

**EIU Annuitants Association Chapter Meeting Minutes
Neal Welcome Center**

February 26, 2015

Board Members Present: Mac Corley, Scott Crawford, Dianna Ensign, John Flynn, Vicki Hampton, Mary Anne Hanner, Jill Nilsen, Julie Sterling.

Board Members Absent: Hank Davis, Barbara Funk, Doug Sloat.

Annuitant Members Present: Carlene Baharlou, Alan Baharlou, Dan Carpenter, Marge Checkley, Barbara Corley, Dale Downs, Audrey Edwards, Tom Edwards, Jerry Heath, Carol Helwig, Pat Holycross, Judy James, Ellen Keiter, John Kilgore, Judi Konrad, Karl Konrad, David Mauer, Tim McCollum, Frank McCormick, Dolly McFarland, Donald McKee, Margaret Messer, Doreen Nelms, Hank Nilsen, Jayne Ozier, Wanda Reid, Ferne Rogers, Donald Rogers, Chris Sims, Deanna Smith, Don Smitley, Jan Smitley, Terry Weidner, Robert Whittenbarger, Luz Whittenbarger, Dale Wolf, Jone Zieren.

I. Call to order: President Vicki Hampton called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and expressed her appreciation to everyone for braving the weather.

II. Guest Presenters

A. Kyra Hampton - Community Care Systems, Inc. - Ms. Hampton is a Care Coordinator for Clark, Cumberland, Moultrie, and Shelby Counties. Ms. Hampton explained the community care service referrals that CCSI can provided for qualified participants, such as prescreening, post-screening, outpatient services, needs assessment, care referral and monitor, in-home care, emergency home response devices, i.e., Lifeline, et.al., day care programs, respite care for vacation/illness, legal services, mental health counselors, budgeting, to name a few. Participants receive a monthly phone call and personal visit every three months from a Care Coordinator.

CCSI is a for-profit agency, and according to Ms. Hampton, received a contract with the State of IL - Illinois Department on Aging in 1998.

Ms. Hampton explained income and asset limits for Medicaid services and the possibility of supplemental services for veterans to help with expenses not covered by the VA in Shelby and Moultrie Counties.

Cumberland and Associates is the name of the agency that covers Coles County for these same referral services.

- B.** Margaret Hunter - Community Care Systems, Inc. - Ms. Hunter is a Caregiver Advisor for Cumberland and Clark Counties. Ms. Hunter explained the National Caregiver Support Program that supports care givers by providing services that will meet their needs. CCSI provides referrals and assistance to gain access to services for training, respite care, individual counseling, and some financial relief. Other services provided by CCSI are help completing applications for TANF and support group meetings. Referrals are available for family care givers, grandparents raising grandchildren, and prevention of care-giver burnout. According to Ms. Hunter, these services are shown to delay the need for nursing home care.

The Illinois Department on Aging provides grants from IDOA to create and coordinate services for Clark and Cumberland Counties. All information gathered is confidential.

Ms. Hunter explained that more than 100,000 grandparents (or aunts & uncles) raising their grandchildren (or nieces and nephews) reside in Illinois. To qualify for the program, an initial assessment is done, as well as annual assessments to indicate changes. There are no income or asset limitations, but the tendency to apply is more often by the needy. Anyone can anonymously make a referral to the case coordinator.

Ms. Hunter also does outreach and community service informational meeting. She is a certified facilitator to train care givers, attends and participates in expos. She writes a monthly newsletter, and she has a care-giver task force to give ideas on how to connect with those in need of services.

- C. Samantha Landrus - Marketing Director for Heritage Woods Supportive Living Community—opened almost four years. Ms. Landrus spoke of Don Yost's wife, Lou's, vision for senior living for Charleston residents. The supportive living facility aids seniors with many issues including isolation, depression, access to help with the push of a button, assistance with medications, finances, etc. They help with attaining and applying for funds to supplement payments for the facility. Their goal is to support residents to continue their daily routine prior to their move to Heritage Woods and to facilitate the return home of those residents who are able. Ms. Landrus explained that they have a full-time nurse on duty, they assistant residents inside, provide transportation to doctor's appointments, and have a dietary staff to accommodate individual needs. According to Ms. Landrus, the age requirement is 65 or older. In response to a question, Ms. Landrus clarified that Heritage Woods does not assume anyone's assets, and that all questions are answered before commitment to reside in their facility. Heritage Woods services provide an arm of assistance for supportive living—meals, housecleaning, laundry, and many planned events for residents. One bedroom and studio apartments are available with phone, internet, and television connection. Residents can bring their own furniture and have maintenance hang pictures and curtains. Only when a resident can no longer attend to their own care will they be recommended to a skilled care facility—case by case. Non-cognitive or combative Alzheimer residents will be recommended to a memory care facility.

