

HCAA Board Meeting

October 9th, 2023

Notes

Present: Carole Bomba, Sharon Martin, Michele Ukleja, Hazel Rilki, Karen Chandra, Barb Anderson, Linda Frank, Linda Kolbusz-Kosan, Jaci Carroll, Kathy Hanahan

Meeting was called to order at 3:08 pm

Highlights of Last Meeting: Our last meeting was held on July 10th, 2023. At that meeting, Linda Frank shared a number of highlights from the annual SUAA meeting in June. Information had been shared about the decline in membership (happening at the state and local levels), and the need to connect with and involve Tier II employees in our activities. A summary of the meeting is posted on the HCAA website, and SUAA sent out an email with meeting highlights, as well as a video.

The group discussed a variety of ways to boost our membership, including an on-campus presentation this fall for current employees who are thinking about retirement. We also talked about setting up tables during lunch time to connect with current employees.

The Legislative Committee provided information on a number of items of interest, including Senate Bill 2288, which strengthens the Illinois Articulation Initiative by requiring courses that are major requirements to be transferable to the receiving school (saving students time and money). Governor Pritzker also signed a law which will withhold state funding from public schools and libraries that remove books from the shelves due to partisan and personal disapproval.

Treasurer's Report: Sharon noted that we received deposits of \$103.38 on July 17th, \$128.80 on August 22nd, and \$113.80 on September 28th. She wrote two checks for \$100 each to our presenters Bruce Bohrer and Russ Fahrner for our retirement planning seminar this Thursday, Oct. 12th. Our current balance is \$5,359.72.

Membership Report: Hazel shared that she has not gotten the September membership report yet, but thinks we're at about 285 active members. She attended the SUAA Zoom membership meeting early in September, where a wide variety of ideas were shared, designed to help chapters boost their membership. It was reported by attendees that it can take up to 12 contacts with a potential new member before they join. Some of the ideas shared included the importance of knowing your college president and them knowing you, and asking how our organization can be of service. Also to make sure that HCAA materials are available in onboarding and exiting packets for employees, to hold pizza parties on campus, and/or be a presence at a variety of campus events, helping employees learn how to log in to SURS, and many other ideas.

Social Report: Jaci shared that the next book club meeting will be held on December 6th, 2023, at 3:00 pm. The selected book is *Hello Beautiful* by Ann Napolitano. Also, she has set up a new volunteering date at Feed my Starving Children on Wednesday, October 18th. If you're interested in participating, please let Jaci know. The group voted to make a \$350 donation to the organization, which will come close to feeding a family of four for a year. Jaci will organize another breakfast get-together for some time in the spring.

Legislative Report: Linda noted that as the General Assembly is not in session right now, there is not much happening at this time. However, veto sessions will take place October 24th-26th, and November 7th-9th.

Governor Pritzker may make a request for federal funds to help cover the costs of housing and caring for the increased number of immigrants that are being sent to Illinois.

Linda noted that there is a SURS Board Trustee election coming up, and recommends that we watch for the ballot. There is a position open for a retired trustee, and it can be beneficial to all of us to having someone in the seat who has experience with the work of the SURS board. SURS is one of the better fiscally-managed systems in the country.

Aetna meetings will be available online after the 16th of October, not many changes are expected.

Website Report: Karen shared that the new interface for our page is up and running, and feels that things are going pretty smoothly right now. She and Linda and Kathy met a number of weeks ago to do some updating and clean-up.

Communications Report: Michele reported that the MailChimp mailings have been going pretty well, and thanked the members of the group who were able to provide a few corrected emails for those that had bounced back.

Old Business: Kathy reported that everything is set to go for the on-campus retirement planning seminar this Thursday, the 12th. The seminar will take place in Wojcik, Room 214, from noon to 1:30. We are hoping that a number of current employees will be able to attend during their lunch hour. We will provide coffee, tea, lemonade, ice water, and cookies, which comes to a cost of \$149.91. The group voted to approve this expense for the event. Linda KK and Hazel will bring HCAA pens for the attendees, Hazel will bring HCAA brochures, a list of the benefits of membership, and a table banner, and Linda will bring feedback forms. Linda Frank can also be there to help with greeting and outreach. We will ask folks to sign in and provide their personal email address, so that we have a way to contact them later.

SUAA Fall Meeting: Linda Frank will once again attend this meeting on our behalf, and will provide highlights for us. Thank you, Linda!

New Business: Carole reminded us that Dr. Proctor will unfortunately be unable to join us at our annual luncheon meeting on October 23rd, however, her Executive Board will be there to provide key news items and accomplishments. There is probably still time to register for the luncheon, members should RSVP via the email invitation sent out by Lori Eschenbaum on September 22nd. The link to respond is in the email. Attendance is limited to the first 100 registrants.

It was noted that there are several spots on our Board where assistance is needed. Jaci would still like a helper with the Social Committee activities, Karen would like a back-up individual to help with the website, and Carole's term as President is ending. Kathy has agreed to continue as Secretary (if voted in) and to take over the position on the Legislative Committee in writing up the items Linda KK gathers. Jim had to give up the role a few months ago. We have some new members who seem quite interested in the group's activities, and we all agreed to reach out to individuals who might be good fits for some of the open spots. Several names were mentioned. There are lots of talented individuals in our membership!

Meeting adjourned at 4:17 pm.

Next Meeting: Monday, October 23rd --- annual meeting and luncheon, with arrival/check-in (for those registered) at 11:45, lunch served at noon, virtual attendees will connect at 12:30, with a link provided by the Executive Board.