



NEW HORIZONS SEPTEMBER 2013 ISSUE

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EIUA A OFFICERS

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Julie Sterling, President | Jill Nilsen, Vice- President |
| Ellen Keiter, Membership Chair | Barb Funk, Treasurer |
| Frank McCormick, Secretary | Alan Baharlou, Newsletter Editor/ Legislative Chair |

Executive Committee Members

- Scott Crawford, Jayne Ozier, Dan Carpenter, Mac Corley, Robert Jorstad, Vicki Hampton, Doug Sloat**



LOOKING AHEAD

MEETING DATESEIUAA CHAPTER MEETINGS: (8:30 am)		EIUA A EXEC. COMMITTEE MEETINGS: (9 am)	
**October, 24, 2013	LifeSpan Center	November 21, 2013	Neal welcome Center
January 9, 2014	Neal Welcome Center	March 6, 2014	Neal welcome Center
April 2014 Annual Luncheon	Date & Place TBA	June 12, 2014	Neal welcome Center
July 10, 2014	Neal Welcome Center	September 11, 2014	Neal welcome Center
October 9, 2014	Neal Welcome Center	December 11, 2014	Neal Welcome Center

****in the October 24th EIUA A Chapter Meeting, Janice Bonneville, Duty Director, Bureau of Benefits, CMS, is scheduled to speak about these upcoming insurance changes; especially addressing the changes for those annuitants on Medicare. This program will be held at the LifeSpan Center located between Charleston and Mattoon. Ms. Bonneville is in charge of CMS insurance plans**



Fall Greetings to All!

Since our last newsletter, the Illinois General Assembly's Conference Committee reviews the pension situation and seeks solutions. Again, we wait for the results.

In July, all annuitants began paying monthly premiums for health insurance. Those annuitants who received letters regarding the opt-out program from the State's health plan coverage and receive a monthly financial incentive need to contact the CMS Group Insurance Division or SURS by September 30, 2013. CMS:

(<http://www2.illinois.gov/cms/Employees/benefits/StateEmployee/Pages/OptOutwithFinancialIncentive.aspx>) or SURS: (<http://www.surs.com/>)

Also, effective January 1, 2014, a type(s) of State Sponsored Medicare Plan is to begin for those on Medicare. At this time, we have no details. We have been told when the plan is completed, information will be available on the CMS website. Current information can be found at:

<http://www2.illinois.gov/cms/Employees/benefits/StateEmployee/Pages/State-sponsoredMedicarePlan.aspx>

Please watch your postal mail and SUAA/EIUAA emails for information regarding insurance announcements. It is the current understanding that October will be the time for those with Medicare coverage to make their new insurance selection. Please converse with your fellow EIU retirees so all are aware of the current happenings.

Members make sure EIUAA has your email address so you do not miss any information. If you have not submitted your email address so we can verify we have the correct contact information please respond, now, by emailing Vicki Hampton: vhampton@consolidated.net It is our goal, to make sure our member email addresses match SUAA's listing so you do not get duplicate emails from both SUAA and EIUAA.

Important Upcoming Meetings

For the October 24th EIUAA Chapter Membership Meeting, Janice Bonneville, Duty Director, Bureau of Benefits, CMS, is scheduled to speak about these upcoming insurance changes; especially addressing the changes for those annuitants on Medicare. This program will be held at the LifeSpan Center located between Charleston and Mattoon. Ms Bonneville is in charge of CMS insurance plans.

At the Oct. 24th meeting, there will be a short business meeting. Election of Board of Director positions and approval of proposed EIUAA constitutional changes will be voted on by the members. The proposed constitutional changes can be found on the EIUAA website:

<http://castle.eiu.edu/annuitants/constitution.php>

Please note, at the LifeSpan Center, parking is available around the building as well as along the roadside. We are expecting a large group of annuitants to attend this informative meeting. The meeting social time is from 8:30—9 am with the program beginning at 9 am sharp. The LifeSpan Center doors will open at 8:30 am.

Lake Land Community College Annuitants Association is hosting a Regional SUAA Meeting on their campus on Oct. 3 from 1—4 pm, Webb Hall 081, Mattoon, IL. All members are invited to attend. Please plan to attend this free of charge meeting. Registration can be found on the SUAA website: <http://suaa.org/> or if you do not have internet access please call SUAA: Phone: 217.523.4040 or Toll Free: 888.547.8473

We welcome Linda Brookhart, Executive Director, State Universities Annuitant Association as a columnist for this newsletter. This newsletter includes articles from several of the EIUAA Board of Directors.

