

THE ANNUITANT

A PUBLICATION OF THE SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY CARBONDALE
ANNUITANTS ASSOCIATION

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SPECIAL FALL MEETING TO ADDRESS STATE PENSION CRISIS

With featured speaker, Linda Brookhart, Executive Director of SUAA



Linda Brookhart
SUAA Executive Director

As you know the SIU Carbondale chapter of the Annuitants Association is an affiliate of the State University Annuitants Association (SUAA). Over 700 current employees and retirees of SIU Carbondale comprise our membership. SUAA advocates for the pension plans that each University employee paid into with every paycheck during their work at SIU Carbondale.

The Executive Director of SUAA, Linda Brookhart, will speak to our group on September 26, 2013. This meeting is very timely as there are numerous proposals to change the pension and benefit programs in order to deal with a huge pension deficit that was not caused by the employees in the various programs.

Retired University employees are paying 1% of their pension for health coverage in FY 2013-14. Plans call for that percentage to increase to 2% on July 1, 2014. Different proposals for dealing with the pension deficit have been introduced in the General Assembly and an ad hoc committee involving both representatives and senators is deliberating about possible solutions. The pension deficit reduction plans will be of considerable interest to retirees and current employees of SIU Carbondale and all the other community colleges and universities in Illinois. With the opening of health insurance exchanges many retirees will be confronted with making decisions about medical

insurance. This period of potential change with myriad questions and issues for both retirees and working employees led us to schedule the fall meeting so that current employees could join with retirees to learn the latest information regarding pension and health insurance policies. We invite you to ask colleagues, retired or working, to this event so that they will be apprised of the current situation on some momentous events that will be occurring in the near future.

On Thursday, September 26, our chapter will host a wine and appetizer reception from 4:30-5:15 in the lounge area outside the Student Center Auditorium. Linda Brookhart, Executive Director of SUAA, will speak to the local chapter, campus employees, as well as community college people who are interested at 5:15. Her remarks will emphasize what is happening in Springfield as it affects the pension and insurance policies of current employees. The local chapter will hold its fall business meeting at 6:15 and a dinner will follow at 6:30 in one of the ballrooms. The business meeting and dinner are open to all those who wish to attend. The cost of the dinner is \$15. Further information and a reservation form are included within this newsletter. Please plan to attend and help us bring important information to our members, current employees and retirees who are not yet members of SUAA, and community college faculty and staff.

Appleby elected president-elect of State Universities Annuitants Association

Bruce C. Appleby, newly elected President of the SIU Carbondale chapter of SUAA (and serving his second term in that position) was elected President-Elect of the State Universities Annuitants Association (SUAA) at the meeting of the Board of Directors in Springfield on June 19.

Appleby will be president-elect of SUAA for the next year and will become president of SUAA in June of 2014, to serve a two-year term.

Appleby has just finished his second two-year term as a member of the executive committee of SUAA. He was a major player in defeating the Constitutional Amendment on the ballot in Illinois last November, the amendment that would have taken away our constitutionally guaranteed cost of living adjustment in the current Illinois constitution.

“What they are trying to do to our health insurance is a major concern for the next few months. I hope that members of SUAA will take advantage of the Mini-Briefings that the executive director sends out by getting their e-mail address on the SUAA listserv. In addition, information will be disseminated by the local listserv. Anyone who is reading this newsletter should be sure that his/her e-mail address is also listed on the local listserv,” Appleby advises.

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Visit the Annuitants Association on the Web!
<http://www.eaa.siuc.edu/>

A message from the president

Greetings!



Bruce Appleby
President
SIU Carbondale
Annuitants Association

Once again, I'm going to be writing these President's Messages. I served as President of the SIU Carbondale Annuitants Association from 2005 to 2007 and am once again President, from 2013-2015.

In the interim, I have kept busy with annuitants affairs. Locally, I have represented the Annuitants Association on the campus Joint Benefits Committee since 2005. I have also represented us on the advisory board of the Recreation Center since 2007.

State-wide, I have been on the executive committee of the State Universities Annuitants Association for two terms--since 2009. And in June, the Board of Directors elected me President-Elect of the state association. I'll hold this position for one year, then become president of the state association in June of 2014.

