

**Eastern Illinois University Annuitant Association
Chapter Meeting Minutes
Neal Welcome Center
February 23, 2017**

48 Attendees (45 Members/3 Nonmembers) Present

Chris and Frank McCormick, Steve Lane, Helen Gregg, Audrey and Tom Edwards, John Kilgore, Marilyn Dudley, Cynthia Nichols, Marita Metzke, John Ryan, Jill and H.C. Nilsen, Robert Whittenbarger, Jerry Zachary, Andy McNitt, Barbara Krehbiel, John Flynn, John Best, Charles Titus and spouse (she did not sign in), Donald McKee, Ginny Gochanour and spouse Bob Gochanour, Marsha Figgins, Richard and Barbara Funk, Kathy Reed, Dian Ensign, Bill Hill, Mac and spouse Barbara Corley, Dan Carpenter, Vicki Hampton, Dale D. Downs, Norma Taylor, Margaret Messer, Terry Weidner, Cheryl Hawker, Julie Sterling, Jone Zieren, Jayne Ozier, Doreen Nelms, Rosalee Noble, Kathryn Bulver, Ellen and Richard Keiter, Mary Anne Hanner, and Jeffrey Lynch.

Welcome and President's Remarks

President Messer called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. She welcomed four new board members (Marsha Figgins, Nancy Dole, John Ryan, and Gail Mason) and thanked the continuing board members for their service. She shared that SUAA has recognized EIUAA for its effective recruiting members and thanked Mary Anne Hanner and the other members of the Membership Committee for their hard work.

Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the October 6 meeting were approved as published (A. Edwards/D. Mauer).

Treasurer's Report

Mary Anne Hanner gave the treasurer's report on behalf of Treasurer Whittenbarger. The current balance in the checkbook is \$5773.

Ad Hoc Committee Report

Margaret Messer presented a report from the Ad Hoc Audit Report on behalf of the Audit Committee (John Flynn, Mary Anne Hanner, Bob Whittenbarger, Margaret Messer). The Committee met on Monday, January 9, 2017 at the Neal Welcome Center and reviewed the income and expenses of the Association for the time period of January – December, 2016. All income and expense records are in agreement with bank statements from First Mid-Illinois Bank and Trust, Charleston, Illinois. Going forth, it is the committee's recommendation that the EIUAA President and Treasurer form an ad hoc audit committee, no later than the last meeting of each year, to review all financial accounts prior to the first board meeting of the new year.

The Ad Hoc Audit Committee thanks outgoing treasurer, Hank Davis, for his service to EIUAA and for submission of the accurate checkbook and annual report. This report, along with excellent reporting regarding expenditures and membership dues by past president Mary Anne Hanner, allowed the audit to proceed smoothly and in a timely manner.

Committee Reports

- a. Communications and Newsletter – Chairperson Hampton thanked the members of her committee, John Kilgore, Audrey Edwards, Bob Whittenbarger, and RoAnn Kopel. The EIUAA Spring newsletter will be published in March. The issue will contain an RSVP form for the spring luncheon. This issue will also include a new feature, "Memory Snapshots". Please send your favorite memories of EIU (100 words or less), pictures, and other news to Vicki. As the newsletter is primarily delivered via the EIUAA listserve, it is important that EIUAA has your most current email address.

- b. Events Committee – Chairperson Figgins welcomed two new members to her committee, Rosalee Noble and Marita Metzke. The annual spring luncheon will be held on April 28 at the LifeSpan Center. Doors will open at 11:00 a.m. and lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. Entertainment will be provided by a barbershop quartet. The cost of the lunch is \$10/person and payment should be sent to EIUAA, 600 Lincoln Avenue or dropped off at Brainard House. Kay Dent will be the speaker at the July 13 Chapter Meeting. She will be doing a brief presentation and then responding to question on elderly care and estate planning.
- c. Legislative Committee – The EIUAA Legislative Committee (Sue Kaufmann, Jeff Lynch, Bob Whittenbarger, Gail Mason, James Bush) continues to monitor legislation that might impact our membership, either positively or negatively. Currently, the focus of the committee is on the continuing budget impasse and the effect this can have on EIU’s students, faculty/staff, and annuitants.

