

THE ANNUITANT

A PUBLICATION OF THE SIU CARBONDALE ANNUITANTS ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 2014, NUMBER 1

APRIL 2014

EMERITUS FACULTY ORGANIZATION TO MEET APRIL 23

The Emeritus Faculty Organization will hold its regular April meeting on Wednesday, April 23, at 3:30 p.m. at the Lesar Law School Building, Room 202. The speaker will be Mr. Bob Williams, Publisher of the *Southern Illinois* newspaper. Mr. Williams' talk is entitled "The Changing Role of the Daily Newspaper in Today's Opt Out Society."

Bob Williams came to Southern Illinois in February 2010 to be the publisher of *The Southern Illinoisan*, *thesouthern.com*, *Life & Style Magazine of Southern Illinois*, and other online and print products. Bob had been publisher of the *Suburban Journals of Greater St. Louis* since 2007. Previously he led Lee Enterprises' (parent company of *The Southern Illinoisan*) company wide sales initiatives as corporate director of sales and development, after serving as advertising director of the *Missoulian* newspaper in Missoula, Montana.

Bob is a recipient of national and regional advertising and marketing awards. Before joining Lee in 1998, he worked for Gannett Co., Inc., newspapers for 10 years, as advertising manager of the *Great Falls Tribune* in Montana, advertising director of the *Coloradoan* in Fort Collins, and advertising director of the *Asheville Citizen-Times* in North Carolina. His experience also includes five years as an account manager for DDB Needham Worldwide advertising agency and five years in national newspaper representation.

He is a graduate of Brigham Young University with a degree in business and communications. He and his wife, Jill, have four grown children with their third child receiving his MBA and Law Degree from SIU in May of 2013.

Bob is the current president of the Carbondale Chamber of Commerce.

Please come, listen, and possibly ask a question or make a comment.

- BILL WRIGHT



Bob Williams
Publisher, *The Southern Illinoisan*

SPRING GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING SCHEDULED APRIL 23

The Spring General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 23, 2014, at the Lazar Law School Building Auditorium and will again deviate from our regular order of business in order to bring to our membership and to university employees special speakers from the State Universities Annuity Association (SUAA) and from the State Universities Retirement System (SURS) to address the myriad of issues currently facing state university employee pensioners and their pension and benefits.

The meeting will begin at 5 p.m. and first on the docket will be Linda Brookhart, executive director of SUAA, and other SURS representatives who will discuss SB 1 (PA 980599) and how it impacts retirees. Ms. Brookhart will then provide an update on the SUAA lawsuit that has been filed against the state of Illinois. Following these presentations, Brookhart will discuss the proposed major changes to the SUAA Constitution, which has recently undergone an intensive review and re-draft, which will be voted on by the SUAA Board of Directors this coming June.

The Carbondale Chapter will then conduct its regular business meeting which will include the election of new members to the local Board of Directors. Wine and appetizer social will follow the business meeting.

See the President's Message for more details on this meeting.

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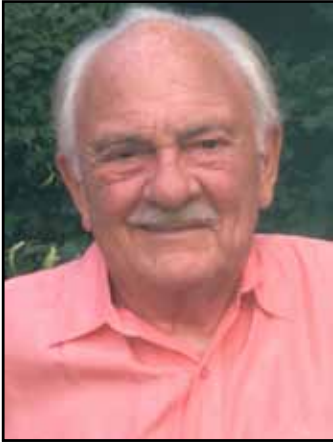
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APRIL 23 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

3:30 --	Emeritus Faculty Meeting, Room 202. Lesar Law Building
5:00 --	SURS/SUAA presentation on Senate Bill 1, Lesar Law Building Auditorium
6 to 6:30 --	Business meeting of SIU Carbondale Annuity Association, including election of board directors, Lesar Law Building Auditorium
6:30 to 7:30 --	Wine and appetizers served in Lesar Law Building Lounge

A message from the president



Bruce Appleby
SIUC-AA President

Once again, I face the frustration of writing about what is happening with SUAA and in Springfield, knowing that everything is up in the air and it's hard to predict what will happen with a number of big issues.

