

**NIU Annuitants Association  
2020 Annual Meeting Minutes  
Virtual Zoom Meeting  
October 7, 2020**

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

**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 Haliczzer 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 Haliczzer 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 Haliczzer stated she made a few mistakes in the content and updated the information.

**Vote on Slate of Nominees:** Deborah Haliczzer 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 Haliczzer 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 Haliczzer  
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 Haliczzer 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 Haliczzer stated her appreciation in everything that everyone does in reaching out to increase membership. Deborah Haliczzer 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 Haliczzer 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 Haliczzer 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 Haliczzer 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 Haliczzer 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 Haliczzer 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 Haliczzer 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*