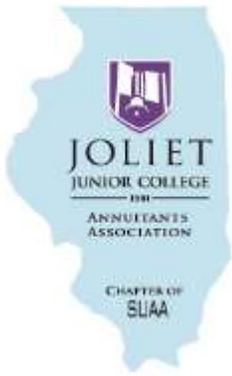


JJCAA Winter 2018 Newsletter



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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)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - PAT ASHER

One of our challenges this fall and winter was an effort to increase membership in JJCAA. We currently have approximately 275 members, primarily retirees, some spouses, and some current staff.

I decided that one area of recruitment would be the full-time faculty. What I discovered was rather astonishing; of our current full-time faculty of 215 members, only fifteen(15) are members of JJCAA!! I then drafted a letter on November 2th, and officers and board members diligently sent the letter to the 200 non-members. The result of this was also quite astonishing; only three(3) members responded and joined!! I am unsure of our next move. View the letter on page 2.



Next, and as usual, this new year presents interesting challenges as outlined in **Linda Brookhart's final news briefing of 2018**. Read carefully!!

" As 2018 ends, SUAA is excited to begin its discovery about what the new administration and the 101st General Assembly will bring to our attention. This past year was busy but not exceptionally grueling. All will change in January with approximately 50 new legislators embarking upon Springfield. The activity will increase as well as our role as a watchdog organization for all individuals in the SURS pension system.

Remember January of 2018? SUAA introduced a bill that would provide a solution to ease the ever-growing pension ramp that was created to bring the five pension systems up to 90 percent funding by 2045. While the conversation was started nothing moved forward. As 2019 approaches we are gearing up again to work on the solution. You will be hearing more from us - the engagement has already begun.

Many of the higher education bills that would affect those who are currently working did not pass. Unfortunately, a major one did. The 6% Rule Changed to 3% (Except for Certain Contracts and Collective Bargaining Agreements). There was an over-ride bill filed during Veto session, but it never came out of the Rules Committee. SUAA will be watching for another bill to be introduced in the New Year. Remember all bills that did not pass during the 100th General Assembly have failed and will need to be re-filed for the 101st General Assembly. Some of the former bill sponsors are not returning.

Please take the time to check out the SUAA website between now and the New Year. There is a lot of information there. The 2019 Legislative Platform is a strong document. Be sure to share.

Concerns regarding Tier II will continue. Concerns regarding Tier III will also be brought forward. Backdoor changes to current pensions will most likely continue to be sought. The cost of health-care is of growing concern, not to mention the debt already incurred. Even another attempt to take away the Pension Protection clause in State Constitution will most likely be on the forefront. How Governor-elect Pritzker addresses the State deficits, loss of population and higher education will most likely drive many other issues. What will come first? "

JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE ANNUITANTS ASSOCIATION

A CHAPTER OF STATE UNIVERSITIES' ANNUITANTS ASSOCIATION



2018-2020 Term

JJCAA Officers

President: Patrick Asher
Vice President: Tad Thompson
Secretary: Patricia Neff
Treasurer: Marilyn Heniff

Immediate Past President: Jerry Lewis

JJCAA Board

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

Newsletter Editor:
Scott Olsen

November 2, 2018

Dear Colleague,

As an officer/board member in Joliet Jr. College's Annuitants Association, I am asking for your support in protecting our pensions and insurance benefits.

In the past few years, SUAA (State Universities' Annuitants Association), of which JJCAA is a member, spent nearly 1 million (1,000,000) dollars to challenge the constitutionality of Senate Bill 1. If passed, this bill would have had significant negative effects on both our pensions and health benefits. However, we won. What is also significant here is that the funding came from those of us in JJCAA and other chapters.

We currently have 275 faculty, staff, retirees, and spouses who are members of JJCAA. However, of the 215 active full-time faculty, only 15 are members of JJCAA. In short, we need your involvement.

Therefore, I ask that you join us and support our organization by joining JJCAA at a cost of \$42.00 a year!! This equates to about 2 dollars a pay period! Would you complete the attached form and forward it to Marilyn Heniff?

Should you have questions, email Pat Asher, President of JJCAA, at patasher@hotmail.com. I really hope you will respond. Keep in mind that these issues are not only about retirees but about you and your future as well! This organization serves both those currently employed as well as those who are retired!!!!

N.B.1: Myth: SURS and SUAA are the same.

NO, SURS by law sends or will send you a pension check each month. It functions as a distributor of our funds. However, SUAA **protects** your benefits and interests and functions as a watchdog. Note the defeat of Senate Bill 1.

N.B.2: Myth: Everything is okay.

