

## **HCAA Legislative Committee Report September 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:**

- As of August 30, 2019, per the SUAA Mini Briefing, 591 Legislative bills were signed into law.
- Mitchell Vogel, a SURS annuitant and former board member, was selected to fill a vacancy on the SURS Board of Trustees.
- The Governor signed HB 2700 on August 23, 2019, making the legislation Public Act 101-483. The legislation increased the time period that an individual may receive a refund of overpayment to TRIP or TRAIL to 7 years. Prior to this law, a retired teacher was only entitled to receive a refund of an overpayment to their TRIP or TRAIL program by a maximum of 6 months' worth of an overpayment.
- 101<sup>st</sup> General Assembly Veto Session – October 28-30 and November 12-14
- There is mounting pressure, again, to find a 'fix' for the unfunded pension liability and a constitutional amendment is being discussed more openly as the best option. Right now, nothing concrete has been proposed, but we will continue to monitor.

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

- Since our 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, there has been a shift in roles at the College. Jeff Julian will now serve as interim Chief of Staff/Board Liaison and Kim Pohl will serve as interim Director of Communications.

### **News from SUAA:**

- Linda Guinn, President of SUAA, sent an announcement of issues that the SUAA Board of Directors are currently discussing:
  - The continued loss of membership and possible 2019-2020 Spirit Membership Contest.
  - Budget issues for next year.
  - Delegates and directors' liability and insurance.
  - Preparing a legislative platform for presentation and adoption at the Fall meeting.
  - Creating an updated SUAA mission statement for 2020.
- Next SUAA meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2019, at the Alumni Center in Normal, IL.