

**HCAA Meeting**  
**February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**Notes**

Attendance: Linda Frank, Hazel Rilki, Russ Mills, Jaci Carroll, Judi Zaplatynsky, Sharon Martin, Pat Wenthold, Kathy Hanahan

Meeting was called to order at 10:08 am

**Receipt of Notes:** The notes from the January 9<sup>th</sup> meeting had been sent out for review on January 13<sup>th</sup>. No corrections were requested; the notes were posted to the website on January 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Treasurer's Report:** Sharon reported that our balance as of our last meeting had been \$6019.50. We had deposits totaling \$90.48, and no expenses, bringing us to a new balance of \$6109.98.

**Important Insurance Update:** Linda Kolbusz has shared information from IEA/NEA Retired. Retired members who participate in the Teachers' Retirement Insurance Program (TRIP), the Total Retiree Access Illinois Program (TRAIL), or the College Insurance Program (CIP) who have dependents on their health insurance need to be prepared to verify their dependents' eligibility with the Department of Central Management Services.

Members in TRIP and CIP need to be prepared for Phase 1; members in TRAIL should be prepared for Phase 3.

Phase 1: Retirees/Survivors not covered by MAPD

- Audit Period: January 27 – March 20
- Terminations effective April 1
- Phone number during this phase is 855-424-0849

Phase 3: Retirees/Survivors covered by MAPD

- Audit Period: July 28 – September 24
- Terminations effective October 1

Members will receive a total of 3 notification letters via the US mail.

For more information, contact HMS at 855-424-0849, or via the HMS website at [www.VerifyOS.com](http://www.VerifyOS.com)

**Membership Report:** Hazel reported that we currently have 294 active members.

**Recruitment Plan to Increase Membership:** Linda, Michael, Hazel, Jaci, and Kathy met in early February to develop a plan to recruit new members. Our goals are to reach a total of at least 305 active members, to add current employees to our ranks, and to add new members to the Board.

Highlights of the action plan include the following:

- Reach out to recent or upcoming retirees, with personalized emails and perhaps hard copy letters
- Reinforce the connection between HCAA, SUAA, and SURS to reduce confusion
- Investigate the possibility of using payroll technology to allow current employees to do payroll deductions for dues

- Continue to reach out to lapsed members via email
- Update the HCAA website, and list the benefits of HCAA membership front and center on the landing page
- Investigate the possibility of having a blurb on Inside Harper with upcoming events, benefits of membership, invitation to attend Board meetings, etc.
- Possibly produce a 2-minute video about HCAA to be shown at the President's Fall meeting, linked on Inside Harper, etc.

Some of the Events discussed for 2020 include:

- Having an HCAA recruitment table at one of the summer BBQ's
- Recruitment table at the Alumni and Retirees event
- Recruitment table May 14/15 when Lee Bridges from SURS will be at Harper
- Investigate offering a workshop on retirement issues/questions ("Things We've Learned") during the lunch hour; bring your lunch, we'll provide coffee and desserts
- Possibly offer a raffle for \$50 and \$25 gift cards to new members who join within a specific time frame. Perhaps also offer a free one-year membership
- Continue to offer volunteering events that help others, such as Feed My Starving Children, or getting involved in the Harper Hawks Care food pantry for Harper students

**Social Report:** Jaci reminded the group about the HCAA lunch at Anna's Red Apple following our meeting. These tend to be fairly well attended. Also, HCAA invites our members to attend Harper's performance of "Shakespeare in Love" on Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm. Let Jaci or Diane know if you are interested. When purchasing your ticket, let the Box Office know that you are with HCAA, they will try to seat you near the other members of the group. HCAA will also have a late morning breakfast this summer, at Anna's Red Apple or perhaps Richard Walker's. More info to follow. Also, there will be another Ravinia outing this summer, TBA.

**Legislative Report:** Russ shared information submitted by Michael. Highlights include the following:

- The Illinois Policy Institute is stepping up its pension attack; Adam Schuster (of the IL Policy Institute) recently wrote an op-ed piece in the Chicago Tribune. Schuster promotes the idea of pension reform beginning with *"a constitutional amendment to allow changes to unearned, future benefits."* He says *"Illinois need not delete the protection clause entirely, but should modify it to match states such as Hawaii or Michigan, which protect only accrued benefits."* He continues *"a recent actuarial analysis found this approach could save an average of \$2 billion per year and fully eliminate pension debt by 2045. No retiree would see the size of their current check decrease."* We will need to monitor the progress of this idea to see what's best for our constituency.
- Governor Pritzker gave his State of the State address on January 29<sup>th</sup>, which included a focus on education. *"To address our state's shortage of teachers, we raised the minimum teacher salary so we can retain educators in Illinois, and we made it more attractive for out-of-state teachers to move here."* Regarding the state's problem with declining enrollment numbers at Illinois colleges: *"After years of decline, we are turning around university student enrollment by making college more affordable, expanding scholarships to an additional 10,000 college-bound students --- and this fall, more than half of the families in our state will be eligible for free tuition at the University of Illinois."*
- The Pritzker administration has already asked agency heads to draft plans for a possible 6.5% cut to their budgets. The fair tax is not embraced by all voters, and even if it passes, this fiscal year will be half over.

**SUAA Board of Directors Meeting Report:** Pat was unable to attend the last meeting, but shared the following pieces of information. Re: upcoming elections, SUAA does not endorse candidates, but posts info about each candidate on their website for members to review. The annual SUAA summer meeting will be June 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. A new Region 1 community college rep will need to be elected, as Pat's second term is coming to an end.

**Review of Website Content:** Linda and Kathy met recently to look at our website and come up with some ideas to update it. Several other schools' sites were reviewed, including Governor's State and College of DuPage. Some of the ideas discussed included deleting information that is older than one or two years, including information about the benefits of membership and how to join, upcoming social events, pictures of our group at a variety of events the past few years, cutting down on the number of tabs at the top of the page to reduce confusion/redundancy, move from a three panel format to one panel for easier reading, the inclusion of a FAQ's page, and others. Linda and Kathy will meet with Judi soon to start to implement some of the changes to the website.

**Harper College Strategic Planning Conference:** Linda has been invited to attend this conference on February 27<sup>th</sup>, which will provide a good opportunity to have retiree input considered in the creation of the strategic plan.

**Next Meeting: April 23, 2020 at 10:00 am Room TBA**

Meeting adjourned at 11:43 am

Respectfully submitted:

Kathy Hanahan