One of my goals is that we increase our membership. Current employees need to know that we--SUAA--are their best representation in Springfield on concerns and issues of pensions and benefits, most particularly health insurance. The plans for our meeting on September 26 address this need. Let those you know who are still working and not yet retired of our meeting on September 26. It's going to be the best single source for information on what is happening to their pensions and, again most particularly, what is happening to their health insurance.

We are inviting people from John A Logan, Shawnee and Rend Lake community colleges to join us on September 26. SUAA is made up of employees and retirees from the community colleges as well as the universities.

Once someone is retired, the unions no longer speak for them, so SUAA becomes the voice for their concerns. In my years of involvement with SUAA, it seems to me that SUAA puts most of its efforts towards protecting the rights of those who are still employed. Those of us who are already retired have our pensions and benefits more closely guarded, but the state can do what it will and wants to the future benefits of future retirees. We need to work together to protect those rights.

I have a 46 year history with SIU Carbondale. I came here in 1967 and have been retired for 19 years. In all that time, I have found that the Annuitants Association perhaps best represents what the University is all about. Here, I have found the close relationship between civil service, administrative/professional and faculty that often seemed missing when I was working full time.

My motto in the election campaign for the Presidency of SUAA was "We're all in this together." Realizing that we are all truly in this together, we can pull together and protect and enhance our pensions and benefits. We have lived up to our agreement with the state and now, together, we need to constantly remind the state of its obligations to us.

Let me thank John Pohlmann for his service as President of our local chapter for the last two years. He has given of his time and effort to insure the continued success of our operation. And let me also thank Bob Radtke for his years of service to the SIU Carbondale Annuitants Association. Bob is going off the Board of Directors, having served as President from 2009 to 2011, and as immediate past president for the last year.

Finally, let me welcome the newest member to the Board of Directors of the SIU Carbondale Annuitants Association, Trish Welch. Trish was elected to the board at the April meeting.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruce Appleby". The signature is written in a cursive style.

PENSION BENEFIT PROTECTION THROUGH MEMBERSHIP

-Thyra Russell

As you are aware, public pensions, including the ones we receive from SURS, are being blamed for most of the fiscal woes faced by Illinois. Illinois is cited as having the largest unfunded pension liability in the nation. What is often left unsaid, however, is that this underfunding is due to insufficient employer contributions. In other words, the State of Illinois, as employer, has not fully paid its share toward pensions. Many proposals have come from the state legislature to resolve this dilemma with the majority focused on reducing our benefits. Both current and retired employees are targets.

What can you do to protect your SURS pension and benefits? Join the SIU Carbondale chapter of the State Universities Annuitants Association (SUAA). Become a part of this over 15,000 member organization that has 52 chapters. 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 University Retirement System.

The back of this newsletter contains information about ways to join. The annual fee is \$37. Don't wait, join TODAY!

As I write (August 8, 2013), the situation in Springfield and the information we have on what is happening or what is going to happen to our pensions and benefits is so scattered and fragmented that the easiest thing would be to say NOTHING IS HAPPENING.

The bi-partisan joint houses committee that was given the charge by the Governor to come up with a solution to the "pension crisis" has reported nothing and hasn't even given a good indication of what they might report, when and if they do. The ploy by the Governor to force the legislature to come up with ideas has proven, thus far, to be totally ineffective. It appears we may enter into a second month of the legislature not getting their checks.

That the Democrat leaders of the House and Senate have brought suit against the Governor (also a Democrat), maintaining that it is unconstitutional for him to withhold their salaries, perhaps best defines what is and isn't happening in Springfield.

All of this does support our decision to have Linda Brookhart, executive director of SUAA, be our speaker at the September 26 meeting of the SIU Carbondale chapter of SUAA. Linda has been a major player in letting the legislators know what the current employees and retirees of the state's universities and community colleges want and need to happen with their pensions and their benefits—most particularly, their health insurance benefits.

Those of us already retired started to pay for health insurance as of July 1, 2013. That I was told when I retired 19 years ago that the state would pay for my health insurance for the rest of my life seems to be something that has been totally ignored. I personally am not distressed by having to give up 1% of my pension to cover my health insurance. But that is of little meaning when I realize that come October 1, I'm going to have to make a decision as to how to cover my health insurance.

