NIU Annuitants Association
2021 Annual Meeting VIA ZOOM
June 2, 2021 3:00-4:30pm
Virtual Social Hour: 4:30-5:00
AGENDA

2:45-3:00 Enter ZOOM Room

3:00 2021 Annual Meeting: Welcome and Call to Order, Approval of today’s Meeting Agenda, and Minutes from 2020 Annual Meeting
President’s remarks – Deborah Haliczer

3:05 Treasurer’s Report – Al Mueller

3:10 Audit and Finance Committee Report – Clair Williams

3:15 Report of NIUAA Scholarship Committee - Clair Williams

3:25 Presentation of Nominees for Officers and Board of Directors
Andy Small, Vice President and Nomination Committee Chair

3:25 Voting: Deborah Haliczer and Andy Small

3:30 Guest speaker - NIU President Lisa Freeman

3:50 Guest Speaker - Matt Streb, Chief of Staff, Office of the President

4:00 Steve Cunningham – SUAA Report

4:10 Chris Doe, Andy Small, and Deborah Haliczer – Membership

4:15 Presentation of Appreciation and Recognition Award

4:20 Comments and Discussion

4:30 Adjournment

4:30-5:00 ZOOM Social and more conversation
NIU Annuitants Association
2020 Annual Meeting Minutes
Virtual Zoom Meeting
October 7, 2020

Call to Order and Welcome: Deborah Haliczer opened the meeting at 3:31 pm.

Approval of Agenda: Amended to add approval of Minutes of 2019 Annual Meeting. Motion made to accept the agenda by Clair Williams, seconded by Sabrina Hammond, and carried.

Approval of Minutes from June 2019 Meeting Minutes: Motion to accept minutes were made by Andy Small, seconded by Clair Williams, and carried. Final minutes will be posted on the NIU Annuitants Association website.

Treasurer’s Report: Report made by Al Mueller
Al Mueller presented the Treasurer’s report as of end of December 31, 2019. This was posted on the NIUAA website in March. It was noted that it was a pre-COVID report. Ending cash balance was $29,153. There was nothing unusual.

Al Mueller then presented the report as of September 9, 2020 showing the bank balances which at the time, we had $7594.61 and three Certificates of Deposit (CD’s). This has changed since then and now is $5,951.60 and instead of three CD’s we now have four CD’s totaling $26,000 which brings the actual cash balance to $31,951.60. The Audit report will reflect as of year-end.

The board has approved the report; therefore, we do not need a vote.

Audit and Finance Report: Report made by Clair Williams
The Audit and Finance Committee met this past February and reviewed records maintained by the Association’s Treasurer. As stated in the report, they examined and found the financials as of December 31, 2018 and December 31, 2019 fairly reflect the financial activity of the Association. Clair Williams thanked the Treasurer and Linda Holderman, fellow committee member, for her assistance.

Scholarship Committee Report: Report made by Clair Williams
Based on the latest information from the Foundation office, a total of 140 gifts totaling $64,900 have been received. The first recipient was Adriana Powell, a business major in the College of Business. The current recipient is Kristine Miller, a graduate student in Instructional Technology in the College of Education. When Ms. Miller was asked about the importance, she wrote “I woke up this morning to an email from NIU telling me I had been chosen. What a great way to start the day. During this uncertain time, scholarships are lessening the financial burden of tuition and are allowing students, like me, to continue taking classes.” On behalf of my fellow committee members, Norden Gilbert and Toni Tollerud, Clair Williams extended his thanks for making these scholarships possible and encouraged continued support in order to make these scholarships available to students.
Deborah Haliczer thanked the scholarship committee who has worked very hard to raise the wonderful amount of money raised and encouraged everyone for contributions to the scholarship fund.

Sabrina Hammond asked when someone does their gifting is there something that needs to be done in order for it to go toward the NIUAA. Clair Williams stated that you have to specifically designate the NIUAA Scholarship Fund when you put forth a gift.

Robert Self asked how the matching day went and Clair Williams stated that we received approximately $850, which was below the challenge, but the donor agreed to give the match anyway.

**Presentation and Election of Officers and Directors:**

Deborah Haliczer thanked those that have given their service to the board: Norden Gilbert has served this board extremely well over the years, he has given great advice when we’ve needed it; Chuck Miller will also be leaving and has provided great service; Chris Doe has been our secretary for two terms and is leaving the position as secretary but is continuing as University Liaison and will work with the secretary who will be voted in today.

