TRITON COLLEGE ANNUITANTS ASSOCIATION
C/O Carol Bibly
1808 Jeanette Ave.
St. Charles, Il 60174

SPRING LUNCHEON
APRIL 19, 2016
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Spring Luncheon  -  Tuesday, April 19, 2016

11:00 am - 2:00 pm
$15.00  -  Includes buffet, beverage, dessert, tax and tip

Location - Pescatore Palace
3400 North River Road (about a mile north of Triton on River Road, one block north of Belmont) Franklin Park, IL  847-678-9005.
(parking in front and rear of building)

11:00 - 11:30 am  -  Check in
11:30 - 12:45 pm  -  Lunch
12:45 - 1:30 pm  -  Linda Brookhart, Speaker
Executive Director of SUAA

*It's All Political*
1:30 - 2:00 pm  -  Business Meeting

*There will be time to mingle with former colleagues!*

Pescatore Palace
Vito Barbanente, the owner of Pescatore Palace for over 36 years, is a 1977 graduate of Triton's HIA program. His speciality is fine Italian dining. One of his most favorite memories is having the famous opera singer Andrea Bocelli come to his restaurant for dinner after each of his performances when he is in the Chicago Area.

Reservations
Carol Bibly, 708-466-1093 or cbibly2002@yahoo.com
2. Letter From The TCAA President

Welcome to the Spring 2016 TCAA Luncheon/Meeting.
With my term as president coming to an end, I am thankful for having had the opportunity to be of service.
I have gained a lot of appreciation and respect for the work that is being done with and on our behalf by SUAA and also from within our own TCAA group. If anything, please get involved with TCAA, SUAA and SUA Action if you are not already, thank you.
With the anticipation of welcoming Michael Gong as the incoming President and Mary Jeans as Vice President we will continue to have a terrific group of people caring about your and future retirees well-being. TCAA will continue to stay up-to-date with matters that affect us all. With your assistance, we will do the utmost to get past and present employees to see and understand the value in being affiliated with TCAA. The future of the TCAA and our own future well-being depends on it.
With thanks to Mary Jeans, we now have a Facebook presence which can serve us well with regard to present and future activities. When in Facebook search for TCAA…
In conclusion, I like to thank the membership as well as the officers and directors for the past two years. “THANK YOU”.
All the best…
Jens C. Nielsen

3. Minutes TCAA Fall Luncheon – October 20, 2015 – Bob Witherspoon

At 11:30 am Jens Nielsen (President) asked members to go to the buffet line and start lunch. Students from the HIA program were not only the individuals preparing the meals, but also serving the meals in the buffet line and also providing beverages for members attending the luncheon.

Twenty-eight members attended the TCAA luncheon. They enjoyed the abundance of appetizers, vegetables, and several entrees to select from. Of course who can forget the number of different desserts to select or just one of each was a good choice.

At 12:30 pm, Jens Nielsen started the business meeting.
   A. Jens spoke about the latest email from SUAA on our SURS monthly payment and reassured everyone that all is well at this point and there is no need for concern. However, we have to be aware of any action which might take place in Springfield.
   B. Jens introduced Michael Gong as incoming President of TCAA.
   C. At this point he asked each of the executive directors for comments;
      1. Ann Sullivan was unable to attend and Jens spoke about our balance for SUAA and how the funds from TCAA were being used.
2. Carol Bibly (Membership Chair) spoke about our membership (170) and that it was not growing but holding constant or increasing or decreasing by a few here and there. She passed out a new brochure for SUAA that spoke about current employees at the college. She recommended that each one take at least one and pass it along to some of their friends and recommend they consider joining TCAA.

3. Connie Allekian (Social Action Chair) stated the importance of financial support for the SUAA Social Action Committee. This funding assists us in working with legislators and getting their support for legislation which may impact our retirement.

4. Connie Allekian and Carol Bibly are the two committee members who are working very hard in recruiting individuals to become part of the executive committee and selected positions with TCAA. They both requested if you are interested to contact them or if you know of an individual who may be interested to let them know. Jens mentioned that as long as he has been on the executive committee it was a great group to work with.