NO, everything is not okay. We are perceived by much of the public as the culprit for the State's financial woes. Another attempt to create a constitutional amendment to change our pensions and insurance benefits remains a threat. The General Assembly in large measure would support such an amendment.

Respectfully,

SUACTION;

In addition, WE NEED TO BE MORE GEREROUS . That is, funding for political issues is at the core of our existence. SUAAction is our political arm that earmarks monies to political candidates who support our causes. We currently have approximately 16,000 members in SUAA (both community colleges and universities). All of us have probably been asked at some point to contribute. However, only 20% responded in 2018 for a total of \$200,000. Would you not agree that this percentage is terribly inadequate?

I hope in 2019 we will be far more generous! The following attachment is an invitation to do so

SUAAction State Universities Annuitants Political Action Committee

P.O. Box 1770
Springfield, Illinois 62705-1770

Name: _____ SUAA membership number or Campus: _____
Address: _____ Amount: \$100 _____ \$75 _____ \$50 _____
_____ \$ 25 _____ \$15 _____ \$10 _____
_____ Other: \$ _____

All contributions are needed!

Please make checks payable to: **SUAAction**,
P.O. Box 1770
Springfield, IL 62705-1770.

Paid for and prepared by SUAAction. A copy of our report is or will be made available for purchase from the State Board of Elections, 2329 S. MacArthur Blvd., Springfield, IL 62704. State Law requires political action committees to report the name and mailing address of contributors that exceed \$150 in aggregate calendar year. Occupation and employer is required for contributions over \$500. Contributions are not tax deductible. For more information please call 217.523-4040.

You can also contribute on line at: <https://www.suaa.org/suaaction>

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS - PAT ASHER

On October 30th, Jerry Lewis, Pat Neff, and I attended the fall conference of SUAA in Bloomington. The following is a synopsis of the key speakers.

The first speaker was John Novack, a retired attorney from Farm Bureau. Among other issues, he concentrated on the structure of SUAA, suggesting that the current structure of 120 delegates be changed to a maximum of twenty(20) directors. Linda Brookhart has responded to his analysis and is proceeding to enact that significant change. Novack also spent much time on the effective structure of any major organization, addressing issues such as a director's rights, obligations, and responsibilities.

The second speaker, Curt Oldfield, President of Spoon River College, was really great. Young, bright, and energetic, he addressed the future of higher education, particularly community colleges. He spoke to the following:

- Escalating tuition
- Marginalized students— those at risk financially, including students who are homeless and foodless
- Equitable access for all students from all backgrounds
- Undeclared majors— negative impact
- First generation students— challenges and insecurities
- Dual credit— high school to college
- Better co-existence between community colleges and universities

Beyond that, Oldfield stressed time and again that students should feel that a degree is within reach for any student who works hard! This last concept was probably his biggest!!!!

The final speaker was Kent Redfield. He spoke of the on-going budget crisis in Illinois. He emphasized that spending vs. revenue is a huge problem that past governors have failed to tackle and win. As he said, "We are tethering on the edge of a cliff." Furthermore, he spoke repeatedly about the need for vision at the governor's office, stating that the last few leaders have not had that. Finally, he suggested that a progressive income tax is a valid one, but it would take three (3) years at least for that tax to have any real effect.

LEGISLATIVE CHAIR - PATRICIA NEFF

JJCAA has made no formal visits to legislators this year, but I/we have attended various events as JJCAA members and SUAAction (SUAA's political action group) members.

Last quarter of 2018, the four events were:

Sept. 10 – I attended State Rep. Mark Batinick's (R-97th Dist.) "Dinner in the District" event in Joliet along with JJCAA Board Member Mary Ann Oetter. He talked to us about meetings he had had with the college and spoke to attendees about issues facing his district (#). Those who also spoke were Laura McPhillips (Rfor Will County Clerk; lost the election) and Judge Victoria McKay Kenison (R-for Will Co. Circuit Judge; lost the election).

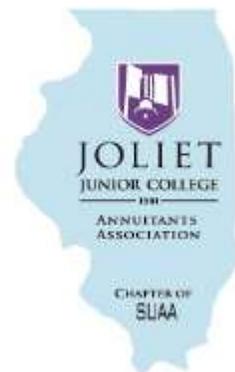
Sept. 17 – Ted Thompson and I played in Sen. Pat McGuire's (D-43rd Dist.) Golf Outing in Joliet. The outing sees people from education, transportation, industry, police and fire, and other groups. SUAAction sponsored one of the holes with signs.

Oct. 7 – I attended "Oktoberfest" in Morris which featured a number of local candidates as well as State Sen. Toi Hutchinson (D-Olympia Fields), and candidates Sara Dady (D-for US Congress-IL 16th Dist.; lost the election), Lisa Dugan (D-for State Rep.-79th Dist.; lost the election). I talked to all three about their support of education, teachers, and unions.

