

SUMMARY OF 2022 SUAA ANNUAL MEETING IN SPRINGFIELD, IL ON JUNE 16, 2022

By Linda Frank, Past President

- There were 70 delegates present
- There are 53 chapters
- WRH (HCAA) was listed as having 288 members
- Reviewed SUAA 5-year Bylaws
 - In 2015 incorporated the constitution into the bylaws – it is a legal document.
 - The call for a 5-year review should have been conducted in June 2020, but was postponed because of the pandemic.
 - Clarification was made to 4.1 in the bylaws that Region directors can discuss disagreements within chapters or regions, but not outside of SUAA, publicly.
 - Several amendments were added to the bylaws (hope to see an updated copy of the bylaws soon). Much discussion took place, but every new amendment, some with minor changes, passed. The Bylaws committee did an outstanding job over the last few years of thoroughly examining the document and making logical amendments.
 - One new piece of information, to me, was that the term of the House of Delegates begins on the date of the SUAA Annual meeting and this term is for two years. I don't think that this is totally realistic, because our annual meeting is in the fall and the same two people may not be able to attend for two years due to personal issues. I think this is more of a 'hope' than a 'requirement.'
 - The most heated issue had to do with 'Petition Regarding Budgetary Process.' This amendment moves the final approval of the budgetary process from the House of Delegates to the Board of Directors. Many delegates present wanted to keep this responsibility, but after hearing from lawyers, etc. it was approved that the final responsibility be moved to the Board of Directors.
 - The process will be as follows:
 - Board proposed budget
 - Board takes budget to Delegates for review
 - Then the Board provides final approval
 - The rationale was that it is the Board's fiduciary duty and therefore the Board has final approval.
 - The Board must bring the budget to the Delegates for review in all cases which is especially important when a dues increase is proposed.
- Treasurer's Report: Larry Alferink stated that SUAA is in good financial shape in part because of a dues increase last year and Covid, resulting in less travel and related expenses.
 - Last year, an investment fund was created and as a result allowed to invest 20% of reserve fund monies. At this time, \$15,000 is invested in Vanguard Fund. \$1.00 from everyone's membership dues is also added resulting in an additional \$2000 by the end of the year (don't quote me on that portion – may have misheard).

- Membership Report: Bob Sobe stated that numbers are down. Need to get back on campuses to see colleagues, need younger folks on board and need to deal with Tier ii issues.
- Foundation Report: Elliott Dudnik stated that the group has recently restructured the board to align more with the SUAA structure. They now have a Board of Directors and House of Representatives.
 - All chapters need to promote/advertise the scholarship opportunities to their members.
 - Alice Mendwald shared information about the two separate scholarship programs:
 - One scholarship program is for SUAA members, spouses and grandchildren. There are six \$1000 scholarships awarded each year.
 - Another scholarship program is for current faculty and staff. There are two \$1000 grants which can cover professional development fees and travels.
 - Preference is given to those who apply by June 15th, but can apply any time during the year.
 - All information is on the SUAA website.
 - They encourage people to apply for the scholarships and to donate to the Foundation. Donations are tax deductible.
- Remarks by Linda Brookhart, Executive Director, included the continued celebration of 50 years, which occurred last year I think but didn't receive much attention due to the pandemic.
 - She compared SUAA to being a watchdog organization, a watchful eye. There are 177 legislators in the house and senate and SUAA watches over all the activity.
 - She stated that Pritzker has been considerate of education as \$500 million in an extra payment is being made to the budget pension.
 - Buzzwords to watch for are prepayment and pension holiday.
 - In 2023 there may be changes to the College Insurance Program. She didn't elaborate.
- Remarks by Pat Eckert, President. She thanked everyone for their hard work during the pandemic.
- Voted on newly elected Board of Directors (portions of the Board are voted in every two years so there is overlap):
 - President – Steve Cunningham, NIU
 - Treasurer – Larry Kloc, UIC
 - Mary Jeans – Region 1 Director, Triton