



Moraine Valley Community College
Annuitants Association

The Annuitant

Volume XVII No. 1 | Spring 2013

MVAA President's Perspective Patricia Bauhs

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you for participating in the Moraine Valley Annuitants Association. Some of you are very active, involved members while others benefit from news about legislation affecting our pensions and benefits. Whatever level of your participation, I hope that you believe you receive benefit by belonging to our local chapter.

Now is the best time to be a member of the Moraine Valley Annuitants Association, a chapter of SUAA, the State University Annuitants Association. SUAA is working actively to do the best it can to assure the preservation of our pensions and benefits during this time of fiscal crisis in Illinois. As members, we receive Mini-Briefings from SUAA and have access to the SURS Legislative Updates. In fall 2012 SUAA mobilized to contribute to the defeat of CA49, a great potential threat to pensions and, especially, to those currently employed.



We, the members of the Moraine Valley Annuitants Association, share something in common: Moraine Valley was our workplace of choice. And a good choice it was. Many of us have MV friends who will last a lifetime. You can continue friendships beyond the workplace by being active in MVAA.

Through this newsletter, we hope to feature information you can use and news about you, our members. Thank you for reading! Your contributions to this newsletter and your participation in MVAA are greatly appreciated.

Warm regards,
Pat

Meet Your MVAA Officers and Committee Chairs

We asked members of the leadership team to tell us about their involvement in MVAA and a bit about themselves.

Wesley Christensen, Legislative Liaison

"I joined the MVAA prior to retiring in 2007 so that I could keep informed about college activities (such as the annual health screenings), legislative issues impacting our pensions, and to keep connected with colleagues. This spring, I was asked to serve as the Legislative Liaison. My duties for this role entail keeping abreast of and communicating legislative issues to the members of the MVAA.

I currently serve as an adjunct faculty at Moraine Valley within the business department teaching introduction to business, personal finance, and accounting. I also organize and manage a CEO roundtable group. In my spare time I like to read, learn new technologies, and spend time with my family - including my four grandchildren."



First row (from left to right): Kathleen Stewart, Joyce Tyler, Charlotte Razor. Second row: Jim Lentz, Pat Bauhs, Wesley Christensen, Doreen O'Brien. Not pictured: Steve Lebre.

Meet Your MVAA Officers and Committee Chairs, continued

Steve Lebre, Treasurer

“Steve joined MVAA in 2008 and has served as our treasurer for the past five years, making sure we are a solvent organization. Always a teacher, Steve continues teaching part-time and enjoys down time with family and friends.”

Jim Lentz, SUAA Director

“I joined SUAA a year before I retired in 2000; I have been a SUAA Director for almost a decade, representing MVAA at SUAA meetings.

My director duties are tied to the primary reasons for SUAA’s existence: membership and legislation. I attend as many state meetings as possible to represent the Moraine Valley chapter. I have established relationships with members of other chapters, and have learned from them and their chapters what has been successful, trying to then incorporate those ideas locally. I hope that we will have the SUAA passion and urgency that I have seen at other chapters at Moraine Valley.

My personal interests include wintering in warm and sunny Ft. Lauderdale including long beach walks and time with friends. The rest of the year finds us in Wheaton, busy with sports events, church, and grandchildren. I treasure the good memories that I had at Moraine Valley for 30 years and hope Illinois honors the promise the state made to all of us when we were hired.”

Doreen O’Brien, Membership Chairperson

“I became a member December 2006. I was asked to take over as membership chair by a good friend of MVCC, Jennifer Anderson.

I have worked at Moraine since 1974, and I know so many of the retirees that I decided to help as membership chair in 2007-2008. The chapter also wanted someone who was on campus to have better access to the currently working. Helene Kopp came to see me and train me, it was so nice to see her. If I remember, she said she was 90 years old. I am hoping to make it that long as membership chair, but I’m not making any promises!

As membership chair I recruit and work to retain members, encouraging former members to rejoin. I contact Human Resources for names of upcoming retirees and watch the Valley View announcements. I try to meet with new potential members on campus and explain why they should join SUAA. I also contact them by e-mail.

We have a swimming pool, and I look forward to the summers. Now that the kids are grown I enjoy a nice quiet evening in the pool, on the weekends anyone is welcome to come splash with me!”

Charlotte Razor, Secretary

“I joined the MVAA after retiring from MVCC in 2001. I became secretary in 2007. As secretary, I am responsible for writing minutes of all Board and General Membership meetings. I also keep attendance rosters at all meetings. I assist with registrations for the Spring SUAA Regional meetings held on campus.

After retiring from MVCC, I continued to teach part time in the Health Information Management Program until 2008. Currently, I am pursuing my favorite interests including line dancing, square dancing, traveling, and reading. I participate in the American Cancer Society’s Making Strides Against Breast Cancer annual walk.”

