

JJCAA SUMMER 2023 Newsletter

PRESIDENT'S REPORT Patrick Asher

July 2023

Hello Everyone,

I hope each of you is well!!

It has been a busy year. I did attend the Annual Meeting in Springfield with my wife Sharon on June 14th and 15th, and I will attend the yearly meeting at ISU on the 25th of November.

JJCAA has been working diligently to increase its membership! Over the past few years, the Board has been involved in a letter writing campaign at our Board meetings. In fact, letter writing has become a steady diet at EACH meeting. The results were positive and have been positive. One thing that we discovered is that emails do not work; personal letters do!! Since 2019, we have gained 133 new members. We now have 324 total members as opposed to 260 a few years ago! We need to keep in mind that attrition is a factor, primarily for those who have passed away. The key here is that the credit belongs to the Board of JJCAA!!!! We still have a way to go, but we are getting there!! A copy is found on Page 2.

In addition, when an individual does join, I send that person a letter of gratitude. That letter is found on p.3.

SUAA's Membership Committee consists of four (4) members, two (2) from the community colleges and two (2) from the four (4) year schools and universities. I volunteered to serve. As well, I felt honored to serve as co-chair this year and did announce the new officers at our Annual Meeting.

As well, at our Annual Meeting, Linda Brookhart, Executive Director, recognized JJCAA for its work in increasing memberships. Of the 55 Chapters, we gained the greatest number of members in terms of percentages!!!!!!! Subsequent to that announcement, the two (2) delegates from the University of *III. Circle* approached me about our success. They then asked if I would participate in a two (2) hour Zoom meeting with their Board. I shared our strategies, and they were very appreciative.

N.B. Our Annual Picnic is on September 20th at 4pm at Inwood Park!! Chicken will be served; bring a dish to pass!! Hope to see you then!!

INSIDE:

INVITAION TO JOIN	2	
THANK YOU FOR JOINING	3	
SUAA ANNUAL MEETING	4	
A TRIBUTE	4	
WELCOME NEW MEMBERSHIP	S	5
2022 MEMBERS	6	
JJC SCHOLARSHIP	7	
SPECIAL REMEMBRANCE	8	
OTHER NOTATIONS	8	
IN APPRECIATION	9	
IN MEMORIAM	9	
JJCAA OFFICERS / DELEGATES	10	
UPCOMING EVENTS	10	
SUAA SCHORLARSHIPS	11	
SUAA ACTION	11	
HOW TO JOIN	12	
MEMBERSHIP FORM	13	

JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE ANNUITANTS' ASSOCIATION

A CHAPTER OF STATE UNIVERSITIES' ANNUITANTS ASSOCIATION

Dear

We are asking that you join the organization that works hard to protect our pensions and benefits, namely the Joliet Jr. College Annuitants' Association (JJCAA). This organization works for retirees as well as those of you who will retire someday. It is part of the State Universities Annuitants' Association (SUAA) of which there are 55 Chapters.

In 2014, members of the General Assembly wrote Senate Bill 1, which was a threat to all of us!! While addressing the State's financial problems, some provisions from that Bill targeted our pensions, namely SURS, along with the other 4 pension systems.

The sponsors of that Bill also created the concept of "police powers" that would have enabled the General Assembly to ignore or by-pass the Constitution of the State of Illinois and the State's obligations to honor our pensions. Ultimately, our pensions became one of the targets in the General Assembly's efforts to fix the State's financial woes.

sponsors to court, all the way to the Illinois Supreme Court. That struggle lasted for more than a year. The Supreme Court ruled that the th

Our organization took the en existing Senate Bill 1 was unconstitutional. In fact, the Supreme Court ruled that the General Assembly had every obligation to live by the Constitution and our pensions, both Tier 1 and Tier 2. In short, the State Universities Annuitants' Association won!

It cost SUAA nearly 1 million dollars in legal fees to defeat that existing Bill. That money came from us, those of us active in JJCAA and the other 54 chapters of SUAA. We members all chipped in. Now, we ask that you help as well by joining our organization.

Finally, funding is still an issue!!

Joining is simple. Your \$1.85 per pay check will make it happen. Please see Option 1 in the Deduction Form and send to Director Judy Connelly in Human Resources.

The 324 active members in JJCAA await your response!

