

## Fall 2014

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## President's View

### Where We Are Now

#### Dear EIUAA Members,

Your EIUAA Board of Directors hopes that you have had a great summer! We continue to work on your behalf at Eastern, in Coles County, and in the state of Illinois.

#### Update on Health Insurance

The Illinois Supreme Court, in considering the Kanerva lawsuit, ruled in July that state-subsidized health insurance is a protected pension benefit and that the state cannot charge premiums for it. On August 28, a Sangamon County Court

upheld that ruling and stated that state government retirees will no longer have health insurance premiums deducted from their paychecks. Deductions should stop for checks going out October 1 and later.

Millions of dollars in insurance premiums have been paid by retirees since July 1, 2013. Although CMS is holding those dollars in an escrow account, SURS does not know how or when the insurance premiums will be returned to annuitants. As additional information becomes available, we will share it with you.

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## Editor's Message

Greetings, Annuitants! With the publication of this newsletter your communications committee (Vicki Hampton, chair, John Kilgore, and Audrey Edwards) have begun overseeing its content. We have made a few format changes, as you can see, and hope these are appreciated.

This fall newsletter goes out to all annuitants — members and non-members.

- Members — if you are not receiving this email electronically and can do that, please send Vicki Hampton ([vhampton2323@gmail.com](mailto:vhampton2323@gmail.com)) an email so that we can put you in the member listserv.
- Non-members — you are receiving a hard copy as we don't have your email addresses. As you can guess, it is expensive to mail the newsletter. We need

your assistance in collecting your addresses so that we can continue to get this publication sent. Please send Vicki Hampton ([vhampton2323@gmail.com](mailto:vhampton2323@gmail.com)) an email so that we can create a non-members listserv (please state that you are a non-member). **Please join EIUAA so that you can receive all newsletters and emails.**



### **EIUAA Officers**

<p><b>Jill Nilsen</b>, <a href="mailto:jfnilsen52@gmail.com">jfnilsen52@gmail.com</a>  <b>Julie Sterling</b>, <a href="mailto:jsterling@eiu.edu">jsterling@eiu.edu</a>  <b>Vicki Hampton</b>, <a href="mailto:vhampton2323@gmail.com">vhampton2323@gmail.com</a>  <b>Frank McCormick</b>, <a href="mailto:fgmccormick@eiu.edu">fgmccormick@eiu.edu</a>  <b>Barb Funk</b>, <a href="mailto:rbfunk@consolidated.net">rbfunk@consolidated.net</a></p>	<p><b>President, Legislative Chair</b>  <b>Past President</b>  <b>President-Elect, Communications Chair</b>  <b>Secretary</b>  <b>Treasurer</b></p>
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### **Board Members**

**Scott Crawford, Dan Carpenter, Mac Corley, Robert Jorstad, Ellen Keiter, Doug Sloat, Julie Sterling, Mary Anne Hanner**



## **CALENDAR**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>EVENT</b>	<b>VENUE</b>
Th October 9, 8:30 a.m.	Chapter Meeting	Neal Welcome Center
W Wednesday, October 22, 9:30-11:30	CMS Informational Meeting on Health Care	Unique Suites in Charleston
R December 11, 9:00 a.m.	Board of Directors Meeting	Neal Welcome Center
Th February 26, 2015, 8:30a	Chapter Meeting	Neal Welcome Center
Th March 5, 2015, 9:00 a.m.	Board of Directors Meeting	Neal Welcome Center
F April 24, 2015, 12 noon	Chapter Meeting & Luncheon	Life Span Center
Th June 4, 2015, 9:00 a.m.	Board of Directors Meeting	Neal Welcome Center
Th July 9, 2015, 8:30 a.m.	Chapter Meeting	Neal Welcome Center
Th September 10, 2015, 9:00 a.m.	Board of Directors Meeting	Neal Welcome Center
Th October 8, 2015, 8:30	Chapter Meeting	Neal Welcome Center
Th December 10, 9:00	Board of Directors Meeting	Neal Welcome Center



## Retirees Review Health Insurance Options

CMS Meeting Will Answer Questions on October 22

By Audrey Edwards

“What can we predict from the recent Supreme Court decision?”

“Will the state health insurance plan change this fall?”

“Why do some counties get fewer options than others?”

These are just a few of the questions raised by retirees in a summer 2014 health insurance survey by the University Professionals of Illinois (UPI). The survey asked retirees about their current health insurance, positive and negative experiences, questions, and concerns.