Oct. 20 – I attended the Grundy County Democratic Headquarters pop up visit from Democratic candidate J. B. Pritzker. I spoke to him for a minute and gave him information about SUAA and JJCAA to read later.

On October 28, I attended the SUAA Fall meeting along with Jerry Lewis and Pat Asher.

There is always so much to learn at this meeting, and plans are in the works for more change and improvement for next year. SUAA is working hard for us! If you are a current member, stay connected. If you are not a member, become one. The more members, the more clout we have when we make legislative visits. Stay tuned in and paid up.



JJC/JTHS “BREAKFAST” CLUB - JERRY E. LEWIS

The JJC/JTHS “Breakfast” Club is a group of full-time and part-time faculty and staff who meet on Wednesday mornings, 8:00 AM, at The Old Fashioned Pancake House on Jefferson Street in Joliet. Most attendees are retired, but some continue to teach part time. Spouses are not only welcome, but are encouraged to attend. This is not a “good old boy’s club.” Ladies — you are VERY welcome!

There are approximately 32 members if all are present. Usually there are 18-20 in attendance, half of the group being women.

The JJC/JTHS Breakfast Club was created in 1977 when Max Kuster and Ken Parker retired from JJC. They both wanted that very special camaraderie to continue. The group first met at Bob Evans, then Silver Spoon, and currently at The Old Fashioned Pancake House.

If you are reading this JJC Newsletter, you are welcome to join us on Wednesdays at 8:00 A.M. at the Old Fashioned Pancake House. Yes, individual checks are the order of the day.

“Current Cub” Attendees

**Rosemary Allen
Bob Cottingham
Bob Gutierrez
Jerry & Jane Lewis
John Peterson
Ted Thompson**

**Terry Bergin
Jim Egly
Tony & Dorothy Gutierrez
Harry Mathers
Henry & Pat Pillard
Art & Mary Wagner**

**Jim & Celeste Cooper
Silas & Olivia Ellingson
Curt Hieggelke
Vince McGurr
Al Racchini
Walt & Angela Zaida**

**John Corradetti
John Fillipitch
Len Hodgman
Scott Olsen
Patricia Shue
Jerry Zebrowski**

The following former members are no longer with us, but will never be forgotten.

**Bill Allen
Elmer Jamnick
Mel Larson
Jon Rau**

**Ed Beltzhoover
Matt Koechevar
Paul Lester**

**Duane Converse
Max Kuster
Will Miner**

**Phil Gollither
Neal Lance
Ken Parker**

Thank you, Max and Ken, for your great idea!

Come join us! The conversation is lively, and the camaraderie is fantastic! See you next Wednesday?



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

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS - PAT ASHER

Our fall picnic was held on September 19th at Inwood Park. It was an interesting event. It was great seeing John Corradetti, Art Wagner, Si Ellingson, Carolyn Engers, Marilyn Heniff, Pryce Keagle, Jerry and Jane Lewis, Jerry and Brenda Zeborowski, and so many others! I admit, however, my disappointment that more did not attend. We discussed this issue briefly at the November Board Meeting; possibly another day of the week might work better. Should you have any suggestions, forward them to me at patasher@hotmail.com.

Congratulations to our new members!! Vivian Van Donk, Fine Arts; John Kriz, Business Education, and Bradley Czemiak, Natural Sciences. In addition, James Baskin from English/World Languages joined after our Annual Meeting in July!!! We welcome all of them!!!!

Happy New Year! Hope you are well! - Pat Asher

Much gratitude to Scott Olsen for his excellent editorial work!!!!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

1. Next JJCAA Board Meeting: Friday, March 8, 2019 at 11am. in J-1005.
2. JJCAA Annual Meeting: Wednesday, July 10, 2019, from 8:30am - 12:00 in T-1000-1001.
3. SUAA Annual Meeting: Thursday & Friday, June 27 -28, 2019;
President Abraham Lincoln Hotel in Springfield.



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:

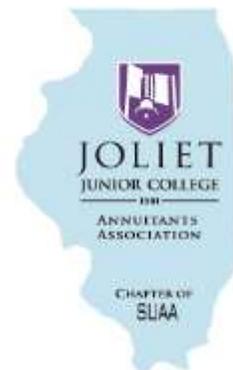
- Option # 1 Monthly Pension Deduction (\$3.50 deducted from your monthly annuity check)
- Option # 2 Single Payment (\$42.00 payable to SUAA)
- Option # 3 Semi-Annual Payroll Deduction (\$21.00 deducted from your payroll in fall & spring)

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.