President’s Report
By Andy Small, NIUAA President

Hello, my fellow annuitants:
The NIUAA Executive Board continues to work for the benefit of our members. Two recent initiatives were a meeting with the State Universities Annuitant Association’s Executive Director, Linda Brookhart. Director Brookhart visited NIU for our NIUAA Board meeting held on March 9, 2022. NIU continues to have the second highest membership in SUAA in the state, behind only the University of Illinois. Linda continues to report that there are not any movements on pension or benefit reductions being talked about in Springfield. This is great news, and we will continue to monitor this area.

The second initiative was a recent meeting with NIU’s Chief of Staff, Matt Streb. Matt has now become a member of NIUAA, joining President Freeman. The Chief of Staff position will now be added as an ex officio member to the NIUAA Board. This will give us direct communication to the NIU administration and provide meeting space on campus for future board meetings.

Please join the NIUAA for two upcoming Back-to-Campus events. First is the annual meeting on June 15 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. in the HSC Skyroom. I am pleased to announce that NIU President Lisa Freeman and Chief of Staff Matt Streb will be attending the meeting. President Freeman is scheduled to address the membership at 1:15 p.m. Second, please join NIUAA this Fall as we attend multiple events during Homecoming week. More information to follow. It will be great to get back together again!

Hope to see everyone soon!
Andy

Legislative Report
By Jim Lockard, Legislative Committee

Springfield has been mostly quiet since my last Legislative Report. There have been no truly significant actions by the General Assembly (GA) that affect most NIUAA members, to the best of my knowledge. Perhaps the following information items will be of interest. Of primary concern to most members are issues and actions related to pensions. Legislatively, there has been little to report for months. A couple of developments are worth noting.

First, the state’s financial picture benefitted greatly from federal “covid relief” funding, such that the governor projected a $1.7 billion surplus for the fiscal year, the first in 25 years. The state also has received credit upgrades for the first time in at least 20 years. Gov. Pritzker plans to add an additional $500 million to the state’s payments to the state retirement systems, over and beyond the normal “full” (or more accurately, minimal) funding. That’s hardly a major dent in the state’s unfunded liabilities, but still worth noting and appreciating. Due to the strength of investments, the unfunded liabilities decreased from $144 billion at the end of 2020 to “only” $130 billion last year.
Source: Chicago Tribune

Second, Gov. Pritzker has repeatedly stated that he will not support any effort to amend the Pension Protection Clause of the Illinois Constitution. That is precisely the change constantly demanded by groups like Wirepoints and the Illinois Policy Institute. The latter, in particular, disseminates anti-pension, anti-union, anti-covid-mitigation, and anti-General Assembly reports and messages regularly. Its proposed “hold harmless” pension reform plan would “not hurt retirees” and is described as follows:

A “hold harmless” pension plan developed by the Illinois Policy Institute can save taxpayers nearly $2.4 billion in its first year

(Continued on next page)
The NIU Annuitant

May 2022

The NIU Annuitant

Tier 3 Benefit Summary

summarized the plan’s benefits:

- Employer Contributions for the DC component: 4% minimum
- Employer Contributions for the DC component: between 2% and 6% of salary
- Employer and employee contributions are transferable into other qualified plans.

For SURS and TRS a Employer Contribution: DB Normal Cost - Employee Contribution + 2% (expressed as a % of pay)

I have not been able to determine where implementation of Tier III within SURS stands, but if/when that happens, a comparison of the Tier will be warranted. Tier III

The old (2010) and new (2020) maps are shown below, with the 2020 map reflecting the loss of one house seat in Congress due, not to population loss in Illinois, but slower growth than in other districts. However, a federal court in late December 2021 upheld the map. The old (2010) and new (2020) maps are shown below, with the 2022 map reflecting the loss of one house seat in Congress due to slow population growth in Illinois, not slower growth than in states such as Texas and Florida. Clearly, Illinois is not a blue state geographically.

Previously I wrote about the little-known Health Care Right of Conscience Act (HCRCA), which was being used to justify refusal to take the COVID vaccine. The General Assembly did amend the Act (with the governor’s signature) to clarify that employers may adopt and enforce measures to reduce COVID spread in the workplace, effective June 1, 2022. Until then, employees can still avoid vaccination for “conscience-based objections.” With the constantly changing landscape of COVID, the long-term significance of the amendment is unclear.