And I'm one of the lucky ones, as I had enough quarters of paying into Social Security that I get Medicare, so I am talking about only roughly 20% of my health costs. The majority of retirees from a state university are not Medicare eligible, as the state wouldn't let them pay into Social Security and told them "we'll cover your health insurance." One can't even work up a chuckle about that.

SUAA is going to have a portal on its web site, available only to current members of SUAA through their membership number, where one can make contact with an insurance broker, which will help you negotiate and understand the options that are available to you for your health insurance. More immediately, Linda Brookhart's presentation on September 26 will give you heads-up information so you can make wise decisions and make something happen.



SIU Carbondale Annuitants Association open membership meetings



Please join us at our semi annual General Membership meetings. Our organization meets in April and September. Meetings consist of a business meeting that provides for both updates for and input from the membership, a special speaker of interest, and a luncheon.

Pictured to the left are members Fred Moehle, Bud Robbins, and Doug Bedient at the Spring 2013 meeting.

URGENT IMPORTANT GRASS ROOT NOTICE

Please learn the names and phone numbers of your legislators and keep the information close to your phone or recorded in your cell phone. April and definitely May will be busy. Keep phone numbers close at hand as alerts to call will be coming.

GRASS ROOTS!

Remember it is your personal contact that does make a difference to your future!

CONTACTS FOR LOCAL STATE LEGISLATORS

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Chapter happenings

2013 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS ANNOUNCED



Pictured above at the April Board of Directors meeting are President John Pohlmann, along with scholarship winners (l-r) Allison Rump and Ethan Brammeier, and Scholarship Committee member Denny Hays.

Once again the Scholarship Committee, chaired by Imogene Beckemeyer, diligently worked throughout the late winter months to review the scholarship applications submitted by SIU Carbondale upperclassmen and to select the winners for our four annual scholarship awards. The committee members consisted of Denny Hays, Brenda Gilbert, David Koch, Inga Rader, along with Chair Beckemeyer, reviewed and ranked the the applicants based on the academic achievements and leadership qualities. Recipients are also required to have a 3.4 GPA. As in past years, the applicants possessed outstanding credentials and making the choices for the four \$1000 awards was a challenging task.

The Annuitants Association Board and members gratefully appreciate the work of this important committee in again, performing this annual task with the attention and thoroughness required. Our SIU Carbondale chapter is one of the few in the state of Illinois to be able to provide the number of scholarships, and in the dollar amount of each award, that we award to deserving students.

Those students who received awards for the 2013-2014 academic year are as follows.

Ethan Brammeier, a senior from Hoyleton, Illinois, who is majoring in Architecture Drafting and has maintained a 4.0 GPA in his studies. As indicated by his major, he is looking forward to becoming an architecture when he completes his degree program.

Kalyn M. Harker, is a junior who is studying Biological Science with a bio-medical track. She also carries a 4.0 GPA and hopes to be a physician assistant with a focus on neo-natal intensive care.

Christine Piha, who is a senior majoring in Special Education/Elementary Education, is pursuing a five year program with her double major. She plans to teach special education at the completion of her programs.

Allison Rump, who is majoring in Microbiology, is a junior with a 3.8 GPA. Allison plans to pursue a masters degree in immunology before pursuing a career in either research or public health.

Two alternate students were selected in the event that one of the above recipients would be unable to accept the award. The first alternate is Melissa McDonald, who carries a 4.0 GPA and is majoring in Dental Hygiene. Jensen Falker is the second alternate and he is majoring in Interior Design and also carries a 4.0 GPA.

EMERITUS FACULTY ORGANIZATION ANNOUNCES 2013 LECTURE

~Bill Wright

Dr. Michael T. Madigan, Southern Illinois University Distinguished Professor Emeritus, will present, *Life on the Edge: Microbial Life in Antarctica*, on Tuesday evening, October 29, at the Law School Auditorium. The lecture will begin at 7 p.m. and is open to all annuitants.

