

JJCAA Summer 2019 Newsletter

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - PAT ASHER

Hello Everyone! One issue that the Officers and Board of Directors addressed this past year involved increasing membership in JJCAA.



As indicated in last year's message, this issue is a struggle! However, we accomplished the following:

- A personal letter to each of the current full-time faculty, some 215 members
- A follow-up email to each of the above
- An email letter to each of the following on campus: professional, administrative, clerical, facilities, food, support, and police
- We have gained sixteen (16) new members from July of 2018 to July of 2019.

Many thanks to Judy Connelly in Human Resources for her help!
 Many thanks to the Foundation for sponsoring the continental breakfast at the Annual Meeting!
 Many thanks to Scott Olsen, our newsletter editor.

Peace to everyone!
 Patrick Asher

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WEB SITES:

visit regularly to stay informed

JJCAA: www.JJCAA.org
 SUAA: www.SUAA.org
 SURS: www.SURS.org
 TRS: TRS.illinois.gov
 FACEBOOK: [Facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com)
(search for JJCAA)

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS TO JJCAA

Tamara Brattoli - English/World Languages
Judith Clark - Information Technology
James Baskin - English/World Languages
Jane Creighton - I-Campus
Pamela Dilday - Director, Student Activities
Mary Magruder - Nursing
Deborah Dykstra - Computer Information & Office Systems
Debbie Fitzgerald - Nursing
Bradley Czerniak - Biology
John Kriz - Business Education
Susanne Matthews - Natural Science
Ferlinda Saveas - Health & Public Services
Lori Schahrer - Fine Arts
Kenneth Thompson - Culinary Arts
Vivian Van Donk - Fine Arts
Arlene Walsh - Registration

The Officers and Board of Directors of Joliet Junior College Annuitants' Association are grateful to you for joining the association. We will continue to work hard to protect your pensions, health insurance, and other benefits.

SUAA ANNUAL CONVENTION

June 27th & 28th, 2019 Springfield, IL

Submitted Pat Asher

My wife, replacing a JJCAA Director who was unable to attend, and I attended this convention. Although the speakers were not as intense as last year's, numerous issues were addressed. A complete revision of the bylaws of SUAA was some major task! It took many hours to complete. The major change was reclassifying the Board of Directors to the House of Delegates and the Executive Committee changed to the Board of Directors. The change was done primarily for liability issues. This is a significant change for the organizational structure of SUAA and is a very positive move. Other changes were minor changes in wording of certain Articles.

SUAA Foundation

The Foundation met at 10 o'clock on Thursday, the 27th. There were minor revisions in the organization's mission and purpose. The Foundation held an election of new officers and a contract between the Foundation and SUAA is now in place. Note that Jerry Lewis is active in this organization. He is developing a Survivor's Guide to be used by all chapters! It is also noteworthy that the Foundation now offers four(4) scholarships of \$500.00 each year. Please call 217-523-4004 for more details!!

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

Representative Mike Murphy

Interesting talk! He is 65 years old and a freshman representative. He addressed the need for bi-partisanship. As a Republican, he worked hard with Democrats to pass legislation while clearly holding his Republican convictions.

Amanda Kass, Associate Director , Government Finance Research Center

She addressed numerous issues, including:

- 130 billion in unfunded obligations to state employees of the five (5) pension systems
- Current funding is only at 40%.
- Projection was 90% funding by 2045.
- Under Governor Pritsker, the 90% will be realized in 2052!
- Need for higher contributions from the State to offset debt!

Daisy Contreras, NPR Reporter

This was a very lively presentation. She addressed, among others, the following:

- Praised the new governor for getting things done with bi-partisan support and was willing to compromise! He is in sharp contrast to the preceding governor.
- Winners were workers, middle class, and unions.
- Increase in minimum wage
- Monies earmarked for education, roads, and bridges
- Additional legislation for mental health and the environment

