**Legislative Action Report**

By Dick Simpson

Since the last Board meeting, we have created a nine-person committee to coordinate our legislative activities during 2024. Other volunteers are still welcome, and we will begin our work with a training session/committee meeting in January. The legislative session begins in January, and we will begin meeting with legislators as their schedule allows, given that most of them are also up for reelection.

1. Generally, in our legislative meetings, we will stress protection of Tier 1 pensions, better healthcare for members (many hospitals don’t accept TRAIL, and more may begin to turn it down), and improvements for Tier 2 to lower the time necessary to be vested.
2. SURS will be asked to provide information on the number of member-retirees in each legislative district. We will provide that information to individual legislators when we meet with them.
3. We will stress that the State funding problem is not due to pensions but because the State refused to fund pensions for a decade.
4. We oppose a constitutional convention or constitutional amendment to strip us of our pension rights. There will be a vote by the electorate in 2028 to determine whether to hold a convention, and it is not too soon to press our position on this.

The committee so far is **Dick Simpson, Arlene Norsym, Michele Thompson, Marty Gartzman, Karen Egerer, Lawrence Kloc, Marilyn Ruiz,** and one or two additional volunteers.

As mentioned in the last report, I had a phone meeting with Marissa Brewer, Advocacy Coordinator for Illinois Connection who also serves on the SUAA-UIUC Executive Committee. We agreed that Illinois Connection and SUAA should work closely together.

1. Their Lobby Day in Springfield will be either February 21 or 28th and some of our members should participate.
2. They have shared with us their lobbying instructions for meetings in- district with State legislators. I will revise those for instructions for our members’ meetings with legislators.
3. Our members will join in their legislative lobbying, and we will let them know about our meetings with legislators.
4. We will send delegations of from 2-5 members to meet with legislators **by Zoom** as these are easier to arrange and to get participation from our members. These will be primarily listening tours to hear their legislative priorities and to let them know our concerns.
5. Marissa will help set up a Zoom meeting between a small delegation of our Board and the Board leadership of SUAA-UIUC so we can coordinate our efforts.
6. Marissa will share with us the profile that Illinois Connection has created on each legislator.

If we are to protect our pensions, we must overcome our falling membership numbers as well as in SUAAction.

I will ask at the meeting that we recess for five minutes so I can report on SUAAction, which cannot be an official part of any of our SUAA-UIC meetings.