

**NIUAA Board Meeting**  
**Virtual via ZOOM**  
**September 9, 2020, 1:00pm to 2:30pm**

**Present:** Steve Cunningham, Chris Doe, Michael Fortner, Norden Gilbert, Deborah Haliczzer, Sabrina Hammond, Steven Johnson, Chuck Miller, Carole Minor, Al Mueller, Michael Peddle, Bob Self, Toni Tollerud, Clair Williams

**Guests:** Diane Johns, Holly Nicholson

**Call to Order:** Deborah Haliczzer called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.

**Approval of Agenda:** Motion to approve the agenda was made by Sabrina Hammond, seconded by Chuck Miller, and carried.

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion to approve June 3, 2020 minutes was made by Toni Tollerud, seconded by Clair Williams, and carried.

**President's Remarks:**

- Deborah Haliczzer stated that NIUAA and SUAA have been in limbo due to the COVID pandemic. Attending meetings are difficult but thankful for Zoom/Virtual meetings.
- Update on SUAA fall meetings: Fall meeting is September 30 and those attending will be Deborah Haliczzer, Sabrina Hammond, Andy Small, Michael Peddle. Steve Cunningham will attend as a SUAA Board member.
- Thank You: Thanked all members who were due to go off the board for staying on and being patient until we can hold an annual meeting and vote new members.

**Treasurer's report:** Al Mueller reported

- Al Mueller shared his report on the screen. NIUAA has just had some minor expenses. Deposits with SUAA have increased slightly.
- A few CDs from 5<sup>th</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> were cashed in when they came up for renewal and moved those, with the recommendations of the Audit and Finance Committee, to First State Bank.
- NIUAA balance currently is \$32,094.61.

Motion to accept Treasurer's report was made by Clair Williams, seconded by Michael Fortner, and carried.

**Committee Reports:**

- *Audit and Finance Committee:* Clair Williams submitted written report
  - Clair Williams just mentioned that he was happy we were able to move to First State Bank because the interest rates were higher for CDs.
  - The SUAA deposit was the highest NIUAA has had in quite some time.
  - Clair stated that the committee is looking for further members and Michael Fortner stated that he's interested.
- *Bylaws:* The bylaws will be approved at the Annual Meeting and cannot be updated officially until the Membership approves.
- *Benefits:* Sabrina Hammond submitted written report
  - Sabrina Hammond recognized Toni Tollerud for her leadership and assisting Sabrina in the transition into this committee.

- Michael Peddle clarified that it was only the newer collective bargaining unit that refunded money to employees for their parking permit because they were in active bargaining of a new contract at that time. Holly Nicholson confirmed it was the Local 1890 Civil Service union.
- Sabrina spoke a bit about the pension aspect and asked if there has been clarification about the tax bill. Michael Fortner stated that it doesn't have language specific to pensions but does to the taxing article in the Constitution. Michael Fortner did not see anything specifically about the pensions. Michael Peddle stated it should be noted that the information from Jesse White was written from the proponents and opponents. Deborah Haliczler suggested that if NIUAA has the membership meeting early enough that there is an opportunity to have a discussion on this and that Michael Fortner had expressed interest in facilitating that discussion and Deborah will also talk with Michael Peddle. Clair Williams reminded that this should be a discussion and not taking a position due to the SUAA Bylaws. Toni Tollerud stated it could be an Educational item as well.
- Toni Tollerud asked if there was information on the flu shot for those coming from off-campus. There is no information at this time. (During the meeting Chris Doe reached out to Employee Assistance Program (EAP) and found out that EAP will be registering people for an appointment to receive their shot, everyone will be required to wear masks, and there is currently no restrictions from anyone coming from off-campus. More information will come out soon.)
- Liz Guess had advised there were some positions that needed to be filled on the Benefits Committee.
- Committee meetings will be the first Thursday of every month.
- *Communication:* Bob Self had nothing to report
  - Bob Self apologized to Michael Peddle for having lost the article that he wrote for the last newsletter. Bob suggested we send it out to all that we have email addresses.
  - Reports for next newsletter should be received to Bob by middle of October.
- *Education and Professional Development:* Toni Tollerud reported
  - Toni Tollerud stated that this committee is in a rebuilding stage.
  - Toni will check with Deborah Haliczler about the workshops that Elena Haliczler was going to conduct at the Library. The Library was on hold due to the Pandemic. Deborah will talk with Elena about the status.
  - If you have any ideas please let Toni know. It would need to be virtual. Toni suggested Surviving COVID as a Senior. Chris Doe suggested perhaps also including employees since our membership is not just retirees. Deborah Haliczler and Toni both suggested checking with EAP to see if they have been doing anything and Holly Nicholson suggested they have done information announcements in the Monday morning announcements.
- *Legislative:* Jim Lockard was not able to be present and submitted a written report
- *Membership Committee:* Andy Small was not able to attend the meeting
  - There currently is not a chair and Deborah Haliczler is asking if anyone is interested to please let her know.
  - Steve Cunningham reported that we have the highest membership now in Illinois.
- *Parking Committee:* There was no report
- *Political Involvement (SUAA Action):* Michael Peddle reported
  - Michael Peddle got into the Illinois Board of Elections website where it has reports of activities, which includes SUAA Action, of where organizations are putting their money and what he saw was not indicative of what SUAA Action has said in respect to contributing to both sides. The candidate that did not receive funds last time is the one supporting the action to the Constitutional Amendment. Michael going to try and ask a question about what SUAA's stance truly is. Bob Self asked what the process was as to how they decide to