Respectfully,

Patrick Asher, Ted Thompson, JoAn Ayorinde, Jim Cooper, Jerry Lewis, Linda Aguilar, Nicki Blowers, Sue Malmberg, Mary Ann Oetter, Scott Olsen, Karin Randolph, Jerry Zebrowski JJCAA Board

JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE ANNUITANTS' ASSOCIATION

A CHAPTER OF THE STATE UNIVERSITIES' ANNUITANTS ASSOCIATION

The Board of Joliet Jr. College Annuitants' Association and I want to thank you very much for joining our organization!

We spend a goodly amount of time working to protect our pensions and benefits, both for retirees and those who will retire someday. Both our pensions and benefits have been under attack for a very long time; some would argue that it goes back as far as 1917!! <u>Finally, and most importantly, our pensions and benefits are currently funded at only 55%.</u>

I will add your name to the list of new members for 2023!

You may also want to visit two websites: JJCAA and SUAA.

Hope you are well and enjoying JJC!

In gratitude.

Patrick Asher President, JJCAA patasher@hotmail.com

SUAA Annual Meeting

At our Annual Meeting in Springfield, all of the speakers were excellent!

One speaker of note was Jim Reed, the Executive Director of the Illinois Community College Board of Trustees. He addressed what the advantages are for community colleges enrollees. One is the cost, noting that tuition is significantly less, and living costs are as well. He noted that, on average, a student saves \$30.000 during those two (2) years!! A second issue was very interesting: obtaining a Bachelor's degree! He cited that 25 States now offer that degree at 2 year colleges. His hope is that more States will join in this endeavor!



The keynote speaker was Andy Manar, the Illinois Deputy Governor for Budget and Economy. He addressed the many accomplishments of Governor Pritzer. Here is a partial list of his financial achievements.

- 1. Four years ago, the State was 17 billion in debt.
- 2. During the last two years, the State has paid off 10 billion.
- 3. There have been eight upgrades from Moody.
- 4. There has been 285 million paid into the Pension System for higher education this year alone.

The Deputy Governor was a very dynamic presenter, and the audience appreciated each minute!!!

A Tribute:

Ted Thompson has been teaching at JJC for 50 years and has done so with dedication and distinction! He retired in 2022.

In the fall of 1967, he began teaching in the English Department when JJC shared space with Joliet Central High School. He participated in numerous department activities, taught Rhetoric and Literature classes, and developed a Film class. He was instrumental in the literary publication, "The Contemporary," and oftentimes was a contributor!

Further, he was very active in the faculty union, serving on the FIRST negotiating team that brought the FIRST contract to our faculty. Many long hours were devoted to that feat!! He also served as Vice-President of the union and worked on the Grievance Committee, among other tasks!

He was a devoted partner in JJC's semester long Critical Thinking seminar. Many lively sessions developed with him.

Finally, he has been very active as a Board Member in JJCAA for 20 plus years, both as Vice-President and as the representative to SUAAction, SUAA's political arm!!

To Ted who has accomplished this much in 50 years, we congratulate him!!!

Pat

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS TO JJCAA/SUAA

SUAA'S MEMBERSHIP IS ALWAYS AN ISSUE FOR DISCUSSION AT OUR STATE MEETINGS. THE LEADERS AT SUAA ARE VERY MUCH CONCERNED. FOR EXAMPLE, IN 2016, OUR MEMBERSHIP WAS 16,500. TODAY, IT IS AT 12,900. PROBABLY, THE BIGGEST CONCERN IS THE OBVIOUS FINANCIAL RESTRAINTS IT POSES ON THE ASSOCIATION. GIVEN THE LEGAL FEES OF NEARLY I MILLION DOLLARS SPENT BY SUAA IN DEFEATING SENATE BILL 1 IN 2014, OUR CONCERN SHOULD SPEAK FOR ITSELF!!!

The Officers and Delegates 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. JJCAA's current membership is at about 320 since 2019. We have gained some 120 new members since then.