Andy Small, chair of the nomination committee, presented the slate of nominees.

**Background of Nominees:**

**Officers:** Diane Johns is being nominated as secretary to the board. Diane is a retired NIU employee.

**Directors:** Holly Nicholson is being nominated as a director and is a current NIU employee. Michael Peddle is being nominated as a director and is a retired faculty member. Clair Williams is being nominated as a director and is a retired Operating Staff member.

Andy entertained any discussion. Deborah Haliczer stated she made a few mistakes in the content and updated the information.

**Vote on Slate of Nominees:** Deborah Haliczer asked if there were any nominations from the floor. There being none, Andy Small asked for a motion.

Motion made to accept the slate of nominees to the board and directors by Toni Tollerud, seconded by Clair Williams, and carried. All nominees were approved.

Motion to approve the board officers and directors for the NIUAA 2020 year made by Michael Fortner, seconded by John Hulseberg, and carried.
**Presentation of Bylaw Amendments:** Report made by Clair Williams

Deborah Haliczer thanked all that had a hand in working through the bylaws and outlining the changes that needed to be made, which were made. Clair Williams noted that most of the changes were in line with what SUAA has made in their bylaws.

A list of what was amended is included in the minutes.

Motion to approve the Bylaw Amendments was made by Clair Williams, seconded by Sabrina Hammond, and carried.

**SUAA Board Report:** Report made by Steve Cunningham

Steve Cunningham stated that it’s good to be back and be part of the Association. Steve Cunningham stated that the SUAA Annual Meeting was on September 30, which was virtual in Zoom. New officers were elected. The new president is from SIU-Carbondale. The board had a pretty active year, which started focusing on membership. The dues increase, which was activated the year prior, has made a difference. The board took action to endorse the graduated income tax as part of the legislative platform that was being supported. The membership issue is one that they were preparing to take up in coordination with Chapters in the spring as the COVID shutdowns were occurring and so this will be taken back up later and try to have a little more outreach. Currently membership is down about 500 members year-over-year. SUAA board feels that membership number should be a lot higher. One highlight in membership numbers is that the Chapter with the highest number is NIU. NIU has had a strong active chapter. The next highest is UIUC, with a difference of 7 members. Another key issue, which will be talked about soon, is what we will face with the state budget over the coming year.

**Membership Report:** Report made by Chris Doe, Andy Small, Deborah Haliczer

Chris Doe highlighted the membership numbers as of the end of August 2020 at 1670 members, which is great. We’ve seen an uptick in membership due to recent retirements as in order to maintain an niu.edu email account you must be an NIUAA member and so that has played into the increase in numbers.

Deborah Haliczer highlighted with Andy Small that he and John Hulseberg were able to visit Operating Staff Council and SPS Council and passed out some literature. Andy Small stated he was encouraged in the uptick in numbers which we can continue and applaud Steve Cunningham’s efforts in contacting universities at the Administrative levels as we do need that support from Administration. Andy Small stated the best we can do is one-on-one contact and when we hear that someone is retiring bring up becoming/maintaining membership as an NIUAA member.

Deborah Haliczer stated her appreciation in everything that everyone does in reaching out to increase membership. Deborah Haliczer stated that we do include in our newsletters, which the next one will go out in a few weeks per Robert Self, information on membership. Clair Williams asked what answer we should give people in the self-managed plan. Deborah Haliczer stated there is good information on the SUAA website.
Presentations

What’s Happening at the State Level?: Michael Fortner and Michael Peddle presented Michael Fortner and Michael Peddle spent time updating the membership of the what is currently going on in Illinois. This covered topics which included state budget impacts, the Constitutional Amendment item on the current ballot, and the impact of the current census.

Appreciation and Recognition Award: Clair Williams was the chair of the Appreciation and Recognition Award Committee and was assisted by Joe Grush and Carole Minor. Clair Williams and Deborah Haliczer presented the awards this year. Robert Self, for his being the Chair of the Communications Committee and all his work on the newsletter, and Lynn Neeley, for her extraordinary role as Vice President and President, were the recipients. Due to the need to have our meeting virtually, the awards were given prior to the meeting.

Clair Williams stated an oversight in recognition and thanked Michael Fortner for being part of the Audit and Finance Committee and assisting with renewing Certificates of Deposit when they matured.

Concluding Remarks and Discussion:
Deborah Haliczer encouraged everyone to vote. We are a non-partisan group but it’s important that we all vote.