Joyce Tyler, Web Presence

“I’ve worked at the college since 1980. I joined the MVAA a couple of years ago to receive the latest news on pension reform. I hadn’t realized that members of the State Universities Retirement System didn’t need to be retired in order to join the MVAA until a coworker mentioned that he was a member.

Last summer I started serving as the web presence for our chapter’s website using a Web publishing and content management program called WordPress that enables me to add content without having to directly edit HTML code. The website itself was already created by someone else, so my job is to update information such as upcoming events and add minutes from chapter meetings.

Outside of work I enjoy traveling, practicing mindfulness, reading, and music.”

MVAA Officers and Committee Chairpersons

President:	Patricia Bauhs	708.508.0600
Past President:	Kathleen Stewart	708.445.7436
Secretary:	Charlotte Razor	708.647.0211
Treasurer:	Steve Lebre	815.485.7217
Membership:	Doreen O’Brien	708.608.4077
Web Presence:	Joyce Tyler	630.248.7042
Legislative:	Wesley Christensen	708.846.9087
SUAA Director:	Jim Lentz	630.430.6966

Newsletter designed by Kristine Christensen

Member Spotlight: Kathleen Stewart

“I joined MVAA while still working and when Dick Hinckley was the president. I had always hoped to retire early and wanted to start learning more about what I could do to stay involved with the college.

The meetings at that time were routine and often included a presentation on a special interest topic such as insurance or energy conservation. I don't recall our being worried about what the legislators were cooking up in Springfield.

I retired in June 2003. Since that time, I have continued writing for McGraw-Hill Higher Education. After 12 years as the author of several Microsoft Office textbooks, I am now working as a technical editor or “ghost” writer. I've been very busy.

I have volunteered in the Oak Park area for the literacy program as well as at shelter facilities for those without a home. Both have been enlightening and enriching experiences.

I've traveled near and far, too. Europe many times, the United Kingdom, China, Argentina, Brazil, Peru, and Canada. I also recently made my first visits to Mount Rushmore and Mackinac Island!

I have stayed active in SUAA and MVAA because I think we must be our own guardians. It's important for Moraine Valley annuitants to know what might affect them and to learn what they can do to influence outcomes.”

Note: Kathleen served as president-elect of MVAA in 2009 – 2010 and as president from 2010 – 2012. In that capacity, she provided leadership to over 250 members and represented our group to the state organization with vigor! Thank you for your service, Kathleen!



(Top) Taking a rickshaw ride in Beijing; (Middle) Visiting Mount Rushmore; (Bottom) Overlooking the ruins of Machu Picchu

MVAA Needs You!

Our chapter needs your participation! **Consider volunteering . . . we are all in this together . . . together we are** a stronger organization, locally and statewide. Over 15,000 SURS participants are members of SUAA; that's 15,000 strong votes for pensions and benefits!

As retirees, we forge new lives based on interests, health, and family. Friendships, both new and old, factor in to how we choose to spend our days and dedicate our time. Some of us have taken up new hobbies, or volunteer our time with worthy causes. Most of us are fortunate, in that we have time, health and resources that allow us to continue on, and to forge ahead.

You have chosen to be a member of the Moraine Valley Annuitants Association. Our group numbers several hundred, and we are pleased to report that MVAA has one of the highest participation rates of retirees in the state. As such, we should be a pretty strong group, with activities for all. To that end, we are proposing to start an ad hoc Social Committee. Think baseball games, Holiday Party, and event outings! If you are interested in joining the Social Committee, please contact Pat Bauhs at p.bauhs@comcast.net .

We also have a few leadership positions available, most notably President-Elect. In addition, take a look at our committees at mvcaa.morainevalley.edu to see if there is one you might be interested in serving on; if so, please let us know. Contact Pat at p.bauhs@comcast.net.

About You! Member News

The following news has been submitted by members of MVAA. To submit information for our next newsletter, visit mvcaa.morainevalley.edu and click on "News."

Mel Arthur (retired 1992) now resides in Tucson, AZ, and enjoys golf, fishing, and travel. He enjoys visits to his daughter, son-in-law, and granddaughter in Chicago and summers at his cabin in Arizona's White Mountains. Mel sadly reports the death of his wife, Barb (a Moraine Valley retiree), a year and a half ago.

Residing in Palos Hills, **Kay Bogg** (retired 1998) enjoys winters in Jupiter, FL, and plans to live there full-time as soon as she sells her townhouse just two blocks from the college (spread the word, she asks). Kay loves to shop and is a golfer.