Some results of the survey: Of the 144 retirees who responded, more than 4/5 had signed up for health insurance through the State Medicare Advantage Program (TRAIL) rather than “opt out” and buy supplementary coverage from a private company. Within the state program, over 9/10 chose United Health Care PPO. In most cases, they chose this Preferred Provider Option (PPO) to avoid out-of-network costs while staying with their current doctors or finding doctors out of state.

One retiree said his doctors had complained of excessive paperwork in dealing with United. Another said his doctor would not accept United. One person noted that United had reclassified some medications as non-maintenance, so these medications were more costly to him; he said United had also reclassified other drugs as Medicare, so these drugs were not eligible for a pharmacy’s incentive program.

Despite complaints, more than 4/5 (86%) of those who responded to the survey

said they did not expect to change providers during the next Benefit Change Period, and more than 2/3 (69%) said the recent Supreme Court decision would not change their minds.

To address retirees’ questions about their health insurance options, CMS will hold an informational meeting on Wednesday, October 22, from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Unique Suites in Charleston. The featured speaker will be Pam Kogler, CMS deputy director for health insurance. Also present to answer questions will be representatives of Coventry HMO and United Health Care PPO.

Jill Nilsen, in her role as legislative chair of EIUAA, has provided answers in this newsletter about recent Supreme Court decisions on retiree health insurance.

A sampling of retiree questions about health insurance:

- What are the chances of returning to Health Alliance as we knew it?
- Can out-of-staters get more than one PPO?
- Is there an out-of-pocket maximum for drug costs?
- If the courts rule that the state must pay for our health insurance, will we be reimbursed the money we’ve been paying? If so, when?
- What are my enrollment choices, including prescription drug plan choices?

Are my premiums taken out of my Social Security or my SURS pension?



### Quick Quiz: Your Health Insurance Premiums

Take this quiz to check your knowledge about health insurance (state and private). To learn more, come to the Health Insurance Forum on **Wednesday, October 22, from 9:30-11:30 at Unique Suites in Charleston.**

1. My dental insurance is deducted from
  - a. My Social Security
  - b. My SURS pension
  - c. Both
  - d. Neither
2. My prescription drug premiums are deducted from
  - a. My Social Security
  - b. My SURS pension
  - c. Neither. I have private coverage.
  - d. Neither. I don’t take drugs, so I don’t need this coverage.
3. The Illinois Supreme Court says the state must pay my health insurance premiums if I chose State Medicare Advantage.
 

The state will stop deducting premiums in October and return back premiums

  - a. in October.
  - b. in November.
  - c. after some delay.
  - d. long after I die.

**(See answers on next page.)**

## News From Our Members

### Dan Bolin.

Karen and I recently celebrated our 56th wedding anniversary. We currently spend our winters in Florida and the summers in the Kansas City area. We are getting ready to celebrate a grandson's 21st birthday in a few days. He is our son, Randy's, oldest and will be a senior at Northwest Missouri State this fall. His brother is a sophomore at University of Central Missouri. Roger's son was 21 in April. We enjoy spending time during the summer with family at our Lake of the Ozarks home.

**Mac Corley** [Dept. of Economics]. Barbara and I celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary on August 8.

**Bruce Guernsey** [Dept. of English]. My memoir about my daughter's disappearance in the LA area a few years ago is being serialized by *The Wild River Review* out of Princeton, NJ. The first two sections are now online at the journal's homepage.

**Joe Heumann** [Dept. of Speech and Communications]. I have been working hard, with my co-writer Dr. Robin L. Murray (English), on our research on eco-criticism and film. The University of Nebraska published our fourth book, *Film and Everyday Eco-Disasters*, in June of this year.



**Frank Hohengarten** [Dean of Enrollment Management, 1992-2003]. I retired (again) from the University of South Florida - St. Petersburg, in June, 2014. Janeal and I reside in Bradenton, Florida.

**Jackie Joines** [College of Business and Applied Finance]. I have accepted the position of Executive Director For College Advancement at Lake Land College, responsible for all alumni, foundation, and grant activities. But I am still humbly an EIU alum. I was at EIU for 16.5 yrs.

