



UIC SUAA 2021-2022

Annual Report

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State Universities Annuitants Association (UIC SUAA)

suaa.uic.edu

June 29, 2022

UIC Annual Assembly



SUAA - State Universities Annuity Association



**UIC SUAA chapter
~ 1,300 members**



**SUAA Illinois
~14,000 members**

Mission of SUAA

- The State Universities Annuitants Association(SUAA) provides the framework for a unified message dedicated to preserving and protecting a strong public pension system, healthcare benefits, higher education and the general well-being of its membership.

UIC SUAA Foci for 2021-2022

- Reactive
 - COVID
- Proactive
 - Education
 - Leadership
 - Advocacy

COVID Pandemic

- Almost no in-person activity
 - Many chapters went into twilight or totally dark for the pandemic
- Challenge for recruiting
 - Prior Focus –In person events

Education- 3 Events

- 2021 Annual Assembly June 2021, 66 members attended, Topic: Illinois legislation
 - Linda Brookhart, SUAA Executive Director
 - Matt Maloney, SUAA Lobbyist
- 2021 Fall Forum, September 2021, ca. 175 attendees, Topic: Health Insurance
 - Nancy Seward, Central Management Services
 - Kari Dennison, IL CMS
 - -open to all UIC faculty and staff

Education

- 2022 Winter Event , February, 600+ attendees,
Topic: SURS and Social Security
 - John Prochaska, CPA, Retirement Educator
 - John McCroskey, Retirement SpecialistOpen to UIC retirees, faculty and staff and SUAA members statewide
 - Great document of Q and A content by the speakers and Cynthia Herrera-Lindstrom now on the UIC SUAA website under member links!

<https://suaa.uic.edu>

UIC SUAA Leadership

- Merrill Gassman, Webmaster, Editor, etc
- Michele Thompson, Past- President, part-time Secretary
- Ashish Sen, First Vice-President and Budget and Finance Cmte. Chair
- Bill Peterman, Second VP and Legislative Committee Chair
- Arlene Norsym, Secretary
- Larry Kloc, Treasurer
- John Prochaska- Parliamentarian

UIC SUAA Leadership

- Meena Rao, Director-at Large
- Carolyn Arnold, Director-at-Large
- Cynthia Herrera-Lindström-Director-at-Large and Communications Chair
- Karen Scherman- Chair, Events Coordination
- Elliott Dudnik – Chair, Insurance
- Kathy Stauffer-Chair, Membership
- Anne Burkhart-Chair, Program Planning
- Debbie Matthews- Chair, Social

State Leadership

- Elliott Dudnik, Chair, SUAA Foundation
- Larry Kloc, SUAA Treasurer
- Bill Peterman, Co-Chair, Legislative Policy Platform Committee

Advocacy

- SUAA has an Executive Director and 2 Lobbyists
- Actively meeting with legislators
- 2021-2022: A good year, pensions funded and \$500M in addition funds dedicated to paying down the pension debt over the next two years.
- Challenges likely when the federal pandemic funds end in about two years

UIC SUAA Advocacy

- The pension crisis in Illinois is due to the legislature not paying its share of the pension
- The pensions themselves are only a fraction of the debt
- Most of the debt is due to the missed payments of the legislature over the last 35 years or so.
- Be alert to the criticisms of the *Tribune* and others every few months or so.

UIC SUAA Advocacy

- UIC SUAA has members in more legislative districts than does any of the other 55 SUAA chapters. Big impact is possible.
- Write and visit your legislators, attend their fundraisers and town halls
- Tell them we need our pensions. We do not earn social security for our university work.

“The Future Lies Ahead”— Dwight David Eisenhower

- Advocate for pensions and health insurance
- Now is a good time to get better acquainted with your legislators in one-to-one meetings
- Renew by using the Dues Deduct option to sustain your membership smoothly and reduce the burden of volunteers trying to remind you to renew
- Recruit new members

The Future Lies Ahead 😊!

- Look over the helpful material under member links on our website: <https://uic.suaa.edu>
- Send us suggestions for speakers and programs email: suaa@uic.edu
- Send us suggestions on how to improve UIC SUAA email: suaa@uic.edu
- Contribute to SUAA Foundation, Legal Fund and Action Fund <https://www.suaa.org>

Thanks!

- Grateful for my colleagues and the opportunity to be of some help to UIC retirees, faculty and staff!