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President's Message



Anyone who has served on a board knows that if you're not careful or vigilant, you might end up in a board officer position. This describes me during my early months on the EIUAA Board. But reflecting on my time as president-elect and then president, I certainly view the time in these positions as a positive experience, especially in providing opportunities to learn more about the value of the SUAA to Eastern Illinois University retirees and employees.

As a political scientist, I'm drawn to the strategies of the SUAA in representing our interests in Springfield. Good things are happening on our behalf. One example is the work of the SUAA's Legislative Committee. A report from the leadership of this committee is a standard feature of SUAA House of Delegates and Annual Meetings. Its updates to the assemblies invariably communicate a clear-headed and nuanced understanding of Illinois politics and policymaking. The Legislative Platform developed by this committee is illustrative. This document is updated every year, to serve as the foundation for SUAA positions on legislation affecting our interests. I encourage everyone to check out the 2022 Legislative Platform, which can be accessed at the SUAA website, under the "Legislation" tab. The following excerpt from the Platform shows the breadth of the SUAA's policy focus:

...SUAA will review and evaluate all proposed initiatives and legislation related to pensions, health care and other retirement benefits, and the maintenance of a robust higher education system to determine their compatibility with the Association's goals; and, as appropriate, will support or oppose such initiatives and legislation either in part or in their entirety....If legislation is enacted that SUAA considers to be in violation of the pension protection clause of the Illinois Constitution, SUAA is prepared to challenge that legislation in the courts in concert with coalition partners or independently if necessary.

The SUAA's value also depends on what takes place at the chapter level; the SUAA has over fifty university and community college-based chapters. This brings us to our own EIU Annuitants Association. We have a standing Legislative Committee whose chair reports to the board at each of its meetings (five times per year), making sure we're up to speed on what's happening in Springfield and beyond. If you're interested in being part of this committee's efforts, do not hesitate to let us know! We also each year invite EIU's Director of Government Relations, Katie Anselment, for a chapter meeting presentation on bills affecting EIU and Illinois public higher education. Everyone finds Katie's updates and insights to be of great benefit. But it's not just what transpires at the organizational level. Our chapter's membership makes an ongoing difference through its active financial support of two important organizational arms of the SUAA—SUAAction and the SUAA Legal Fund.

EIUAA People



Thank You Outgoing Board Members



Thank You to our Outgoing Board Members

Four members of our EIUAA Board of Directors have completed their terms and are stepping down at the end of 2021: Jeff Lynch, John Flynn, Margaret Messer and Beverly Cruse. A board term is three years, and a board member may serve two consecutive terms.

Bev Cruse leaves the Board after serving one term, which included representing EIUAA at a SUAA House of Delegates meeting. Three of our outgoing Board members have the distinction of serving not just two three-year terms, but an additional year to help with continuity during the lock-down days of the Covid pandemic. They merit special thanks for serving a full seven years on the Board, including taking on a range of key roles for the EIUAA.

Jeff Lynch served as President Elect, President, Past President and Legislative Chair during his terms on the Board. Jeff always made our board meetings entertaining with his unique combination of witty repartee and informed insights on Illinois state government and politics. Discussion of the political happenings in Springfield definitely were more interesting when explained by Jeff.

John Flynn was always ready to work, coming early to our pre-pandemic chapter meetings to take charge of set-up of the tables and chairs. He had streamlined the set-up and tear-down process, so it could be accomplished in a few minutes; this was a truly impressive feat. John also helped with the annual audit of the EIUAA bank account each year, and also served on the Membership Committee.

Margaret Messer started as the Scholarship Chair, then moved onto President Elect, President, Past President and Treasurer. She also continued serving on the Scholarship Committee and Events Committee. Margaret put her heart and soul into the EIUAA organization. Besides the different positions held, Margaret would always step in to help when committees needed additional help, while keeping the group on schedule and reminding us of what needed to be done, and when it needed to happen. During chapter meetings, she would always have an EIU trivia question for the group, to go along with her home-baked goodies for board members.

Academy of Lifelong Learning

EIU's Academy of Lifelong Learning begins a new semester of learning on January 1, 2022. You will find more information on their webpage: <https://www.eiu.edu/adulted/all.php> Contact phone number: 217-581-5114.

Like us on Facebook 

Group name: Eastern Illinois University Annuitants Association

The EIU Annuitants Association now has a Facebook group as an additional way of keeping in touch with our members and sharing key association and university-related updates, news and events with everyone. All you need to do is find us on Facebook; you can readily access us at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/961164987992076>

Once you land at our group's site, go ahead and request to join the Facebook group, and we'll do our best to get you on board in a timely fashion. We hope you will consider joining!

EIU Annuitants Luncheon

2022 Update

46th Annual EIU Annuitants Association Luncheon

(I guess I'll leave it at 46th since we didn't have a Luncheon last year but did have our 1st Annual? Ice Cream Social this past October!)

As of the writing of this Newsletter, the Luncheon is scheduled to take place Friday, April 2, 2022. A location has not yet been determined. Watch your email, Facebook, or website for updates!

Thank you to all who attended the Ice Cream Social this fall! The weather was terrible but the ice cream was Great!

FAREWELLS

*Following are brief notices only. To read a full obituary or leave condolences, visit www.jg-tc.com
www.mitchell-jerdan.com www.adamsfuneralchapel.com*

Jeff Boshart (Art Professor), 66, Englewood, FL, died May 13, 2021. Jeff is survived by his wife of 43 years, Karen; his children Mace (Mary) and Will (Leah) and three grandchildren.

Karen Easton (TRiO Student Support Services), 61, Mattoon, IL died Friday December 10, 2021. Karen is survived by her husband Rick, children Emily (Harold) Gross and Nicholas (Joanne Meyers) and two grandchildren.