This summer, Dr. Judith James, Professor Emeritus Biological Sciences, selected the EIUAA Scholarship as one of the memorials remembering her late husband, Dr. William James, Professor Emeritus Biological Sciences. We sincerely thank Judy for her kindness and support. This year, the EIUAA Board of Directors designated this scholarship as a high priority for EIUAA. We appreciate you supporting our scholarship. On September 12, 2013, the EIUAA Board of Directors approved the following policy:

Effective January 1, 2014, EIUAA will send e-mails to members only, with the exception of the fall newsletter, which will be sent to all annuitants as well as current employees. At the discretion of the President, however, an issue may be determined to be of crucial importance to all annuitants, in which case the pertinent communication will be sent to all annuitants as well as current employees.

We encourage those that have not joined EIUAA, please do so to stay attuned to all happenings regarding your pension and insurance. EIUAA needs your support! Working together we all can strengthen the EIUAA/SUAA voice! <http://castle.eiu.edu/~annuitants/membershipform.pdf>
I hope to see you at the upcoming meetings.

Most sincerely,
Julie Sterling
President, EIUAA

So Where Are We Now?

As of September 9th, it seems that retirees health insurance is in a holding pattern. The only things certain are:

- There will be a State sponsored Medicare Plan in place soon. Looks like the effective date will be January 1, 2014. However, the plan is not available yet.
- At this time, the procurement process is not finalized.
- If the retiree is on Medicare and has a dependent spouse that is younger than Medicare age then the retiree's health insurance plan does not change until the dependent reaches Medicare age. CMS will not separate the family.
- If the SURS member is not Medicare age and has a dependent spouse who is Medicare age then the health insurance does not change for either until the SURS member reaches Medicare age. Again, CMS will not separate the family.
- Everyone involved in the health insurance change will receive correspondence on the Medicare plan that will provide all of their options. There will not be a separate opt out letter. However, there will be information on the CMS website in addition to meetings and workshops throughout the State. Schedule will be on CMS website and SUAA's.

- Postings will be on the CMS website. You are wise to check it often: <http://www2.illinois.gov/cms/Employees/benefits/Pages/default.aspx> There should be a FAQ upon the procure process being finalized. SUAA will work to make sure the link is on the SUAA website also: <http://www.suaa.org/> Be sure to scroll down to find updated information.
- All letters that have been sent from CMS, HICN and HMC (for CIP only) can be found on the SUAA website. If you didn't receive a letter, most likely you were not supposed to. If you did receive a letter, then please respond if appropriate. University HMC letters will be sent beginning January 2014. HMC letters are requesting proof of your dependents.
- Second notices are going out this week (September 9) for the August 1 letter requesting proof of your Medicare eligibility - one for you; or one for you and your dependent; or one for your dependent. Please respond if you receive a letter; if you do not receive a letter it is because CMS has your information.
- Medicare open enrollment is October 15 thru December 7, 2013. Medicare's website is: <http://www.medicare.gov/>
- While the State sponsored Medicare Plan will be provided to you there will be an opportunity for you to make a choice between the State's plan or continuing with the federal Medicare Plan. If your choice is federal Medicare you will have to purchase a supplement plan called Medigap. A factual publication on the Medicare website should be helpful to you: Choosing a Medigap Policy can be found at <http://www.medicare.gov/pubs/pdf/02110.pdf>
- Beginning October 1, SUAA will provide a portal for people to shop for a Medicare supplement (Medigap) policy without obligation or fear of unwanted mail or pressure.
- Remember that staying with a the State sponsored Medicare Plan is a choice. Medicare Part B will be part of the cost as well as continuing to pay 1% of your pension.

SUAA will keep its readers up-to-date. Questions are always welcome. Emails are best as it is hard to return phone calls during the day . SUAA will also try to coordinate a Frequently Asked Question page. SUAA readers are also concerned with the progress of the Conference Committee. The items leaked on August 23 were factual, but many articles reported some items a bit differently. Therefore creating a concern of how reliable the information was. In addition, there are actuarial reports being produced to substantiate the Committee's ideas of how the changes would financially affect the State, pension systems but of course not the main contributors - YOU. Items being considered are:

- A decrease in employee contributions by 1%;
- Replacing the current 3% automatic annual increase with a cost of living adjustment of one-half the consumer price index, potentially with floors and caps;
- Staggered delays to cost of living adjustments;
- Fully funding the pension plans over thirty years;
- Dedicating the pension funds money that is currently being used to make bond payments, beginning in Fiscal Year 2019;
- Switching to the Entry Age Normal actuarial cost method; and
- Changing interest rates used to calculate the money purchase option formula.