Michael Peddle stated that there has been a call for nominations for the SURS board and asked if we have anyone interested. Deborah Haliczer stated that we should discuss. Michael Fortner stated that he was interested.

Motion to ask the Association to support Michael Fortner to run for the SURS board was made by Michael Peddle, seconded by Andy Small. Deborah Haliczer asked if there was any discussion. Clair Williams stated that he wasn’t sure if the Association could nominate anyone. Michael Fortner stated that if there was the support of the Association then he would look further into what needed to be done. Michael Peddle restated that he was seeking for the Association to support Michael Fortner. There was no vote needed but Deborah Haliczer stated to Michael Fortner to go ahead and look further.

Attendance: Count was 36 in attendance

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn made by Norden Gilbert, seconded by Jeanette Biava, carried and adjourned at 4:58pm.

Respectively submitted by Christina Doe, Outgoing Secretary, NIUAA Board
NIUAA
Treasury Report at May 27, 2021

Balance of Accounts

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Certificates of Deposit

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Total of all accounts $34,255.54

A published copy of the Statement of Receipts and Disbursements as of December 31, 2020 and 2019 is included with the NIUAA March 21 Annual Audit Report and may be found on the Northern Illinois University Annuitants Association web site.
OFFICERS:

President: Andy Small – retired Operating Staff

Andy Small has served as the NIUAA Vice President, and now transitions into the role of Association President. He has served as the NIUAA representative to the SUAA Foundation. Andy retired as lab manager in the Department of Chemistry. He has served as President of the Operating Staff Council, member of the University Council, and on many University committees. He was elected to represent NIU at the State Universities Civil Service System Employee Advisory Committee and served as Chair of that organization. He has served on the DeKalb City Council, and the DeKalb School Board.

Vice President: Toni Tollerud – retired Faculty

Toni Tollerud is a Distinguished Teaching Professor Emerita in the NIU College of Education. She worked for 27 years as a counselor educator and served for three years as the University Faculty and SPS Personnel Advisor. She has served for two terms on the NIUAA Board of Directors, and has served as liaison to the University Benefits Committee, and on the NIUAA Professional Development, and the Nominations Committee. Toni believes that the Annuitants Association is extremely important both to retirees as well as all NIU employees in our efforts to help keep members informed of pension and benefit information and changes. NIUAA extends support and outreach to members through meetings, social gatherings, professional development, and advocacy for protecting our pensions.

Treasurer: Linda Holderman – retired Operating Staff

Linda Holderman worked at NIU for 38 years in a variety of roles in the IT area. She last served as a Senior Systems Analyst, where she designed and implemented many Accounting-based computer systems and programming. She has served as Treasurer for many not-for-profit organizations. She has also served for three years on the NIUAA Audit and Finance Committee.

BOARD MEMBERS:

Ferald Bryan – working Faculty

Ferald Bryan is an Associate Professor of Rhetoric and Public Communication in the Department of Communication. His specialty is presidential rhetoric and the history of American public address. He is the Director of the COMS 100 program. He has served with distinction as Parliamentarian of the Faculty Senate and University Council. He has provided training on parliamentary procedure and Roberts Rules of Order for other bodies of shared governance at NIU. He has served in the past for two terms as a Board member for NIUAA.
Paul Stoddard – retired Faculty

Paul Stoddard retired as an Associate Professor in the Department of Geology after a 29-year career. He represented District 9 on the DeKalb County Board from 2007 to 2020, where he served as Chair of the Finance Committee, Health and Human Services Committee, Forest Preserve Committee and Vice Chair of the Board. He also ran twice for State Representative for District 70.

Terry Borg – working Supportive Professional Staff

Terry Borg is in his 19th year at NIU. He first served in the Illinois Council on Economic Education in the NIU Division of Outreach. He later joined the College of Education as the Director of External Programs and the College’s global initiatives. He has served on the SPS Council, University Council and University Benefits Committee. He has served on many university committees as well as the University Center of Lake County Governing Board, in addition to extensive university and corporate experience.

Cynthia Nelson – retired Supportive Professional Staff

After attending NIU as a graduate student and studying Political Science, Cynthia worked as a Research Associate until her retirement in 2018. She worked primarily in Survey Research and Program Evaluation. She served three terms on the Supportive Professional Staff Council and saw that University organizations can make a difference. She shares with most annuitants a strong interest in the actions of our State government regarding higher education issues as well as the security of our pensions. She joins other annuitants in looking forward to a time when the campus is more open for in-person attendance for classes, performances, and social functions.