

JJCAA Winter 2019 Newsletter



In Loving Memory of JJCAA's Founder

John Corradetti

June 6, 1925 — November 24, 2019

Obituary of John Corradetti

Age 94 of Joliet, passed away Sunday, November 24, 2019 at his late residence surrounded by the love of his family.

He is survived by his four loving children: John (Jane) Corradetti, Jr. of New Lenox, June (Thomas) Doughty of Joliet, Jean (Steven) Yates of Shorewood, James (Mary Lee) Corradetti of Joliet. He was a devoted grandfather to his six grandchildren: Stephanie (Dan) Manno, Stacy (Jason) Vitas, Nicole (Edward) Koncel, John R. (Michelle) Corradetti, Kate (Jay) Johnson, Carolyn (Mark) Panici; nine great-grandchildren, and his brother Raymond Corradetti of Chicago Heights.

Preceded in death by his loving wife of 68 years, Yolanda "Yola" Corradetti; sister Livia Zarlengo of Chicago Heights; parents Emedio and Dominica Corradetti.

John was born in Chicago Heights, IL and attended Bloom Township High School. After graduation, he served in the U.S. Navy during WWII, where he worked as a radio calibrator for the Allied ships in Okinawa. While stationed in Boston for a short time, he met the love of his life, Yolanda.

Upon completion of his service, the newlyweds moved back to Illinois where John continued his education, receiving a Business Administration degree at Illinois State University, and a Master's degree from Northwestern University. After teaching a few years at Joliet Township High School, he taught Business Education at Joliet Junior College and later became Business Department chairman. During his 42 years of teaching, John was proud to have taught over 10,000 students, and he touched the lives of so many more. As a leader at the college, John recognized the need for fair business practices for its faculty. He served as a teachers' union board member and union president for several years, securing health benefits and collective bargaining rights for JJC staff and all public employees.

For his service, John was the recipient of several JJC awards, including the Susan H. Wood Award. After his retirement, he continued to assist his colleagues by forming the JJC Annuitants Association. John worked with others to make sure members understood the financial transition from working to retirement. He worked tirelessly to understand the state's laws dealing with the SURS pension system, and he developed and published a guide instructing surviving faculty spouses pertaining to state pension

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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)

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system procedures. For seven years, he published quarterly newsletters for JJC retirees. John's legacy currently continues with the John and Yola Corradetti Endowed Scholarship at Joliet Junior College, which provides financial aid for students majoring in business.

John was known for his love of the game of golf. He served as a caddy in high school at the Homewood Flossmoor Country Club and for decades, you could find John golfing every Sunday morning at Woodruff or Inwood with many of his colleagues and friends. In his spare time, John loved to paint, garden, read, and travel. However, his favorite passion was his family. He adored his wife, four children, six grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. Nothing made him happier than a house full of family, where spaghetti, lasagna, meatballs or taffy apples were served on a regular basis.

He was a member of St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church, St. Paul Paulites, Veteran of Foreign Wars, KSKJ, and The Old Timers. John will be remembered for his kindness, gentleness, generosity, and sense of humor.

Memorials in his name to the John and Yola Corradetti Endowed Scholarship Fund c/o Joliet Junior College Foundation, 1215 Houbolt Road, Joliet, IL 60431 would be greatly appreciated. Visit his Memorial Tribute at www.fredcdames.com

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS TO JJCAA

The Officers and Board of Directors 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.

Please welcome the thirty-seven (37) new members from August to November of this year!!

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
Quinn, Amanda - Professional
Upshaw, Cheryl -Technical
Walker, Aimee - LRC
Wordlaw, Sandra - Clerical
Zelman, Carrie—Natural Sciences

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - PAT ASHER

Hello Fellow JJCAA Members,

This issue is dedicated to John Corradetti who passed away on November 24, 2019. John was the first President of JJCAA and served the Association with effort, dignity, and pride.



One issue that remains a challenge is increasing membership in our organization, which is a chapter member of SUAA (State Universities Annuitants' Association). During this past year, membership in SUAA has dropped by some 300 members. Part of this is due to our aging population. Thus, it is clear that chapters like JJCAA need to increase membership primarily with current employees! In fact, I have asked each officer and delegate to create two strategies for next year to increase membership.