Thus far, no proposed legislation has been written; nothing to react to as yet. Be assured that SUAA will respond as quickly as possible to any changes to retirees' pensions.

Keep watching for alerts and information regarding both Medicare age retiree health insurance and changes to the pensions for those who are currently retired.

Sincerely,



Linda Brookhart, SUAA Executive Director

Legislative Update

The bipartisan Conference Committee continues to deliberate possible solutions to pension reform. Several ideas, allegedly being considered by the Committee, have been reported by the media: reducing the automatic annual increase from 3% compounded to ½ of the consumer price index (CPI); reducing the contributions of working members by 1%; fully funding the pension system. Nothing official, however, has emerged from the Committee's deliberations.

It is not clear as to when the Committee will release its recommendations to the other members of the General Assembly. Those recommendations will be debated by the entire membership of the House and Senate and will need to be passed by both chambers prior to legislation being enacted.

There is some thought in Springfield that that no formal action on pension reform will emerge until after the primary elections in the Spring. Others believe that a vote will be taken and legislation passed no later than the end of veto session in November.

EIUAA and SUAA will continue to closely monitor the actions of the Conference Committee, possible legislation, and potential implementation dates. We will keep you informed via email as we learn new information. We have appreciated your diligence in contacting your legislators regarding the impact proposed legislation would have on your pension security.

Jill Nilsen

EIUAA Vice President and SUAA Legislative Co-Chair

Annuitant Ambassador Volunteers Are Needed!

The EIU Foundation is looking for volunteers to serve as Annuitant Ambassadors at the Neal Welcome Center. As an Annuitant Ambassador your primary responsibilities will be to provide a friendly helpful face to "meet and greet" those who come into the Neal Welcome Center. You will primarily answer questions about EIU and assist students who come in to complete paperwork for scholarships. You may volunteer as little as two hours a month or more if you so choose. We typically ask volunteers to cover the following time frames Mon-Friday 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. We can certainly work around your schedule. Please contact Nancy Zytka at the Foundation at 217-581-7388 or via e-mail at nrytka@eiu.edu if you would like to consider volunteering!

PLEASE – UPDATE YOUR EMAIL AND/OR MAIL ADDRESSES WITH US

SEND AN E-MAIL TO:

vhampton@consolidated.netWith your name and address **OR**

PLEASE FILL OUT AND MAIL TO:

Vicki Hampton**723 OLEAN PL****CHARLESTON IL 61920**

NAME: _____

STREET: _____

CITY: _____ ZIP: _____

E-MAIL: _____

If your spouse or significant other is also a member, please include their name and e-mail address also.

**MESSAGE FROM EIUAA MEMBERSHIP CHAIR****Message to Nonmembers**

As you anxiously await news regarding the future of your pension and healthcare benefits, you might feel as though there is nothing you can do to affect the outcome of the current deliberations. In fact, there is something very important you can do. For just a dime a day you can add your voice to those of your fellow state university retirees across Illinois who are members of the State Universities Annuitants Association (SUAA).

As an advocacy organization focused *solely* on preserving the pension and healthcare benefits of SURS participants, SUAA is our voice in Springfield. SUAA's dedicated staff members continuously monitor relevant legislative issues and lobby vigorously against measures that would erode our benefits. They also keep members informed of developments as they occur and issue timely calls to action at crucial points in the legislative process.

SUAA's influence with legislators is directly related to the number of members the organization represents. In other words, *numbers matter!* Please add your voice to this collective effort by completing and mailing the membership form at the following link.

<http://castle.eiu.edu/annuitants/membershipform.pdf>

Doing so will provide you with combined membership in our local chapter, the EIU Annuitants Association (EIUAA), and SUAA. Annual dues of \$36.00 can either be paid by check or by a \$3.00 deduction from your monthly annuity. We hope to hear from you!

Ellen Keiter
EIUAA Membership Chair
eakeiter@eiu.edu
217-345-3462



EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Illinois Budget Crisis: Its Cause and Impact, Politically or Rationally,

You all have heard repeatedly from some State Senators, Representatives, and the Governor, their spokespersons and supportive newspaper articles that Illinois has \$100 billion unpaid Pension Obligations, which is growing each day. These statements generally follow with talking points that this enormous unpaid pension obligation is adversely affecting critical public services such as education, human services and public safety. Evaluating these two statements critically seems contradictory. Consider applying these talking points to your own situation. For example, if you do not pay some of your bills (i.e. Electricity, Trash, and Water), wouldn't you have more funds to spend for your other needs. It is true that the state has shortchanged many of its critical services, particularly its constitutional obligations to employees' pensions. The cause of the state revenue problem to those who look at it critically is the flat tax structure in which all taxpayers are subject to the same tax rate regardless of their income, whether it is \$50,000 or \$50,000 million. Illinois is among only seven states still with a flat tax.