**Donna Libbey.** My husband, Maurice C. Libbey, left this earth July 23, 2012. After his death, I decided to move closer to family and am now residing in a very comfortable duplex in Snyder Village, Metamora, IL. Though still missing Maurice terribly, I enjoy this new home, seeing family and friends here, walking around the two ponds here and participating in the activities. Very lovely place and I love living in a small town.

**Marita Metzke** [School of Continuing Education]. EIU's Academy of Lifelong Learning provides opportunities for non-credit learning in depth or just enough to whet one's appetite.

### Quiz Answers

- 1) B—or D if you don't have dental insurance. It's optional.
- 2) A, whether your drug coverage is through the state or private. (Warning: If you don't have this coverage, you will pay an escalating penalty in higher premiums when you do join.)
- 3) C or D (probably C, but with Illinois, you never know!)



*"The University of Nebraska published our fourth book . . . in June."*

## Keeping Connected

### EIU Homepage

<http://www.eiu.edu>

### EIUAA Homepage

<http://castle.eiu.edu/~annuitants>

### SURS Homepage

<http://www.surs.org>

### EIU Newsletter

>EIU Homepage >>Faculty and Staff >>>University Newsletter

### CMS Homepage

<http://www2.illinois.gov/cms/Pages/default.aspx>

State Rep. Brad Halbrook  
506 W. Lincoln Ave. Suite  
200 C-1

Charleston, IL 61920  
217-348-1110

State Sen. Dale Righter  
88 Broadway Ave. Suite 1  
Mattoon, IL 61938  
217-235-6033

US Sen. Dick Durbin  
711 Hart Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
202-224-2152

US Sen. Mark Kirk  
524 Hart Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
202-224-2854

US Rep. Rodney Davis  
1740 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515  
202-224-2371

## News From Our Members (continued)

New for fall semester are Alzheimer's research, self-defense techniques for women only, and current news about the Monarch butterfly. More interested in quilting, local poverty, or building your resiliency? There are a wide variety of member requested courses to spark curiosity and keep your neuroplasticity rocking! Fall program guides are available at the libraries, many local businesses, Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center, or by calling the Academy at 217-581-5114.

**Tom and Dolores Michael** [Athletics; Student Affairs]. We celebrated our 55th wedding anniversary on July 11, 2014. Since our retirement in 1999, we have continued to live in Charleston, where we enjoy keeping up with our grandchildren and other activities.

**Donald Rogers** [Secondary Education and Foundations] . Ferne and I celebrated our 60th Wedding Anniversary on June 26th. Our four daughters, Debi, Michelle, Jill and Amy, hosted a party in Indianapolis over the weekend of June 28th. We thank those who sent cards.

**Andrew M. White** [Dept. of Mathematics]. Actual retirement will not "sink in" until school begins later this month. However, I am going to be teaching boys and girls in the gifted mathematics program and junior great books programs at Jefferson School in Charleston. Whereas I would prepare to teach four classes in the fall at EIU, this fall I will have seven different classes, so I will keep myself hopping. I have worked with the children (4th - 6th grade) for several years as a volunteer teacher and have found it to be a rewarding experience.



## REMEMBERING FAMILY AND FRIENDS

[Following are brief notices only. To read full obituary or leave condolences, visit [www.jg-tc.com](http://www.jg-tc.com) and click on "Obituaries." ]

CHARLESTON -- **Pearl Alice (Paul) Thompson**, 93, of Oakwood, formerly of Charleston, passed away Sunday, February 16, 2014, at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana. Services were held Wednesday, February 19, 2014, at the Harper-Swickard Funeral Home, Charleston, with Pastor John Best officiating.



OAKLAND -- **Leonard "Bob" Cash**, age 77, of Oakland passed away Monday, February 24, 2014, in his home. Services were held on Thursday, February 27, 2014, at 12 p.m. at Krabel Funeral Home in Oakland. Burial followed in Oakland Cemetery.



MATTOON -- **Juanita Maxine Landrus**, age 88, of Mattoon and formerly of Charleston, passed away on Saturday, March 1, 2014, at the Odd Fellow-Rebekah Home in Mattoon. Services were held April 4, 2014, at Adams

**Remembering Family and Friends (continued)**

Funeral Chapel in Charleston. A private inurnment was planned for Shiloh Cemetery at a later date.



TULLAHOMA, TENN. -- **Mr. Floyd E. Merritt**, age 77, of Tullahoma, TN, passed away Friday, March 14, at the Life Care Center of Tullahoma. Services were held Thursday, March 20, at the Daves-Culbertson Funeral Home Chapel with Bro. Greg Swango officiating.



