sure our voice continues to be heard. Fundraisers are a VITAL part of our organizations. Legislators see power in numbers. The higher our numbers, the better our members fare.

Think SUAA members have no worries? Think again as this is what may be coming your way:

- Potential increase in the income tax – 4.95% to a full 6%
- Possible taxing of pension income
- Pension holiday(s) – not providing the funds owed to the pension systems
- Further financial cuts to higher education (employment)
- Further financial cuts to services – example: Secretary of State, Illinois Department of Revenue
- Further financial cuts to State departments

Each item listed has financial fallout; even for those who are not directly affected.

Legislative Affairs

January 13, 2021, begins the Illinois 102nd General Assembly.

February 17, 2021, State of the State and the Budget Address.

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Stay Up to Date

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

Keep the State SUAA office apprised of changes to your contact information, especially 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. It also saves the chapter the expense of mailing information to members for whom we do not have an active email address. **Contact the State Office at (217) 523-4040 with all updates.**

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