While at SIU Carbondale, Dr. Madigan conducted research on bacteria that inhabit extreme environments and taught both undergraduate and graduate students for 33 years. He earned his B.S. in biology and education at Wisconsin State University–Stevens Point, and his M.S. and Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, Department of Bacteriology. He then spent three years as a postdoctoral scientist at Indiana University–Bloomington in the Department of Biology before joining the Department of Microbiology at SIU. He received the College of Science Outstanding Teaching Award (1988); the College Outstanding Researcher Award (1993); the SIU Carbondale Outstanding Scholar Award (2001) and was elected to Phi Kappa Phi. In 2003, he received the Carski Award for Outstanding Teaching from the American Society for Microbiology and he is also an elected member of the American Academy of Microbiology (1997) and has received the United States Antarctic Service Medal (2005). Dr. Madigan has lead eight field teams in Antarctica and has been both an editor and chief editor of the international microbiology journal *Archives of Microbiology*.



Dr. Michael T. Madigan

In his lecture, Dr. Madigan will present an overview of extreme environments with a focus on his research experiences in Antarctica. The latter will include a travelogue of working in Antarctica, a research rationale, and actual research results.

More Chapter happenings

BLOOD DRIVE

~Mary Mantovani

The Fall Annuitants Association Blood Drive was held at the Student Center on August 27th and 28th, 2013. Thank you Imogene Beckemeyer, Mary Mantovani, Jackie Mueller and Nancy Pfaff for volunteering to work the Drive and in making it a success.

The next Blood Drive will be on Wednesday, October 9, 2013, in the Student Center. Volunteers are needed for 2 hour shifts. If you would like to volunteer, please send your name and a telephone number or e-mail address where you can be reached to Holly Rick, Human Resources, Mail code 6520, Miles Hall, SIU Carbondale, 1255 Douglas Drive, Carbondale, Illinois 62901 or e-mail hrick@siu.edu, or phone 453-6689. Please indicate what 2 hour shift you prefer to work. Shifts begin at 12 noon, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.

Remember, a donor has to wait 56 days between donations and that one pint can save up to 3 lives.

GOLF

~KEITH MCQUARRIE

The annual Spring Golf Outing was held at Hickory Ridge Public Golf Center course on Monday, June 3, 2013. A total of 23 participants played in the event. The event, played in 'scramble' format, also included longest putt and closest to pin contests. Third place went to the team of Arnold Ross, Ron Mahoney, Anne Johnson and Keith McQuarrie. Second place went to the team of Eugene Mantovani, Bill Crain, Lee Adams and Bill Tally. The first place team was made up of 3 players. Since they were short one player, they were allowed to rotate their 4th shot among the players who were Neal Foland, Kathy Hollister and Fred Isberner. Long putt went to Judy Rawls and 'closest to the pin' went to Charlotte West. After the round of golf, participants enjoyed a relaxing lunch in the clubhouse.

A date for the Fall 2013 Golf Scramble is still being decided. As usual \$5 will cover the prizes for the usual team score, plus Longest Putt, and Closest to the Pin contests. Please make plans to join us for a fun and relaxing day of golf and spread the word and encourage others to field a team – we always have a great time!

A notice will appear on the Annuitants Association ListServ when a date for the Fall Golf Outing has been set.

LEGISLATION & BENEFITS

Stay tuned during the week of September 26 for a local media blitz regarding SUAA's stance on Illinois pension reform sponsored by our chapter and SUAA.

The *Carbondale Times* will be running a newspaper article, as well as several other local newspapers, about the pension situation and to announce our Fall Meeting at the Student Center with SUAA Executive Director Linda Brookhart.

Linda Brookhart will also do a radio interview that week with WSIU-FM and a television interview with her will air in early October on WSIU-TV.

BOOKSTORE GREETERS

~Doug Bedient

Thanks to all who volunteered to work as bookstore greeters during August 19-23, 2013. We had a very good mix of long-time greeters and several recent retirees. We even had some people volunteer, but their requested time was fully staffed. But you can be sure that they will be hearing from us late in the fall when we begin to schedule Spring Semester 2014. In case you want to mark your calendar, the dates are January 13-17, 2014!