Ms. Landrus explained that they have a 30 to 60 day wait list. She informed us that a Community Breakfast is held every first Thursday of the month, and the week of April 20-24 is Supportive Living Week. During April 20-24 an activity will be planned for every day of the week and open to the community. If you wish to be put on their mailing list for their newsletters, you may contact their office.

III. Approval of Minutes

Jan 29th Board Meeting Minutes were approved (Mac Corley/Dan Carpenter).

IV. Treasurer's report - none

V. Committee reports

A. Communications

Vicki Hampton explained they are currently in the process of composing the spring newsletter, and the Committee's goal is to print next week.

B. Events

- a. Julie Sterling reminded us of the EIUAA Luncheon on April 24 at the LifeSpan Center. The RSVP is in the Newsletter going out next week. Ms. Sterling reminded us to complete and print the RSVP and send with payment to the Alumni Office. Chris Simms was acknowledged for packing up leftover food and providing it to needy. Plan to eat at 11:30 with entertainment provided by Richard Rossi.
- b. Ms. Sterling also reminded us that the July 9 summer Chapter meeting will be held at the EIU Rec Center.

C. Legislative

Jill Nilsen reported that on Mar 11, the Illinois Supreme Court will hear arguments on Pension Reform and that the fight isn't over. The Governor's budget address stated that retirees should be able to keep what they have, but insurance may again be addressed. HC9 states that pensions should not be diminished. Common thinking is that the Supreme Court decision will be quick--maybe on Mar 11. The question was raised about retirement benefits being taxed. Ms. Nilsen explained that all retirement benefits, would then have to be taxed. Ms. Nilsen explained that it is the private legal counsel (not the lawyers representing SUAA) that are asking that unreasonable legal expenses be taken from our insurance refund. One annuitant in the audience explained his "contribution" to these private lawyers is over \$1,000. It was recommended that members go online to the address in President Hampton's last correspondence to the members and object to the payment to these private lawyers. President Hampton was asked to resend the email to everyone.

D. Membership

Mary Anne Hanner reported that as of January 1, 2015, EIUAA has 727 members. While our membership total has remained rather stable, we still have a goal of 800 members. Ms. Hanner urged us to ask our former colleagues and workmates if they are members of EIUAA. If they are not, she asked that we direct them to the website or bring them to a meeting. We will continue our incentive by offering a drawing for a "free lunch" at each Chapter meeting.

Today a free lunch was awarded to Helen Gregg.

Ms. Hanner encouraged members to use the SURS deduction for dues, as renewal occurs automatically--which is good for EIUAA!

Jone Zieren and John Flynn were acknowledged as members of the Membership Committee. Ms. Hanner stated that we are in need of an additional committee member, and that anyone interested should please see her after the meeting.

E. Nominations

Bob Jorstad did not seek reappointment to the Board of Directors, and his term expired at the end of 2014. Margaret Messer was nominated for a three-year term on the EIUAA Board of Directors (Mary Ann Hanner/Karl Konrad). The nomination was passed.

Mary Anne Hanner reported that the EIUAA Board of Directors will have some vacancies at the end of 2015. Doug Sloat, Mac Corley, and Barbara Funk will all be leaving the Board. Therefore, we are seeking three new Board members. Ms. Hanner asked those in attendance to please consider serving on the EIUAA Board of Directors—that it does not require a significant time commitment, but it makes a great deal of difference to our members.

F. Scholarship

Margaret Messer explained that the Committee is currently reviewing the scholarship criteria, and that she will be working with EIU's scholarship coordinator. Ms. Messer also wanted to stress to annuitants that their grandchildren are also eligible to apply for the scholarship.

G. SURS Beneficiary Survivors Asst - No report.

President Hampton reported that this information is available on our website, [HTTP://CASTLE.EIU.EDU/ANNUITANTS](http://CASTLE.EIU.EDU/ANNUITANTS) This website is also available on the EIU directory.

VI. Old Business

President Hampton announced to the audience that the Board is always open to topics that the members want presented. Please inform her or Julie Sterling of your ideas.

A. Presidential Search Advisory Committee

Jill Nilsen announced that the search began with pool of 25 applicants, narrowed to 9, and 4 applicants were brought to campus for interviews. Ms. Nilsen

expressed her appreciation to those annuitants who attended the interview sessions. BOT will announce decision on Monday around 1:15 in University Ballroom.

B. Other

Ms. Hampton asked how the email conversion went for everyone. Consensus was good. Ms. Hampton announced that we should be notified when the system is scheduled to go down.

VII. New Business

Ms. Hampton explained that ambassadors are needed for the Neal Welcome Center. Mac Corley, last year's Ambassador of the Year, explained the only requirement is two volunteer hours per month. Mr. Corley stated that he enjoys working two hours every week, and this is a very easy, pleasant, fun thing to do.

Jill Nilsen made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Mac Corley seconded the motion. President Hampton adjourned the meeting at 10:50.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dianna Ensign