Martin Noven, Executive Director & Kristin Houch, Legislative Liaison, SURS

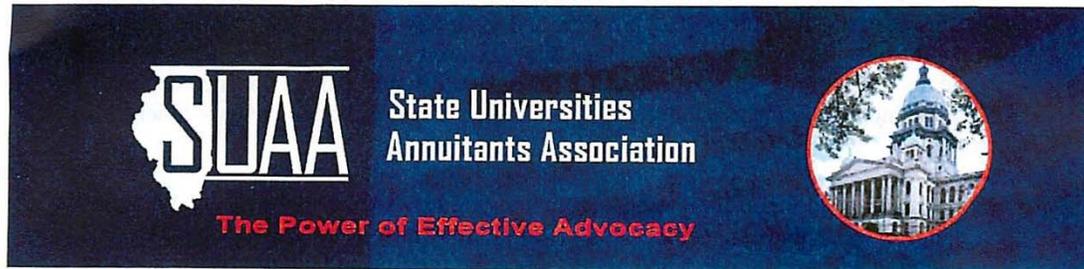
This was an excellent, superb presentation. It was coherent, thoughtful, and very informative.

They dealt, among others, with the following issues:

- the 2020 Budget Appropriations - \$1,854,692,000 to SURS (SB262)
- Repeals the 3% rule and re-enacts the 6% Rule
- Extends Buyouts to June 30, 2024
- Addressed various problems with buyouts especially from Tier I. This was a very important part of their message, and they recommended asking for additional help from the personnel at SURS should someone choose a buyout! They also dealt with problems arising from self-managed plans.
- Both presenters reflected a strong sense of helping anyone electing retirement, and seeking guidance from SURS is essential.
- SURS is expanding its facilities. They have an online estimator for retirement benefit choices on their website!
- Contact information for SURS: Phone: 800-275-7877 or 217-378-8800 Website: www.surs.org

SUAA—A REPORT Linda Brookhart, Executive Director,

It is most clear that Linda works very hard at her job. Her dedication is obvious. Her meetings and other contacts with members of the General Assembly are certainly fruitful. In addition, she and her staff have worked closely with the sixty (60) new members of the General Assembly. One theme that surfaces in her reports is the need for recruitment of new members!! She further explains additional issues in her following letter. **READ CAREFULLY!**



June 2019

Dear SUAA Member:

2019 will be remembered in Springfield as one of the most eventful legislative sessions in modern history. We do not exaggerate: lawmakers approved more landmark legislation – from a balanced budget and a major capital program to significant abortion and marijuana legalization – in just one session than usually gets addressed over the course of several years.

We are encouraged for members of the State Universities Annuity Association for two major reasons: progress after years of gridlock is welcome, and it did not come at the expense of our membership. We hope you will continue your membership to ensure similar success in future sessions.

Here is how this session affected our currently working and retired community college and university members:

- Budget – A \$40 billion state budget is balanced, did not require major tax or fee increases because of an influx in revenue late in the spring, and it makes important investments in higher education that were often absent under the previous administration. One of those ends a 3 percent cap put in place last year that limited the annual salary increases for K-12 and higher education employees that can be applied to your pensions.
 - Higher education receives a 5 percent increase in funding, and \$5 million will be devoted to the Community College Health Insurance Security Fund
- Capital program – A \$45 billion, six-year plan will make long-needed investment in our state's horizontals (roads, bridges, transit systems) and verticals (schools, universities, hospitals). Our community colleges and universities will receive hundreds of millions of dollars for repairing leaky roofs, improving classrooms and making other investments on campuses
- Pensions – Rest easy that your pension benefits are protected for another legislative session, thanks to the hard work of our SUAA team
 - Despite a proposal from Gov. Pritzker to skip pension payments, the state will make its required pension payment at the certified amounts to all five pension systems under this budget
 - A proposed constitutional amendment to remove the Pension Protection Clause of the Constitution was proposed but never progressed in the Legislature
 - The state's pension buyout program has been extended to June 2024
 - We will continue working with legislators to address the need for a long-term pension debt solution and to address problems with the Tier 2 and Tier 3 programs

- Fair Tax amendment – You and all other Illinoisans will be asked to vote on the Fair Tax amendment in the November 2020 election, and assuredly bombarded with advertising for and against the concept between now and then. Gov. Pritzker successfully persuaded legislators to put the question on the ballot of whether Illinois should switch from a flat income tax system to a graduated income tax, where those who make more pay a greater percentage of their income in taxes.

