April 19, 2016

Minutes for Spring Luncheon which was held at Pescatore Palace in Franklin Park.

1. There were approximately twenty-five (25) individuals in attendance.
2. Socialization with members and friends was from 11:30 – 12:00 Noon
3. A wonderful lunch was served for members attending.
4. Jens Nielsen, President, open the meeting with a few general comments and then asked each of the current executive committee members if they had any comments for the group.
   a. Ann Sullivan, Treasurer, stated the balance in our check book was around $700.00
   b. Bob Anthony asked if members had some ideas on how we could improve the newsletter please let him know.
   c. Connie Allekian, TCAAction director, stated SUAA sent out a letter to contribute to the TCAAction for political support of members in the state legislation which support our cause. She requested when members receive this they consider sending in any amount of money to support legislators which support our cause.
   d. Ken Piwowar, webmaster, spoke on how we keep the website up to date with lots of information and/or sources to help members keep current. The website is Triton.edu/tcaa.
   e. Jens then asked for the members to vote on the new executive committee members. The list was read of members being considered, a vote was requested, seconded, and approved.
   f. The new executive committee members are:
      i. Michael Gong, President
      ii. Mary Jeans, Vice-president and President Elect
      iii. Jens Nielsen, Past president
      iv. Bob Anthony, Newsletter
      v. Ken Piwowar, Webmaster
      vi. Ann Sullivan, Treasurer
      vii. Carol Bibly, Membership
      viii. John Cadero, Social Director
      ix. Bob Witherspoon, Secretary
x. Connie Allekian, TCAAction Director
xi. Tom Bondi, Director
xii. D Degrado, Legislation Director
xiii. Jens then turned the meeting over to the new president Michael Gong.

5. Michael thanked the members, made a few comments and then introduced our speaker, Linda Brookhart, Executive director SUAA.

6. Linda Brookhart spoke about the following:
   a. **SB 2046 AM 001** was passed in the House and the Senate. Without the passage of this bill, the Comptroller has no authority to pay for social services or colleges and universities. However, nothing in this bill requires the Governor’s Administration to spend any of this money that was appropriated. From this passage the following appropriations could be made from the Education Assistance Fund to these campuses:
      - Chicago State University - $33,512,100
      - Governors State University - $22,498,000
      - Illinois Community College Board for distribution of base operating and equalization grants to qualifying public community colleges and City Colleges of Chicago - $274,601,000
      - Illinois Community College Board for career and technical education activities - $17,569,400
      - Lunch with Staff Monday, June 6 RSVP to Joni at 217.523.4040
      - Travel with SUAA to ICELAND to see the Northern Lights
      - Illinois Community College Board for adult education and literacy activities – 21,572,400
      - Illinois Community College Board for associated with education and educational-related services to local eligible providers for performance-based awards - $10,701,600
      - Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy - $17,129,200
      - Northeastern Illinois University - $34,500,300
      - Southern Illinois University - $185,426,500
      - University of Illinois - $545,127,300
      - University of Illinois Hospital - $41,128,300
      - University of Illinois School of Labor and Employment Relations - $1,144,300
      - Eastern Illinois University - $40,182,200
      - Illinois State University - $67,532,000
      - Northern Illinois University - $85,171,700
      - Western Illinois University - $48,101,300
      - From the General Revenue Fund:
         - Illinois Community College Board for Career and Technical Education Licensed Practical Nurse and Registered
Nurse Preparation - $500,000 • Monetary Award Program - $397,073,100


Headed to the Senate

Under subsection (c) of 40 ILCS 5/15-139, a SURS annuitant who returns to work must elect to forgo his or her retirement annuity payments in order to receive service credit for the duration of that re-employment. Upon subsequent retirement, the amount of the retirement annuity is recalculated and retirement annuity payments resume. HB 3408 Exclude Allowances for Housing and Vehicles from SURS Pensions Sponsor Rep. Stephanie Kifowit Still on Calendar

2nd Reading in the House.