In 2018, we had modest success, adding sixteen (16) new members whose names appeared in the Winter Newsletter of 2018. In 2019, our efforts increased and so did the results. We added thirty-seven (37) members through various activities:

- Additional and modified letters
- Appearing at the opening session of Staff Development: Linda Aguilar and Mary Ann Oetter
- Cafeteria appearance: Linda Aguilar and Marilyn Heniff
- Benefits Fair: Linda Aguilar
-

As well, with each new member, I send this acknowledgement: "The Officers and Delegates of JJCAA are grateful to you for joining our association. We will continue to work hard to protect our pensions and other benefits."

Further, while at the Benefits Fair, I had the opportunity to speak with our President, Dr. Judy Mitchell. She has invited me to the December 18th meeting to speak with her Cabinet of nearly forty (40) members about our association. Linda Aguilar will attend as well!

In addition, I have received tremendous support and cooperation from Judy Connelly, Director of Human Resources!! Without her efforts, my work would be much more difficult!! Many thanks as well to Amanda Quinn and Kristin Mulvey from the Foundation for sponsoring the continental breakfast at the Annual Meeting. The same appreciation goes to Scott Olsen, editor of this publication.

Finally, Senator Pat McGuire is retiring from the General Assembly, having served there since 2012. He was a mighty force in educational endeavors, and the citizens of the 43th District will miss his presence!! Prior to entering politics, he was a superb student at JJC and learned that Aristotle's claim that man was born for citizenship should be taken seriously; he did. In addition, he was an excellent adjunct professor of English 101 and 102 in the English/World Languages Department. I wish him and Laura the best in their futures!!

Peace,

Patrick Asher

LEGISLATIVE REPORT – PATRICIA NEFF

JJCAA has the designation of having to visit the most number of legislators in any college or university district in the state by way of the district maps. Sometimes, we let a closer institution visit a legislator, but we try our best to get to know those in the JJC district and educate them on the State Universities Annuitants Association (SUAA) and the JJC Annuitants Association Chapter. (JJCAA).



It is with great regret, that one of our best supporters and former JJC teacher, Senator Pat McGuire, will not be seeking reelection and will retire. Pat became the senator of the 43rd district in 2012 and will continue until January of 2021. He taught at JJC for seven years, namely classes ENG 098, 101, and 102, between the Fall of 1997 to the Fall 2005.

Pat McGuire has worked to invest in our community college system by increasing student financial aid, providing capital funding, and protecting retiree benefits.

McGuire often cites how far the state has drifted from its original community college funding paradigm: that 33% of the revenue would come from local property taxpayers, 33% from tuition and fees, and 33% from the state. Declining state funding for public higher education - a decline which hit rock bottom during the two-year budget impasse under former Governor Bruce Rauner - has resulted in a dreadful imbalance. In 2018, 54% of JJC's revenue came from property taxpayers, 36% from tuition and fees, and only 7% from the state. Obviously, this pinches homeowners and students and threatens to impact collective bargaining over retirement provisions.

McGuire chairs the Senate Higher Education Committee, is a member of the Appropriations II Committee which hears higher education budgets, and is a founder of the bipartisan, bicameral Higher Education Working Group. He has worked in all of these capacities to keep Joliet Junior College strong for students, staff, retirees, and District 525 residents.

He shares an office with State Representative John Connor, 85th District, and has endorsed him for senator. John also has teachers in the family and has been a good supporter of us as well.

We wish Pat all the best in retirement, but he is not gone yet so we will be visiting him in the spring, along with other candidates. It will be a busy year, to be sure. More details will follow in the summer newsletter.

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.
- The applicant must complete the application process for the JJC Annuitants' Association Annual Scholarship online at the Joliet Junior College web site
- [www. jic.edu/info/scholarships](http://www.jic.edu/info/scholarships). 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.

This year, there were no applications. It will be offered again in the fall of 2020. I urge those who qualify to apply!!!

ANNUAL PICNIC AND LUNCHEON

The picnic was fairly successful with twenty-three (23) attending. I think we will continue with this event because it gives retirees an occasion to gather and visit!!

The numbers are not great but acceptable. However, we will discuss a possible time change.