The SUAA lawsuit against the state is of major concern. An article I wrote in this newsletter gives details on that lawsuit. What is perhaps most important about the SUAA lawsuit, as compared to the five other lawsuits that have been filed and now combined into one, is that the SUAA lawsuit addresses the issue of contract law in addition to pension law.

The other lawsuits have been combined in Sangamon County (Springfield) and the SUAA lawsuit is in Champaign County (Champaign/Urbana). The plaintiffs in the SUAA lawsuit represent a broad range of SUAA members—from retired mechanics to retired professors.

Another important distinction is that the SURS is the only one of the five state pension systems that has the Money Purchase Formula.

Please do read the article elsewhere in this newsletter. And please note an aspect of SB 1 (PA 980599) that was news to me: grant percentages/salaries that were awarded to professors will not be included in the pensionable income.

Another article of interest in this newsletter is the one that deals with taxing pension income. This pops us with great regularity and during this election cycle is getting its play again. Bruce Rauner, Republican candidate for governor, has been publicly declaring that he is in favor of taxing pension income. Of much more importance than what Bruce Rauner has been saying is that Senate President Cullerton is also making noises that say he is in favor of taxing pension income. Since we are in the season of the taxes and you might be doing yours about now, re-figure your income taxes if you had to pay them on your pension!

No news is available on the health insurance lawsuit. The Illinois Supreme Court has heard the arguments, but has given no indication of when they might announce a decision.

We have our annual spring meeting coming up on April 23. It should be an interesting meeting in that it will cover a variety of topics of great interest to those of us already retired and to those still employed and looking forward to retirement. (On that issue, of looking forward to retirement, rumor in Springfield—the capital of rumor—is that up to 17,000 people may retire from Illinois universities and community colleges this spring! Fear of all the changes in the pension systems that will occur if PA 980599 makes it through the courts is what is driving this.)

At the spring meeting—5:00, Wednesday, April 23, Law School Auditorium—Linda Brookhart, executive director of SUAA and representatives from SURS will discuss SB 1 (PA 980599) and what it means to retirees. Earlier in the day, there will be meetings specifically aimed at current employees that will deal with SB 1. There will be a question-and-answer session following this presentation.

Linda will then discuss the latest information she has on our lawsuit and its progress.

Finally, for the formal part of the meeting, Linda will discuss the proposed major changes in the constitution of SUAA. The parliamentarian that SUAA has engaged has gone over our constitution and found it inconsistent and actually illegal in some parts. A committee has been working for months on a complete re-draft of the constitution, which will be voted on by the Board of Directors of SUAA at its annual meeting in June.

After the formal part of the meeting, we will have a business meeting of the chapter, which will include election of new members to the local Board of Directors.

I would like to use this space to publicly thank Doug Bedient and John Pohlman for the help they have given me in the last few months. Finding out I was no longer president-elect of SUAA but was now president of SUAA at the same time I had surgery (a total knee replacement) and having to continue with the business of being president of our local chapter meant that I needed a lot of help in getting things together and organized. Doug and John proved to be of great help during that hectic time.

In addition, thank you to Mike Hanes, Thyra Russell and Nancy Hartman for their service on the SIU Carbondale Annuitants Association's Board of Directors the past four years. Their service is greatly appreciated. And a further thanks to Nancy Hartman for all the work she has put in as editor of this newsletter for the last eleven years. We are greatly indebted to her.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Bruce Appleby". The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a white background.

SURS ANNOUNCES NEW LIFE EVENTS TAB ON THEIR WEBSITE

It was announced in the January issue of SURS newsletter, *The Advocate*, and in an e-mail to members that they have added a new section to their website to assist members in making life choices.

The new Life Events tab on the SURS website home page is located on the left-hand side of the tool bar and provides easy access to information members may need as they move through their work life. By hovering over the tab, members can access information on selecting a retirement plan, enhancing benefits, family changes, disability, retirement, returning to work after retirement and death benefits. Each section provides a guide to the application process and a time line for completion.

