



# VOICE

May 2021

UIC chapter of the State Universities Annuitants Association

## ANNUAL MEETING

**ONLINE June 29, 2021, 11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.**

**PRESENTATION: 2021 LEGISLATION RELATED TO PUBLIC PENSIONS AND HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFITS**

**BUSINESS MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Since our state is still in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the UIC SUAA 2021 annual meeting will be held virtually via Zoom. The program will include a presentation by Linda Brookhart, Executive Director of SUAA, our parent organization, and Matthew Maloney, lobbyist for SUAA. William Peterman, member of the UIC SUAA Board of Directors and Co-Chair of the SUAA Platform Committee, will serve as moderator. This presentation will be a summary and status report on legislation related to public pension and health insurance benefits that was introduced in the 2021 session of the General Assembly and which is pertinent to SUAA members. Following this, we will have a business meeting that will include an election of officers for the coming two years and reports from current members of the UIC SUAA Board.

### How to attend

To attend this virtual meeting, it is necessary to register first. The SUAA central office is conducting the registration process, using its Zoom application. To register online, go to:

<https://form.jotform.com/211025386378154>. For assistance in registering, call the SUAA office at 217-523-4040. Staff will also provide a call-in number for the meeting if you plan to participate by telephone.

For those who are registered, the SUAA office will send an email message one day prior to the annual meeting with a link to be used to join the meeting on June 29, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. We urge you to register as soon as possible.

By participating in this teleconference, you agree to the UIC SUAA Virtual Programs Code of Conduct, as

### AGENDA

- 10:45 a.m. Zoom check-in
- 11:00 a.m. Program: 2021 Legislation Related to Public Pensions and Health Insurance Benefits. Questions and discussion to follow.
- 12:15 p.m. UIC SUAA annual business meeting

outlined at <https://go.uic.edu/code-of-conduct>. Also, you agree to the UIC SUAA Rules for Conducting an Electronic Meeting, as outlined at <https://go.uic.edu/meeting-rules>.

### SCHEDULE

**11:00 a.m.**  
**Presentation: 2021 Legislation Related to Public Pension and Health Insurance Benefits, Linda Brookhart and Matthew Maloney**

**Linda Brookhart** has been the SUAA Executive Director and in-house lobbyist for the last 14 years. Before coming to SUAA, Ms. Brookhart served as a staff member of the Taxpayers' Federation of Illinois for over 16 years; the last 7 years as its Vice President and in addition, the Secretary/Treasurer of the Illinois Tax Foundation.

From the SUAA State Organization in Springfield, Brookhart provides direction and assistance to the 51 SUAA chapters and supervises the staff in that office. She has served as the facilitator for the Higher Education Legislative Coalition

and as chair of the advisory committee for the Illinois Retirement Security Initiative, and as a member of its budget committee and steering committee. She has also served as a non-voting member of the Legislative Education Caucus and is a board member of the Illinois Channel. She currently serves as a member of the steering committee of the Illinois Coalition to Invest in Higher Education. She also represents SUAA at the Central Management Services Stakeholders' meetings for State Health Insurance and the College Insurance Program. Brookhart also serves on the board of the Illinois Chapter of AAUP.

Brookhart received the Loyalty Award for Exceptional Alumni Service from the University of Illinois at Springfield, her alma mater.

**Matthew Maloney** has a wealth of experience in issue advocacy and regulatory affairs from 25 years of working with the Illinois Legislature. Early in his career, he gained expertise in the areas of communications and policy while working with the Illinois House of Representatives. Maloney has served as a government relations advocate for several non-profit organizations. He testifies regularly at hearings and has cultivated working relationships with government officials at the local, state, and federal levels. For the past several years, he has served as an advocate for annuitants in Illinois.

Maloney received the Excellence in Public Health Policy Award from the Illinois Public Health Association.

## **12:15 p.m.** **UIC SUAA Annual Business Meeting**

Election of Officers: The Nominating Committee, chaired by Brenda Russell with members Arlene Norsym and John Palmatier, recommends the following members to serve on the Board of Directors for 2021-2023:

- President, Christopher Keys
- Second Vice President, William Peterman
- Treasurer, Lawrence Kloc
- Member-at-Large, Ashish Sen

## **NOMINEE BIOGRAPHIES**

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### **President, Christopher Keys**

For 31 years, Keys was a faculty member of the Psychology department at UIC, serving as director of three doctoral programs at different times and chair of the department for part of that time. He was also a faculty member in the Institute for Disability and Human Development, later a UIC department, where he was involved in community intervention research. He has received awards from

the Society for Community Research and Action, the American Psychological Association, and the Midwestern Psychological Association for his research. Post-retirement, Keys served as a volunteer mentor in the provost's mentoring program to support faculty in advancing from Associate to full Professor. He has been a member of the UIC SUAA Board since 2016 and has been a part of program planning for membership meetings and recruitment of new members. Keys states: "Given Illinois' precarious budget situation, our pensions continue to be an inviting target for those who seek quick solutions to the legislature's efforts to make up for not funding these pensions adequately over the years. Focusing on protecting pensions will be a primary task for us going forward. We will also seek to inform our members and the UIC community about issues related to retirement, health care, and other related topics as they arise."

