

EIU Annuitant Association Board Meeting Minutes
Zoom Meeting
Thursday, December 3, 2020

Members Present: Richard Wandling, Margaret Messer, Marita Metzke, John Ryan, John Flynn, Ron Wohlstein, Wendy Long, and Nancy Dole

Call to Order

President Rich Wandling called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM.

Approval of Minutes

Prior meetings did not have a quorum in attendance. Meeting minutes were approved for May 28, 2020 (Long/Ryan) and September 10, 2020 (Messer/Metzke).

Treasurer's Report

After an explanation of the income and disbursements, Margaret Messer reported a balance of \$5,463.34. (Wohlstein/Ryan) The annual audit will be conducted by Rich Wandling, John Flynn, Wendy Long and Margaret Messer.

Committee Reports

Membership Report - John Ryan reported our group is down by five. We currently have 628 members, but started the year with 667 members. SUAA membership is also down. It was suggested sending out a letter explaining how important this group is in supporting our pension. John will send a list of lapsed members to the board. We can help reach out to these lapsed members by adding a personal touch. For consistency, we should come up with a set of talking points. Also, an article should be placed in the University Newsletter to reach out to current employees. We should include a comment from Dr Glassman or a well-known member, possibly Jill Nilsen.

Communication & Newsletter Report – Wendy Long reported that she and Rich are working on the newsletter. They are in need of articles. The deadline for submission will be soon. This newsletter will only be provided in an electronic format.

Legislative Report – Jeff Lynch is absent from the meeting. Rich Wandling reported nothing is going to happen until Madigan is out. Currently, everything is in a holding pattern.

Scholarship – Nancy Dole reported nothing is happening right now. It was suggested that maybe next year prior to Giving Tuesday a message could be sent to the EIUAA regarding donating to the EIUAA scholarship fund.

Events Report – Rich Wandling reported that he planned to contact President Glassman to be the speaker at our February Chapter meeting. If President Glassman is not available, the Provost will be contacted next. Hopefully, either will be able to give an update on the happenings at EIU. The Annual Luncheon maybe held for the October Chapter meeting or possibly an outdoor luncheon in September.

Nominations Report - Rich Wandling reported that we need a President Elect.

Recap of SUAA Annual Meeting and House of Delegates Meeting

Rich Wandling spoke on what happened at these meetings. There has been a 2,144 drop in membership over the last few years. The current membership is 13,935. There was a strong focus on membership levels. During the House of Delegate meeting, there was a discussion of the upcoming Fair Tax vote.

SUAA would like their budget to increase up to \$600,000 in reserve, but currently only have \$80,000. Adequate funding will be necessary to fight pension battles in Springfield.

Communicating/Reaching – Out

Rich Wandling reported that the state budget will be under stress, so retirement pensions will come up during budget discussions. We need to be proactive and communicate to the membership and potential members the importance of SUAA and EIUAA. Wendy, John and Rich will work on a Facebook page. This may be a permanent job for someone. Once it is created, the Facebook responsibilities should be turned over to someone else. Lisa Dallas may be contacted for her input and see if she would be willing to take on the maintenance of the Facebook page.

Planning for 2021

Rich Wandling already spoke of the postponement of the luncheon and President Glassman as a possible speaker for February. Future meeting dates have already been set. Unfortunately, the ongoing pandemic hinders our future plans.

Thinking Ahead Toward Advocacy

Rich Wandling reported we really can't do anything right now, especially with a lame duck session. Down the road maybe our group can start contacting representatives and senators regarding EIU and our retirement.

Meeting adjourned at 10:11 AM. (Ryan/Long)