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## Web Sites:

visit regularly to stay informed

JJCAA: [www.JJCAA.org](http://www.JJCAA.org)

SUAA: [www.SUAA.org](http://www.SUAA.org)

SURS: [www.SURS.org](http://www.SURS.org)

TRS: [TRS.illinois.gov](http://TRS.illinois.gov)

FACEBOOK: [Facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/JJCAA)

(search for JJCAA)



**JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE**  
1901  
**ANNUITANTS ASSOCIATION**



# JJCAA Summer 2018 Newsletter

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Pat Asher



I first want to express my gratitude to Jerry Lewis for his superb leadership of JJCAA for the last thirteen (13) years. He has devoted much time, and we all owe him much gratitude!

This has been an interesting first year. Probably the best experience to date has been my participation in the annual State Universities Annuitants' Association (SUAA) meeting in Springfield, which was held on June 21st and 22nd. I confess some skepticism early on in the efficacy of SUAA, but this conference was an excellent one.

I attended seven(7) of eight(8) presentations, all addressing the challenges that SUAA and Higher Education face. None of the presentations were weak; some were superb!

Included below is a summary of some of the presentations.

## SUMMATION OF SOME OF THE SUAA PRESENTATIONS:

### Keynote Speaker

#### The Honorable Norine Hammond

Norine Hammond, a State Representative, gave insights into working with the Higher Education Legislative Caucus, a group of twelve bipartisan members under the direction of Senator Pat McGuire. This group has successfully moved five bills related to Higher Education through the House and Senate.

She argued that this committee is highly dedicated to solving the current problems in Higher Education. They have learned to work together and compromise to help create appropriate legislation.

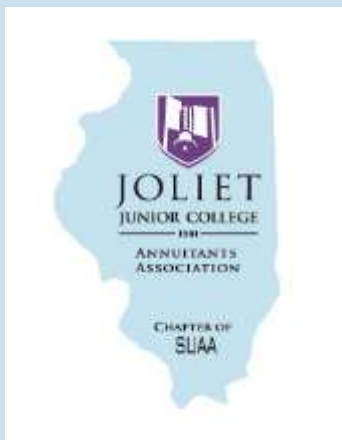
Representative Hammond made clear that the recent accomplishments of this caucus would not have happened without the energy and direction of McGuire.

In her presentation, she singled out McGuire numerous times. Certainly, we are fortunate to have Pat McGuire as our State Senator.

### “Pension Debt Issues and the Means to Reduce It”, Representative Robert Martwick.

Representative Martwick was exceptionally interesting and informative. He is part of the Pension Caucus and is convinced that the pension crisis can be resolved in time. One such solution involves the issuing of bonds, a concept presented to him by Linda Brookhart and an assistant, John Carr, both from SUAA. The problem here is that the State of Illinois has

*(Continued on page 3)*



## LEGISLATIVE VISITS

Patricia Neff

Although JJCAA has not made any legislative visits this year (there was no reason to since we had met last year and there were no new legislators) some of us did attend fundraisers as representatives of SUAAction or individuals.

The first event was one that I attended, the Grundy County Democratic Central Committee fundraiser on May 11 in Morris. Although the invited guests were many (Prizker, Stratton, Raoul, White, Mendoza, Frerichs, Dady, and Hutchinson), only local people showed up. I have found that you never know if an invited guest will pop in and you can get a chance to talk to them, and it's good to show our support in any case.

At Senator Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant's Annual Friends & Family Reception, on June 13, Democratic Candidate for Governor J. B. Pritzker was the featured guest. State Rep Natalie Manley gave the opening remarks followed by Julianna Stratton, Democratic Candidate for Lt. Governor. Bertino-Tarrant and Rep. Manley have been good supporters of us and education in Illinois. Pritzker remarked that when he wins, he will work closely with Bertino-Tarrant, Rep. Manley and Senator Pat McGuire on education in Illinois and other matters. Ted Thompson, SUAAAction Chair and VP of JJCAA, attended the event with me.

June 20<sup>th</sup> saw Ted and I out again, as well as JJCAA President Pat Asher and his wife, Sharon, at Sen. Pat McGuire's fundraiser. Also in the crowd was Lora McGuire, Pat's wife and former Nursing instructor at JJC, and former educator and retired JJC President, J.D. Ross (2000-2006) and his wife, Sharon.

When we do go on legislative visits, we provide legislators with a folder of information about SUAA, JJCAA and various other items. We ask specific questions about pension reform, funding for education, wages, freezes, and pending legislation among other topics. We tell them who JJCAA is and that is one reason why it is so important that people become members. The more JJCAA members we can show are in a legislator's district, they more they listen to us. We are there to ask their opinions, give facts, and establish a relationship so they can call on us if they want further information. Our visits usually last an hour, and I find we are well received. We have no more events or visits scheduled, but I am sure there will be more plus lots of information about issues. Keep in touch and stay tuned.