House Amendment 2 additionally amends the definitions of basic compensation and earnings to exclude club memberships or dues from the calculation of pensions for individuals who first become participants of SURS on and after the effective date of the legislation. HB 4259 SURS Participation Limited to Public Employees Sponsor Rep. Martin Moylan Votes: 111- 000 - 000

Referred to Assignments in the Senate

Specifically, the bill excludes certain private employees from participation in the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund, State Universities Retirement System and the Teachers Retirement System. For SURS this could include: certain associations of community School Administrators, the Association of Illinois Middle-Grade Schools, the Illinois Association of School Administrators, the Illinois Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, the Illinois Principals Association, The Illinois Association of School Business Officials, and the Illinois Special Olympics. The bill also gives the SURS Board of Trustees final determination as to whether a person is an employee covered under SURS. HB 6021- Restore Survivors Insurance Benefits Sponsor(s): Representative Sam Yingling Votes: 102 – 004 – 000

Senator Biss in Senate is sponsor House Amendment #1 to House Bill 6021 reinserts the language of the underlying bill with technical changes. It also provides that the election period begins 5 months after the effective date of the legislation. HB 6021 allows eligible State Universities Retirement System (“SURS”) retirees to restore
their survivor’s insurance benefits by making an election within one year of the effective date of the legislation, to repay their survivors refund or annuity, along with interest compounded at the actuarially assumed rate of return, to SURS. The compounded interest applies from the date of issuance of the refund, or the date of issuance of each annuity payment, until repayment is made to SURS. Full repayment must be made as a lump sum payment prior to the date of the retiree’s death. An eligible SURS retiree must meet the following requirements: • He or she retired before June 1, 2011 and received a refund or annuity equal to the amount of his or her survivors insurance contributions; • He or she is a party to a: • Civil union or legal relationship that is recognized as a civil union or marriage on or after June 1, 2011; • Marriage on or after February 26, 2014; or • Marriage, civil union, or other legal relationship that was not recognized in Illinois as a civil union or marriage until June 1, 2011, a marriage until February 26, 2014, or both. HB 6021 makes similar changes under Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund and Teachers Retirement System. HB 6021 is very similar to House Bill 2520 of the 99th General Assembly, as introduced. HB 6030 - Public Retirement Systems and Pension Funds Perform Checks for Deceased Annuitants. Added Amendment 1 to include all pension funds. Sponsor(s): Representative Deborah Conroy Votes: 112 – 000 – 000 Referred to Assignments in the Senate HB 6030 requires every pension fund and retirement system under the Illinois Pension Code to develop and implement, by June 30, 2017, a process to identify deceased annuitants. HB 6030 requires each pension fund or retirement system to check for deceased annuitants at least once per month and to use common methods to identify deceased persons, including: • The use of a third party entity that specializes in identifying deceased persons; • The use of data provided by the Social Security Administration; • The use of data provided by the Illinois Department of Public Health’s Office of Vital Records; or • The use of any other method commonly used by other states to identify deceased persons. HB 6030 also amends the Vital Records Act to require any information contained in the vital records to be made
available to any pension fund or retirement system under the Illinois Pension Code in conformance with these requirements. Bills that did not pass out of assigned House and Senate committees: HB 4398 – No Earnings or Service Credit for Unused Sick or Vacation Time HB 4984 - Employers Pay Cost of Salary Increases above Inflation HB 4310 – ST Group Ins-Retired Teachers (TRIP) SB 2402 - SURS Self-Managed Plan Lump Sum Distribution Retirees Receive Health Insurance upon Returning to Work. Today was the last day to file amendments to bills in the House. Deputy House Majority Leader Lou Lang filed an amendment to HB 689 which sets the income tax brackets for a progressive income tax. Of course the progressive income tax would have to be on the ballot for the November General Election in order for this bill to pass. For those filing jointly with income less than $200,000 the tax would be 3.5%. Income between $200,000 and $750,000 would be taxed at 3.75%. Income between $750,000 and $1,500,000 would be subject to an 8.75% tax rate. Income over $1,500,000 would be taxed at 9.75%. Corporate Income Tax is not changed. Comment coming from the Governor – “It would break the state’s economy” For other comments follow this link http://capitolfax.com/2016/04/15/the-straw-that-breaks-theillinois-economy%E2%80%99s-back/ The legislature will begin to act on Constitutional Amendments in May in order to get on the General Election Ballot. House and Senate will return on Monday, April 18th at 3:00 p.m. Deadline for 3rd Reading in both House and Senate is Friday, April 22nd