SUAAction

In February while I was in Los Cabos, Baja Mexico, the Board of Directors of SUAAction met in Springfield to determine which candidates we would provide financial support to in the primary election. I was not the only member who couldn't attend since the winter weather kept many home bound. The Board will meet again after the primary to decide which candidates to support in the general election. I will be able to attend that meeting and surely spring will come soon so we should have a full house for that meeting.

Thank you to all who donated last year to SUAAction. Our letter requesting funds for this calendar year will be coming out sometime this spring.

At the time that I am writing this note, March 14th, the names of the primary candidates who received money from SUAAction are not yet listed on the website. Our next quarterly report to the Board of State Elections will be filed the first week of March, and that report lists the names of all politicians to whom SUAAction has donated. State law requires that political action committees must report all financial activities by filing a D2 report on a quarterly basis.

I think the D2 report is confusing to read so for those who are interested, I will try to walk you through the report. Start at the SUAAction website <http://suaa.org/action.php>. Click on SUAAction D2 Reports. Next, click on the latest Quarterly Report. Scroll down past the Receipts to the Expenditures section. Under the Transfers Out, click on itemized. That is the section that lists the names of all the politicians who have received money from SUAAction.

After the primary and before the SUAAction Board meets again, I will solicit via email your opinion about which local state senators and representatives should be supported. Or for those who don't use email, you may send snail mail to me at 1 Potters Road, Makanda, IL 62958.

– CAROLYN DONOW

TAXING RETIREMENT BENEFITS

The idea of taxing retirement benefits has once again raised its head, thanks to the Civic Federation of Chicago.

On the State Journal Register web site for March 8, Doug Finke wrote an article titled "Taxing retirement benefits controversial, but viewed by some as a matter of fairness."

Finke reports that Civic Federation President Laurence Msail talked about how 41 states have income tax, but only 3 of those (Illinois, Mississippi, Pennsylvania) do not tax retirement benefits. Msail believes that pension income in Illinois should be subject to state income tax, arguing that it's only fair, but ignoring that the non-tax on pensions is used as an argument for why the state pension systems are so good. That many planned their retirement around the fact that they would not have to pay income tax on their pension is of great importance here.

The Center for Tax and Budget Accountability has long supported the idea of taxing retirement income. Ralph Martire, the center's executive director, would, however, exempt the first \$50,000 of retirement income from being taxed. This exemption would mean that most SURS retirees would not have to pay income tax on their pensions. Remember: the average SURS pension is \$36,000 a year.

Whether or not this move on the part of the Civic Federation will get much play is a big guess. The topic comes up frequently, especially around election time, but seems to go nowhere. In 2011, President of the Illinois Senate Cullerton brought up and supported the idea in a speech in Chicago. Within days, he was backtracking on the idea and saying he was not in support of it. It seems to be an unpopular idea that comes up repeatedly but to no end. Maybe it just sounds good.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL 23- 3:30 P.M. - EMERITUS FACULTY ORGANIZATION APRIL MEETING - LESAR LAW BUILDING, ROOM 202

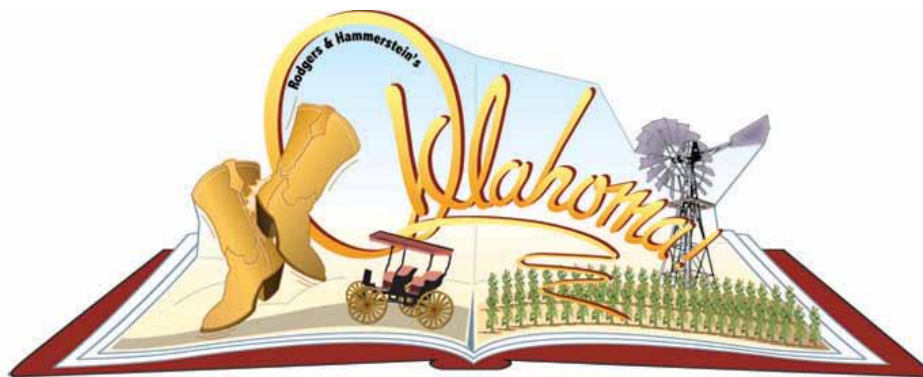
APRIL 23 - 5 P.M. - SPRING GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING - LESAR LAW BUILDING AUDITORIUM