Members: 2019-2021

Alstott. Melissa - Clerical Althoff, Clifford - Business Education Batis, Susan - Nursing Betcher, Susan - Business Education Campbell, Pamela - Clerical Carrillo, Teresa - English/ World Languages Cave, Paul - Technical Cowger, Adam - Fine Arts Delfinado, Julie - English/ World Languages Doyle, Dennis - Social /Behavioral Sciences Eklund, Michelle - Clerical Giampaolo, Julie - Fine Arts Hannigan, Brian - Police Hedrick, Michelle - Facilities Jabara, Rudayna - Communications/External Relations Kircher, Bradley - Spouse Kircher, Marlene - Secretary/CIOS Kramer, Cathy - Literacy Specialist Kulczak, Jorie - Nursing Marqua, Laura - Fine Arts McGreal, Michael - Culinary Arts Meyer, Michelle - Business Education Nickel, Bridget - Fine Arts Andy Neill - Natural Sciences Perkins, Lisa - Ag. Hort /Vet Sciences Pieklo, Stanley - Computer Information/Office Systems Ready, Regan - Police Sakowicz, Karen - LRC Schahrer, Lori - Fine Arts Terrazas, Isabel - Support Tolios. Athanasios - Clerical

Thank you for your membership!! Patrick Asher, President Quinn, Amanda -Professional Upshaw, Cheryl -Technical Walker, Aimee - LRC Wordlaw, Sandra - Clerical Zelman, Carrie—Natural Sciences

Bratolli, Tamara - English/World Languages Clark. Judith - Technical Creighton, Jane - I-CampusCzerniak, Bradley - Natural Sciences Dilday, Pamela - Administration Dykstra, Deborah-Business Education Feldman, Thomas - Natural Sciences Fisher, Jeffrey - Director, Technology Support Services Fitzgerald, Debbie- Nursing Golich, Robert - Vice-Pesident, Administrative Services Gononi. Donald - Natural Sciences Kriz. John - Business Education Kozlowski, David - Coordinator, Facility Services Magruder, Mary - Nursing Matthews, Susanne - Natural Sciences Mulvey, Kristin - Executive Director. Institutional Advancement Olsen, Francine - Spouse Roessler, Tim - Director, Enterprise Applications Schroeder, Paul - Nursing Lab Assistant Thompson, Kenneth - Culinary Arts Van Donk, Vivian - Fine Arts Walsh, Arlene - Administration White, Geoffrey - Supervisor, Physical Science Labs

MEMBERS IN 2022

Grover Alexander - Mathematics Brad Angus - Agriculture Sandra Barrera - Administrative Specialist Brandon Campbell - Campus Police Pamela Campbell - Mail Room Supervisor Lori Carpenter - Payroll Manager Jason Eltrevoog - Mathematics Anne Esquivel - Business Education Brian Fruits-Esparza - Fine Arts **Rebecca Goad - Mathematics** Susan Humenik -Schmidt - Nursing Lori Johnson - Business Education Kyriakos Kypriotakis- Mathematics Kristin La Tour - English/World Languages Kerry Lane - English/World Languages Laura Michelsen - Health and Public Services Monica Marguez-Nelson - Natural Sciences Cameron Martin - Technical Frederick Miller - Agriculture Rachel Moreno - Natural Sciences Charles Morgan - Fine Arts James Morgan- Mathematics Heidi Munsey - Counseling Michael Novak - I T Pamela Nugent - Nursing Annette Oh - Fine Arts James Ostrom - Technical Timi Paul - Campus Police Tammy Perkins - Fine Arts Jonathan Reid - Campus Police Geoffrey Rusch - Media Services Leanora Schloesser - Campus Police Jeff Smith - Campus Police Mari Stanbach - English/ World Languages

Cassandra Stepney - Nursing Michael Taylor - Nursing Brittany Valach - Nursing Robert Verkler - Health and Public Services Danita White - English/ World Languages Tracy Williams - Campus Police

RENEWED MEMBERSHIPS 2022-2023

Zack Bloomfield - Fine Arts Wayne Gawlik - Business Education Shirley Hacker - Facility Services Mark Krueger - Facility Services Jean MCarther - Mathematics Sandra Baker McKeon - Counseling Pamela Motyka - Enrollment Management Barb Peterson – Social Sciences Karin Sakowicz - Library Rita Sova - Nursing Delia Ulloa-Jimenez - Communications Aimee Walker – Library