In the Governor’s budget address, he said “We cannot raise taxes on people’s groceries or medicine – just as we cannot tax people’s retirement incomes.” That is hopeful. However, he also said, “Our state employees should have health care options, just like everyone else. And it is reasonable that they pay for those options in line with everyone else. Bringing the state employee health insurance program more in line with the private sector, would save our state half a million dollars.” Health insurance negotiations, for all state employees and retirees, are between the Governor and AFSCME. The outcome of those negotiations can impact any of our members who are not of Medicare age or who are not Medicare eligible.

SUAA continues to lobby for annuitants at the state level. Please consider supporting SUAAAction. This PAC fights for us on a daily basis.

- d. Membership Committee - EIUAA’s membership count remains steady at 727.

In November, the Membership Committee and Margaret Messer sent about 1200 letters with brochures to current EIU employees. The campaign has yielded 10 applications from current employees. We will follow up in January with a notice in the University Newsletter encouraging employees who received the letter to consider EIUAA membership.

Each month we receive a report from SUAA that includes new members, members who change the mode of payment, members who renew directly with SUAA, and lapsed members. In an effort to sustain our membership, we send an email and a letter to all the lapsed members. We continue to urge members to pay their SUAA/EIUAA dues by SURS deduction so that their membership will NEVER lapse and our chapter membership is more sustainable!

As a result of our recurring message about changing to a monthly deduction from SURS, we have had 8 people change to a monthly deduction. Two of our newest members selected SURS deduction as their mode of payment.

The Membership Committee continues to plan activities to recruit new members. On March 7, SURS counselors will be at EIU in the University Union. We plan to have an information table near the location of the counselors so that we can encourage membership for those employees considering retirement.

The Membership Committee will meet next on March 2. Please let us know if you have any ideas concerning membership and recruitment

- e. Scholarship Committee - Margaret Messer presented the report on behalf of Chairperson Dole. The scholarship of \$1000 will be presented at the luncheon in April. The application deadline is March 1 at 4:00. The current corpus of the scholarship fund is \$22,000. A fully endowed scholarship is \$25,000 so another \$3000 will enable the committee to meet this goal. Margaret welcomed two new members to the committee, Nancy Curran and Brad Green.

Other Business and Suggestions

The EIU Foundation supports the chapter financially and provides us space for our meetings and storage for our records. Bill Hill is the EIUF liaison to our chapter. The Foundation is always in need of annuitants to serve as a friendly face at the reception desk. Please consider volunteering for this important role.

Adjournment: The business meeting adjourned at 9:39 a.m. (M. Corley/S. Lane)

Program: "Is Anything Happening in Springfield?" Katie Anselment, EIU Legislative Liaison

President Messer and Jill Nilsen introduced our guest speaker, Katie Anselment. Katie provided an overview of the budget and substantive bills and then responded to questions from the members.

Budget

The current proposed FY18 budget would fund universities at 15% over FY15 levels. Universities may have the opportunity to regain an additional 5% by meeting state determined performance goals. Within the Senate, there is currently a bipartisan effort to pass a package of bill, known as the Grand Bargain, to end the budget impasse. The package of bills may include: funding universities at 90 – 100% at FY15 levels; fully funding MAP grants; increasing the minimum wage; revising procurement processes; revising pensions by creating a tier 3 employee category; reforming worker's comp; freezing property taxes; passing a tax increase retroactive to January 1, 2017.

Substantive Bills

Bills that have been proposed include:

- a. Prohibiting asking job applicants if they have prior felony convictions.
- b. Requiring that college transcripts include disclosure of any sexual assaults within five years of the issuance of the transcript.
- c. Allowing community colleges to offer Bachelor of Science degrees in nursing.

Other

The following information surfaced during the Q/A session:

- a. EIU is supportive of the proposed performance based funding,
- b. There is increased pressure for state agencies to consolidate and do more with less. The political will is for universities to focus in and to decrease down.
- c. There has been a loss of student enrollment at all state schools with the exception of the University of Illinois, Illinois State, and SIU – Edwardsville.
- d. Changes in state healthcare programs may be on the horizon.
- e. It is important that legislators in ALL districts throughout the state be made aware of the how the budget impasse is negatively impacting higher education.
- f. The vast majority of Illinoisans have not been impacted by the state budget impasse. A strike by AFSCME may change that dynamic.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jill Nilsen, Secretary