

## **HCAA Legislative Committee Report June 2019**

**Committee:** Linda Kolbusz-Kosan, Michael Nejman, Steve Catlin, Linda Frank

### **Goals for 2019:**

- Stay informed of news related to pension and health care for retirees.
- Observe Governor Pritzker's approach to state issues.
- Meet with local officials, especially those who are newly elected, to share information about the HCAA organization.

### **News at State Level:**

- The state lawmakers concluded their spring session by passing a \$40 billion budget and a \$45 billion capital construction plan.
- A bill to repeal the 3% language passed, restoring the threshold on pensionable salary to 6% for members of TRS and SURS.
- The new budget raises higher education funding by \$154 million which is an 8.2% increase. This is the largest increase for higher education since 1990 according to IBHE.
  - Community colleges will receive a 12.3% increase from the 2018-19 school year, up \$33.2 million for a total budget of \$303 million.
  - The budget also boosts the Monetary Award Program grants, which help cover tuition for low-income students. MAP will see a \$50 million increase over 2018.
  - Within the \$45 billion capital construction plan, \$3.2 billion was set aside for colleges and universities over the next six years. This plan provides funding to upgrade and repair crumbling buildings and to construct new facilities at public campuses.

### **News at Local Level:**

- The legislative team (Michael Nejman, Linda Kolbusz-Kosan and Linda Frank) met with Jeff Julian, Executive Director of Communication and Kim Pohl, Media Relations and Legislative Affairs Manager, on May 10. Michael shared the purpose and focus of HCAA. Jeff and Kim shared updates about the college's legislative focus. Harper will be focusing, in part, on capital projects (Canning Center), finishing Building H, parking lots and map funding for undocumented students.

### **News from SUAA:**

- The SUAA Annual meeting will be held in Springfield on June 27-28, 2019. At this meeting, the bylaws committee will present official changes to the bylaws which includes a change to the name of the current general board of directors to that of house of delegates.
- Included in the June 3, 2019, SUAA mini briefing:
  - The sum of \$5,000,000 is appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to the Department of Central Management Services for deposit into the Community College Health Insurance Security Fund.
  - The pension debt issue is not a part of the budget or any negotiations at this time.