Finally, we are encouraged that Illinois is once again moving forward on major issues. We hope the same vigor that was seen this year, and the can-do attitude shown by dozens of new legislators, will carry over to dealing with pension debt and higher education funding and other major challenges.

We cannot do this alone. Please keep your SUAA membership active in order to stay on top of the latest developments at the Capitol, and to provide us the insight and support we need to be effective for you – for today and tomorrow. Together, we can and will do better!

Sincerely,



Linda Brookhart
Executive Director
State Universities Annuity Association
217 East Monroe, Suite 100
Springfield, IL 62701

linda@suaa.org
suaa.org
217-523-4040



JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE
— 1901 —
ANNUITANTS ASSOCIATION



JJCAA SCHOLARSHIP OF \$500.00

Another accomplishment this year is the creation of an annual JJCAA Scholarship of \$500.00.

Qualifications:

- The applicant is a dependent or spouse of a JJCAA member.
- The applicant has earned twelve (12) credits with a minimum 3.0 GPA.

Each scholarship award can be used for tuition, books, and fees.

The applicant must complete the application process for the JJC Annuitants' Association Annual Scholarship online at the Joliet Junior College web site www.jic.edu/info/scholarships.

Contact Amanda Quinn in the Foundation office for additional information.

The final determination of selecting the scholarship recipient shall be the sole responsibility of appropriate officials of Joliet Junior College.

The first year's recipient, Jessica Brooks, was most grateful. Here is her letter! Nice!!

1/6/19

Dear Patrick Asher,

My lifelong dream of attending college is moving forward, thanks to generous educational scholarships like yours. Since being named one of the recipients of the JJC Annuitants Association Annual Scholarship, my dream is becoming a reality at Joliet Junior College. This generous award gives me an opportunity to earn skills that will serve the educational community following graduation. Thank you personally for your generosity:

Without scholarship patrons willing to support Early Childhood Education, students such as myself would be unable to pursue Educational degrees. Your scholarship will help me earn credentials in Early Childhood Education, which requires special training, in school interning, and coursework. My passion for education is matched only by my love for children, so my decision to specialize in Early Childhood comes from the heart. Once again, thank you for the vote of confidence and the scholarship to help further my career in Education. I am committed to my education and to the field, and one step closer to becoming an Early Childhood teacher, thanks to your continued generosity and the JJC Annuitants Association Annual Scholarship.

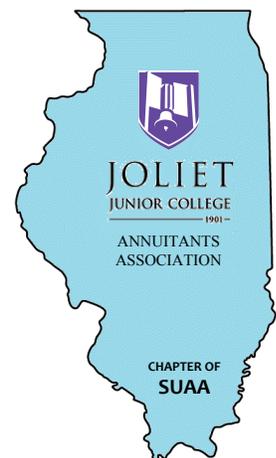
Sincerely,
Jessica Brooks

IN MEMORIAM

List of members/spouses that have passed away from July of 2018 to July of 2019.

Alvarez, Lawrence
Burns, William
Cygnar, Debbie
Halley, Deborah
Hirmer, John
Martinez, Henry
Nixon, Cheryl
Todd, Jeffrey

Burns, Theresa
Coleman, Carrie
Fabrycki, William
Hansen, Judy
Manthei, Richard
Morris, James
Repenn, Ralph
Walters, Kelly



JJCAA Executive Board 2018-2020

President: Patrick Asher
Vice-President: Ted Thompson
Secretary: Patricia Neff
Treasurer: Marilyn Heniff
Immediate Past President: Jerry Lewis

Members-at-Large

Linda Aguilar	Mary Ann Oetter
Jim Cooper	Scott Olsen
Penny Leopold	Maureen Peterson
Sue Malmberg	Jerry Zeborowski

Newsletter: Scott Olsen

ANNUAL PICNIC - PAT ASHER

Each year in the fall, JJCAA sponsors a picnic where we gather at **Inwood Park**. However, the attendance has been dwindling somewhat. Therefore, I appointed a committee of Linda Aguilar, Mary Ann Oetter, Sue Malmberg and others to explore options. They have recommended a **lunch buffet at Hollywood Casino, Epic Café, on Saturday, September 14th from noon to 3 o'clock**. The cost for the luncheon is \$18.11, which includes taxes and gratuity. Their idea is a superb, and hopefully we will see new people!!! For more details, please contact Linda at laguilar@jjc.edu or Mary Ann at maos118@aol.com.

