

**State Universities Annuitants Association – UIC UNITED**  
**April 9, 2011 Annual UIC Retirement Planning Conference**

**What can you do to protect your benefits? (Choose one)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Do nothing. Cross your fingers and hope the legislature does not reduce our promised pension, health coverage, and survivor benefits.

\_\_\_\_\_ Join SUAA – the State Universities Annuitants Association – UIC UNITED

**Why Join UIC UNITED/SUAA?**

**UIC UNITED/SUAA** is the *only* advocacy organization that exists to preserve pension and healthcare benefits for public university and community college employees - both active and retired - their spouses and survivors as well as SURS members who live out of state.

<http://www.uic.edu/orgs/suaa> and <http://www.suaa.org/>

**UIC UNITED/SUAA** works with its membership to assure that legislators, executive officers, and other policy makers are knowledgeable about member issues, to achieve legislation favorable to retirees, and to assure adequate funding of SURS. For more information, contact Bill Troyer, Vice President and Legislative Director of UIC UNITED, at [bandltroyer@gmail.com](mailto:bandltroyer@gmail.com). We track pending legislation affecting pension and healthcare benefit matters and state funding.

<http://www.suaa.org/legislation.php>.

**UIC UNITED/SUAA** hosts campus civic forums and brown bag lunches with speakers addressing issues of interest to you and relevant to your pension. It also convenes semi-annual luncheon meetings with notable speakers as well as social gatherings, such as a December holiday luncheon, that provide an opportunity to interact with other UIC UNITED members and UIC employees and retirees. <http://www.uic.edu/orgs/suaa/fuevents.html>

**UIC UNITED/SUAA** membership affords the opportunity to interact and build relationships with other members of SURS through the 52 local SUAA chapters on public university and community college campuses throughout Illinois <http://www.suaa.org/chapters.php>

**UIC UNITED/SUAA** membership provides a communication network through newsletters, legislative bulletins, websites, workshops, and meetings that informs and updates you on both local and state issues relative to, and focused on, pension and healthcare benefits.

<http://www.uic.edu/orgs/suaa/newsletter.html> <http://www.suaa.org/>

**UIC UNITED/SUAA** membership allows direct involvement in the legislative process through its affiliate, SUAAAction, a solid advocacy organization that protects the pension and healthcare benefits of the participants and beneficiaries enrolled in SURS.

<http://www.elections.state.il.us/DistrictLocator/DistrictOfficialSearchByAddress.aspx>

**When should you join?**

UIC UNITED/SUAA membership is open to all SURS participants, actively employed, and retired, young, old. You should join whenever you decide to help protect your benefits.

### **How much does UIC UNITED/SUAA membership cost?**

\$36 per year. If you are retired, you can ask SURS to deduct \$3 each month from your annuity. If you are still employed, you should pay by check.

**How to join?** <http://www.uic.edu/orgs/suaa/applicat.html> or write to State Universities Annuitants Association (SUAA) 217 E. Monroe St., Suite 100, Springfield, IL 62701

## **Alphabet Soup**

**State Universities Annuitants Association (SUAA)** began in 1971 -- an association of 14,000+ retirees and active employees from Illinois public universities and community colleges that works to protect and enhance retirement benefits of retirees and survivors in SURS. **SUAA** works with its membership to assure that legislators, executive officers, and other policy makers are knowledgeable about member issues, to achieve legislation favorable to retirees and to assure adequate funding of SURS. <http://www.suaa.org/>

**UIC UNITED** – the UIC chapter of SUAA. <http://www.suaa.org/> M/C 270, Room 146F PPB. To add your name to the listserv, contact the webmaster at [suaa@uic.edu](mailto:suaa@uic.edu)

**SUAAction** is a political action organization, a separate entity from SUAA but with the same legislative goals. While both SUAA and SUAAction are non-partisan, SUAAction participates in legislative lobbying and political fund-raising. It is more important than ever that we develop close ties to our representatives in the State legislature; in that endeavor, SUAAction seeks Legislative Contact Persons (LCPs) for each Senate and Representative district in Illinois. The LCPs develop a relationship with their representatives so that they can present the case for support of the SUAA position on key issues. To become an LCP for your district, contact Bill Troyer, Vice President and Legislative Director of UIC UNITED, at [bandltroyer@gmail.com](mailto:bandltroyer@gmail.com) or Dick Johnson, Political Involvement Director of UIC UNITED, at [rjohnson@uic.edu](mailto:rjohnson@uic.edu).

**State Universities Retirement System (SURS)** began in 1941 –the state-designated agency that serves 70 employers in Illinois, administering pensions for public university and community college employees in Illinois for 180,000 members world-wide.

<http://www.surs.com/homepage.surs>

- The employee contribution is equal to 8% of gross earnings.
- The State contribution is supposed to average about 9.1% of the total earnings of all SURS participants in the Traditional and Portable plans.
- The University makes no contributions to your retirement fund, but the State of Illinois guarantees to pay retirement annuities.
- The retirement benefit is subject to federal income tax. Illinois residents do not pay Illinois state income tax on the retirement benefit.
- Social Security taxes are not withheld from SURS earnings. SURS participants are not eligible for Social Security coverage based on their employment with a SURS-covered employer. <http://www.ssa.gov/>

**Central Management Services (CMS)** – The health, life, dental, and vision insurance that many SURS retirees have in retirement is administered by a state agency. Insurance carriers, premiums, and coverage are all developed and negotiated by CMS. SURS involvement in these benefits is limited. [http://www.state.il.us/cms/3\\_servicese\\_ben\\_choice/stateben.htm](http://www.state.il.us/cms/3_servicese_ben_choice/stateben.htm)