distribute funds and to whom. Michael said he can only say what he's seen and he's not knowledgeable about how it's distributed. Funds are only distributed in State races and the approximate amount given is \$200,000 in each election cycle, which is about \$500-\$1000 per candidate. Michael Fortner stated that was consistent with what he received when he was in the Legislature. Michael Fortner clarified when there is discussion regarding opening up the Constitutional Amendment and that there would be a ballot question and that would come up in probably eight years.

- *Public Relations*: Steven Johnson is working on some future trips.
- *Social Committee*: Sabrina Hammond reported
  - Social committee has been frustrated because there has been no ability to have social activities. Committee will need to look at perhaps collaborating with the Education committee.
- *Scholarship Committee*: Clair Williams reported; written report was submitted
  - Committee is looking for another member.
  - Fundraising campaign was started July 31. Response rate is typically 1-2%.
  - Committee outlined fundraising plan through the time the fee waiver expires.
  - Since the inception, \$63,625 has been raised and has pre-funded two scholarships.
  - President Freeman sent a very nice response in regard to the recent email campaign.
  - Endowment did not generate enough to expend an allocation so another \$2050 will need to be raised by the end of December.
  - Reminded the board to make their donation if they have not been able to as of yet.
  - Report highlighted how much it is to attend NIU.
  - Requesting President to direct the Treasurer to release the amount allowed.
- *SUAA Foundation*: Andy Small was not able to be present, there was no report
- *SUAA Board*: Steve Cunningham reported
  - As Steve Cunningham came on to the SUAA Board COVID hit and it has changed the focus of priorities that they were going to work on. Not having face-to-face meetings has been part of the impasse.
  - Only about 12% of employees are members, across all chapters. All chapters are working on increasing membership. Membership is down 500 statewide from this time last year. NIU has the highest membership.
  - Board will continue to focus on the complexity of the legislative impact at this time of year.
  - Copy of the information on the graduated income tax is available on the SUAA website.
  - Finances of the organization have much improved because of the dues increase.

#### **Old Business:**

- *Appreciation/Recognition*: Deborah Haliczer reported
  - Deborah Haliczer has received votes from the membership to approve the recommended recognition. Recipients will be hearing prior to the annual meeting.

#### **New Business:**

- *Rescheduled NIUAA Annual Meeting*:
  - Deborah Haliczer asked: What do you want to do? Maximum we can do is about 2 hours so that people have a chance to talk. Clair Williams suggested we limit the agenda to the two items that need to be voted on. It was voiced that there needs to be time to discuss the legislative issues with membership.
  - Chris Doe reminded that there are some logistics that need to take care of before the meeting and Chris will work with Deborah Haliczer and Al Mueller to make sure everything is ready.

- Chris Doe asked how NIUAA will notify the membership as we now have the ability to have more members present given it will be virtual. It was discussed that a postcard could be mailed to those without email addresses. Chris stated she would work on the wording and send it to Deborah and Bob Self. Bob will get a quote from the company that is used for the newsletter on printing and mailing the postcard.

Motion was made to authorize the expense to send out a postcard to announce the annual meeting by Clair Williams, seconded by Bob Self, and carried.

- Meeting date will be Wednesday, October 7, 2020 from 3:30pm to 5pm. Chris Doe suggested having a Virtual Social Hour after for anyone that would like to have some social time.
- Toni Tollerud asked if we should send out the bylaws prior to the meeting and it was agreed that we should post them on our website as a draft and send it in an email with the announcement of the meeting.
- Rescheduled SUAA Annual Meeting: September 30, 2020
- Update from Nominations Committee: Andy Small was not able to be present and did not have anything to report. Annual meeting will have the voting of the members.
- Other New Business: There was no other business.

**Next Meeting:** NIUAA Board Meeting, December 2, 2020, 1:00pm to 2:30pm via Zoom.  
Chris Doe will set up the link.

**Upcoming Meetings:** SUAA Annual Meeting, September 30, 2020  
NIUAA Annual Membership Meeting, October 7, 2020, 3:30-5pm with Virtual Social Hour from 5-6pm  
NIUAA Board Meeting, December 2, 2020, 1-2:30pm

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:35pm was made by Norden Gilbert, seconded by Carole Minor, and carried.