

SUAA/SIUE Chapter Newsletter

Meet SUAA's New President



Dr. Randy Dunn

SUAA Board of Director's Meeting

In their July meeting new President Dunn reported: I reviewed the goals I want SUAA to fulfill during my tenure. These were earlier outlined in the report of the 2024 Annual Meeting which members should have received via email, and include the following:

- *Development of a comprehensive SUAA strategic plan which includes measurable goals and specific, concrete implementation steps.*
- *Increase visibility, engagement, and communication with current and future potential SUAA members, particularly those in Tier II.*
- *Support and amplify improvements to SUAA operations, increasing the professionalism and effectiveness of our Association.*

SUAA State Annual Meeting

Dr. Randy Dunn was unanimously approved by all voting delegates at the SUAA Annual Meeting on June 20th in Springfield to serve as President of our State SUAA Board of Directors. His 2-year term began July 1, 2024. Randy also serves on our SIUE Chapter Board. Chapter President Becherer stated "With Randy's extensive knowledge, passion and expertise in so many areas, along with the vision and leadership of our new Executive Director, Bryan Soady, the impact on our organization is going to yield great results!! "

Other elections: Larry Kloc (UIC) re-elected to second term as SUAA Treasurer, Marilyn Westerhoff (Elgin CC) elected Region 1 Director Community Colleges, Diane Koenig (Rock Valley) elected Region 2 Director for Community Colleges. Steve Cunningham (NIU) was later appointed Region 3 Director Universities (vacated by Randy Dunn's election to President) by the Board of Directors per ByLaws.

Other meeting highlights:

Keynote speaker Eric Madiar, a well-known and highly sought-after legal and political consultant in Springfield. Madiar has published the first comprehensive analysis of the Pension Protection Clause of the Illinois Constitution and is viewed as a leading authority on public pension issues in Illinois. This Spring, Eric was hired by SUAA to file an Amicus Brief in what is becoming the view first legal challenge to the 'Tier 2 Plan.'

Actions were taken on two ByLaws amendments: 1) to use 'contact information' rather than 'address' and 2) adding a new section which reads: In between Board meetings the Board of Directors may use email voting for approval of budgeting changes and reserve fund use, committee nominations and Executive Director/Treasurer-approved contracts. At the request of any one (1) member of the Board of Directors, the Board of Directors shall hold a meeting according to Article XIV within 14 days to discuss and vote on the nominations(s)/motion(s).

Read all the Annual Meeting highlights at <https://tinyurl.com/3mcbst5>

Recent Chapter Activities



June 17th Paint the Rock on the Quad



July 13th Information table at Goshen Market

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September 10th Walk & Talk



September 17th SIUE Benefits Fair

Campus News

'Congress to Campus' Sam Coppersmith (D-AZ) and John M. Shimkus (R-IL) represent more than 20 years of combined legislative experience. A bi-partisan conversation about the importance of voting and elections will be open to the public on **Monday, Oct. 7 at 7 p.m. in the Meridian Ballroom located in the SIUE Morris University Center.**

SUAA SIUE Board Member Highlight

In August your Chapter Board welcomed Dave Heth as its newest member. Before retiring from SIUE after 24 years, he most recently served as the Director of Financial Affairs. Dave has also provided Leadership Training and Employee Development for over 35 years including for the SIU System on the Edwardsville, Carbondale, and Springfield campuses. To see a complete list and to contact any of your other board members see <https://www.siu.edu/suaa/>

DID YOU KNOW...

...there are increasing questions as to whether or not Tier II violates safe-harbor? (A pension plan has to pay the equivalent what Social Security would have paid.) SUAA's legislative platform "supports legislation to revise Tier II pensions resulting in enhanced benefits regarding the final salary period, time to vesting, automatic annual increment and early retirement reduction. SUAA supports current legislative efforts to ensure that Tier II pensions for all Tier II annuitants at least meet the 'safe harbor' provision of Social Security." <https://www.suaa.org/legislative-platform>

SUAAAction

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU to all SIUE Chapter members who have contributed this year. Total statewide contributions are nearly \$150,000 YTD and these funds allow our lobbyists and Political Action Committee to support elected officials and candidates for statewide office that align with the mission of SUAA to ensure your hard-earned benefits are protected. There is still time to contribute on-line at [SUAAAction Contribution Form](#) or by sending a check [SUAAAction Contribution](#) heading into the November 5th General Election and 103rd General Assembly Veto Session which begins on November 12th.

SUAAAction is SUAA's political action committee; details as well as timely information for voters can be found here <https://tinyurl.com/yc7a9r5j>

SIUE Chapter President Keith Becherer attended the Business and Industry Federation of Economic Concern (BIFEC) conference on September 18th in Springfield to get detailed analysis on all statewide elections in November.

SURS

SIUE Chapter member Collin Van Meter was re-elected to the SURS Board of Trustees. Collin currently serves as Board Vice Chairperson. The Money Purchase Calculation for calculating retirement benefits for those retiring on or after July 2, 2025 will change on that date. See SURS Fall Newsletter for details and other news <https://tinyurl.com/yeyekhc9>

State SUAA Office

The Fall Meeting is scheduled for October 15 in Bloomington. An updated Legislative Platform and Agenda will be voted on and adopted heading into the 104th General Assembly which is scheduled to start in Springfield in January 2025. You can expect a more robust and specific plan of action so our voice is heard in Springfield and across the state – stay tuned for some exciting developments!!

Stay Up to Date Checklist

- ✓ Visit SIUE Chapter website often www.siu.edu/suaa
- ✓ Call the State SUAA office (217) 523-4040 with all contact updates ESPECIALLY your email.