

## **SUAA Fall 2022 Meeting Highlights – 11.17.22**

### **In-person at ISU Alumni Center in Normal, IL**

#### **Carole Bomba and Linda Frank**

Approximately 56 Delegates from various Chapters throughout the state attend an in-person session of the Fall 2022 SUAA Meeting in Normal, IL. Carole Bomba and Linda Frank attended representing HCAA as voting delegates.

The meeting included the following:

1. Kent Redfield rehashed the election results in Illinois:
  - Mostly a democratic advantage due to money, maps, trade unions
  - Priorities: Pension funding, VA & DCFS funding and evaluation of programs; increase technology at the state level
  
2. Ken Kriz spoke about state revenues and forecasting:
  - The majority of all “general fund” revenues comes from 24% from sales tax, 58% from income tax, 9% from corporate tax
  - He anticipates next year as slow growth, but forecasting is uncertain
  - Pension protection funding until 2045
  - According to Kriz, need to change pension payments to be fully amortized
  
3. Andy Small and Bob Sobe spoke about membership, recruitment and funding:
  - Need to increase membership, approx. 30 members pass away per month
  - Ask members to consider having spouse become a member
  - Consider donating \$100 as a supporting member – this is not for dues, but to assist with SUAA funding and is separate from donating to the Foundation
  - Chapters need to inform SUAA when a member dies, but reach out to the spouse, if possible, to transfer the membership to themselves
  - For marketing: SUAA is the watchdog for you whether you’re still working or retired
  - Inform members and current employees of the many benefits/discounts that being a SUAA member offers
  - Increase Chapter activities for members to stay engaged and involved
  - The SUAA membership committee would like to get 500 new members this year which may include spousal memberships
  - Kathy Walberg will update the SUAA applications to include ‘supporting membership’
    - Note: we’ll need to make this change to the website

4. Gary Davis presented the Legislative Action Plan:

- Meet with area legislators to let them know we're a resource about pensions
- Tier II – refocusing message to work with what it is, not be disparaging, and make sure in the long run it meets “safe harbor” provisions of social security; we'll work with you to make sure it's the best deal you can get
- Have friends/family out of state call legislators to support the windfall elimination bill: HB-82
- SUAA supports legislation requiring the state to continue with the \$500,000 pre-payment to pension fund
- SUAA supports all 240,000 SURS participants and will continue to defend all challenges to our pension and benefits
- Membership is key; need to build membership before the next crisis hits

5. Report from Linda Brookhart, Executive Director:

- New health care contract with Aetna PPO is problematic for some regions of Illinois and elsewhere (mid-state and The Villages in Florida) that do not currently accept Aetna; Meetings are underway to correct this issue
- Legislators are discussing moving away from MAPD to Medicare plus supplement, but the contract with Aetna is for five years so nothing imminent