The luncheon at Hollywood Casino, Epic Café, our first, also went quite well. We are strongly thinking of moving this event to early in the year, probably in April. The committee of Linda Aguilar, Mary Ann Oetter, and Sue Malmberg will meet in January of 2020 to discuss various options!!

IN MEMORIAM

List of JJC family members/spouse that have passed away since August of 2019:

John Corradetti
Maria Trillo
James McCallister
Thomas Lopez
John McCollum
Richard Forneris
Ken Morrissette
Leona Shell
Preston Woods



SUAA FALL CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 5,2019 @ ISU

Interesting conference with Jerry and Jane Lewis and Pat Asher attending:

Round table discussions on the Foundation, Membership, SUAAAction, and Legislation.

President Guinn stressed the need to increase membership within each chapter. The same held true for our CEO, Linda Brookhart. One common goal for next year that was stressed is to get each member to attract one new member!!

Lou Anderson from SUAAAction stressed the need for more contributions as they have decreased this past year. Thus, we need to be more generous!!!!

Our total membership as of September is 14,467 with some decreases. For example, from May through September, SUAA lost 271 members.

SUAAAction
State Universities Annuitants Political Action Committee
 P.O. Box 1770
 Springfield, IL 62705-1770

Name: _____ SUAA membership number or Campus: _____

Address: _____ Amount: \$100 _____ \$75 _____
 _____ \$50 _____ \$25 _____
 _____ \$15 _____ \$10 _____

Other:\$ _____

Please make checks payable to: SUAAAction, P.O. Box 1770 , Springfield, IL 62705-1770. Paid for and prepared by SUAAAction. 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.

All contributions are needed!

For more information please call 217.523-4040.

Mail to: SUAAAction
 P.O. Box 1770
 Springfield, IL 62705-1770



State Universities
Annuitants Association

The Power of Effective Advocacy



June 2019

Dear SUAA Member:

2019 will be remembered in Springfield as one of the most eventful legislative sessions in modern history. We do not exaggerate: lawmakers approved more landmark legislation – from a balanced budget and a major capital program to significant abortion and marijuana legalization – in just one session than usually gets addressed over the course of several years.

We are encouraged for members of the State Universities Annuitants Association for two major reasons: progress after years of gridlock is welcome, and it did not come at the expense of our membership. We hope you will continue your membership to ensure similar success in future sessions.

Here is how this session affected our currently working and retired community college and university members:

- Budget – A \$40 billion state budget is balanced, did not require major tax or fee increases because of an influx in revenue late in the spring, and it makes important investments in higher education that were often absent under the previous administration. One of those ends a 3 percent cap put in place last year that limited the annual salary increases for K-12 and higher education employees that can be applied to your pensions.
 - Higher education receives a 5 percent increase in funding, and \$5 million will be devoted to the Community College Health Insurance Security Fund
- Capital program – A \$45 billion, six-year plan will make long-needed investment in our state's horizontals (roads, bridges, transit systems) and verticals (schools, universities, hospitals). Our community colleges and universities will receive hundreds of millions of dollars for repairing leaky roofs, improving classrooms and making other investments on campuses
- Pensions – Rest easy that your pension benefits are protected for another legislative session, thanks to the hard work of our SUAA team
 - Despite a proposal from Gov. Pritzker to skip pension payments, the state will make its required pension payment at the certified amounts to all five pension systems under this budget
 - A proposed constitutional amendment to remove the Pension Protection Clause of the Constitution was proposed but never progressed in the Legislature
 - The state's pension buyout program has been extended to June 2024
 - We will continue working with legislators to address the need for a long-term pension debt solution and to address problems with the Tier 2 and Tier 3 programs

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- Fair Tax amendment – You and all other Illinoisans will be asked to vote on the Fair Tax amendment in the November 2020 election, and assuredly bombarded with advertising for and against the concept between now and then. Gov. Pritzker successfully persuaded legislators to put the question on the ballot of whether Illinois should switch from a flat income tax system to a graduated income tax, where those who make more pay a greater percentage of their income in taxes.

Finally, we are encouraged that Illinois is once again moving forward on major issues. We hope the same vigor that was seen this year, and the can-do attitude shown by dozens of new legislators, will carry over to dealing with pension debt and higher education funding and other major challenges.