Dr. Carlton Dan Foote (Chemistry Professor), 86, died October 10, 2021. Dan is survived by his wife Beverly; children Carl (Tom West), Karen (David) Andsager, and Susan (Dan) Hara and 5 grandchildren.

Beryl Franklin (B.F.) McClerren (Speech/Communication Professor), 92, died June 16, 2021. B.F. is survived by his wife Dorothy, his children Beryl Jr., Robert (Teodora), Barbara (Jon) Truchan, Jennifer (Lyle) Cahill, five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Abdul Lateef, (Political Science), 84, Irvine, CA, died Saturday, December 11, 2021. Abdul is survived by his wife, Mussarat; sons Rezwana and Irfan; and four grandchildren.

Molly Jo McElwee (Placement Office), 80, Charleston, died July 24, 2021. Molly is survived by her children Terry "Sam" (Teresa). Diana Yamamoto, Tanya (JC) Getche; 3 stepdaughters Bridgette (Jim) Waldau, Jerilyn (Matt Albers) McElwee, and Shawn (Bill) Veach; 11 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

Edward Michael "Mike" Mullally (Athletic Director), 82, Paris, IL died July 15, 2021. Mike is survived by his wife of 32 years Maria Cortes, his children Heidi (Kris) Phipps, and Eddie, nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

David Allan Pooley (Art Instructor/Tarble Arts registrar), 69, Charleston, IL died July 18, 2021. David is survived by his wife Kelsey and his children Apryl, Ben and Maddy.

Paula Schumacher Snyder, 81, Bloomington, IL died December 4, 2021. Paula is survived by her children Carol Snyder (Dan Barham) and Paul (Melissa), and 5 grandchildren.

Dr. Robert Ellis Snyder (Music Professor/Choral Director), 91, Bloomington, IL died October 29, 2021. Bob is survived by his children Carol Snyder (Dan Barham) and Paul (Melissa), and 5 grandchildren.

Marjorie Elaine Whitkanack (Librarian), 89, Westfield, IL died September 5, 2021. Elaine is survived by her husband James, children Diane (Mike) Brengosz, Lester W Richard, Andrew (Catherine) Richard and Ramona (Rick) Meahl; nine grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT	VENUE
January 27, 2022	Board Meeting	Neal Welcome Center
February 24, 2022	Chapter Meeting	Neal Welcome Center
March 24, 2022	Board Meeting	Neal Welcome Center
April 29, 2022	Luncheon	TBD
May 26, 2022	Board Meeting	Neal Welcome Center
July 14, 2022	Chapter Meeting	Neal Welcome Center
September 8, 2022	Board Meeting	Neal Welcome Center
October 6, 2022	Chapter Meeting	Neal Welcome Center
November 12, 2022	Board Meeting	Neal Welcome Center
Meetings are scheduled for 9:00 at the Neal Welcome Center. Due to Covid restrictions, we're not sure if it will be possible to have refreshments available. Watch your email or Facebook for any updates!		

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Legislative Committee

No report.

Scholarship Committee

The scholarship award is \$1000, paid half in the fall and half in the spring. EIU staff and annuitant children or grandchildren may apply for this scholarship through the scholarship portal found on the EIU Foundation web page. The deadline for all EIU Foundation scholarships is March 15. Your generous donations to our scholarship program have enabled this scholarship to grow. We hope to continue growing our corpus and someday award a \$2,000 scholarship. Donations to the EIUAA Scholarship can be mailed to the EIU Foundation Office, 860 West Lincoln Avenue, Charleston, IL 61920 or gifts can be made on line at the [EIU Foundation website](#).

SUAA also has some scholarships. Here is the link to their information. [Foundation 2021 Scholarship and Professional Development Programs](#)

A big thank you to the Scholarship Committee and the on-campus group for their hard work processing the applications.

Nancy Dole, Scholarship Committee Chair and Margaret Messer, Committee Member

Membership Committee

EIUAA's Greatest Asset

Our membership is our greatest asset. Increasing and sustaining membership in EIUAA/SUAA is essential to the success of our organization. Here are a few tips for sustaining our membership:

- #1 - Renew your membership as soon as you receive the first renewal notice from SUAA.
- #2 - If you pay annually, switch to payment through a monthly deduction of \$3.67 from your SURS annuity so that you don't have to renew each year.
- #3 - Thanks to all of our members who do pay dues through SURS deduction! That helps EIUAA and SUAA be more cost effective and efficient!

Thanks for maintaining your membership! EIUAA and SUAA will continue to advocate on your behalf to maintain your retirement and health care benefits.

Membership Committee: John Best, John Flynn, Mary Anne Hanner, and Jone Zieren

EIUAA OFFICERS (BEGINNING SP 2022)

Nancy Dole, jndole@consolidated.net	President
TBD	President-Elect
Richard Wandling rawandling@eiu.edu	Past President
John Ryan, jmryan@eiu.edu	Secretary
Richard Wandling rawandling@eiu.edu	Treasurer

Web Page: <https://www.eiu.edu/annuitants>

BOARD MEMBERS

Peter Andrews, Gary Aylesworth, Lisa Dallas, Nancy Dole, Wendy Long, Amy Lynch, Marita Metzke, Kathy Reed, Billie Rawlings, John Ryan, Nora Pat Small, Richard Wandling

COMMITTEES

Communications: Wendy Long (Chair), John Ryan

Events: Marita Metzke, Margaret Messer, Rich Wandling

Legislative: Jeffrey Lynch (Chair), Jim Bush, Henry Davis, Sue Kaufman

Membership: John Ryan (Chair), John Best, John Flynn, , Dale Wolf, Joan Zieren

Scholarship: Nancy Dole (Chair), Nancy Curran, Brad Green, Margaret Messer