Northern Illinois University Annuitant’s Association
BOARD OF DIRECTOR’S MEETING
Wednesday, October 28, 2015
Human Resources Building, Room 166

Call to Order  The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.


Approval of the Agenda – The agenda was approved to be flexible with regard to order.

Approval of the Minutes of the June 2015 Board Meeting – minutes were passed around and the minutes were approved.

President’s Remarks – President Grush reviewed some of the information from the SUAA Legislative Committee that he chairs. There were proposed changes to the 2016 legislative platform and new items for the legislative platform. Discussed, but the vote was not decisive, was the idea of the state taxing retirement income. Some who voted against the idea generally supported the idea, but not at this time. These items were sent as proposals to the SUAA Board and will be discussed at the Fall Board meeting.

Dave Mason brought up the question of the COLA. Joe reviewed some of the oral arguments from the previous court discussion and there is still some possibility that the state can change that.

Treasurer’s Report – Betsy Hull passed out the Treasurer’s Report. The checking account shows $22,214, but that still includes the amount from the CD that matured. Betsy had called Fifth Third Bank to find out the Certificate of Deposit Rates. Betsy proposes that the $10,000 be put back into a 28 month CD at 1.0% APY. A motion was made and seconded. It was approved for Betsy to put the money into a 28 month CD after determining which bank had the best rate.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

SIRS Board and SUAA Foundation Reports:  John Engstrom reported that the state has announced that it will not make its contribution to SUAA in November and probably not in December. That will result in the need to sell off some investments. They did a recent review of the self-managed plan. More people have been choosing the self-managed plan. There will be a change in the money-purchase benefits after Jan. 4, 2016 and will result in a reduction in benefits for those who retire on or after that date. This was announced a while ago so people could make plans.

Betsy Hull talked about some of the things occurring at NIU now because of the lack of a State budget. It is difficult. The university is going through program prioritization. Betsy stated that the tuition waiver benefit is important to many who work at NIU and she is thankful for the support of SUAA for this benefit.

Pat Vary asked if SIRS was providing information to the legislation/public about the amount that it is costing the state, for not contributing the state’s share for two months. John explained that SIRS manages the accounts but has been advised not to get involved in the “politics.”

Many are not aware that the SUAA Foundation exists. Everything they do is from contributions. There will be something put in the newsletter about what SUAA Foundation does and how to contribute to it. NIUAA has contributed yearly to the Foundation.

Benefits: Sherrie Spear could not be here and there was not much to report.
Legislative: Jim Lockard could not be at the meeting but sent out a report prior to the meeting. Currently, not much has changed to report. The stalemate continues with the State Budget. Ninety percent of the budget continues to be paid out, but the universities and those people needing services the most (disabled, seniors, etc.) are not getting what is needed.

SUAAAction: Alan Voelker reported about a meeting in September, the focus being on more chapters attending fund raisers. The Founders Caucus was defined as a group that raised havoc resulting in the resignation of the President. This caucus continues to cause dissension. The Board of Directors approved a set of By-Laws. NIUAA has been active in involvement with Pritchard, but less so in other areas. Alan has looked at what other senatorial districts have members in them to see where we should concentrate more effort.

Membership: Pat Vary represented the Membership Committee as Cathy Cradduck could not be at the meeting. Membership continues to lose as many people as gained. This is a state wide problem. Ideas for recruitment of new members were discussed later in the meeting.

Public Relations/Events: Steven Johnson passed out a list of the upcoming events. The next coffee will be in February. Steve is always open to suggestions for upcoming trips.

Communications: Joe announced that Jerry Meyer has asked to step down from doing the newsletter. Usually a newsletter goes out in November, but one has not been started. Joe has collected reports and will ask for other contributions.

OLD BUSINESS:

Holiday Party 2015: Margaret Phillips was present and made a report. The deposit has been made to Farandans and the date for the party is December 2. It will be the same menu as last year and the cost will remain $25.00. The chapter will pay about $1.00 per person for the dessert. There has been a guarantee of 115 attendees so it is important to “talk it up.” A motion was made and seconded that the Board will cover the amount of money that needs to be covered. Steve commented that perhaps at the party there can be an encouragement for people to contribute to the SUAA foundation. The motion passed.

2015-2016 Chapter Agenda:

NIUAA Bylaw Revisions—Joe proposed a working committee consisting of Joe Grush, Jim Lockard and Ferald Bryan to propose Bylaw Revisions. Ferald Bryan is a Parlimentarian. They will look at terms for the Officers, who is allowed to vote at Board Meetings, and other things that need to be clarified. The members present agreed to this proposal.

Fixing Problems with Payroll Deduction for Dues: If dues increase and currently working members are paying from automatic payroll the deduction does not increase in the automatic payments. Joe will do further investigation into this issue and how this could be remedied. We are currently losing revenue due to this as we have been subsidizing the increase.

Recruitment of New Members: We have almost 1890 members, the second largest chapter in the state. Prior to the meeting, Joe sent out a list of possible strategies to recruit members. Joe requested that everyone review these and to provide additional suggestions. Joe talked about what he has done for “Personal Solicitation.” Joe made a list of possible recruits, drafted a letter to these people, and sent the letter to these people. He included membership forms. He believes a follow up letter will be required. Joe encouraged Board Members to do something similar.

A list of what NIUAA does and the benefits that NIUAA provides, needs to be developed and given to all Board Members so that we have that information to give to people. Betsy sees a need to reach out to other groups with this information.
Pat will send out her one page list of benefits and Joe will send a copy of the letter he sent out, to all Board Members.  

Schedule for Future Meetings: Joe proposed that we meet the third Wednesday of January and April. The time for the meeting will remain at 10:00 a.m.  

Other  

NEW BUSINESS  

SUAA Fall Meeting: We can send six people to the meeting. Joe will be driving down. Ferald Bryan, Jim Lockard, and John Engstrom will be going. There is no agenda out yet. It is a one day meeting. A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve these people to attend and represent NIUAA.  

Newsletter Editor: Joe Grush approached Bob Self to see if he would be willing to be the editor of the Newsletter. The Board concurred with the suggestion.  

Other: Betsy wondered if we could pass out things at the President’s lunch, but it was decided that was not the best time to do so. Joe is pursuing other avenues.  

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:57.  

The next meeting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on January 20th at the Human Resource Meeting. The April meeting is scheduled for April 20th.