Now the legislators have formed a conference committee of equal members of the House and Senate to find a way to reduce, in some cases significantly, pensions for both retirees and current employees even if that violates Illinois Constitution (Article 13, Section 5) which every legislator and governor has sworn to protect. We all are anxiously waiting to see the extent of the reductions.

*Alan Baharlou,
EIUAA Newsletter Editor*



CHAPTER NEWS

To View the [July 11 Chapter Meeting Minutes & Pictures](http://castle.eiu.edu/annuitants/meetings.php), please click on the link

<http://castle.eiu.edu/annuitants/meetings.php>

EIU moves up in Report Rankings

Eastern Illinois University saw an increase in its placement in the U.S. News and World Report college rankings to number seven among Midwest public master's institutions.

Last year Eastern was ranked at number 14 in the rankings, according to Vicki Shaw-Woodard, the Coordinator of Public Information at Eastern. "We're pleased that our rankings have increased and that because of U.S. News' change in methodology, that they are more focused on the quality of college education," said Blair Lord, provost and vice president for academic affairs. "We continually improve our programs, but not because we are overly focused on ratings.

Eastern receives service award

Eastern Illinois University was named to the 2013 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. This is the second consecutive year that Eastern was presented with this honor, which is the highest honor a college or university can receive for its commitment to volunteering, service-learning and civic engagement, the release says.

Eastern breaks ground for new Clean Energy Research Center

People gather for the CENCERE groundbreaking ceremony in Charleston, Ill., on Friday, March 1, 2013. Eastern Illinois University officials and Charleston community members dipped their shovels into the muddy ground Friday morning at the site of what will become a renewable energy research facility — **Center for Clean Energy Research and Education (CENCERE)**. The program is the culmination of 10 campus departments working together to form the new opportunity for Eastern students with the new hands-on lab. The Facility will be used for a new graduate program, **master of science in sustainable energy**.



Charleston lauded as a top community for young families

The City of Charleston has been ranked third in the state of Illinois as the best city for young families by the financial website NerdWallet. The data included general economic health, affordability and good schools in various areas. The data accurately reflects most families' goals when choosing a place to live. "In Charleston we found the cost of living was abnormally low, house ownership costs were low, real estate taxes, mortgage payments and all that were low,"

As far as state employees and retirees are concerned, the two issues of most concern are the outcome of pensions and health care as they are being debated. Dr. Jill Nilsen and Linda Brookhart have provided relevant information in their articles in this issue of New Horizons.



CELEBRATING OUR MEMBERS

EMERITUS PROFESSOR RECEIVES NATIONAL HONOR

Dr. Richard L. Keiter, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Chemistry, has been selected as a 2013 American Chemical Society Fellow. "This is an honor bestowed on members for their outstanding accomplishments in scientific research, education, and public service,"

Cal Campbell crafts historical novel with tales from western South Dakota

"From Despair to Fortune" is the newest book written by Cal Campbell of Charleston, and it's intended to be a historical novel about two fictional families living in western South Dakota. "It is a historical novel starting in 1876, concluding at the end of World War II, and the story covers three generations," Campbell said.

Ruth & Vaughn Jaenike of Charleston celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary on June 20th 2013

Tressia & Gene Dunn of Greenup Celebrated their 67th Wedding Anniversary on March 30, 2013

Judy & Bert A. Lades celebrated their 55th Wedding Anniversary on June 22, 2013

Maudi & Dale Lang celebrated their 50th wedding Anniversary on June 14, 2013

Mr. & Ms. McGilliard celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary on June 18. MC Gilliard is an Associate professor of Biological Sciences At EIU



REMEMBERING FRIENDS

☞ **Marilyn K. (Hayes) DeRuiter**, age 72 of Charleston, passed away in the comfort of her home, on September 8, 2013. She married Garret W. DeRuiter on September 7, 1963 and they shared 48 wonderful years of marriage prior to his death on May 1, 2012. Marilyn earned both her Bachelors and Masters Degrees from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. She was then employed by Lake Land College Center for Business and Industry before accepting the position as Director of the Business and Technology Institute at Eastern Illinois University, a position she held for ten years

Richard Newton Brayfield, aged 54, of Mattoon, died on Monday, February 18, 2013 at Barnes Hospital in St. Louis. In the mid 90's he accepted a job with R.K. Dixon repairing copy machines and working mainly on the campus at Eastern Illinois

Dr. Bill James died June 23, 2013 in Tuscaloosa, AL. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Judith McNease James of Charleston, Bill was born May 9, 1930 in Richmond, VA

He received his Ph.D. in Zoology from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville in 1970.