5. Tom Bondi (Executive Director)

6. Bob Witherspoon (Secretary)

7. Bob Anthony (Newsletter) asked for recommendations and or improvements within or to the newsletter.

8. Ken Piwowar (Web Master) briefly spoke about our website. Ken works very hard in keeping the website up-to-date with lots of great information and links to websites which may be helpful to members. If you have not reviewed it, please do. (www.tritonedu/tcaa)

Eleonore Weber (Insurance Guide for TCAA) mentioned that the current rates for members in the HMO plan are $51.14 and dependents $204.55. Rates for PPO members are $64.25 and dependents are $257.02. The last open enrollment period for the College Insurance Program (CIP) was October 15 through November 16, 2015. If you have questions, you may contract her at 312-952-1706 or email her at eleonore.weber@yourlifesecurity.com or go to www.cms.illinois.gov/thetrail. The health plan is currently being negotiated for next year and she expects when it comes available in July 2016 there will be an increase in premiums, deductibles, and copays. One thing she neglected to mention from a conversation with Linda Brookhart (executive Director of SUAA) was that the state is considering shifting benefits from the existing Cadillac plan to a plan resembling the ACA Bronze plan, which is a 70/30% pricing model. This is consistent with increased costs.
Jens Nielsen introduced Michael Gong as our presenter to speak about “What we can learn from art and ourselves.” Covered in the presentation was the following.

A. History of how the art of various cultures and society has shaped us.

B. A map was shown of where various forms of art may have started.
   1. Humanism started with Greece/Turkey. The art we saw was a reflection of the terrain – rocky and with many cliffs. The society consisted mainly of either traders, business men, or those who were self dependent. Classical art.
   2. Middle Ages. Deserts. Christianity at its beginning. Emphasis was on the sun and energy. Sun and a single entity.
   3. Northern Europe. Anglo-Saxon individuals. Many were forest individuals and a lack of sun may have been a concern. Spirit in all things. Spirituality was of major importance.

C. Pictures of the various stages of art were shown. How art progressed over time and how the culture and society were a reflection of the times were discussed.

D. Western Civilization is blended from the above three areas.
   1. We are part of life, not just a single entity included in the things which surround us.
   2. Greeks – We have the potential of greatness to be perfect.
   3. Romans – Humanistic art showed symbols of what is, such as body armor, hand in the air, and angel by the lower leg. Other aspects were in road building, architecture, Christianity, and acceptance of all Religions. However, as Christianity developed, there was a conflict in priorities.

E. Michael gave additional examples, but the theme was how each movement brought about different forms of art that reflected how society and cultures changed.

F. Michael also stated that the art of the Protestant Reformation showed how crucial that event was in paving the way for the modern democracies. Subsequently, modern art expressed the freedom we now have for individual creativity which may prove to be either our doom or our salvation.

4. TCAA Membership News - Carol Bibly, Membership Chairperson

SUAA continues to work tirelessly on our behalf to protect our pension benefits and continues to keep us updated with the accurate information we need to make informed choices in our working and retirement years. Continuation of membership and bringing in additional members is critical for Triton’s chapter as well as the 50 other community college and university chapters.
This is a great time for all of us to contact our colleagues to join and for us to attend the Spring, 2016 Luncheon, with information provided in this newsletter.

Easy to join – just go to the SUAA website, look under “Membership” and the information is there – it’s easy and a bargain at only $40/year. You can contact me (cbibly2002@yahoo.com) and I will help.

5. SUAA Meeting Notes of November 13, 2015

As scheduled, the meeting commenced at 10:00 a.m. President Bruce Appleby announced that there were 126 members present, with 86 members registered, so 64 members would represent a quorum.

Senator Jason Barickman was the first speaker of the morning, and he explained how his views and opinions as a downstate Republican actually share many aspects of the platform typically enunciated by Democrats, including of course, that higher education is one of the best ways to move people toward a better life.

Presiding over the next three segments of the agenda, President Bruce Appleby sought and gained; 1) Approval of 2015 Annual Meeting Minutes, and 2) Confirmation of Standing Committee Chairs.

