

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

January 28, 2016

Board Members Present: Dianna Ensign, Lora Green, Vicki Hampton, Mary Anne Hanner, Margaret Messer, Jill Nilsen, Julie Sterling.

Board Members Absent: Scott Crawford, Hank Davis, John Flynn, Jeffrey Lynch, Robert Whittenbarger.

Guests: John Best, Nancy Dole, Audrey Edwards, John Kilgore, Gail Mason, Ernie Secrest, Jone Zieren.

I. Call to Order: President Hanner called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

II. Approval of Minutes -Dianna Ensign
December 10, 2015, Board Meeting minutes were approved as read (Hampton, Nilsen).

III. Treasurer' Report - Hank Davis
The Treasurer's Report was submitted. Cash Balance as of December 31, 2015, is \$6,552.57.

IV: Committee Reports

A. Communications - Vicki Hampton

As of this week 589 email addresses are on our listserv, and only about 150 without email addresses. We will eventually have to mail the newsletter first class to members without email addresses, because the not-for-profit mailing number required is 200.

Newsletter is going well. Now have several members sending in articles and pictures. Due date for articles published in this newsletter is February 1.

It came up earlier that members would like to have a phone number to reach someone on the Board when necessary. Discussion ensued. Motion was made that phone number point of contact be the President of EIUAA (Nilsen, Green). Motion approved.

B. Events - Julie Sterling

Ms. Sterling asked for help on February 24 at 2:00 p.m. to tear down and set up the room for the February Chapter Meeting. Refreshments are set for February and July Chapter Meetings.

Reservation form for the Luncheon has been given to the Communications Committee. The per-person charge for the luncheon will be \$6.70. Chris Sims will take leftover food to the Hedwig House after the luncheon. The entertainment will be the EIU Speech Team. A motion was made to donate \$200 to Speech Team (Hampton, Messer). Approved.

The deadline date to accept reservations will be April 15. Ernie Secrest displayed a sample of the beautiful table decorations for the luncheon that Ms. Secrest will donate for use.

C. Legislative - Jill Nilsen

Review of Governor Rauner's State of the State Address ensued. It appears that the new pension reform would affect only current employees. Not sure even that is legal. The word University was only mentioned once.

The Legislative Committee met with President Glassman and Katie Anselment, the University's Legislative Liaison, to offer EIUAA's support in advancing the University's agenda in Springfield. Following the meeting, the committee worked to develop a letter to go to our members continuing contact information for our local legislative representatives, the four legislative leaders, and the Governor, and talking points which members could use in their written, electronic, or phone communications to these individuals. The committee members will also schedule meetings with Senator Righter and Representative Phillips to share our belief that state funding for EIU is imperative to the future of the school and region. In addition, the committee will reference a set of questions, designed by SUAA, to learn more about their stance on several issues of importance to annuitants.

D. Membership - Mary Anne Hanner

Staff changes at SUAA have slowed their membership reporting. We just received a report, our first report since September, which shows our membership at 716 due to several non-renewals and dropped memberships. The Membership Committee will work on contacting the non-renewals to prompt them to renew soon. The Membership Committee will also be attending Faculty Senate, Staff Senate, and the Civil Service Council to generate interest in membership. We received eight inquiries from recent retirees who returned our form to HR with their checkout sheets. We will be sending them mail/letters inviting them to join.

We need five new members a month to keep up, because we lose members each month.

E. Nominations - Margaret Messer

Ms. Messer asked all in attendance if interested in providing their names to sit on the Board, please do so.

F. Scholarship - Margaret Messer

March 1 of each year will continue to be the deadline for applying for the Annuitants Association Scholarship. The committee is putting together the applicant selection criteria and a Selection Committee. We will continue to give the awardee a certificate and put the awardee's name on the plaque located at Neal Welcome Center. The scholarship recipient and parents will be invited to the luncheon.

V. Old Business

None

VI. New Business

A. SUAA Summer Meeting - June 16-17, 2016, in Springfield, IL. Begins early afternoon and finishes the next day. EIUAA pays for registration. Ms. Hampton suggested that EIUAA consider paying for hotel costs. At least three Board members need to attend.

- B. Invite Lake Land College Annuitants to the February Chapter Meeting.
- C. We need a Board member to Chair SURS Beneficiary Survivors Assistance. Mr. Whittenbarger was nominated for this position. It was suggested that a small notice of this be put into our newsletter.
- D. Ideas to improve EIUAA - Share any ideas that would improve EIUAA meetings, communications, and interaction with members.

Thanks went out to Committee members in attendance.

President Hanner adjourned the meeting at 10:10 a.m.

Committee met immediately following the Board Meeting.

Dates to Remember

February 25 - Chapter Meeting - NWC

March 3 - Board of Directors Meeting - NWC

April 29 - Annual Luncheon - Lifespan Center

June 2 - Board of Directors Meeting - NWC

June 16-17 - SUAA Meeting - Springfield, IL