Donald Paul Garner, age 83 of Charleston, died on Saturday, August 31, 2013. He is survived by Suellyn, his wife of forty-seven years; Following his return to Wayne State and completing his PhD, he moved to Charleston, IL and taught at Eastern Illinois University from 1963-94. During that period he served as chair of the Department of Speech for 11 years.

Evelyn Evensen Pinther, 86, of Winter Haven, Fla., formerly of Charleston, died Tuesday (May 7, 2013). Mrs. Pinther was formerly employed as a teacher at Eastern Illinois University and Charleston High School.

Gerald Graydon "Hank" Pierson, 86, of Charleston, passed away Monday, September 2, 2013 at his home. . He served in the U.S. navy from 1944 to 1946. In 1963 he returned to Charleston and was an Associate Professor in the Department of Secondary Education and Foundations until his retirement in 1990. Hank and his wife, Margaret Louise (Peggy) Bayless were married on October 1, 1949 in Greenville, Illinois. She survives.

☞ Marion L. "Jake" Zane, age 82 of Charleston, passed away on Friday, April 12, 2013. He married Wilma Barkley on July 10, 1952. She survives. Jake was a Korean War Veteran. He went on to serve in a variety of administrative positions at E.I.U. for 33 years before retirement.

☞

☞ John Junior Checkley 81, of Charleston, IL passed away at Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center on July 6, 2013. Survivors include his loving wife, Marjorie Checkley of Charleston, IL. . John served honorably in the United States Navy during the Korean War on board the USS Wyandot as a Radar Operator. He was employed at Eastern Illinois University from 1965 to 1985 as a Purchasing Agent. John retired in 2000 as an Auditor for the State of Illinois after 14 years of employment.

☞ John L. Daum, age 83 of Charleston passed away on Saturday, June 22, 2013.

☞

☞ Marilyn S. Oglesby, 79, of Charleston died at 4 p.m. Thursday (Apr. 11, 2013) in Lihue, Hawaii. She married J.W. Oglesby in 1956; he survives. Mrs. Oglesby was formerly employed as a professor at the Lumpkin School of Business at Eastern Illinois University

☞

Mary Beth White, age 67, of Charleston, died Sunday (April 28, 2013). Mary Beth obtained a Master's degree from Eastern Illinois University and worked there from 1975 to 2001, most recently in the Office of Human Resources.

Marvin C. Randolph, 68, of Charleston died Tuesday (July 9, 2013). Mr. Randolph was formerly employed at Eastern Illinois University where he worked in food service. He was a member of the Phi Sigma Epsilon Fraternity.

Richard H. Alexander. He enlisted in the Army in 1942 following the attack on Pearl Harbor and served his country for six years during World War II with one year in the South Pacific. . He later spent seven years as an Instructor of Marketing at Eastern Illinois University.

Dr. Richard H. Larson, 87, of Mattoon, IL, formerly of Charleston and Shelbyville, IL, died on Wednesday, March 27, 2013. He was a physician in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War. . He then joined the Student Health Services staff at Eastern Illinois University, became its Director and especially enjoyed his role as Team Physician.

Richard Eugene Newell, 81, of Westfield, IL passed away on Wednesday, May 15, 2013 at his home. Survivors include his loving wife of 63 years, Barbara Newell. Richard was a lifelong farmer and a building service foreman at Eastern Illinois University until he retired in 1990.



OUR SYMPATHIES

Our sympathies on the passing of our Annuitants loved ones.

John K. Reed, age 89, died peacefully on August 24, 2013, surrounded by his family .In 1945, John married Betty J. Brotherton and together they raised three children. In 1945, John married Betty J. Brotherton and together they raised three children. He was a long time farmer in the Ashmore area who surprised many with his artistic talent. John was a proud veteran of World War II. After the war, he returned to Ashmore where he farmed for more than 50 years.

*Dear Annuitants,
If you receive the Newsletter in hardcopy, we request that you help us save our limited funds and resources by receiving it via e-mail, if it is possible. If you are willing to do that, please send me an e-mail
(abaharlou@eiu.edu)*



EIUAA CONTACT INFORMATION

To find out more information about the EIU Foundation, check out our web page at

www.eiu.edu/~found/

EIU Annuitant Email Address

annuitants@eiu.edu

EIU Annuitant Association Web Page

www.eiu.edu/annuitants/

EIU Annuitant Association Mailing Address

600 Lincoln Ave Charleston IL 61920

We Would Like To Thank the **EIU Foundation** for Their Continued Financial Support