Photos of past legislative visits

## THE FOUNDATION

The Foundation of JJC is participating with JJCAA for this year's annual meeting and hopefully will continue to do so. It is sponsoring the continental breakfast and helping with arrangements

## NEW JJCAA SCHOLARSHIP

JJCAA has established an annual scholarship of \$500. This scholarship is restricted to the spouse or dependent of a JJCAA member. The applicant must earn twelve (12) credit hours with a 3.0 GPA to qualify.

## SUMMATION OF SOME OF THE SUAA PRESENTATIONS:

*(Continued from page 1)*

currently the worst credit rating in the United States and that bonds may not work. However, the speaker made clear that restoring confidence in the State's finances is the key. He spent much time in this area. One key element is that the bonds would not be paid back by the pension system but through general revenues. Finally, Mr. Martwick addressed these factors: the length of time ( some 27 years), the rate percentage (probably 6.75 %), and the need to educate the public about resolving the pension crisis before it becomes an impossible task. Certainly, his presentation, his enthusiasm, and his dedication to this issue should give SUAA members hope!

### “Legislation Affecting Currently Working”, Leo Welch

Retired Professor Welch was a delight. He has been a trustee at Eastern Ill. University and an activist in organizing faculty at his own community college in Belleville. In his presentation, he startled his audience a bit by asserting that the recent Illinois Supreme Court ruling on the unconstitutionality of Senate Bill 1 ( for which SUAA paid nearly a MILLION dollars to defend) is not dead. He cited numerous attempts by legislators to reverse that ruling by calling for a Constitutional Amendment. In addition, he cites some legislators who want to abolish the State Community College Board and local community college boards and ultimately make the Illinois Board of Higher Education the sole governing body for post-secondary education. Such a move could eliminate collective bargaining, pensions, and on-and-on!!

## Calendar of Events:

JJCAA ANNUAL MEETING  
7/11/2018 8:30AM  
JJC Main Campus, T-1001 & 1003

JJCAA BOARD & LEGISTRATIVE  
COMMITTEE MEETINGS  
9/14/2018 11:00 AM  
11/9/2019 11:00 AM  
3/14/2019 11:00 AM  
5/10/2019 11:00 AM  
9/13/2019 11:00 AM  
11/14/2019 11:00 AM  
JJC Main Campus, J-1005

JJCAA PICNIC  
9/19/2018 4:30 PM  
Inwood Park

SUAA FALL BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
MEETING  
TBA 9:00-2:30  
Illinois State University

JJCAA ANNUAL MEETING 2019  
TBA  
JJC Main Campus



## **WWW.SUAA.ORG**

### **SUAA's website for current information:**

Editors note: due to time/space limitation of the newsletter -

Please visit the SUAA website for complete information about SUAA activities.

- Linda Brookhart's Mini Briefing's
- SUAA Foundation
- SUAA Foundation Emergency Assistance Fund
- SUAAAction
- SUAA Legal Fund

### **SUAA FOUNDATION**

The SUAA Foundation, established in 1989, is authorized to support education and dissemination of information on issues affecting the welfare of SUAA members, provide Emergency Assistance Grants to chapters which are supporting members who face financial crises, and assist chapters establishing Survivor Assistance Programs. Recently, the Foundation Board has approved an Emergency Assistance matching grant to a chapter whose member suffered a health emergency while abroad and needed prompt, drastic aid with medical and transportation costs. At the June 2017 Annual Meeting, the Foundation set up a luncheon where John Meyers of the Springfield Social Security Office described to our chapter directors how SURS benefits and Social Security benefits interact for those employees who can qualify for both. This is a matter that few people, including journalists and legislators, understand clearly, so having our spokespeople well informed was a service to SUAA as a whole.

We continue to work on ways to provide information and assistance to our chapters and members, and we appreciate your continuing support. Please consider a contribution to the SUAA Foundation. The service and assistance is worthy of such a contribution. Any amount will be greatly appreciated and further serve all SUANJJCAA members. Please send your check to SUAA, 217 East Monroe Street, Suite 100, Springfield, IL 62701.

### **SUAA FOUNDATION EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FUND**

One of the purposes of the SUAA Foundation as described in its Bylaws is to provide "emergency assistance to SUAA members who are in need of financial support."

The Foundation's Emergency Assistance Program has been designed to provide such support for members who are facing immediate, severe, and temporary financial hardships due to an emergency. The fund is usually limited to a once per lifetime award of up to \$1500. To be considered for an award, an individual must have been a SUAA member for 5 years or more. Examples of events covered by the Emergency Assistance Fund: • Serious illness • Legal fees or fines • Fire • Major purchases (e.g., vehicle or appliance) • Natural Disaster • Chronic debt including bankruptcy • Death of a family member

### **SUAAAction**

SUAAAction is our political action committee working for our best interests in the shifting (and shifty?) landscape of the legislature. As you know from the news, Springfield had been at a standstill until suddenly they passed a six-month compromise budget. There has been no action on pension reform and funding, but it is still the state's biggest financial headache. It is hard to believe that after the election there won't be some action on pensions. When there is, we want to have some influence. SUAAAction is what gives us the chance to have that influence.