In the interest of keeping our membership informed, I will continue to share the kinds of information provided above and will watch closely for any pension attacks that seem to be gaining traction. We must be prepared to support measures that will be helpful to the state and the pension systems and to fight against proposals that would harm the future wellbeing of all public employees. If you are not receiving my periodic Google Groups emails with the most up-to-date information, please alert me (jalockard@gmail.com) and I’ll be sure you are on my special email list. (There have been no such emails for a number of months now, due to lack of information to share.)

Jim Lockard
Legislative Committee

The impact on Illinois’ Congressional seats is shown in this graphic:

Old map (2021)

New map (2022)

Old map (2022)

New map (2023)

(Continued on next page)

In Memoriam

Atique Ahmed
Judd Baker
Georgiann Baird
James Blair
Deborah Blakely
Donald Buckner
Robert Buggert
Donnetta Domina
Betty Drake
James Flicker
Arlene Hampa
Lois Harding
Wendell Harris
Winifred Holman

Theodore Kisiel
Gary Olsen
Sandra Petit
Antoinette Reed
Mary Reed
Robert Reeves
Dolores Rossing
Edward Schramm
Ina Simon
Barbara Steg
Nancy Vedral
John Wrenn
Gary Ziegler

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The NIU Annuitant

May 2022

The NIU Annuitant

May 2022

Nominations Committee Report

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Officers/Directors</th>
<th>Person</th>
<th>Started:</th>
<th>2021 - 2022 Term, Year</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Andy Small</td>
<td>2021 - 2023</td>
<td>First Term, First Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Toni Tollerud</td>
<td>2021 - 2023</td>
<td>First Term, First Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Secretary</td>
<td>*Diane Johns</td>
<td>2020 - 2022</td>
<td>First Term, Second Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Linda Holdeman</td>
<td>2021 - 2023</td>
<td>First Term, First Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Past President</td>
<td>Deborah Haliczer</td>
<td>2021 - 2023</td>
<td>First Term, First Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University Liaison</td>
<td>Chris Atherton Doe</td>
<td>2021 - 2023</td>
<td>First Term, First Year</td>
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<th>Faculty</th>
<th>Person</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ferald Bryan</td>
<td>2021 - 2023</td>
<td>First Term, First Year</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael Fortner</td>
<td>2019 - 2021</td>
<td>2021 - 2023</td>
<td>Second Term, First Year</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Michael Peddle</td>
<td>2020 - 2022</td>
<td>First Term, Second Year</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul Stoddard</td>
<td>2021 - 2023</td>
<td>First Term, First Year</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Staff</th>
<th>Person</th>
<th>Started:</th>
<th>2021 - 2022 Term, Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Terry Borg</td>
<td>2021 - 2023</td>
<td>First Term, First Year</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cynthia Nelson</td>
<td>2021 - 2023</td>
<td>First Term, First Year</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Holly Nicholson</td>
<td>2020 - 2022</td>
<td>First Term, Second Year</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clair Williams</td>
<td>2021 - 2023</td>
<td>First Term, First Year</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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1. * An asterisk signifies that a member’s current term is ending in June. This year, the three members with an asterisk are eligible for election to a second term.
2. # Dr. Peddle also served two years as chair of the Political Involvement Committee prior to his election to a position as a Director on the Board.
3. Directors Nicholson and Peddle would agree to serving a second two-year term. Our Secretary, Dr. Johns, declines a second term as Secretary but is willing to continue to serve as the Newsletter Editor on the Communications Committee.
4. The Nominations Committee proposes a candidate for nomination to the position as Secretary to the Board. Pat Wielert, a chapter member, is a former employee in the College of Education and has extensive experience in the role of Secretary.

2022-2023 Trips and Travel Schedule
Organized by Steven Johnson, Culture and Travel Committee Chair
Director, LA&S External Programming (retired)

Travel Report
By Steven Johnson, Culture and Travel Committee Chair

Our group recently returned after enjoying a visit to Lucerne, Switzerland and a cruise on the Rhine to Amsterdam, where we enjoyed the tulips. The weather cooperated better there than here.

