# NIU Annuitants Association Board Meeting

**Altgeld Hall 225**

**September 7, 2022
11:00 am to 1:00 pm**

## Present

Terry Borg, Ferald Bryan, Steve Cunningham, Deborah Haliczer, Diane Johns, Cynthia Nelson, Holly Nicholson, Michael Peddle, Andy Small, Paul Stoddard, Matt Streb, Toni Tollerud, Clair Williams, Chris Doe as secretary in the absence of Pat Wielert

## Call to Order

Andy Small called the meeting to order at 11:02 am.

## Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the March 9, 2022 minutes was made by Deborah Haliczer, seconded by Michael Peddle, and carried.

## Approval of Agenda

Agenda was moved around to accommodate those that needed to leave early: Matt Streb was moved to the first item, followed by Steve Cunningham’s SUAA Board report, and third was Clair Williams’ Scholarship report. Motion to approve the agenda as amended was made by Michael Peddle, seconded by Terry Borg, and carried.

## Board Liaison Matt Streb

* Matt Streb highlighted some items with homecoming which includes activities on Thursday evening bringing back similar to a parade aspect. Another highlight is a paint and pizza night at the Holmes Student Center.
* Andy Small stated that the Annuitants Association is interested in being part of Mission Grove (formerly Alumni Village) on Saturday. Andy stated this is a great way to have a presence and to connect with our membership and to connect with potential new members. Matt will work with Andy.

## President’s Remarks

* Andy Small remarked that he’s currently involved with the Regional History Center which will hold information from the past. If you have past information that you’d like to be given to the Regional History Center please get that to Andy.

## Treasurer’s Report

* Linda Holderman submitted a written report. Linda has a conflict during our meeting times so will send a written report for the upcoming meetings.
* Linda wrote out a description of what the Treasurer does. If you’re interested in learning more there is information to give out and Linda would be willing to speak with them. Linda has indicated that she’s going to step down at the end of her term.

## Committee Reports

### Audit and Finance Committee

* There was no report.
* There is still a search for a committee chair. They do not have to be a member of the committee. If you know of anyone please contact Andy Small.

### Benefits

* Terry Borg reported.
* Terry Borg asked how broadly the information is which the board wishes to hear. It was expressed that all the information is pertinent since we have both retired and current employees in our organization. Andy expressed especially for the newsletter.
* Terry stated that it’s important for us to express how we wish to influence benefits such as providers that are available or looked at, dental insurance rates, etc.
* It was stated that there is 300 more freshman this year which is also impacting resources such as the Disability Resource Center.
* There was a lot of discussion around the Policy Library and the Remote Work Policy which is under review and comments have been taken.
* University Benefits Committee has been invited to the University Council meeting in November.

### Communication

* Diane Johns reported.
* Diane Johns stated the next newsletter is in October. The deadline is October 7 to get reports to Diane. Diane will send out a reminder toward the end of September.

### Education and Professional Development

* There was no report.

### Legislative

* Jim Lockard was not able to attend and submitted his report to Andy Small who will forward the report to everyone.

### Parking Committee

* Ferald Bryan reported.
* Ferald Bryan reported that the first meeting was in August which was canceled.
* Ferald will express the concerns that he has received regarding the process to park and has heard from others during the next Parking meeting.

### Political Awareness

* Michael Peddle reported.
* Michael Peddle reminded that this is a year with several constitutional offices up for election and there is new representation at the local and congressional levels. SUAA has a guide on the website and is important to stay up to date on as it’s informational for everyone on where candidates stand.
* Michael will send out information on dates to vote and how to vote so everyone is informed.

### Public Relations

* There was no report.

### Social Committee

* Cynthia Nelson reported.
* Andy Small expressed that we want to be present at the Mission Grove during Homecoming. Andy will make sure that Cynthia Nelson has the information needed. Chris Doe has an NIU tent that can be used and will get with Cynthia. Andy asked if we would want to have water or something available. Michael Peddle asked what the goal of being there would be. Andy responded that it will be a good presence for us. As well the Administration has asked us to participate. Toni Tollerud suggested we have a brochure on why to be a member of SUAA as well as a spouse being a member. Steve Cunningham will get pamphlets for the tent. We will need a budget for refreshments. Andy asked for the Membership Committee and the social committee to get together. Chris will send the information to Membership and Cynthia that was sent from the President’s Office.
* Toni Tollerud moved to have a budget for not more than $500, Michael Peddle seconded, and carried.
* Cynthia stated homecoming is a good thing for the fall and then look at something for a spring gathering.

### Scholarship Committee:

* Clair Williams reported.
* Endowed fund as of July 31 is around $102,000. It’s possible that the fund could have a loss due to the current markets. It appears it would be self-funding on the current course.
* Annuitants Association participated in Huskies United which raised around $2300. Clair is looking at the new policy, which was as of July 31, of a 5% fee which will be assessed on all gifts and this fee will go into a Northern Fund. This will be on any gift, not just endowed gifts. Next fundraising will be the year-end ask.
* Current scholarships were awarded to the College of Health and Human Sciences. Information will be included in our fall newsletter.

### Membership Committee

* There was no report.

### SUAA Foundation

* Paul Stoddard reported.
* Paul Stoddard met with the chair of the committee.
* Clair Williams relayed to Paul that Austin Kosusnik, grandchild of Diana Grace who has been a long time member of the Annuitants Association, has received the SUAA Foundation Scholarship for the 2022-2023 academic year. Austin is attending the University of Iowa.

### SUAA Board

* *S*teve Cunningham reported.
* Steve Cunningham stated his thanks with the encouragement of the SUAA President.
* Steve stated that they are planning on working more closely on membership, especially with our chapter. Linda Brookhart is taking a neutral look at those that work in Springfield.
* SUAA is in the process of reconstituting the committees. If anyone is interested in being on the Membership Committee please let Andy Small know by September 14. If you have any insight for the website please let Steve know as they will be working on revamping the SUAA website and make it more interactive. There will also be an online marketing platform that will be created to help with resources.
* Steve reported in respect to the legislative work and there are a lot of new legislatures that are not as familiar with the pension system and that may be where we really focus some work and education.
* Amendment to the SUAA bylaws was made at the annual meeting to focus on the regional directors and their roles.
* Prior to Covid there was a plan to reach out and meet with the university presidents and they are looking to get back to that again.
* Andy brought up the concern, as did others, regarding a letter that has been sent out by AFSCME.

## Old Business

## New Business

* Board Attendance: There was a question that arose as to if there is a policy about attendance. There is not at this time but it’s something that needs to be looked at with a suggestion of if someone cannot be at the board meeting that they submit a written report. Deborah Haliczer suggested that perhaps a document with expectations of a board member would be good. Deborah will work on drafting a document that could go out to potential new members as well as all board members. This will be brought to the December board meeting for review.
* Bylaws: There was no report or update as Clair Williams was not present to discuss. These will be looked at for the next annual meeting.

## Upcoming Meetings

NIUAA Board Meeting, December 7, 2022, 11:00 am to 1:00 pm

NIUAA Board Meeting, March 1, 2023, 11:00 am to 1:00 pm

Both meetings will be in Altgeld 225 and meeting invites have been distributed.

## Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Paul Stoddard, seconded by Toni Tollerud, and approved. The meeting was adjourned at 12:56 pm.

*Christina Doe respectively recorded and submits the minutes in the absence of board secretary Patricia Wielert.*