

EIU Annuitants Association Board Meeting Minutes

Neal Welcome Center

September 11, 2014

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Dan Carpenter, Barb Funk, Vicki Hampton, Mary Anne Hanner, Bob Jorstad, Ellen Keiter, Frank McCormick, Jill Nilsen, Doug Sloat, Julie Sterling.

- I. **Call to Order:** President Nilsen called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
- II. **Approval of June 12, 2014 Board Meeting Minutes and July 10, 2014 Chapter Meeting Minutes:**

ACTION: The minutes of June 12, 2014 and July 10, 2014 were approved with the following corrections to the July 10 minutes: (a) in **IV.F.**, line 1, p. 2, “Dianna” was corrected to read “**Dian**”; (b) in **VI.D.**, line 2, p. 3, “Zagta” was corrected to read “**Zytka**” (M.A. Hanner, D. Sloat).

- III. **Treasurer’s Report:** Barb Funk distributed and discussed her “**TREASURER’S REPORT FOR June, July, and August, 2014 (Prepared September 11, 2014)**,” noting that our balance as of August 31, 2014 was **\$2,535.04**.

ACTION: The Treasurer’s Report was approved (B. Funk/E. Keiter).

- IV. **Committee Reports:**

A. Membership: Ellen Keiter reported as follows:

1. Ellen’s records indicate that we currently have **731** members. SUAA’s records indicate that as of the end of July we had **712** members.
2. The Membership committee has continued its efforts to recruit additional members. Ellen’s list of new retirees includes **89** names, **18** of whom either were already EIUAA members or had very recently become members. Ellen sent letters inviting **57** of the remaining new retirees on her list to join EIUAA. Mary Anne Hanner sent e-mail invitations to another **14**. Thus far **12** of these retirees have joined.

3. The Membership committee proposed that we hold a drawing to award a What's Cookin' gift certificate to a member who recruits and brings a new member to an upcoming chapter meeting. Following discussion, it was agreed by consensus that the September newsletter will announce that one drawing will award a \$25 What's Cookin' gift certificate to an EIUAA member who brings a new member to either the October 2014 or February 2015 meeting, and a second drawing will award a gift certificate to a non-member who attends on his/her own and joins at one of the two meetings.

4. Ellen reported that last week Ernie Seacrest (Alumni Office) indicated that if we send her our master list of annuitants' names and contact information, she will compare it with the Alumni Office's list and update each list. In return, EIUAA will be given access to the Alumni Office's electronic list of annuitants. Following discussion, the Board agreed by consensus (a) to share our master list (names and contact information only) with the Alumni Office and (b) to empower Ellen to negotiate the best possible reciprocal arrangement with the Alumni Office.

ACTION: The Board voted to authorize an exception to our existing policy regarding sharing of our membership list with external entities. The agreement authorizes Ellen to share our membership list with the Alumni Office under the terms described above (D. Sloat/B. Funk).

B. Events: Julie Sterling distributed and discussed her proposed list of "**EIUAA Meetings for 2015.**"

ACTION: Following discussion, the Board approved the following 2015 meeting dates (E. Keiter/D. Carpenter):

2015 Chapter Meetings:

February 26
April 24 (EIUAA Luncheon at LifeSpan Center)
July 9
October 8

2015 Board Meetings:

March 5
June 4

September 10

December 10

- C. Communications:** Vicki Hampton reported that her committee is continuing its work on the October newsletter, which she expects will occupy twelve pages. The week of September 15-20 is the deadline for submitting newsletter articles and announcements to Vicki. The newsletter will be e-mailed to members for whom we have e-mail addresses and sent by surface mail to non-members as well as to members for whom we have no e-mail addresses.
- D. Scholarship:** Bob Jorstad reported that he has received from a dean a nomination of one potential Scholarship Committee member. He will be sending Vicki an announcement of Scholarship details for publication in the newsletter. Scholarship applications will be due “around Thanksgiving.”
- E. Legislative:** Jill Nilsen reported that SUAA has asked legislative chairs to ask a set of specific questions to area candidates for the General Assembly. (She circulated SUAA’s list of candidate questions.) Concerning state-provided health care, Jill noted that the state Supreme Court has overturned the Sangamon County Circuit Court and has declared that free healthcare is a pension benefit protected by the Constitution’s pension protection clause, a position to which the Sangamon County court assented in its subsequent reconsideration of the case. A timetable for the state’s returning to annuitants the health care premiums they have already paid has not yet been determined.
- F. Nominating:** Vicki Hampton reported that Hank Davis, John Flynn, and Dian Ensign will replace three current Board members who will step down in 2015. The three new Board members will be invited to our next Board meeting.
- V. Old Business:**

 - A. Review of July 10, 2014 Chapter Meeting:** It was agreed that despite relatively low attendance, attendees enjoyed the July Chapter meeting at the Recreation Center. A similar session will be scheduled at a Chapter meeting next summer.
 - B. Presidential Search Advisory Meeting:** Jill Nilsen reported that the Advisory Committee has met with Eastern’s (Boston) consultant. At that meeting it was decided that off-campus interviews of candidates will be held in mid November,

on-campus interviews in the first week of January. The Committee discussed qualities it will look for in EIU's new President. Among those qualities is an awareness of, and a willingness to "embrace," recent changes in higher education. The committee expects to winnow approximately twenty-five applicant portfolios down to twelve and to bring five to six candidates to campus for interviews. The committee will hold a conference call in two weeks.

- C. Meeting with Foundation Executive Officer:** Jill Nilsen explained that she, Julie, and Vicki would meet with EIU Foundation Executive Officer Jonathan McKenzie immediately after today's Board meeting.
- D. Cleanup of EIUAA Files/Materials in Neal Welcome Center Basement:** Jill announced that she, Julie, and Vicki would be happy to have additional Board volunteers to assist in clearing out obsolete EIUAA materials in Neal's basement on October 8.
- E. Update on E-Mail Conversion:** Vicki Hampton indicated that she has not heard lately from Kathy Reed, who will make a presentation on our EIU e-mail migration at the October 9 Chapter meeting. Vicki will participate in a pilot study of the new e-mail platform.
- F. Committee Structure in 2015:** Committee chairs indicated that they have found their new committees and committee members very helpful.

VI. New Business:

- A. Possible Joint Insurance Program with UPI:** Jill Nilsen explained that Audrey Edwards, in her capacity as representative of UPI's annuitants, participated in administering a recent survey of annuitants' experiences with their new health care options. Audrey is putting together a panel to summarize annuitants' responses to the survey. The panelists will discuss those responses at an October 17 meeting in Buzzard Auditorium which Audrey is organizing and which annuitants will be invited to attend.
- B. October 8, 2014 Chapter Meeting:** socializing and refreshments will begin at 8:30 a.m., followed by Kathy Reed's 9:00 a.m. presentation on the "migration" of EIU e-mail to a new platform. A business meeting will follow Ms. Reed's

presentation.

- C. **2015 Meeting Dates:** Jill Nilsen announced that SUAA's fall meeting will be held on October 29 in Bloomington. She added that to date SUAA has not sent us an account of how our legal fund contributions are being used.
- VII. **Adjournment:** President Nilsen adjourned the meeting at 10:32 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Frank McCormick, Secretary