### **Second Vice President, William Peterman**

Peterman has considerable experience with legislative and policy matters as a National Science Foundation Public Service Science Resident at Bowling Green State University, outreach center director at UIC (1979-1995) and Chicago State University (1995-2002), and a Fulbright and Benjamin Meaker Fellow in the United Kingdom (2002-2010). He represented Chicago State University on the Faculty Advisory Council to the Illinois Board of Higher Education. In addition to being a member of the UIC SUAA Board for the last four years, he co-chairs the SUAA Legislative Platform Committee for statewide SUAA.

### **Treasurer, Lawrence Kloc**

Kloc has been UIC SUAA Treasurer for six years. He has been with UIC for 15 years, most recently as Assistant Director, Hospital Finance, Special Projects, since July 2013. Kloc has been a Certified Public Accountant since 1978. He received a Master of Business Administration Degree in 1996. In addition to applying this academic preparation and experience to his work at UIC, Kloc participates in various voluntary organizations. In January 2020, Kloc was appointed as a SUAA Regional Director. In this role, he represents all of the state universities in Region One on the SUAA Executive Committee.

### **Member-at-Large, Ashish Sen**

Ashish Sen is an Emeritus Professor at UIC, having retired in 1998 to accept a position with the U.S. Department of Transportation. At UIC, he was Professor of Urban Planning and Director of the Urban Transportation Center. He also held an appointment in the Department of Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science. Sen has served as Vice Chairman of the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) and as a

member of the Chicago School Board. He has been a member of UIC SUAA for many years and, for the last few years, has served as a Director-at-Large.

### **Change to approval process for minutes of annual assembly (meeting)**

In accordance with the chapter's Bylaws, ARTICLE XI: PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY, Section 1. "The current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall be the accepted Parliamentary Authority for the Chapter except when conflicting

with its Bylaws." The current edition (12th edition) of Robert's Rules of Order advises that minutes of an annual meeting ought not be held until the next annual meeting for approval since memories tend to fade, and the minutes can be approved by an executive committee (or Board, in the case of this chapter) at a regular meeting. The minutes of the 2020 Annual Assembly of the chapter have been approved by the Board and are posted on the chapter's website at: <https://go.uic.edu/2020-minutes>

## **FROM THE PRESIDENT**

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The UIC SUAA chapter ended all in-person activities beginning in March 2020. Since then, the Board has met monthly via Zoom, with the exception of August and December, and, as many of you recall, we held the 2020 annual meeting virtually. We miss having in-person meetings with the chapter membership, and we look forward to resuming those as soon as feasible. Despite the limitations of virtual meetings, there are some features that have enabled more members to participate. Those members who live in locations distant from Chicago have joined our virtual meetings and have had the opportunity to learn more about the work of SUAA and UIC SUAA.

In February 2021, the chapter offered a webinar, with the assistance of the SUAA office, entitled: "Will the State keep its promise? Are our pensions at risk?" The speakers for this program were Professor Ann Lousin, UIC John Marshall College of Law and a former staff member to the 1970 Illinois Constitutional Convention, and Eric Madiar, an attorney who is a specialist on the Illinois Constitution. This program was offered to all SUAA chapters and drew an audience of over 1,000. A video recording of the program may be viewed on

the UIC SUAA website, [suaa.uic.edu](https://suaa.uic.edu). Please watch for the announcement of more virtual programs on topics that should be of interest to SUAA members. In the future, we plan to continue to offer webinars as well as in-person meetings and events. The Board of UIC SUAA invites members to join its monthly meetings, conducted by Zoom, as guests. The schedule for Board meetings is posted on the UIC SUAA website. We request that guests notify Merrill Gassman, Webmaster, one day prior to the meeting which they plan to attend at [suaa@uic.edu](mailto:suaa@uic.edu).

### **SUAA Foundation scholarships and professional development grants**

The SUAA Foundation offers up to six scholarships of up to \$1,000 and up to two professional development grants of up to \$1,000. For more information, visit <https://www.suaa.org/foundation-scholarship-program> or call the SUAA office at 217-523-4040.

## **DEATHS**

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With sadness, we report the deaths of these UIC SUAA members, as listed in SUAA membership reports from August 2020 to January 2021.

Margaret Baltazar  
Roger Dominowski  
Ann Eastwood  
Frieda Engel  
Marjorie Gockel

Marian Johnson  
Patricia Kratochwill  
Marian Kneer  
John Kysar  
Carolyn Lewis

Kenneth Smythe  
Charles Stanislao  
Charles Tuffanelli  
Jerry Washington

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**UIC SUAA Board:** Elliott Dudnik, Merrill Gassman, Chris Keys, Lawrence Kloc, Deborah Matthews, Arlene Norsym, John Palmatier, John Prochaska, William Peterman, Mrinalini Rao, Brenda Russell, Ashish Sen, Karen Scherman, Kathleen Stauffer, Michele Thompson.