2022 Travel Schedule
May 30 - June 3: Nashville Show trip
(value trip, $743)
June: Alaska and the Yukon
June: Oberammergau and the Best of Germany
June 6 - 11: Lancaster & the Dutch Country
(value trip, $649)
June 25 - 29: Stratford Festival of Canada
August 2 - 27: Canada, New England and Iceland
(cruise from Boston)
Sept 7 - 16: The Best of Scandinavia
(Sweden/Norway/Denmark)
Oct 15 - Nov 3: Red Rocks to the Rockies
(Rocky Mountains and National Parks)
Dec 3: Christmas Shopping trip
($20.22)

2023 Schedule
Jan 5: Panama Canal Cruise
Jan 30: Circle Hawaii Cruise
March: India and Nepal
Oct: Colorado Historic Trains

Group photo at statue in Klobenz, Germany.
Benefits Choice Update

Representatives from the University Benefits Committee met with the State recently and learned that we will not have any new plans or providers this year. Like last year, Medical and Dental rates will increase and there will be some plan design changes such as increases in prescription copays.

Terry Borg, Benefits Committee Chair

Audit and Finance Committee Update

On January 13, 2022, the Audit and Finance Committee members completed our annual audit of the Association’s financial statement for the year ending December 31, 2021.

We found the statement fairly reflected the financial activity of the association. As of the end of 2021, the cash balance totaled $34,708, comprised of $8,114 in the association’s checking account and four certificates of deposit totaling $26,594. The committee’s complete report can be found on the association’s web page.

Audit and Finance Committee
Clair Williams, Chair
Al Mueller
Mike Fortner

Auditor and Finance Committee Update
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Audit and Finance Committee
Clair Williams, Chair
Al Mueller
Mike Fortner

Please Join Us!
NIUAA Annual Meeting
Wednesday, June 15
1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
Skyroom on NIU Campus
Holmes Student Center

NIUAA Officers and Directors in Transition
June 2022 - Nominations for Election for 2022 - 2024 Term

Dam Square, Amsterdam.

Where in the world is Steven?
### NIUAA 2022-2023 Officers, Directors, and Committee Chairs

#### Officers
- **President**: Andy Small  
  1512 N 1st St, DeKalb, IL 60115  
  (815) 762-5971  
  asmall2@niu.edu  
- **Vice-President**: Toni Tallerud  
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- **Treasurer**: Linda Holdeman  
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- **Secretary**: Diane Johns  
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  ladybugdj@aol.com  
- **Past President**: Jim Lockard  
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  jalockard@gmail.com

#### Directors
- **Terry Borg**  
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- **Michael Fortner**  
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- **Cynthia Nelson**  
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- **Holly Nicholson**  
  h Nicholson@niu.edu  
- **Mike Peddle**  
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  michaelpeddle@comcast.net  
- **Paul Stoddard**  
  pstoddard@yahoo.com  
- **Clair Williams**  
  cdw0845@comcast.net  

#### Committee Chairs
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  cdw0845@comcast.net  
- **Benefits**:  
  Terry Borg  
  815-753-0295  
  tborg2@niu.edu  
- **Campus Parking**:  
  TBA  
- **Communications**:  
  Newsletter Editor: Diane Johns  
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  (815) 758-6259  
  ladybugdj@aol.com  
- **Education**: Michael Fortner  
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  mikefortner@earthlink.net  
- **Legislative**:  
  Jim Lockard  
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  jalockard@gmail.com  
- **Member SUAA Board**:  
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  cunninghamsteven@gmail.com  
- **Membership**:  
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  dhhaliczer@gmail.com  
- **Public Relations/Events**:  
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  DeKalb, IL 60115  
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- **Representative SUAA Foundation**:  
  Paul Stoddard  
  pstoddard@yahoo.com  
- **Scholarship**:  
  Clair Williams  
  cdw0845@comcast.net  
- **Social**:  
  Rhonda Wybourn  
  r wybourn1@niu.edu  
  Cynthia Nelson  
  cnelson16@niu.edu  
- **University Liaison**:  
  Christina Doe  
  815-753-1308  
  annuitantsassoc@niu.edu

Please Note: Voting members of the NIUAA Board include all officers and those listed as Directors.