b. Higher education campaign by SUAA

1. WHY??? BECAUSE . . . The State Budget Impasse is causing havoc to our 12 State Universities and 48 Community Colleges. Students are not the only ones impacted. Personnel cuts are taking place throughout the State on higher education campuses. Furlough Days have begun. Early retirements will take place. Research programs move as professors relocate. Chicago State is projected to close without State funding. Loss of jobs in an already unpredictable Chicago education market. Other campuses around the State of Illinois are financially crippled. Map Grant funding has taken a toll on
campus budgets Many campuses will encounter low enrollments for Fall Semester bringing additional distress Classes cut — Programs eliminated Summer schedules derailed Research dramatically decreased A higher education institution in some areas is the community’s largest employer Student jobs are affected too No ability for so many people to relocate Communities deteriorate Unemployment leads to the inability to afford local business offerings Local business will struggle or even fail Sales tax decrease as well as Income taxes Local services further suffer or cease to exist Creates a desolate future for Illinois Without an educated workforce new businesses look elsewhere HIGHER EDUCATION CREATES JOBS FOR EVERYONE!

2. **IL Coalition to Invest in Higher Education** We come together – public and private universities and colleges, business, labor, administrators and faculty, students and families – to call for an immediate investment in students and our higher education system. o Every college and university is handling these budget cuts differently. But make no mistake – at 7 months into the fiscal year without funding, the budget crisis is causing measurable pain. o Over 125,000 Monetary Award Program (MAP) grant recipients, by definition the poorest students in our state, were promised an award and without it many will not be able to continue at their college or university. o The absence of operational funding is already limiting public higher education’s ability to provide services and classes for students to complete their degrees, which could lead to more students dropping out of college. o To offset these cuts, raising tuition and fees and cutting positions give our out-of-state competitors the opening they need for our students and faculty talent o Research dollars and out-of-state students will not come here – and won’t be easy to bring back once the crisis has passed Higher education is an integral part of Illinois’ success story. Improving our communities and the lives of our citizens and their families in turn improves the state’s ability to grow and build future resources. Our higher education system needs action in Springfield now. o Our state’s ability to compete at a high level with other states and countries, and grow opportunities for our citizens and businesses, is directly connected with our investment in human capital. Without it, as evidenced over the last decade, we will continue to fall further behind. o 70% of all jobs in the modern economy require some level of higher education. Illinois’ citizens will be
left out of job opportunities, better paying jobs, more growth and opportunity. o Think of how Carbondale, Charleston, Macomb, Galesburg, Jacksonville and many, many other communities will be devastated by slowing their most important economic engines o It’s well documented that an educated citizenry is directly correlated to lower unemployment and increased tax revenues at all levels of government. Higher Education is an economic engine for our citizens and the state o We employ nearly 175,000 people directly. o We generate, at 150+ locations statewide, over $50 billion in state and local economic activity o We annually educate over 800,000 students at our community, public and private universities and colleges o We boost the standard of living in communities around the state by providing good-paying jobs for our administrators, faculty and staff who support our schools and local businesses o We draw students and workers and strong economic activity to our campuses in every county in Illinois o We bring in billions of dollars in research grants and thousands of students from around the world o We provide hope to many students and families whose lives and careers wouldn’t be the same without us o We stand together to call for MAP and operational funds from Springfield today. Lawmakers and the governor came to an agreement on releasing funds to avert disaster several times in 2015. Higher Education, our state, and our students need that leadership through compromise right now! CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS TO MAKE SURE ILLINOIS HAS A BRIGHT FUTURE! *

3. Linda concluded her comments and answered questions from the audience.

7. Michael Gong, President, thanked Linda for coming and her comments on what is happening in Springfield and also about the comments on the higher education rally being held I Springfield on April 20, 2016.

   a. Michael suggested members to contact their legislators about the legislation being passed and the budget impasse.

   b. Michael asked if there were any further questions and adjourned the meeting and luncheon at 2 PM.

*Note most of her comments were posted on the SUAA website which I went to and edited where it was appropriate-it just made life easier.