A highlight of the morning was the Membership Report, presented by co-chairs Jo Gibson and Linda Guinn. Both presented a number of ways to help build chapter enrollments, some of which our Chapter already pursues. The ideas included payroll deduction for Actives, identifying non-renewals immediately and reaching out to them, explaining the benefits of joining SUAA, sponsoring a new member for a year, encouraging spouses/partners of members to become members, and a reminder to check the Officers Toolbox on the website for additional ideas.

New brochures to aid in recruitment were shown, and chapters are encouraged to distribute copies. These brochures are available in the Officers Toolbox.

Jo and Linda said that quarterly newsletters highlighting successful membership efforts, ideas, and tips will be mailed to all chapter officers.

Next, Joe Grush gave the Legislative Report. Lively debate ensued regarding the specific wording of two parts of the 2016 Legislative Action Plan, with one paragraph being eliminated entirely, and another having the wording revised. The voting for the section was interesting, in that it required all members supporting the first position to stand and be counted, and then the members supporting the other side all stood. Very interesting process, and effective in large groups! In his notes from the Fall meeting, Joe stated that 40 of the 59 State Senators will be on the ballot in November, some starting with 2-year terms, and some with 4-year terms. This can be important to note, especially since many will be facing better-financed Republican
challengers. He provided complete list of the House and Senate.

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6. TCAA Election

Carol Bibby and Connie Allekian worked to put together a slate of candidates for the TCAA Executive Committee elections at our April 19, 2016 luncheon. Our thanks goes out to Jens Nielsen, who has served as our President for the past two years, a time which has seen its share of difficulty as the SUAA worked to protect the interests of the SURS retirees.

We are pleased that Michael Gong will head the slate as our candidate for President. He has participated as Vice-President/President-Elect for the past two years and provided a wonderful discussion of art history at one of our recent TCAA luncheon meetings. Mary Jeans has agreed to be a candidate for the position of Vice-President/President-Elect. Mary Jeans has served on the Executive Committee as Social Chair, and we thank her for her valuable service to our group. After this election, the TCAA Executive committee will have four previous presidents continuing to serve on the Executive Committee. We are pleased that the individuals who have previously served on the Executive Committee have agreed to continue for the next two years - see the attached slate of candidates.

We are hopeful that there will be nominations from the floor at the April luncheon. It is always good to have new people join the Executive Committee to enhance the discussions and idea sharing.

Candidates for TCAA Board – 2016-2018

Each candidate will serve a two year term.

President: Michael Gong
Vice President-President Elect: Mary Jeans
Recording Secretary: Robert Witherspoon
Treasurer: Ann Sullivan
Past President: Jens Nielsen
Program Planner (Social Chair): John Cadero
Membership Chair: Carol Bibby
Publication Editor: Robert Anthony
TCAA Director: Tom Bondi
TCAA Director - Legislative affairs: Frank DeGrado
TCAA Director - Webmaster: Ken Piwowar
TCAA Director: TCAAction :Connie Allekian
It was a typical evening at Triton College outside Chicago. In Technology Center, Instructor Joe Kroc explained measuring instruments to his students in Basic Refrigeration and Air Conditioning 010. Inside a cavernous garage, machines whined and motors roared as a squad of grease-smeared men labored over disassembled cars for Auto Technology 036. And in a classroom in Liberal Arts Hall, students in Philosophy 102 discussed linguistic fallacies.

Triton exemplifies a new type of college that is redefining the concept for many Americans: the public community college. From The Bronx to West Los Angeles, these educational supermarkets are offering their varied shelves of learning to a growing clientele. Enrollment nationwide has more than doubled since 1965, to an estimated 2,689,000 this fall. The students are as diverse as the courses they take. Nine-year-old Triton’s student body of 16,681 (up from 1,243 in 1965 and 13,034 last year) includes housewives, off-duty cops and laborers in their fifties, as well as pert teen-age coeds.

One Out of Ten. Like patrons of regular supermarkets, community college students generally live in the neighborhood. Nearly 90% of Triton’s students come from a 58-sq.-mi. section of Cook County near O’Hare International Airport. An area that includes light and heavy industry, tract homes and old mansions, the district has a population of 422,000, spread among such disparate communities as stately River Forest and working-class Melrose Park.

