

# SUAA/SIUE Chapter Newsletter

## Greetings!

SIUE Staff Senate sponsored a zoom presentation 'Understanding Social Security' by SSA Public Affairs Specialist Jack Myers just as our last newsletter was released. Your SUAA/SIUE Chapter gained permission to post the recording and accompanying powerpoint slides on our website. If you missed this timely and informative event, check it out here:

<https://siue.techsmithrelay.com/Kt43>

SUAA Executive Director Linda Brookhart was guest speaker at the June 3<sup>rd</sup> Staff Senate Meeting.

## SUAA June Annual Meeting Recap

### SUAA Board of Directors Elected to 2-Year Terms

Vice President – Tom Conroy, UI-UC  
Secretary – Bill Marzano, Waubensee CC  
Region 1 Director Univ - Michelle Sebasco, GSU  
Region 2 Director Univ - Steve Cunningham, NIU  
Region 3 Director CC – Linda Guinn, Kankakee CC

### Guest Speakers

Attorney Aaron Maduff of Maduff & Maduff, LLC once again provided reassurance about our pensions but continued to urge vigilance and caution. Maduff explained that the federal constitution provided protection in addition to the pension clause in the Illinois Constitution.

Peter Hancock, Reporter from Capital News Illinois reviewed the history of how we got the important pension protection provisions in the state constitution and stated the state's full payment of the pension payment was positive news. However, the state's pension liability has exploded in the last four years. Nothing will be done this year, so the state will have to address this funding shortfall, perhaps creating yet another tier for the pension program.

## Campus Information

### SIUE Chancellor Pembroke to Retire in 2022

On May 11 Chancellor Pembroke announced his intent to retire at the end of the 2021-22 academic year. <https://bit.ly/3iOzMPB>

### WSIE Named One of Three Best Radio Stations in St. Louis (from the E Today July 19, 2021)

WSIE 88.7 "The Sound" was a finalist in *St. Louis Magazine's* 2021 A-List competition.

Housed in Dunham Hall on the campus of SIUE, WSIE is St. Louis' home for great jazz, smooth jazz, blues and Easy R&B, among other complimentary music genres. WSIE provides an opportunity for SIUE students and select community members to volunteer and gain experience in broadcasting, audio production, sales, marketing, social media management and grant writing, among other skills.

### SIUE School of Business Co-Sponsors ITS Webinar Deepfakes: The Coming Infocalypse

'It will soon be impossible to tell what is real and what is fake. To help provide insight into an alarming media trend, the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville School of Business was the academic host for the International Telecommunications Society (ITS) webinar with Nina Schick" on June 29.' See the video here: <https://itsworld.org/>

### Read more SIU System News

<https://siusystem.edu/about/news/index.shtml>

## Campus Covid Information

### SIUE Joins COVID-19 College Vaccine Challenge

<https://bit.ly/3y69jn3>

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## A Year in Review: COVID-19 Challenges and Triumphs

<https://bit.ly/375Dr65>

Covid-19 Campus Town Hall meetings can be viewed here: <https://bit.ly/3v3ZvYN>.

All Covid-19 Campus Messages are listed here: <https://bit.ly/2P27jLg>.

## Meet Nobby Emmanuel



- SIUE Chapter Vice President
- SUAA Foundation Treasurer
- Former SIUE Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

It has been an honor to serve as your Vice President as well as the Treasurer of the SUAA Foundation. Because of the commitment and dedication of the those that serve the Association it has been both an enriching and rewarding journey. My only regret is that I did not join SUAA much earlier. It took a little while to discover the value and extraordinary contributions that the Association makes to protecting and preserving our retirement benefits. SUAA's advocacy as well as being our voice in Springfield has proven to be a powerful and effective asset within the legislative community. In addition to being an influential advocate for both current employees (future retirees) and retirees, SUAA has developed a special partnership with the higher education community to lobby the legislature when there is rumbling about reducing colleges and universities appropriations because of fiscal challenges. SUAA has spoken boldly and loudly about the value of higher education to the State's economy and building a better Illinois. Having been a member for several years I have come to recognize that the future of our benefits is in the hands of its membership...the greater the membership the louder is our voice in the Capital.

## SURS Updates

SIUE's own Collin Van Meter serves as Vice Chairperson of the SURS Board of Trustees. Collin is also a SUAA SIUE Chapter member.

SURS.ORG is being redesigned to benefit members and other users. Look for small incremental changes throughout the summer and fall for the new website design!

Visit the SURS website at [www.surs.org](http://www.surs.org) for updates including the new Deferred Compensation Plan and recent SURS Trustee election results.

## SUAA State Office

**See us at the Illinois State Fair**  
August 12 through the 22nd

### 2021 Fall Meeting (In Person)

November 17  
ISU Alumni Center  
1101 N. Main Street  
Normal, IL 61790

### 2022 Annual Meeting

June 16 & 17

Watch your email/mail for details.

## SUAA Foundation

### Newly Elected Foundation Officers

Chair – Elliott Dudnik, UIC  
Vice Chair – Alice Medenwald, NEIU  
Treasurer – Narbeth Emanuel, SIUE  
Secretary Cathy Carruthers, Lewis & Clark CC

Recipients of the 2021 Foundation Scholarships will be announced this month. Professional Development Scholarships are still available. Check SUAA website for more information.

# SUAA/SIUE Chapter Newsletter

## SUAAction

You should have received an April 15 letter from the SUAAction Chair in which he states:

'Some SUAA members think the battle to protect your pension benefits was won when the Illinois Supreme Court ruled in our favor on the constitutionality of our pensions (Public Act 98-0599).

Others are convinced that there is no effective remedy for the reductions in benefits that have been imposed on Tier 2 participants.

Neither of those things are true.

An aspiring Illinois gubernatorial candidate believes **the constitutional protection of pension benefits can and should be erased**. While his efforts may fail, it will be our support of more reasonable candidates that will prevent such changes from being implemented.

The path to correcting Tier 2 deficiencies is not clear today, but our support for likeminded candidates will ensure that the legislature is composed of representatives who will support that goal, rather than railing for additional draconian cuts to pensions.'

Visit <https://suaa.memberclicks.net/suaaction> to contribute.

## Legislative Affairs

102 General Assembly Session Schedule

Illinois House Calendar

<https://bit.ly/3dpR9EE>

Illinois Senate Calendar

<https://bit.ly/2QA6gmd>

## Stay Up to Date

Stay up to date with your SUAA/SIUE Chapter by visiting our web site: <https://www.siu.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 Jenetten, President  
Nobby Emmanuel, Vice President  
Lora Miles, Secretary  
David Ault, Treasurer  
Jo Gibson, Membership Coordinator  
Keith Becherer, Chair Legislative Affairs Committee and Chapter SUAAction Chair  
Jan Caban  
Bill Retzlaff;  
Stephanie Robbins  
Michael Schultz  
Connie Stamper-Carr  
David Steinberg  
Kelly Thompson-Hess  
Ann Emmanuel, Website Content Manager

