

Harper College Annuitants Association

Board Meeting Notes

October 24, 2019

Attendees: Linda Frank, Michael Nejman, Bonnie Henry, Russ Mills, Sharon Martin, Pat Wenthold, Hazel Rilki, Jaci Carroll, Linda Kolbusz-Kosan (via conference call), Betty Hull, Kathy Hanahan

Meeting was called to order at 1:10 pm.

Linda Frank, as our new President, shared the goals she would like us to work on during the two years of her term. They include the following . . .

- Carry on the strong tradition of representing/informing Harper's annuitants
- Search for a new President Elect
- Increase our membership
- Update the HCAA constitution and bylaws
- Research and document the 25 year history of HCAA
- Secure more members who are still working

Receipt of Notes: the notes from the September 26th, 2019 board meeting were reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's Report: Sharon reported that our 8/31/19 balance had been \$6022.21. In September we had deposits totaling \$261.80, and expenses (\$38 for Dr. Proctor's gift membership, as well as \$120 for SUAA meeting registrations), leaving us with a current balance of \$6126.01.

Membership Report: Hazel shared that we have 296 members, 285 who are active and 11 who are in their grace period. Several members of the group volunteered to contact grace period members to encourage them to renew their membership. It was noted that for new retired members, as well as for retirees renewing their membership, dues can be taken out of their SURS checks if desired by filling out the form on the SUAA website. SUAA membership services will take care of the rest of the process. Note --- applicants who are still working cannot have SUAA dues deducted from their Harper checks.

It was noted that the Governor State University chapter is very active, and has won awards for their recruitment efforts. They have offered to share a list of their ideas/efforts with us, and Linda will share it with us when she receives it.

Social Report: Jaci reminded the group of our next scheduled outing, which will be the November 7th event at Feed Our Starving Children. We will be packaging up food items to send overseas. Our assigned time slot is 2:30 to 4:30 pm, address is 740 Willey Farm Court in Schaumburg. For those who are interested, we will meet for lunch at the Olive Garden at 1925 E. Golf Road in Schaumburg beforehand (11:30 am). Please RSVP as soon as possible to either Diane (708-212-5792) or Jaci (847-894-4203) if you plan to attend either event. Sharon moved that HCAA makes a \$50 donation to Feed Our Starving Children. The group voted and approved this motion.

Also, on Saturday, December 7th at 2:00 pm, the Buffalo Grove Singers (Bruce's group) will perform their Holiday Harmonies program at the Buffalo Grove Community Arts Center. Tickets are \$5 in advance, \$8 at the door.

Legislative Report: Linda F provided the following information

- Pritzker's five-year plan to revitalize Illinois' economy includes . . .
 - Increased collaboration between community colleges and local industry to develop apprenticeship and training programs
 - Increase funding for the Monetary Award Program, which provides tuition assistance to low-income students by \$200 million during his four-year term. The state budget for the current year increased funding by \$50 million.
- Reports circulating about possibility of consolidating police and fire pension funds.
- Concern has been expressed about the new pension system adopted by the state for those hired after January 1, 2011, generally known as "Tier 2." Under federal standards, local pension systems that substitute for Social Security must pay at least the same level of benefits to get "safe harbor" status, and "Tier 2" may be in violation of that status. Recommendations are being made to address this situation.
- 101st General Assembly Veto Session – October 28-30 and November 12-14

News at Local Level: no recent visits

Linda KK attended 2 meetings recently. At the IEA Retired meeting, several of Governor Pritzker's proposals were discussed. He would like \$200 million of the funds raised by the progressive tax to be earmarked for the needs of the state's retired constituents. He would also like to see the 2045 target date for resolving the state's pension liability moved to 2052. At the recent CTBA (Center for Tax and Budget Accountability) meeting, attendees were strongly encouraged to help ensure that every eligible census form is completed. An accurate count is extremely important, as it has huge financial ramifications. For every person not counted in the census, the State of Illinois will lose \$1,400 per person, per year, for 10 years. This is why it is so

important that every person be counted. Linda will be forwarding 2 informative documents from the CTBA meeting, which Michael will circulate to the group. Watch your email.

SUAA Region 1 Meeting: Pat and Linda F. attended the October 17th meeting at Moraine Valley. A Google Group was created in order to help members from various chapters stay in touch. Let Linda know if you are interested in being included. The possibility of a larger, more programmatic meeting to be held in the spring was discussed, with speakers (perhaps Ralph Martire), the Tier 2 situation, the Fair Tax, etc. as possible topics.

SUAA Board of Directors (formerly EXCOMM) Meeting: Pat shared that one of the topics discussed at the meeting was the ongoing outreach campaign by the IPC to discredit union and SUAA membership/dues. A question was raised in our meeting regarding how active SUAA has been in keeping our members abreast of this issue. Also discussed the upcoming Fall Annual meeting to be held on November 5th. Potential topics include the need to increase membership/budgetary concerns, the Tier 2 situation, the Fair Tax, the 5-year review of the bylaws coming up this year. Possible round table format. Pat shared that directors can no longer have their registration fee covered by SUAA, and asked our group to cover her \$60 registration fee. The group voted and approved her request.

SUAA Fall Meeting: will be held in Normal on November 5th. Linda, Pat, and Michael will be attending.

Review of Constitution and Bylaws: Linda F., Betty, and Jeanne will be working on this, and invite others who are interested to join them. Bonnie recommended that the group look at SUAA's constitution, as well as Joliet's.

A photo of the new board was taken, and will be posted to the website.

Next meeting: Thursday, January 9th at 10:00 AM. Linda will secure a room for us.

Meeting adjourned at 2:29 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Kathy Hanahan