APRIL 26 - 8 A.M. - 3 P.M. - SPRING FLEA MARKET -SIU ARENA PARKING LOT - SPONSORED BY CIVIL SERVICE COUNCIL

Join us for an evening at wonderful McLeod Theater for dinner and the live, musical performance of Rogers and Hammerstein's *Oklahoma!*

The Annuitants Association is happy to again be sponsoring the ever popular Dinner Theater for the opening night performance of *OKLAHOMA!* kicking off the 2014 McLeod Music Theater Department's Summer Series.

Reserve your dinner/theater tickets now for opening night, Friday, June 20, 2014
Tickets are \$38 per person for both dinner and the performance
Ticket request deadline: June 10, 2014



For your dining pleasure, a buffet dinner, prepared by Heartland Catering, will be served in the Moe Theater at 6:15 p.m. prior to the 7:30 curtain call at McLeod Theater. A block of select seats is reserved for our group for the performance of the long-standing popular musical, *OKLAHOMA!* The first 36 people to register for this event will be guaranteed dinner/theater tickets.

Music by Richard Rodgers

Book and lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II

Based on the play, *Green Grow the Lilacs* by Lynn Riggs

Winner of a 1944 special Pulitzer Prize

The great American musical. Love and statehood come to the prairies of Oklahoma in this classic musical from Broadway's golden age.

AARP FRAUD IQ TEST (FROM THE MARCH 2014 AARP BULLETIN/REAL POSSIBILITIES)

Online, have you ever:

1. Clicked on a pop-up ad?
2. Played solitaire or other games?
3. Opened an email from someone you don't know?
4. Read a newspaper?
5. Signed up for a free trial offer?
6. Kept in touch with family members on Facebook or Twitter?
7. Sold some merchandise in an auction?
8. Checked the weather report?
9. Sent funds through an internet money transfer service?
10. Watched a TV show?
11. Posted your home address, phone number, vacation plans, names of children or grandkids on social media?

If you checked only even-numbered activities, you are among Internet users least likely to be duped by a fraudster. If you checked any of the odd-numbered choices, you may be putting yourself in the scammer's sights, according to Doug Shadel, AARP Washington state director and author of *Outsmarting the Scam Artist*. Shadel also directed an AARP survey of nearly 12,000 Internet users to determine the differences between online fraud victims and nonvictims.

For more information about the survey and fraud protection, go to: aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork

LOOKING FOR YOUR FAMILY HISTORY?

If you enjoy genealogy, and are an AARP member, you can get a 30 percent discount on a monthly membership to Ancestry.com. For details, go to aarpdiscounts.com/ancestry3.

Chapter happenings

BLOOD DRIVE

~Mary Mantovani

WINTER BLOOD DRIVE RESULTS

The Blood Drive held on January 22 and 23, 2014, was successful in that the two day drive (8 hours) netted 68 pints of blood which was 4 pints over our 64 pint quota. Those volunteers who braved the cold weather to work the drive were: Imogene Beckemeyer, Georgia Kelley, Mary Mantovani, Jackie Mueller and Roland Person----a BIG THANK YOU to all.

The next Drive will be in late August, 2014. Keep on donating and remember, one pint can save up to three lives. At the January drive, up to 204 lives could have been saved.

BLOOD DRIVE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Currently, our volunteer list is down to just a few names and we need some additional volunteers to assist with future blood drives. The blood drives usually run for two consecutive days and are held in January and August each year. The drive consists of a four hour collection session each day and is broken into two two-hour shifts. Chapter volunteers usually work the registration table and assist with the canteen operations.

We encourage our members, especially our newer members, to consider volunteering to work a two hour shift during the next blood drive in August. It is a excellent opportunity to meet other members of our chapter and to assist with a very important project.

To volunteer, please, contact Holly Rick at 453-6689. And remember, if you CAN'T HELP---DONATE!