Retired in 1999, **Roberta Contino Balke** lives in Homewood, naming her house Hydrangea Cottage, and enjoys spring gardening, loves to read, swim, and take long walks. She recently adopted a toy fox terrier, Annie, who is a pleasure to be around. Roberta just returned from a trip of a lifetime, visiting Rome and Florence, Italy, with her travelling companion and daughter, Linda, who completed the Marathona di Roma! Roberta has successfully had all major joints replaced and now volunteers for autism and cancer, each disease experienced by grandsons.

Having built a log home overlooking central Wisconsin near Stevens Point, **Bob Juracka** (retired 1993) enjoys a life of nature. Bob loves fishing (fly tying!), birding, mushroom hunting and cultivation, and serves on the board of directors for five different conservation/environmental groups. While post-polio syndrome has placed some restrictions on physical activities, Bob still enjoys travel and consults on prairie landscape and habitat.

Ron Kurfirst (retired 2002) lives in Chicago and visits Michigan and California - - no doubt to further his exploits in fishing, boating, and travelling. Ron reports that he is now a great-grandfather! Congratulations, Ron!

Always an active actress, **Joyce Porter** (retired 2002) continues to do indie films, voice overs, etc. and teaches a section of film appreciation. She and husband, Paul, live in Oak Park and enjoy movies and getting away for the winter months. Some of her films are on Netflix, so check that out!

Linda Strzelczyk continues to enjoy her work at the college in Career Programs/ Nursing Department. Linda is one of many currently-employed MVAA members.

Kate Wulle (retired 2001) spends six months in Chicago and six months in Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, and still finds time to visit friends in California, Florida, and Seattle and kids in Albuquerque and Dayton. All this to fulfill her bucket travel list! So far, she's checked the following sites off that list: India, Thailand, Cambodia, China, Viet Nam, Japan, the Middle East, Peru, and South America. Kate continues to study puppets and non-Western theatre and lecture on her travels and studies through various "Learning in Retirement" and lifelong learning groups, in addition to making iMovies from old photos. She tells us she is now the bionic woman, having replaced a shoulder, hip, knee and (soon) the second knee.

Join MVAA / SUAA Now!

Not yet a member? It's easy. Go to SUAA.org, then click on "Join Now" in the left column and follow the prompts. Or, call SUAA at 217.523.4040.

Make sure you designate Moraine Valley as your chapter!

Helpful Resources You Can Use

MVAA Website

mvcaa.morainevalley.edu

Provides information about your chapter, important dates, links to information about pensions and benefits, our "About You" submission form and more.

Moraine Valley Website

morainevalley.edu

Your source for all you want to know about the college including news and upcoming events.

State Universities Annuity Association Website

SUAA.org

Information about our state association, Mini-Briefings on legislation, upcoming meetings and benefit information.

State Universities Retirement System Website

SURS.org

Information about current legislation, pensions and benefits for SURS participants and survivors.

Events at MVCC

There are always a number of fun and interesting events happening at MVCC. We are highlighting just a few of them. Check out the MVCC website for additional events.

MV Book Group

“Rules of Civility” - Tuesday, June 4, at 12:00pm in the Library

SUAA Annual Meeting

June 18 and 19 at the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel

Percussion Ensemble | Summer Concert - Free

Tuesday, July 30, at 7:30 p.m. in Dorothy Menker Theater

Hamlet by Shakespeare - Free

Aug. 1-3, 2013, at 7:30 p.m. Outdoors at the Gateway

MVAA Fall Meeting

“The Affordable Care Act and the Future of Families”
Thursday, August 15, at 2:00pm in Building M, Room 201.

MVAA Meeting

Tuesday, October 1, at 2:00pm in Building M, Room 201

Observatory Open Viewing Nights - Free

Hosted by Tom McCague at the G. Jack Bradley Observation Deck at the far western end of the campus the 2013 Viewings will be held on:
Friday, May 24, at 8:20 p.m.
Friday, June 14, at 8:45 p.m.
Friday, July 12, at 8:45 p.m.
Friday, Aug. 16, at 8:15 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 13, at 7:15 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 11, at 6:30 p.m.

Please note: viewings will be canceled in inclement weather. For more information visit: www.morainevalley.edu/naturestudy

A Message from Dr. Jenkins, College President

As the new president of Moraine Valley Community College, I would like to take this opportunity to update the membership of the Annuitants Association on some recent happenings at the college. It is my wish to keep communication between the college and our valuable annuitants strong and vibrant. You are an important constituency, and I look forward to working with you further in the future.

Since 2011, we have placed greater focus on encouraging our students to complete their programs by enacting several graduation and completion rate initiatives including our Agree to Degree initiative. This project asks students to sign a pledge that they will commit to earning their associate’s degree or certificate. Our faculty and staff also have signed pledges that they will do whatever they can to assist students in this important endeavor. I am proud to report that with this added emphasis, the college awarded 2,656 degrees and certificates at our 2012 graduation, which represented an increase of 18 percent over the previous year and a 60 percent increase from five years ago. It will be exciting to see what the number of graduates will be at our upcoming commencement in May.