Volunteers in the August period included Marcia Anderson, Bruce Appleby, Barb Bedient, John Bobell, Mary Jane and Jay Brooks, Donna Cody, John Corker, Carol and Dick Daesch, Ann Dillard, Bill Doerr, Carolyn Donow, Joan and Rick Erickson, Jo Ann Flanigan, Nancy Fligor, Chuck Frank, J.C. Garavalia, Mike Hanes, Nancy Hartman, Jan Henry, Sandy Hostetler, Barbara Humphrey, Kim Jaros, Ann Karmos, Dennis Laake, Jim Legacy, Mary Mantovani, Doug McEwen, Bill McMinn, Keith McQuarrie, Fred Moehle, Susan Pearlman, Roland Person, Nancy Pfaff, Mary Pohlmann, Bob Radtke, Roberta Reeves, Thyra Russell, Jacqueline Scolari, Lynn Smith, Emil Spees, Joe Swindell, Jan Waggoner, Beverly Walker, Joyce Webb, Trish Welch, Charlotte West, Gordon White, Monica Wilson, Bill Wright, and Nillofur Zobairi. If I omitted anyone, please accept my apology and let me know so that my records are accurate.

Our scholarship fund will be increased \$600 due to the work of these individuals. Thanks for your continuing support of the Annuitants Association! Doug Bedient

SOCIAL

Unfortunately our summer dinner/theater for the performance of *Annie* at McLeod Theater on July 19 had to be cancelled because of low response. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused those who did register for the event and we do appreciate your interest in our programming.

We hope to offer a similar event during the Thanksgiving/Christmas season. During the fall, watch for notices posted on the listserv and Facebook page for updates on our annual Holiday social.

It is important that we can contact you

The Board of Directors encourages members who use the Internet to become a member of our on-line family, by signing up for our Listserv and joining our Facebook group page so that we can keep you informed of important messages from SUAA and your chapter. To sign up for the Listserv, contact Nancy Hartman at nancyhartman@juno.com. The Facebook page can be found at SIU Carbondale Annuitants Association.

The Association is also in need of your current e-mail address. To assist us in gathering this information, please send an e-mail message to Nancy with SUBJECT: SIU Carbondale Annuitant E-Mail.

We also remind you that if you are on our listserv and change your e-mail address, you must notify us of the change to continue to receive messages from the listserv.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO KEEP ON TAP

This information appeared in the April issue of the newsletter but is considered relevant to the current situation faced by our constituency. Therefore, we are printing the information again.

SUAA DEFINES TERMS RELEVANT TO CURRENT LEGISLATION (SOURCE: MARCH 22 SUAA MINI BRIEFING)

Tier I refers to those who were employed on or before December 31, 2010. If you are currently retired you are considered Tier 1.

SURS is the State Universities Retirement System; SERS is the State Employees Retirement System; TRS is the Teachers Retirement System; and, GARS is the General Assembly Retirement System. JRS (Judges Retirement System) is not included in any pension reform legislation included in the Mini Briefing.

Other information of interest –

Many people have asked how 3% simple interest on the first \$25,000 came about. It is included in several of the bills that Rep. Nekritz has or is sponsoring. The \$25,000 was determined due to the fact that \$14,000 is the average yearly amount provided by Social Security to retirees. Social Security is not considered a pension; it is a supplement to retirement only for those who qualify. The highest Social Security amount provided to those who have retired is \$30,100 for year 2013.

According to discussion on the House Floor on Thursday, March 21, \$25,000 was felt to be adequate; a level that allowed the savings needed for pension reform. Unfortunately, there is no consideration in these amendments/bills for inflation.

So what do you say to your legislators –

If you are currently working – simply reference the choices that you have to make between 1) access to non-guaranteed health insurance and ½ of a 3% COLA or CPI whichever is less; or 2) a 3% COLA with no consideration of pay raises. These choices are damaging to everyone who is a member of any of the State funded pension systems. **Vote “NO” on any legislation that requires you to make these types of choices. Let the legislators know how these choices would affect you personally.**

If you are currently retired – **ask the legislators to vote “NO” on any legislation that changes your current pension benefits such as the COLA. Tell them to vote NO on SB2404.**

Pension Tier Reference Chart

Tier I = those who were hired on or before December 31, 2010

Tier II = those who were hired on or after January 1, 2011

Tier III = has not been passed but so far they would be those who are hired on or after January 1, 2014.

