



STATE UNIVERSITIES ANNUITANTS ASSOCIATION AND FOUNDATION

*Serving retirees, spouses and survivors from the public Universities
and Community Colleges of Illinois*

3085 Stevenson Drive • Suite 301 • Springfield, IL 62703
Telephone (217) 585-2370 • (888) 547-8473 • Fax (217) 585-2372
e-mail: suaa@suaa.org • website: www.suaa.org

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Don Naylor, CAE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President:

Terry M. Weidner (EIU)
44 Heather Drive
Charleston, IL 61920
(217) 345-5320
tmweidner@niu.edu

Past-President:

David Hilquist (OCC)
1 Cayuga Court
Hawthorne Woods, IL 60047
(847) 823-2214
dhilquis@oakton.edu

Treasurer:

Katharine Kral (UIUC)
23 Long Grove Drive
Monticello, IL 61856
(217) 782-2849
kral@monticellopro.net

Member-at-Large:

Burton Witthuhn (WIU)
1106 Bayberry Lane
Macomb, IL 61455
(309) 833-1939
13jose22@msn.com

Member-at-Large:

Alan Voelker (NIU)
1505 Margaret Lane
DeKalb, IL 60115
815/756-7447
avoelker@niu.edu

Member-at-Large:

Rance Thomas (LCC)
2480 Wedgwood Drive West
Florissant, MO 63033
(314) 921-7364
rlthomas257@aol.com

Member-at-Large:

Janet Cook (ISU)
17438 East Walden Road
Hudson, IL 61748
(309) 726-1664
jmcook@ilstu.edu

February 14, 2007

Dear Colleagues,

State universities and community college retirees and employees face increasing threats to their pension and health benefits. The State of Illinois continues to face a structural deficit problem. The governor's recent push to sell the lottery system for an estimated \$10 billion is clear evidence of the problem. Rumors suggest that SURS will see yet a third year of underfunding.

SUAA took action several years ago to address challenges to the current system of funding your pensions commonly referred to as defined benefits plans. After several years of preparation SUAA created **SUACTION**, a political involvement committee to become politically active. In the past it was possible to successfully advocate legislatively through lobbying. This is no longer the case since politics in Illinois has become a pay to play game.

To address these challenges to both active and retired SURS members, SUAA in 2005 established **SUACTION**. **SUACTION** will serve as the political advocacy arm of SUAA. Through **SUACTION**, SUAA will maintain a permanent political presence in Springfield in addition to lobbying in the traditional manner. If successful our move will send a clear signal to those wanting to continue to underfund your retirement system and reduce or eliminate hard earned benefits.

SUACTION will focus its activities in four major areas: (1) securing full funding for SURS in accordance with the 1995 pension law and oppose all efforts to further erode our pension benefits; (2) promoting the highest ethical and professional standards in the management of SURS assets; (3) preserving the health benefits we now enjoy; (4) expanding efforts to eliminate Social Security penalties, the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO).

The **SUACTION** political advocacy program will be expensive, and dues cannot be used for political purposes since SUAA is a non-profit, bi-partisan organization. **SUACTION** has recommended that its activities be financed by voluntary contributions. Will you volunteer?

If **SUACTION** is to be successful, it needs your support. If you have not yet contributed to **SUACTION**, please do so now by using the form below. If you have already made a contribution, we thank you for your support. Additional contributions are always welcome.

Thank you in advance for helping us move forward.

SUACTION CONTRIBUTION

Please send directly to: SUAA (Make check payable to **SUACTION**)

3085 Stevenson Drive, Suite 301

Springfield, IL 62703

Enclosed is my voluntary contribution to protect my retirement benefits.

I am contributing: \$30__, \$25__, \$20__, \$15__, \$10__, other amount__

Please print your name and address here:

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