Beyond that, I have some misgivings about cancelling our traditional picnic. Thus, I have taken the liberty to retain it for at least one more year. It will be on **Wednesday, September 18th, at 4:00 at Inwood Park**. For further information and to RSVP, call Pat Asher at 815-741-2108.

A-F: Hot Dish
G-M: Dessert
N-Z: Salad or Vegetable

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- ◆ JJCAA Annual Meeting– Wednesday, July 10th, 2019, from 8:30 to 11:00 in T-1000-1001
- ◆ JJCAA Board Meeting – September 6, 2019, at 11:00
- ◆ JJCAA Board Meeting – November 8, 2019, at 11:00
- ◆ Luncheon at Harrah's Casino-September 14th, 2019 from noon to 3 o'clock
- ◆ Traditional picnic at Inwood Park – September 18th, 2019 starting at 4 o'clock



JOLIET
JUNIOR COLLEGE
1901

ANNUITANTS
ASSOCIATION

JJCAA IS AN ANNUITANTS ORGANIZATION

Consisting of Current JJC Employees Retirees - Spouses - Part-time Faculty
All Under the Umbrella of SUAA

SUAA and JJCAA have the backs of all of our members.
Tell us how we can better serve your needs. We are all in this together!

JOIN JJCAA /SUAA

Is your future pension, future health care, and the resistance against negative legislation worth \$42.00 a year or 80.5 cents a week? Then join JJCAA/SUAA. Our pensions are, or will be, our first or second most significant financial asset. Your spouse can also join and make this a team effort for an additional \$42.00 annually. Current employees can write a \$42.00 check or use JJC payroll deduction. Use the attached membership form and make it a team effort. Thank you.

SUAA-JJCAA MEMBERSHIP AND DUES DEDUCTION AUTHORIZATION FORM

Name _____

Spouse (If applicable) _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone _____ Email address _____

Please check one: I am a retiree I am a surviving spouse
 I am a spouse and retiree I am a current faculty/staff member

Check payment option best for you:

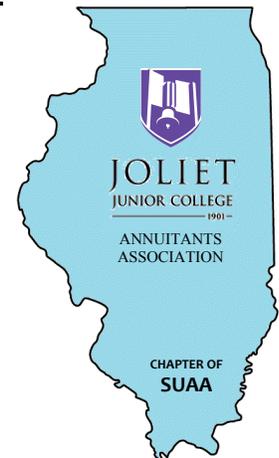
- Option # 1 Monthly Pension Deduction (\$3.50 deducted from your monthly annuity check)
- Option # 2 Single Payment (\$42.00 payable to SUAA)
- Option # 3 Semi-Annual Payroll Deduction (\$21.00 deducted from your payroll in fall & spring)

REQUIRED FOR OPTION # 1 ONLY:

I hereby authorize the State University Retirement System (SURS) to deduct each month the amount as certified by JJCAA as the current rate of dues. The deduction is to start the first day of the month (to be determined by SURS and SUAA) and will continue until I inform SURS that I want to cancel the deduction. I also authorize SURS to provide change of address information to JJCAA.

Signature _____

Return this form to: Marilyn Heniff, JJCAA Treasurer, 213 Oakwood Drive, Shorewood, IL 60404.
For the single payment option, include a \$42.00 check made payable to SUAA.



SPOUSE MEMBERSHIP IN SUAA/JJCAA

Is your spouse a member of SUAA/JJCAA? Is the protection of your pension and health care benefits worth \$84.00 a year, the cost of two SUAA/JJCAA memberships? This is less than the price of two nice evenings "out on the town."

Please seriously consider having your spouse join SUAA/JJCAA. Many couples have chosen to invest via two memberships. Please join the ranks of those who understand and appreciate a greater investment in our pensions and health care benefits.