NEW MEMBERS 2023

Marcus Abston - Natural Sciences Juan Aguilar - Technical Dawn Baffa - Facility Services Eric Bell - Culinary Arts Kate Coughlin - Grant Developer Katherine Delgado – Assistant Registrar Jason Fitchel – English /Foreign Languages Dain Meza-Gato - Director, Workforce Education Jill Geers – HR Generalist Karen Magno-Scheer – Secretary, Vet Tech Myra Mitchell - Secretary, Social and Behavioral Sciences Richard Mitchell – Spouse, Judy Mitchell Dr. Clyne Namuo - President Jacquiline Prebe - Application Support Specialist Karin Randolph - Facility Services Amy Kuspa Sims – Manager, Student Activities James Weaver - Specialist, Graduation and Records

JJCAA SCHOLARSHIP OF \$500.00

Another accomplishment 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.
- Joliet Junior College Annuitants Association Annual Scholarship online at the Joliet Junior College web site <u>www. jic.edu/info/scholarships.</u>
- 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.





Special Remembrance:

Marilyn Heniff passed away on June 10, 2023. She was an dedicated professor in the Mathematics Department for 30 years! Beyond that, she served as a Board Member of the Joliet Jr. College Annuitants' Association for many years where she contributed as Treasurer and as Secretary! I was always struck by her insights and recommendations. In fact, she is responsible for our contributions to the Foundation upon the death of a member.

A scholarship has been awarded in her name!!

Peace to you, Marilyn.

Other Notations:

Our Annual Meeting was quite successful, thanks to the 30 members who attended. Dr. Namuo greeted members and spoke as well. In addition, Thomas Martin from SUAA was our guest speaker.

The annual Foundation Meeting of SUAA was held on June 14th in Springfield under the direction of Chairman Elliott Dudnik. The attendance was superb with 30 Chapter Delegates and others participating in discussions about scholarships, budgetary issues, and membership increases!!!

Linda Brookhart, Executive Director of SUAA, will be retiring in December after 17 years of very productive work!! We will miss her, and we wish her the best!!!

Fern Rau has finished her work as Director of the Annual JJC Membership Report. We appreciate all of her efforts!!!

Our Annual Meetings have been graced with great food, thanks to the Foundation!!!

We have received five (5) new members within the last month:

Dawn Baffa - Facilities Karin Randolph - Facilities Jacquiline Prebe - Application Support Specialist Karen Sackowicz - Library (rejoined) Dr. Clyne Namuo - President

IN APPRECIATION:

The entire Board of JJCAA.

Karen Sakowicz for her many contributions. We wish her well!!!!!!

Scott Olsen for his exceptional work as Editor of the Newsletter!!!!!!!!!

JoAn Pollack Ayorinde and her great work as our Secretary!!!!!!

Jim Cooper and his thorough work as Treasurer!!!!!!!

Linda Aguilar, Nicki Blowers, Mary Ann Oetter, Jerry Zeborowski, JoAn Ayorinde, Sue Malmberg , and Karin Randolph for their enthusiasm and contributions!!

Jerry Lewis as past President.

Ted Thompson as our representative to SUAAction.

Judy Connelly, Director of Human Resources, for her on-going efforts!!! She does a phenomenal job!!!

IN MEMORIAM

List of JJC family members/spouses that have passed away in 2022-2023

Sally Grace Grace Boyle Patricia Pillard Dan Krezenski Dave Cattron Art Wagner Betty Zacate Mary Wagner



Joan Hinch Marilyn Heniff Walt Zada Joyce Hendrix Dale Layman Al Racchini Dr. Walter Stein Roz Stone



ASSOCIATION

JJCAA SUMMER 2023 NEWSLETTER



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!

2021-2023 Term **JJCAA Officers**

President: Patrick Asher Vice President: Ted Thompson Secretary: Joan Ayorinde Treasurer: Jim Cooper Immediate Past President: Jerry Lewis

JJCAA Delegates

Linda Aguilar Nicki Blowers Sue Malmberg Mary Ann Oetter Scott Olsen Karin Randolph Jerry Zeborowski

Newsletter Editor: Scott Olsen

UPCOMING EVENTS

JJCAA OFFICERS AND DELEGATES; 9/8 AND 11/3 - 2023 **MAIN CAMPUS, J-1005 (MATHEMATICS CONFERENCE ROOM)** ANNUAL FALL PICNIC ; SEPTEMBER 20, 2023 AT INWOOD PARK SUAA FALL MEETING - ISU, 10/25/2023 **ANNUAL MEETING ; JUNE 2024 (TBA)**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR MEMBERSHIP— PATRICK ASHER

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

SUAA FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

These awards come from SUAA's Foundation. There are eight (8) \$1,000 awards each year. There are also two (2) professional awards of \$500. Visit SUAA website; the contact person is Alice Medenwald.