TUSCON, Ariz. -- **Kenneth Ray Sutton** went to be with his Lord on March 14, 2014. He leaves his wife of 54 years, Patricia Little Sutton, and special friends and colleagues in Charleston, Mattoon, and Neoga, Illinois. There are special cousins in Owensboro, Kentucky. His brother-in-law is George W. Little of Hartford, KY.



CHARLESTON -- **Paul Franklin Ruddell**, age 75, passed away Monday, March 24, 2014, at his home in Charleston. Services were held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 29, 2014, followed by burial at White Oak Cemetery in Crawford County, north of Oblong, Illinois.



**James A. Tidwell**, Chair of the Journalism Department at Eastern Illinois University, died Saturday, April 12, following a 19-month battle with pancreatic cancer. He was 65. Services were held Wednesday, April 16, at the First Baptist Church in Charleston.



OAKLAND -- **Gene Franklin Wingler**, 85, of Phoenix, Arizona, formerly of Arcola and Oakland, Illinois, died on Monday, April 14, 2014, at the Gardiner Home in Phoenix, Arizona. His wife, Eileen, followed Gene in death on April 18, 2014. She was 81, formerly of Oakland, Illinois.



**Russell Eugene "Gene" Stewart**, 85, of Charleston, passed away Saturday, April 26, 2014, at the Harmony Center of the Odd Fellow-Rebekah Home.

Services were held April 29 at Central Christian Church, in Charleston. Burial with military rites by the Mattoon VFW followed in Rest Haven Memorial Gardens, Mattoon.



CHARLESTON -- **Hazel Marie Sonderman**, 87, of Charleston, left us on May 2, 2014. The memorial service honoring her life was held at 1 p.m. Saturday, May 10, 2014, in the Wesley United Methodist Church Chapel. Burial of ashes followed at Roselawn Cemetery, Charleston.



CHARLESTON -- **Redith Marie Campbell**, age 81, died on Saturday, May 10, 2014, at Hilltop Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. Services were held May 14, 2014, at Adams Funeral Chapel in Charleston, with Pastor John Best officiating. Burial followed in the Thomas Lincoln (Shiloh) Cemetery in Pleasant Grove Township southwest of Charleston.



PARIS -- **Paul Walter (Bus) Sterling**, 89, of Paris, Illinois, passed away Sunday, May 11, 2014, at his home, surrounded by his family. Services were held Thursday, May 15, 2014, at Templeton Funeral Home in Paris with the Reverend James Blue officiating. Burial followed at Payne Cemetery, north of Brocton.



**Remembering Family and Friends (continued)**

**Jack Nelson Howrey**, of Charleston and formerly of Hindsboro, IL, passed away on Sunday, May 25, 2014, at the age of 86. Services were held at the funeral chapel at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 28, 2014, followed by Military Rites conducted by the Honor Guard of the Charleston VFW Paul McVey Post 1592 at Roselawn Cemetery in Charleston.



**Robert V. Shuff** passed away May 30, 2014, at his home in Hot Springs, at age 94.

Robert was a teacher and coach in Michigan, Iowa and Alaska, becoming a superintendent of schools in Alaska and Montana. He was a professor at Rutgers before becoming a professor and department chair at Eastern Illinois University until retirement.

To read full obituary or leave condolences, visit <http://www.hotsr.com/news/2014/jun/08/robert-v-shuff-20140608/>.



CHARLESTON –**Ruth Catherine Ashby**, age 89, passed away peacefully in the comfort of her home on Tuesday, June 10, 2014. Services were held at noon on Thursday at the funeral chapel, immediately following the visitation, with Reverend Bill Hall officiating. Burial followed at Roselawn Cemetery in Charleston.



CHARLESTON—**Shirley Karraker**, 80, passed away Friday, July 4, 2014, at Hilltop Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Charleston. Services were held Tuesday, July 8, at First Presbyterian Church in Charleston.



CHARLESTON, IL -- **Dr. Dayton Keith Chase**, age 84 of Charleston, went to be with his Lord and Savior on Tuesday, July 22, 2014, while at Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center. Services were held at the funeral chapel at 10:00 a.m. on July 26, 2014. Inurnment with Military Rites conducted by the Honor Guard of the Charleston VFW Post 1592 followed at Roselawn Cemetery in Charleston.