GOLF

~KEITH MCQUARRIE

FALL OUTING RESULTS

The annual Fall Golf Outing was held at the Pine Lakes Golf Club in Energy, Illinois.

Results of the event were: 1st place: Kay Brechtelsbauer, Elaine Vitello, Ruth Barnhardt and Judy Rawls. They must have played well, because Ruth won the 'closest to the pin' competition. They shot a score of 63 for the 18 holes. 2nd place, with a score of 65, went to the team of Ed Mayberry and James Jordan. While we hope to play 'foursomes', it is not always possible so we alter the format for smaller teams. 3rd place, with a score of 67 was the team of Eugene Mantovani, Ted Mieling, and John Martinko. Long putt honors went to Ed Mayberry.

The Spring 2014 Golf Scramble will be scheduled for either 'late' April or 'early' May, likely on a Monday, with a rain date one week later. If you have a course that you would like to play, please e-mail me at keithmcq@siu.edu. When information is available for the next Golf Outing, it will be posted on our website and announced on our list serv and Facebook page. Please, also, spread the word and encourage others to field a team - we always have a great time!

BOOKSTORE GREETERS

~Doug Bedient

THANKS TO OUR GREETERS

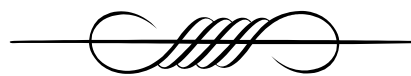
Thanks to everyone who volunteered; those who appeared to meet new students and handle their questions as well as secure their book bags and back packs; and quick recovery to those who ran into difficulty with their appointment due to health issues, family needs and other demands for their time.

We survived the reduction in number of spots to stow the students' items. John Bobell did yeoman duty in producing clean, legible clothespins that several persons brought in since they tired of the well used ones.

My list of volunteers includes the following: Nancy Fligor, Bill McMinn, Joyce Webb, Sandy Hostetler, Barbara Morgan, Chuck Frank, J.C. Garavalia, Mike Hanes, Bruce Appleby, Linda Dutcher, George Mavigliano, Emil Spees, Roland Person, Mary Mantovani, Roberta Reeves, Nancy Pfaff, Jan Henry, Bill Doerr, Bill Wright, Beverly Walker, Carol and Dick Daesch, Joan and Rick Erickson, Carolyn and Herb Donow, Lynn Smith, Thyra Russell, Kathy Fahey, Joe Swindell, Bob Radtke, Bill Tally, Kim Jaros, Carol King, Ann Dillard, Marcia Anderson, Norma Ewing, Ann Karmos, John Bobell, John Corker, Kay Brechtelsbauer, Judy Rawls, Georgia Kelley, JoAnn Flanigan, Dick Bradley, Barb Humphrey, Jan Waggoner, Nancy Hartman, Fred Moehle, Keith McQuarrie, Mary Jane and Jay Brooks, and Dennis Laake! If I omitted anyone, my sincere apology!

I always welcome new volunteers. If you want to be included in the August 2014 program contact me anytime! Thanks again to everyone. Reports indicate that workers once again had good experiences and the SIU Carbondale Annuitants Scholarship Fund benefitted.

Douglas Bedient, 618-687-2792 or bedient@galaxycable.net



SUAA MEMBERS – Please help make the VOICE in Springfield stronger. Every new member raises the VOLUME!

RECRUIT A NEW MEMBER.

We Are All In This Together

Go to SUAA.ORG to keep informed on the Pension Reform Legislation (SB 1), actions being taken on your behalf, the Legal Fund and how you can assist.

Spotlighting The Carbondale SUAA Chapter

Do you ever wonder what your dues and support of SUAA accomplish? The following includes information from a recent SUAA Mini-Briefing that addresses how SUAA is defending the pensions and benefits of University retirees and current employees. Here are a sampling of what your membership and dues is supporting in behalf of sustaining your SURS pension and benefits.

Legal Defense

SUAA filed its lawsuit against the state of Illinois, under the pensions clause and the contract clause in the Illinois Constitution, on March 6. SUAA has engaged the law firm of Maduff & Maduff, LLC in Chicago. Aaron Maduff is the lead attorney, with SUAA's attorney John Carr providing research and backup. Aaron Maduff was named in Chicago Magazine as one of the top 100 attorneys in the state of Illinois with employment law his specialty.