*Those who are currently retired are all Tier I.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 26 - FALL GENERAL MEETING SPECIAL EVENT - SIU STUDENT CENTER.

OCTOBER 9 - BLOOD DRIVE - SIU STUDENT CENTER

OCTOBER 19 - 2013 SIU CARBONDALE HOMECOMING - THEME: UNLEASH THE LEGEND

OCTOBER 29 - 2013 EMERITUS FACULTY LECTURE - LAW SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - 7 P.M.

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

RECRUIT A NEW MEMBER.

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

Editor-in-Chief, Nancy Hartman

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Special Feature

Charlotte West to be inducted into Women's Basketball Hall of Fame



Much has been written about the achievements of Dr. Charlotte West, SIU Carbondale professor emerita of physical education, and long-time member and active supporter of the Annuitants Association. She has accomplished many significant goals in a long career, but perhaps the capstone was the recent announcement that she will be in the 2014 class of the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame. West will join with Lin Dunn, Michelle Edwards, Mimi Griffin, Yolanda Griffith and Jasmina Perazic during induction ceremonies on June 14, 2014 in Knoxville, TN.

West served with distinction in many position during her long and distinguished career at SIU Carbondale. She was a coach and administrator with Saluki athletics for a combined 41 years and she coached five different sports between 1957 and 1975. She served as women's athletics director from 1974-85 and then as associate athletic director when men's and women's programs were combined. West retired after 13 years in the associate position at the end of the 1997-98 seasons.

In an article printed in the *Chicago Times*, dating back to January 20, 1988, it was written that, "West's credentials are impressive. Her reputation in and out of the university is that of a fair, hard-working, intelligent, pragmatic administrator who is one of the best-liked teachers on campus." She holds a doctorate in physical education, was the director of SIU's women's athletics

(one of the nation's top programs), was a past president of the Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women, is enshrined in the SIU Hall of Fame and is a member of the NCAA Council, which governs the association between national conventions." Those words rang true throughout her professional career at SIU Carbondale. Once retired, she continued on in her quest to make a difference and to bring equality to all.

Charlotte, was honored in 2003 when a new women's softball stadium, built on the SIU Carbondale campus, was fittingly named after her. The Charlotte West Stadium is considered one of the best facilities of its kind in the country.

Currently, one still sees Charlotte actively supporting Saluki athletics, as well as university and community activities. She is pictured to the right, working as a volunteer with the Annuitants Association Bookstore Greeters program, cheerfully greeting students who are beginning another semester at SIU Carbondale. **Congratulations**, Charlotte, not only for the great contribution you have made to our campus but to people throughout our country.



JUST FOR FUN & FREE

According to AARP, the **2013 AARP Almanac** is a free e-book that can be downloaded to your computer or electronic reading device. This inaugural Almanac is packed with facts, figures and forecasts relevant to people 50+. It can be downloaded free from Amazon, Apple iBookstore, or Barnes and Noble. It includes dozens of categories such as:

- a look ahead at the key issues and happenings expected in 2013
- a look back at 50th anniversaries, including President John F. Kennedy's assassination and Martin Luther King "I Have a Dream" speech
- ways to save money this year, including places to get free stuff (from good-for-you yoga classes to decadent doughnuts) as well as sales tax holidays and seasonal best buys
- tips for staying healthy, from power foods to delicious recipes to the screenings you need this year
- movie, TV, and music trivia, with Billboard top hits, M*A*S*H* memories and all-time classic flicks
- great vacation spots this year (don't miss the monarch butterflies before global warming changes their patterns!) as well as film festivals, book fairs and food festivals nationwide
- deadlines, new laws and Supreme Courts cases that could affect you and your family.

SIU Carbondale Annuitants Association
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202109

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 \$37.

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
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WEBSITES TO MARK

State Universities Annuitant Ass. (SUAA) www.suaa.org
 State Universities Retirement System (SURS) www.surs.org
 SIU Carbondale Human Resources www.siu.edu/~humres/
 SIU Credit Union www.siu.edu/~siuc/
 Illinois Educ Association www.illinoiseducationassociation.org
 SIU Alumni Association www.siu.edu/~sualumni.com
 Illinois State Government www.illinois.gov/
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FACEBOOK PAGES TO JOIN

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