CHARLESTON -- **Raymond Arthur Plath** of Charleston passed away on Sunday, August 17, 2014, at Heartland Christian Village in Neoga, at the age of 103. Services were held at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, with Reverend Krista Price officiating. Burial followed at Roselawn Cemetery in Charleston.





### The Eastern Illinois University Annuity Association announces

- ❖ a \$1,000.00 scholarship, available to qualified EIU students.
- ❖ Applications are due December 1, 2014, with the award to be made during the spring semester.
- ❖ Details and application information are available on the EIUAA website, <http://castle.eiu.edu/~annuitants> and at <http://castle.eiu.edu/annuitants/scholarship.php>



### Annuitant Ambassador Volunteers 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. In addition we ask that you be willing to answer questions about EIU and assist students who come in to complete paperwork for their scholarships. You may volunteer as little as two hours a month, more if you choose. We typically ask volunteers to cover the following time frames: Mon-Friday 10-12, 12-2, and 2-4. 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](mailto:nrytka@eiu.edu) if you would like to consider volunteering!

### President’s View (continued from p. 1)

#### Update on Pension Reform Legislation

A Sangamon court judge said in September that a recent Illinois Supreme Court decision on state retiree health insurance is a factor in the lawsuits filed to overturn pension reform. Circuit Judge John Belz said the pension reform cases should be finalized by the end of the year. The next hearing is scheduled for October 8, 2014. It was originally believed that any ruling on the pension reform legislation would take from 18 – 24 months.

One of the lawyers representing retirees, John Fitzgerald, said, “This confirms what we have been saying for a long time, which is that Kanerva is in many ways a game changer.”

The case will be heard first in circuit court, then referred to the Illinois Supreme Court. It may get there much more quickly than originally thought. EIUAA will keep you informed as information is available to us.

#### EIU Presidential Search

President Bill Perry will retire from EIU's presidency on June 30, 2015. The Board of Trustees has hired a search consultant from Korn-Ferry, a national higher education search firm, and has identified a search committee to recommend a group of finalists for the position to the Board. Your EIUAA has a voice on the Presidential Search Advisory Committee, the first time such an opportunity has been provided. The preliminary timeline would schedule off-campus interviews with 10–12 finalists by the end of November and would schedule on-campus interviews by the middle of January. A job description will be finalized by the beginning of October. As always, we will keep you informed of the status of the search via the EIUAA listserv.

Your EIUAA Board of Directors is dedicated to serving you. Please contact us with your thoughts and concerns via [annuitants@eiu.edu](mailto:annuitants@eiu.edu).

Jill Nilsen  
EIUAA President







## CHANGES COMING TO EIU EMAIL

by Kathy Reed, Assistant VP for ITS

The university is transitioning to Microsoft's Office 365 cloud-based email service. This service offers additional benefits such as free access to Office products and storage for files and collaboration. Students' email accounts were migrated to Office 365 in May, 2014. During FY15, university faculty, staff and annuitants' email accounts will be transitioned. The benefits for annuitants are:

- continuing eiu.edu email account
- continuing use of the same email system as faculty, staff, and students
- larger email boxes and additional space for personal storage
- ability to continue to forward email to another email service
- Further information will be provided as the transition timeline is finalized. Watch the EIUAA website, [castle.eiu.edu/~annuitants](http://castle.eiu.edu/~annuitants)



YES! There is a FREE lunch!

Your membership in EIUAA and SUAA made a difference! Due to the work of SUAA and some of its partner organizations, SURS annuitant health care benefits will be restored. We may soon know if our other retirement benefits will be restored. YOU and your commitment to maintain your membership in EIUAA assisted in providing SUAA with the resources to successfully advocate on our behalf. Your continued membership not only provides EIUAA and SUAA with funds but also lends your voice to guide us as we continue to work to preserve your well-deserved retirement benefits.

Increasing our membership continues to be a priority of EIUAA. And you can assist us with that too! **Bring a non-member to the October 2014 and/or February 2015 Chapter meetings and have them join EIUAA/SUAA, and your name will be entered into a drawing for a \$25 gift certificate to What's Cookin' in Charleston. The new member's name will also be entered.** Help us continue to increase our membership! And maybe you will get that FREE lunch!

—Mary Anne Hanner

The EIU Annuitants Association  
sincerely thanks the EIU Foundation for  
financial support that makes  
publication of the newsletter possible.