There have been five other lawsuits filed: two in Cook County and three in Sangamon County. These lawsuits have been combined into one to be heard in Sangamon County (Springfield). The SUAA lawsuit was filed in Champaign County. Plaintiffs chosen for the lawsuit all live in Champaign County. Parkland Community College, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the offices of the State Universities Retirement System (SURS) are all located in Champaign County. The fiscal impact of SB 1 (PA 980599) on this county is huge.

Filing multiple lawsuits will be an advantage to all participants and beneficiaries in the four state-funded pensions systems to which SB 1 applies. There are certain distinctions that set SURS apart from the other systems. SURS has a Traditional Plan, a Portable Plan and a Self-Managed Plan. SURS is the only pension system with the Money Purchase Formula, a plan that will be severely reduced in value with the implementation of SB 1.

The SUAA lawsuit files complaints under the pension and contracts clauses in the Illinois Constitution. Because SURS participants were compelled to make an irrevocable election in the years 1999-2001, a claim is made of a violation of contract law.

In addition, the suit cites as violations:

- the loss of the Automatic Annual Increases (also known as the COLA) as agreed in negotiation with the State of Illinois;
- the skipping of the Automatic Annual Increase as based on the age of the SURS employee at the time of retirement;
- the salary cap on earnings in calculating pension benefits;
- the raising of the retirement age;
- the change in the effective rate of interest in SURS pensions benefit calculations;
- the potential of contract violations. (As an example, Parkland Community College employees received an early retirement incentive through collective bargaining. Upholding SB 1 would affect collective bargaining agreements.);
- the added potential of striking down the AAI (COLA) as a diminishment of benefits;
- and the grant percentages awarded to professors will not be included in the pensionable income.

(This article is closely based on the SUAA Mini-Briefing of February 26, 2014.)

And did you know?

- 745 SIU Carbondale retirees and employees constitute the membership of the SIU Carbondale SUAA (State Universities Annuitants Association) chapter.
- The SIU Carbondale chapter of SUAA funded four scholarships for outstanding SIU Carbondale students during 2013-2014.
- 15,667 SURS retirees and current employees constitute the membership of SUAA.
- SUAAAction was established to help protect pensions and benefits. SUAAAction's purpose: To support those candidates who share the views of the members of SUAA (Carolyn Donow is the SIU Carbondale representative to the SUAAAction Board and is its co-director.) 139 SIU Carbondale Annuitant Association members donated \$6,620 to SUAAAction in the last year.
- The Legal Fund established to fight SB 1, PA98-599, (see article in this newsletter) has had \$216,160 donated as of February 28, 2014. The SIU Carbondale chapter donated \$5,000 directly from its funds. Individual members of the SIU Carbondale chapter donated \$8,578. This total of \$13,578 from the SIU Carbondale chapter places it as the fourth highest donator to the Legal Fund.
- The Legal Fund is still accepting donations. (Go to suaa.org.) As we prepare this newsletter, we don't know where our lawsuit will go, whether or not it will be combined with the others in Sangamon county, and when the Illinois Supreme Court will hear the cases. We can hope that the Supreme Court may decide that PA98-599 can't be implemented on its due date—July 1, 2014. But we need to be prepared for all possibilities.

SUAA Membership

The State Universities Annuitants Association (SUAA) advocates on behalf of all faculty and staff of public universities and community colleges - both retired and current employees - their spouses and survivors, who are participants and beneficiaries of the State Universities Retirement System (SURS).

Everyone who is a participant in SURS needs to be aware of the issues involved with the future of pensions. Membership in SUAA keeps one informed of those issues and means you have someone in Springfield looking out for your interests. SUAA is dedicated to preserving and protecting a strong public pension system, healthcare benefits, and the general well-being of its membership.