We cannot do this alone. Please keep your SUAA membership active in order to stay on top of the latest developments at the Capitol, and to provide us the insight and support we need to be effective for you – for today and tomorrow. Together, we can and will do better!

Sincerely,



Linda Brookhart
Executive Director
State Universities Annuitants Association
217 East Monroe, Suite #100
Springfield, IL 62701

linda@suaa.org
suaa@suaa.org



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.

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**

A CHAPTER OF STATE UNIVERSITIES' ANNUITANTS ASSOCIATION



Dear JJC Employee,

The ONLY organization in Illinois that works to protect our pensions and benefits , NOW AND IN THE FUTURE, is the State Universities Annuity Association (SUAA) of which the Joliet Jr. College Annuity Association is a chapter member (JJCAA).

SUAA works to hold the General Assembly responsible for its obligations to us, both Tier 1 and 2. Specifically, in 2014, SUAA spent 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 \$ 1.65 per pay period!!!!

Option #1— A \$ 1.65 FROM YOUR PAYROLL FOR EACH PAY PERIOD (26 PAY). Send directly to Director Judy Connelly in Human Resources.

See the attached Form

The nearly 300 active members in JJCAA await your response!

Thank You.
Patrick Asher,
President, JJCAA

Joliet Junior College ANNUITANTS' ASSOCIATION

A CHAPTER OF STATE UNIVERSITIES' ANNUITANTS ASSOCIATION



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 current faculty/staff member I am a retiree
 I am a spouse I am a surviving spouse

Check payment option best for you:

- Option # 1 A \$1.65 DEDUCTION FROM YOUR PAYROLL FOR EACH PAY PERIOD (26 PAY)
(Send directly to Director Judy Connelly in Human Resources)
- Option # 2 Monthly Pensions Deduction (\$3.50 deducted from your monthly annuity check)
- Option # 3 Single Payment (\$42.00 payable to SUAA)
- Option # 4 Semi-Annual Payroll Deduction (\$21.00 deducted from your payroll in fall & spring)

REQUIRED FOR OPTION # 2 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 FOR OPTIONS 2, 3 AND 4 to:

Please send to Jim Cooper, Mathematics Dept., JJC, 1215 Houbolt Rd, Joliet, IL 60431-8938

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.



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!

Upcoming Events:

JJCAA OFFICERS AND DELEGATES

MEETINGS:

MARCH 6TH, 2020 11:00 AM

MAY 5TH, 2020 11:00 AM

JJC MAIN CAMPUS, J-1005

JJCAA ANNUAL MEETING

JULY 8TH, 2020 BREAKFAST: 8:30 AM

MEETING: 9:00 AM

JJC MAIN CAMPUS, T-BUILDING

SUAA SPRING CONFERENCE

ISU; TBA

ANNUAL SUAA CONVENTION

SPRINGFIELD; TBA

2018-2020 Term

JJCAA Officers

President: Patrick Asher

Vice President: Ted Thompson

Secretary: Patricia Neff

Treasurer: Marilyn Heniff

Immediate Past President: Jerry Lewis

JJCAA Board

Linda Aguilar

Jim Cooper

Penny Leupold

Sue Malmberg

Mary Ann Oetter

Scott Olsen

Maureen Peterson

Jerry Zeborowski

Vivian Van Donk

Newsletter Editor:

Scott Olsen

We have had some changes from the above. First, Marilyn Heniff, after countless years as a board member, secretary, and treasurer, has resigned. She has been most dedicated to her work, and I applaud her for her outstanding efforts!! Jim Cooper is now our new treasurer. As well, Pat Neff has resigned as secretary. She served in that capacity for the past two(2) years and has done a very good job. She will remain as Legislative Chair. Finally, we have one (1) new member, Vivian Van Donk from the Fine Arts Dept.

N.B. We are no longer identified as Board Members, but Delegates. The change in language resulted from a lengthy discussion at the Annual Meeting in June for liability purposes.

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting is set for Wednesday, July 8, 2020 in T Building with a continental breakfast starting at 8:30, compliments of the Foundation! The meeting will begin at 9 am. Please make every effort to attend. It is a very good experience!!