



UIC SUAA 2022-2023

President's Report

Chris Keys

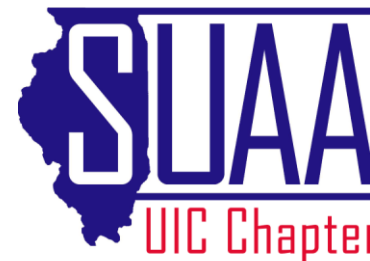
President, UIC Chapter

State Universities Annuitants Association (UIC SUAA)

suaa.uic.org

June 6, 2023

UIC Annual Assembly





SUAA - State Universities Annuity Association



**UIC SUAA chapter
~ 1,350 members**



**SUAA Illinois
~14,000 members**

Mission of SUAA

- The State Universities Annuitants Association(SUAA) preserves and protects a strong public pension system, healthcare benefits, higher education and the general well-being of its membership.

UIC SUAA Foci for 2022-2023

- Outreach and Community Building
- Education
- Leadership
- Advocacy

Outreach and Community Building

- UIC Expo in Fall-Outreach to current employees about UIC SUAA
- Holiday Luncheon-first in-person UIC SUAA event since the pandemic started! A community rebuilder
- @Flu Vaccination in Winter-Outreach to current employees & retirees about UIC SUAA
- HR Retirement Celebration in Spring-Outreach to new retirees



Education- 3 Events and a Website

- 2022 Annual Assembly June 2022, Topic: Transition to and Living Well in Retirement
 - Tim Hall, Boston University and Harvard U
- 2022 Fall Forum, September 2022, Topic: SURS
 - Suzanne Mayer, Executive Director, SURS
 - Kristen Hough, Director of Legislative and Stakeholder Relations



Education



- 2023 Winter-Spring Ongoing “Event” ,
January-Present

Transition to Aetna Healthcare Medical Advantage Program

- Elliott Dudnik, UIC SUAA Board healthcare
resource
- Linda Brookhart, Executive Director, SUAA

Used UIC SUAA listserv to field questions about
members’ concerns with the new health insurance
provided by the state of Illinois

Websites

- <https://suaa.uic.edu>
- Merrill has UIC SUAA's website chock full of useful information for anyone planning to retire and seeking to make good use of retirement.
- Adding recordings of chapter events soon.
-

Webinars

- State Update Programs-Watch for them
 - Central Management Services (CMS) on **healthcare insurance** usually in October/November
 - SURS on **pensions** and SURS current status in Fall and Spring

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



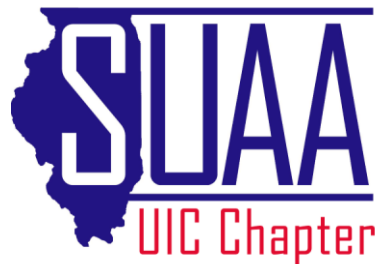
UIC SUAA Leadership



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

SUAA State Leadership

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



Advocacy



- SUAA has an Executive Director and 2 Lobbyists in Springfield
- Actively meeting with legislators
- 2022-2023: A good year, pensions funded and additional funds dedicated to paying down the pension debt in FY 2024; no immediate threats.
- Challenges likely when the federal pandemic funds end in about a year

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*, the Illinois Policy Institute and others every few months or so.

Healthcare Advocacy

- Keeping track of issues that arise
 - Informing those challenged
 - Problem solving individual situations to get care covered
 - Keeping track of systemic issues that need to be addressed
 - Building a channel to and advocating with CMS regarding the individual and systemic issues arising during the transition



UIC SUAA Advocacy

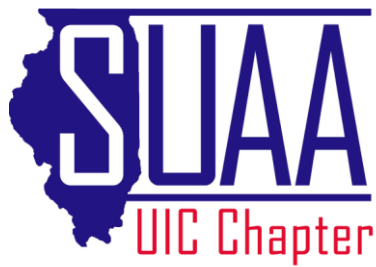


- UIC SUAA has members in more legislative districts than does any of the other 55 SUAA chapters. Big impact is possible.
- Get involved: Tell Bill Peterman and/or me you want to be involved in lobbying
William.peterman@att.net cbkeys@uic.edu
- Write and visit your legislators, attend their fundraisers 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- UIC friends and family





The Future Lies Ahead 😊!

- Look over the helpful material under member links on our website: <https://suaa.uic.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

The To Do list ends here

- Contribute to SUAA Foundation, Legal Fund and Action Fund <https://www.suaa.org>
- Become a supporting member of SUAA <https://www.suaa.org>



Thanks!

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