The SIU Carbondale Annuitants Association Board encourages all members of SUAA to help us increase our membership by talking with your friends, neighbors, colleagues to let them know the importance of joining SUAA—our voice with the Illinois Legislature in Springfield. Our legislators have told us repeatedly that their effectiveness in advocating for us is greatly strengthened by the number of members in our group.

How does SIU Carbondale membership compare with other Illinois schools? The following is a glimpse of where we stand as of February 2014:

SIU Carbondale had 745 members (605 retirees, 66 actively employed and 74 other);

SIUE had 422 members (335 retirees, 40 actively employed and 47 other);

Illinois State University had 1361 members (1038 retirees, 159 actively employed and 164 other);

Eastern Illinois University had 710 members (575 retirees, 80 actively employed and 55 other);

University of Illinois—Urbana Champaign had 2022 members (1800 retirees, 90 actively employed and 132 other).

SIU Carbondale—we can do better. Saluki Dawgs should not be beaten by ISU's Redbirds! Help increase our membership numbers today! Each one, Reach one!

Thyra Russell, Membership Chair

457-7554 or trussell@siu.edu

Your Carbondale Chapter at Work

- Is governed by a 13 member Board of Directors that represents SIU Carbondale retirees and the following campus employee sectors: Faculty, AP, and Civil Service Employees
- Is represented by two chapter delegates, with voting rights, at the SUAA's two annual meetings
- Is represented by non-voting representatives who sit on campus employee councils and associations
- Has a voting representative assigned to the campus Benefits Committee
- Has representation on the SIU Recreation Center Advisory Board
- Awards four \$1,000 scholarships to SIU Carbondale Students each academic year
- Oversees a volunteer workforce to handle backpack check-in at SIU Bookstore during the first week of Fall and Spring semesters
- Works in conjunction with SIU Emeritus Faculty Organization
- Maintains campus affiliation through the department of Human Resources

Carbondale Chapter Activities

- Conducts two General Membership Meetings per year
- Provides a printed newsletter to chapter members three times a year
- Assists with campus Red Cross Blood Drives at least twice a year by
- Provides volunteers to work the book bag check-in at the SIU Bookstore during the first week of Fall and Spring semesters
- Plans and organizes social events for the membership
- Emeritus Faculty Organization conducts two annual membership meetings & an annual Faculty Lecture, free and open to the public

Help us to increase our membership numbers so that the SUAA voice will continue to grow. SUAA is the one organization that places retirees and workers of the State University Retirement System as its focus! Join in so that you have a voice in this battle!

The Annuitant newsletter is published three times a year by the SIU Carbondale Annuitants Association and the Department of Human Resources, Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

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MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

If you are associated with SIU Carbondale...

You should join the State Universities Annuitants Association. SUAA serves all participants and beneficiaries of the State Universities Retirement System (SURS). SUAA is the only advocacy organization focusing solely on preserving pension and healthcare benefits for current employees and retirees of public universities and community colleges. It is important that everyone—retired and current employees, spouses, and survivors—become a member of SUAA. The annual fee is \$31.

Ways to join:

- Go to www.suaa.org and click on “Join Now.”
- Go to the Annuitants Association website: <http://eaa.siu.edu/> and click on “Membership Information.” Payment options include automatic dues deduction, annual payment by check, or automatic payroll deduction (current employees only). Automatic dues deduction is encouraged because it eliminates the need to be contacted annually by SUAA.
- Call the SUAA Office toll-free: 888-547-8473.

To those who are already members of SUAA we thank you. To those who have not yet joined, please consider joining today. We need to protect our pension and benefits.

Thyra Russell
 SIU Carbondale-AA Membership Chair
 457-7554 or trussell@siu.edu

**SIU CARBONDALE ANNUITANTS ASSOCIATION
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 State Universities Retirement System (SURS)..... www.surs.org
 SIU Carbondale Human Resources www.siu.edu/~humres/
 SIU Credit Union www.siu.edu/~siucru/
 Illinois Educ Association www.illinoiseducationassociation.org
 SIU Alumni Association www.siu.edu/~siualumni.com
 Illinois State Government..... www.illinois.gov/
 SIU Carbondale Annuitants Association <http://eaa.siu.edu/>

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