For those of you who have already contributed, THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU. For those of you who have not yet contributed (or those of you who could squeeze out another small contribution) here's another chance.

### **SUAA LEGAL FUND**

The SUAA Legal Fund is exclusively used to cover court costs and attorney fees when SUAA must go to court on behalf of all SURS participants and beneficiaries. Public Act 98-0599 - Pension Reform, is the law that was ruled Unconstitutional by the Illinois Supreme Court, saving the average pensioner hundreds of thousands of dollars during their pension's lifetime. Yes, it most definitely could occur again. The legislators continually seek to solve the pension indebtedness upon the backs of SURS participants and beneficiaries rather than seeking a solution(s) which would ultimately repay the \$130 billion dollar pension debt. Remember who created the \$130 billion debt in the first place! Our insurance may be the next target.

## SUAA MINI BRIEFING

Linda Brookhart

### Bipartisanship works . . .

Both Senate and House easily passed the State Budget with bipartisan votes – Senate 54 – 02; House 97 – 18. The Budget now heads to Governor Rauner who agreed to sign this bill before its passage. The State will be able to start Fiscal Year 2019 with the ability to function beginning July 1, 2018.

This Budget Bill (HB 0109 SAM 003) contains 1245 pages. It recognizes a \$1.1 Billion increase from Fiscal Year 2018 bringing the State Budget for Fiscal Year 2019 up to \$38.1 Billion.

A Budget Bill in Illinois needs a Budget Implementation Bill (BIMP). A BIMP bill contains the language needed to allow the State to spend the money in the Budget. HB 3342 SAM 003 shows a savings of \$445 Million recognized by offering a voluntary pension buyout program to SERS, SURS, and TRS members. The actual language begins on [Page 679](#). However, the simpler explanation is:

#### **BIMP – Pension**

##### Tier 1 Pension Buy-Out for Vested, Inactive Members

Offers a pension buy-out in an amount estimated at 60% net present value of assets to all Tier 1 members who have a vested pension but are no longer active members of SERS, SURS, and TRS.

Estimated Savings: \$41M

A maximum of \$1 billion in bonds over the course of 3 years will be issued to pay for this proposal and the 3% COLA buy-out.

##### 3% COLA Buy-Out

Provides retiring Tier 1 members an option to have their automatic annual increases calculated at 1.5% in exchange for an accelerated pension benefit payment equal to 70% of the difference between the actuarial present value of the automatic annual increase under the Tier 1 provision (3%) and the actuarial present value of an automatic annual increase of 1.5%.

Estimated Savings: \$381.9M

A maximum of \$1 billion in bonds over the course of 3 years will be issued to pay for this proposal and the buy-out for vested, inactive members.

##### Reduce Spiking Cap to 3% from 6%

Reduces the salary spiking cap from 6% to 3% starting in FY 19. Any pension costs due to a salary increase over 3% would be covered by the local employer.

Estimated savings: \$22M

##### Recertification

Requires a recertification of the state contribution for FY 19 to reflect the changes to SERS, SURS, and TRS no earlier than June 15, 2019 and no later than June 30, 2019. Monthly vouchers will not be paid for the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> month of the fiscal year 2019 until the recertification is submitted to the Governor, the Comptroller, and the General Assembly.

**College Insurance Program (CIP)** – while this is a continuing appropriation in the State Budget, the money is not always made visible. On page 338 of the State Budget \$4,390,811 has been appropriated for FY 2019. SB 3046 passed out of both the House and Senate. Final stop will be the Governor's desk. This bill allows community college retirees to enroll or re-enroll in the program of health benefits during any applicable annual open enrollment period. This bill is also applicable for the Teachers Retirement Insurance Program (TRIP).

## 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 MEETING: JJCAA**

Wednesday, July 11th

T Building: 1000-1001 from 9:00 am—10:30 am

Continental Breakfast at 8:30 am

**Please make every effort to attend; we need you!**



### JJCAA Annual Picnic

September 19, 2018

4:30 pm

Inwood Park

**Plates & Plastic ware & Chicken will be supplied.**  
**Please bring a dish to pass. (based in Last name initial)**

**A-F Hot Dish**

**F-M Desert**

**N-Z Salad or Veggies**



**Come enjoy an evening with friends and colleagues and share summer adventures and travels.**



**JOLIET**  
 JUNIOR COLLEGE  
 —1961—  
 ANNUITANTS  
 ASSOCIATION

**JJCAA IS AN ANNUITANTS ORGANIZATION**

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

Increased Membership = Increased Revenue for JJCAA = Better Financial Base

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.



## Joliet Junior College Annuitants Association

Joliet Junior College  
1215 Houbolt Road  
Joliet, IL 60431-8938

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

### **ANNUAL MEETING: JJCAA**

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