Northern Illinois University Annuitant’s Association
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Wednesday, June 22, 2015
Human Resources Building, Room 178

Joe Grush called the meeting to order at 10:30.


Approval of the Agenda: A revised agenda was passed out and was approved by all present.

Approval of the Minutes of the April 15, 2015 Board meeting: A motion to accept the minutes was made and seconded. There were no changes and they were approved as sent.

President’s Remarks: As Co–chair of the Legislative platform for SUAA, Joe Grush shared some of the items that would be coming up in the 2015-16 year regarding state legislation. Joe also gave some information about SUAA for newer Board members that might not be familiar with the organization. There are fifty one chapters governed by a Board of Directors (the number of members in a chapter determines the number of board members that chapter will have).

Our representative, Bob Pritchard, has been very supportive of the SUAA, so SUAA will pay for four members of NIUAA to play in Pritchard’s golf fundraiser.


STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

SURS Board and SUAA Foundation Reports: John Engstrom passed out reports. The SURS year ends June 30. The earnings for SURS were not good this year, approximately 2.7 – 2.9%. John explained that the SUAA foundation is a 501-c-3 organization so that contributions are tax deductible. In the June meeting, new procedures were established to request funds from the Emergency Assistance Program. Chapters will no longer be required to match the funds from the Foundation.

Benefits: Sherie Spear shared that the committee has not met.

Legislative: Jim Lockard was unable to attend the meeting, but he has agreed to continue to be our legislative representative. Joe Grush reported that there is nothing currently happening in the legislature other than the budget controversy. The fall session is a veto over-ride. The one item related to the pension plan, that Governor Rauner is still pushing, is how those who are still working will be affected. If his proposal passes, it would mean that current workers would keep their pensions already earned but begin paying into a different pension system.

SUAAction: Alan Voelker was unable to be at the meeting. Joe shared that SUAAction is gearing up to become more active.

Membership: Pat Vary reported that they have not done much during the summer. People still do not realize that they can be members even if they are not retired. A paragraph is going to be developed and will be put into various publications this fall.

Public Relations/Events: Steven Johnson passed out a current Trip/Event schedule and reported on trips that have occurred recently. Steve is still looking for places to hold the Coffee Hours, including HyVee.
Communications: Jerry Meyer was not present and there was no report.

OLD BUSINESS

Holiday Party 2015: Margaret Phillips has talked with Faranda’s and tentatively scheduled the party for Dec. 2nd. Faranda’s has given Margaret estimates for the expenses. A motion was made and seconded to have Margaret continue negotiations and to give a $500 deposit to hold the reservation. The motion passed.

Annual ($500) memorial contribution to SUAA Foundation: This has already been sent.

SUAA legal fund solicitation: Joe Grush reported that the SUAA Defense Fund has been depleted from the lawsuits that we have won. There will be more lawsuits to come and it is important that there be representation for those lawsuits; hence, more money will be needed.

NEW BUSINESS

SUAA Annual Meeting: Engstrom, Grush, Lockard, Neeley, and Voelker attended the meeting. Joe gave a brief synopsis of the meeting. The SUAA’s attorney gave a report. He obtained an injunction to stop deductions for paying health care premiums, was instrumental in lowering the attorney fees, and presented oral arguments to the Supreme Court on Pension Reform. The most controversial topic at the meeting was the Proposed Bylaw Changes. Sixteen amendments were proposed. Four of the sixteen were approved: the treasurer may serve two consecutive terms; a quorum was set as a majority of Board of Directors (n-125); Regional meetings can be held without Springfield permission; and the Executive Director or designee is the official SUAA spokesperson. Joe emphasized that NIUAA representatives to the meetings have been especially effective, sponsoring and articulating rationales for some of the bylaw changes that have been approved in 2014 and 2015.

NIU Spring Honor Reception for All Retirees: Joe Grush has talked to Molly Montgomery about future discussion regarding the possibility of sponsoring a reception for faculty who retired.

Pre-retirement Brown Bag Sessions: Debbie Haliczer reported that there have been three Brown Bag sessions. They were well attended with 30 – 35 people per session and Debbie has been asked to repeat the sessions. A fourth session will be held next week. These will be repeated in the future.

2015-2016 CHAPTER AGENDA

President Joe Grush shared items that he would like to address in the upcoming year.

1. NIUAA Bylaw Revisions: Now that the SUAA Bylaws have passed, we should look at our own Bylaws, including the length of terms for officers, the quorum for special meetings, representation on the Board, and other matters.

2. Recruitment of New Members: Joe plans to work directly with the Co-Chairs of that committee and be very involved in recruitment.

3. Fixing Problems with Payroll Deduction for Dues is something that must happen this year.

If members have other ideas to work on this year, please let Joe know.

The time for future meetings was discussed. People agreed to stay with the 10:30 a.m. meeting time.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 12:10.

[Traditional months for Board Meetings: July, October, January, and April; Human Resources Building, Room 178; meeting times to be determined]