

AP Council
SIUC Annuitants Association (SIUC-AA) Report. – March 19, 2014
Submitted by Pat Eckert

The mission of the SIUC-AA chapter is to serve the active and retired employees of SIUC through education and service to the University and community. The Association keeps members informed about Illinois legislative and administrative changes in pensions and health insurance. The **Emeritus Faculty Organization** continues to participate as an active subgroup of **SIUC-AA.**” Membership is open to all retired and active employees of SIUC. Spouses and partners are also welcome to participate. As of February 2014, the local chapter has 745 members.

Current Issues

Presently the primary concerns of SUAA and the local chapter is Public Act 98-599. On March 6, 2014 SUAA filed a law suit in the Circuit Court of Illinois, Sixth Judicial Circuit, Champaign County. The primary focus of the suit deals with contractual law. The Plaintiffs in this action are limited to members of SURS, and their concerns regarding the effect of this legislation on SURS members. There are 10 plaintiffs in the suit. They are representative of civil service, AP, Faculty, retirees, those getting ready to retire and a survivor of a SURS annuitant. The plaintiffs are either current or former UIUC or Parkland College employees who had selected either the traditional or portable plans. Some of the plaintiffs had also purchased additional service time.

The CASE No. is 2014MR207. A full copy of the suit filed is available for review on the SUAA web site.

Several other lawsuits have been filed across the State on behalf of public employees, but SURS members are different in some significant ways:

- SURS members have the ability to choose one of three different retirement options but once they choose a retirement option they are locked into their retirement plan. By changing the rules governing the various SURS plans, SUAA believes the State is in breach of contract.
- SURS members have the ability to buy years off their retirement plan. PA 98-599 increases the retirement age requirements which means SURS members who bought years back thinking they would retire at a certain age will have to work longer as a result. SUAA believes this is a breach of agreement these employees had with the State.

SUAA has filed their suit to ensure that those issues which are unique to current and retired employees of State Universities and Community Colleges are fully represented.

If you would like to contribute to the SUAA legal fund visit the SUAA web site at: www.suaa.org Contributions can be made by check or credit card.

Chapter General Meeting April 23, 2014

The chapter's General Meeting will be held at the Law School Auditorium on Wednesday, April 23 at 5:00 p.m. SURS/SUAA will conduct a presentation on what Senate Bill One (PA 98-599) does to your pension. SUAA Executive Director Linda Brookhart and a SURS representative will be presenting. After the presentation there will be a short break. The local membership will then meet.

Get Active - Become a Member

The SIUC Annuitants Association (SIUC-AA) is a chapter of the State Universities Annuitants Association (SUAA). Members of the AA are dues paying members, which are handled by SUAA. Current employees and retirees may become a member to AA. To join, fill out an online application found on the SUAA web site <http://suaa.org/index.php> and submit it to the SUAA office in Springfield. If you are a current employee, and would like the dues payroll deducted, a dues deduction form can be obtained from Human Resources. SUAA is our voice when it comes to our retirement and benefits. The local chapter asks us to please consider joining as a larger membership gets a larger voice in Springfield.

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To learn more about the SIUC-AA visit their web site at <http://eaa.siu.edu/>