The Foundation relies heavily on its members for donations for scholarships! PLEASE CONSIDER GIVING!!

Last year, 52 members from JJCAA gave \$4,045!!! WE NEED MORE GIVERS!!!!

SUAA Foundation

I would urge all of you to be generous and donate to our political action committee. Without our support, our political influence is diminished greatly!! We need MORE DONORS!

	SUAActio State Universities Annuitants Polit P.O. Box 1770 Springfield, IL 6270	i cal Action Com r	nittee	
Name: _		SUAA membership number or Campus:		
Address:		Amount:	\$100	\$75
			\$50	\$25
			\$15	\$10
	Please make checks payable to: SUAAction, P.C 62705-1770. Paid for and prepared by SUAAction. A made available for purchase from the State Board of Elec Springfield, IL 62704. State Law requires political action and mailing address of contributors that exceed \$15 Occupation and employer is required for contributions o tax deductible.	copy of our repo tions, 2329 S. Ma committees to re o in aggregate	rt is or will be acArthur Blvd., port the name calendar year.	
			Other:\$	
			All contributi	ons are needed!
	For more information please Mail to: SUAAction P. Springfield, IL 627	O. Box 1770	4040.	

JOLIET JUNIOR COLLGE ANNUITANTS' ASSOCIATION A CHAPTER OF STATE UNIVERSITIES ANNUITANTS' ASSOCIATION

The **ONLY** organization in Illinois that works to protect our pensions and benefits, **NOW AND IN THE FUTURE**, is the State Universities Annuitants' Association (SUAA) of which the Joliet Junior College Annuitants' Association (JJCAA) is one of fifty-six (56) chapter members of SUAA.

SUAA works to hold the General Assembly accountable for its obligations to us, both Tier 1 and Tier II.

Specifically, in 2014, SUAA spent nearly 1 MILLION DOLLARS to defeat Senate Bill 1. This Bill would have had catastrophic effects on our pensions and benefits!!!! The sponsors of that Bill wanted to by-pass or ignore the Constitution to solve the State's financial problems at our cost! We members all chipped in to pay that amount. Now we ask that you get involved and join JJCAA.

The cost is minimal, just \$ 1.85 per pay period!!!!!

Option #1----- A \$ 1.85 FROM YOUR PAYROLL FOR EACH PAY PERIOD (26 PAY).

Send directly to Director Judy Connelly in Human Resources.

See the attached Form

The 324 active members in JJCAA await your response! Thank You.

Patrick Asher, President, JJCAA





JOIN JJCAA /SUAA

s your future pension, future health care, and the resistance against negative legislation worth \$48.00 a year? 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 \$48.00 annually. Current employees can write a \$48.00 check or use JJC payroll deduction. Use the attached membership form and make it a team effort. Thank you.

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.

SUAA-JJCAA MEMBERSHIP AND DUES DEDUCTION AUTHORIZATION FORM

Name	
Spouse (If applicable)	
Street Address	
City	State Zip Code
Telephone	Email address
Position At JJC	
Please check one: I am a current I am a spouse	
Check payment option best for you:	
(Send directly to Option # 2 Monthly Pensions Do Option # 3 Single Payment (\$48	N FROM YOUR PAYROLL FOR EACH PAY PERIOD (26 PAY) o Director Judy Connelly in Human Resources) eduction (\$4.00 deducted from your monthly annuity check) 8.00 payable to SUAA) I Deduction (\$24.00 deducted from your payroll in fall & spring)
REQUIRED FOR OPTION # 2 ONLY:	
JJCAA as the current rate of dues. The dec	irement System (SURS) to deduct each month the amount as certified by duction is to start the first day of the month (to be determined by SURS and S that I want to cancel the deduction. I also authorize SURS to provide
Signature	

Return this form FOR OPTIONS 2, 3 AND 4 to Jim Cooper, 407 West Bevan Dr. Joliet, IL 60435

For the single payment option, include a \$48.00 check made payable to SUAA .

UNIOR COLLEGE

ANNUITANTS ASSOCIATION

CHAPTER OF

SUAA