

**EIU Annuitants Association Chapter Meeting
Neal Welcome Center
Thursday, July 14, 2022**

Present: President Nancy Dole, Past President Richard Wandling, Secretary John Ryan, Peter Andrews, Billie Rawlings, John Flynn, Margaret Messer, Amy Lynch, Doug Klarys, John Best, Jone Zierin, Mary Ann Hanner, Brenda Wilson, Helen Gregg, Lisa Dallas, Tim Mills, Melanie Mills, Bailey Young.

Call to Order

President Dole called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Meeting minutes

Minutes of the Feb. 24, 2022 chapter meeting were approved with one correction. Josh Norman is associate vice president for enrollment management, not associated vice president. Hanner moved/Messer seconded. Unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report

Wandling said EIUAA has \$2,848.04 in the bank after donating \$2,000 to the scholarship fund and \$1,000 to SUAA Legal Fund. Report unanimously approved.

Membership:

Ryan reported EIUAA has 574 members, down 12 since the beginning of the year. It continues the trend of decreasing chapter members and members throughout the state. Marketing strategies will be instituted in the fall.

Scholarship

Dole reported that Rachel Mellot was awarded the \$1,000 scholarship She's the daughter of Betsy Jewell, who works in the journalism Department. The corpus of the scholarship stands at \$33,741.28.

Legislative

Wandling said he is looking for members on the Legislative Committee. At the annual SUAA convention, he stressed looking at their Legislative platform, which is listed on their web page. He also encouraged everyone to keep up with the email briefings that are sent out. They are more up-to-date. He encouraged members to join the Legislative Committee.

Communications

Dole gave brief report for Wendy Long. Wandling discussed the EIUAA Facebook page. He encouraged members to join the page. He said 45 members currently follow it.

Events

Dole delivered the report for Marita Metzke. She conducted a poll in April of members. The survey asked two questions. 1.) Should EIUAA host a lunch this fall similar to what it has done in the past. Twenty-four respondents said they would be interested; 11 said they were not. 2.) What topics would members like educational speakers to address? Forty-three percent said Springfield news; 22 percent said legislative changes; 19 percent said health topics; 5 percent said weather and climate. Dole then discussed membership events to grow membership discussed at SUAA Convention. One thing they mentioned is to host an occasional breakfast.

Nominations:

Wandling said the board needs to elect a president-elect and fill four board seats in October.

SUAA Convention

Dole thanked Jill Nielsen serving on the SUAA Bylaws Committee. Dole said the meeting was eye-opening, a very structured meeting. They approved new bylaws, elected board members and had a speaker. Wandling said the big issue was the budget and whether the House of Delegates would have fiduciary responsibility for the budget.

Chapter Program:

Katie Anselment, EIU's director of government relations, was the keynote speaker. She said the good news out of Springfield was higher education received a 5 percent increase. MAP grants were hiked 25 percent so qualifying students can get a maximum award \$8,500. The budget includes funds to maintain the AIM program. The Legislature is covering the cost of the common application program for students so their admission application are received by all state schools. A new program in budget covers the cost to increase diversity of employees at state universities.

She said Eastern is still waiting on funding for its proposed new science building. Other universities are also waiting for new construction funding, Western still needs funding for its proposed new fine arts building.

One thing not in the budget, she said, was funding for mental health counseling needs on campuses. Eastern would like to provide the various mental health services but can't do without more funding.

This year's legislative session was shortened because of the June 28th primary. The Legislature adjourned in May instead of late June.

Bills that impacted Eastern included:

- A bill to grant unlimited personal leave for employees with COVID.
- A bill that prohibits the use of Latex gloves in food services.

- A bill establishing a campus navigator to point students toward assistance programs.
- A bill that would require university book stores to give students credit to purchase books until financial aid money comes through.
- A bill that would correct annuitant pension payments that were paid in error.
- A bill was introduced that would require universities to release transcripts to businesses even if students owe the universities money.

Chapin Rose will be a good thing . He's always accessible.

Q & A

Best pointed out the payment in error bill allows the state to audit everyone's pay. He said it was a potential backdoor provision to audit everyone's pension annuit

Anselment said it will be important to keep an eye on how the bill is used. She said the legislation came about because of the miscalculation of years of service, causing an employee to lose pay.

Hanner asked how the state is doing on a rainy-day fund to cover pending bills and the like.

Anselment said things are better. The state's bills are paid within 30 days. She said state Comptroller Susana Mendoza does good job.

Anselment said COVID money has really helped fund universities expenses and freed money for higher contributions to pension funds.

Rich Wandling said the University of Illinois has more impact in state than other universities and he asked what's the overall perception of Eastern.

Anselment said Eastern is thought of as a directional school. Chicago area is lumped together. Eastern is known and well respected. She said the public university presidents meet every week. It's a good organization and President Glassman is very visible in that organization. She said the U of I often pulls all the state schools together when they need something but she said they are less interest in matters that don't affect them. Eastern has a good working relationship with U of I, which hasn't always been the case.

Wandling asked if there are still tensions between community colleges and four year colleges.

Anselment said a small group of presidents have tried to work together with community colleges, but tensions do pop up. The talk of offering bachelor's degree program at the two-year schools isn't going away. It's eventually going to come up.

We hold off that topic every year. She said lots of degrees are going to four-year programs. Nursing is an example. Community colleges are looking for ways to survive so the subject isn't going away.