Local taxpayers provide a third of Triton’s funding (with tuition and state and federal aid making up the balance). For their money, the citizens of district 504 get a college that is everything they never thought a college could be: cheap, accessible and extraordinarily responsive to their specific needs. One out of every ten district residents has taken courses inside Triton’s modern brick-and-glass buildings, which are open from 6:30 in the morning until 10 at night.

Triton’s low tuition ($150 a semester for a full-time student) and closeness to home attract many students in the top ranks of their high school classes, as well as the less able who might find it tough going at other colleges. Triton also attracts adults who are trying to fill gaps in their education. More than half the students attend part time, and many combine their studies with full-time jobs.

There is a course or program to suit virtually every student need and ability. At each level the emphasis is on careers; in fact, Triton calls itself “the Career Center of the Midwest.” Students can get associate degrees or one-year certificates in any of 104 career areas, from advertising art to police science to diesel or welding technology. Even for the 4,000 students in the university-transfer program, the focus is on the practical. An English course in children’s literature, for example, is “recommended for elementary school and library science majors.” Says Joseph Quagliano, a former Playboy Club manager who runs Triton’s restaurant-training school: “There’s no dabbling here. Everyone knows where he’s going.”
Alert, enthusiastic students and a brisk, businesslike atmosphere are part of the appeal for Triton's hardworking faculty. There are no academic ranks, and all teachers are called “instructor.” The emphasis is on teaching, not research, and only a few of the 834-member faculty boast doctorates; many are working mechanics, cooks or other tradesmen and technicians by day, earning a flat $12 an hour in the evening at Triton.

Up to Date. In each career area, outside advisory committees help the faculty shape programs to keep them up to date. The electronics curriculum recently eliminated study of the vacuum tube and now concentrates on transistors and integrated circuits. When job openings slackened in optical technology and civil engineering, Triton dropped both courses. Among the newest programs: the training of staff for day-care centers.

The faculty prides itself on being able to patch up a student's background learning. Among the more popular offerings are remedial courses in basic writing and mathematics. “We take lower ability kids, yes” says Biology Chairman Don Giersch, “but we're able to instill confidence in a lot that might have bombed out elsewhere right away.” Conversely, through the College Level Examination Program, older students can get credit at Triton for learning acquired outside the classroom.

Many legislators and establishment educators still treat Triton and its ilk like adolescent stepchildren. Although Illinois community colleges enroll more than half the students in public higher education in the state, they receive only 13% of the higher-education budget. Similar slights are common across the country. Yet for many students who aspire to being something between ditch digger and nuclear physicist, the public community colleges are clearly filling an important void.

7. Hello TCAA members,

Spring is just around the corner, even though Mother Nature is constantly reminding us it is still winter. Just like the bitter cold, many of us in the New Year are confronted with the reality of shared healthcare costs called co-pays and deductibles. I have had many discussions with my clients when, during the enrollment period, I addressed the seriousness of the increases in deductibles.

Yet, it is only after the receipt of the first bill that many start to understand the true impact of co-pays and deductibles.

The truth is, healthcare has changed and is still evolving for individuals and group health plans, therefore, please do not rely on the past as your bases for the future. In order for you to achieve manageable health insurance premiums, plan for an increase in shared costs.

Additionally, on April 19th plan to attend the TCAA Spring Luncheon when Linda Brookhart, Executive Director of SUAA, can update members on pending issues from Springfield including healthcare.
Thank you to the many TCAA members who have called me for assistance as well as their referrals to their trusted family members and friends. Remember, I can help you identify options to offset co-pays, deductibles for outpatient surgery, rehabilitation skilled care, doctors, medical and hospital deductibles. If you are in this situation, please feel free to call me.

Sincerely, Eleonore Weber, CLTC
Your Life Security, LLC
Licensed Annuity, Healthy, Life & Long-Term Care Insurance Broker
312-952-1706

8. TCAA Executive Committee for 2014-2016

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