If you’ve been on Moraine Valley’s campus lately, you probably have noticed that construction is again taking place as our new Health Education and Wellness Center is beginning to take shape. This impressive 118,000-square-foot structure will feature a four-lane lap pool, three basketball courts, group exercise studios, a jogging track, and more. It is expected to open in February 2014 and will welcome community members along with our students and staff.

The Moraine Valley Foundation launched its first major fundraising campaign—Foundation for Success: Transforming Lives at Moraine Valley—to ensure our current and future students will have access to an affordable education. The college has faced a significant reduction in state funding, so we are extremely grateful that the Foundation is working on our behalf. The campaign already has raised more than \$2 million of the total campaign goal of \$3.5 million. The funds raised will support college programs and provide scholarships to help our students fulfill their goal of completing a college education. To learn more or to make a donation, visit morainevalley.edu/Foundation or call the Foundation Office at (708) 974-5335.

Finally, it is my pleasure to welcome two newly elected members—Tom Cunningham and Eileen O’Sullivan—to our Board of Trustees, along with our new Student Trustee, Noor Salah. I know they will all positively contribute to our Board’s support of the college as we move forward in our important work of changing lives for a changing world.

Sincerely,
Dr. Sylvia M. Jenkins, President



Dr. Sylvia Jenkins, MVCC President

New!! Moraine Valley email for MVAA Members!

Over the past months, the Moraine Valley Annuitants Association and the College have been in discussion about the possibility of college email account for MVAA members.

The college is pleased to announce that all retirees will now be eligible for a limited-access retiree.morainevalley.edu email account. Currently, news is sent to a retiree's personal email address via a distribution group based on opting in. The new process will allow for current retirees to have a new email account at username@retiree.morainevalley.edu. Access to the account goes through Microsoft's Office 365, which is very similar to the Outlook web access used by the college's active employees.

Starting May 15, 2013, accounts will be created and instructions sent to your personal email account. A training session will be offered in June, and you will receive notification from the Moraine Valley Annuitants Association regarding the upcoming training. Please note that the personal email distribution list will no longer be operational as of July 1, 2013.

If you do not wish to participate in the new retiree email system, please contact Human Resources at humanresources@morainevalley.edu. Otherwise, user account and access information will be sent to the current email address the college has on file, and your new account will be activated on July 1.

If you have any questions concerning the new email account or have any technical questions, please contact Sue Gray at gray@morainevalley.edu.



Some key benefits of the new system include:

- A Moraine Valley retiree email account.
- Access to the college's retiree address list.
- Ability to forward the retiree email account to your personal account, or forward your personal account to the retiree account (instructions will be provided).

Book Discussion Group

Way back at our January meeting, we talked about forming an MVAA book Discussion Group. We contacted Librarian Susan Yach to inquire about meeting space, and she suggested that we join the existing MVCC Book Club and invited us to attend the February meeting, which we did. Meetings are held in the library at noon in Room L207 on the first Tuesday of every other month.



There were about a dozen of us at the meeting. We discussed The Devil in the White City, and enjoyed the group very much. Lots of interesting discussion. Susan had set the theme of the meeting to highlight some of the exciting history of the 1893 Columbian Exposition. Participants chatted and enjoyed their bag lunch.

The group welcomed us like the "family" that we are. Space can be adjusted to fit the group. Susan invited us to return in April (Sarah's Key) and June, suggesting that we contact her at yach@morainevalley.edu.

If you love to read, please consider joining the group! If you have any questions, please email bates8662@comcast.net or call me at 708-233-6233. Visit the MV Book Group website at <http://ext.morainevalley.edu/bookgroup/>

Respectfully submitted,
Vita Bates

The Status of Our Pensions and Pension Reform!

As we go to press, May 31, the date the Illinois legislature adjourns its sessions, looms large over us all. We not as yet have seen the actual pension bill that will finally address the issue of our state's underfunded pension system. Here's the status of legislation before the legislature as of today:

SB1. Sponsor: Michael Madigan

SUAA opposes SB1, which passed the House on May 3. SB1 significantly diminishes pensions and benefits for Tier 1 and Tier 2. SB1 caps the now-simple COLA on an amount equal to the number of years of service x 1000. Amounts above that cap shall be equal to 3% of the cap.

Employee contributions are increased, Tier 1 retirement ages are reformed, pensionable earnings are capped for Tier 1 and Tier 2 (2013 cap is \$109,971), the Money Purchase Formula is devalued, statutory funding requirements are enhanced, and the Pension Stabilization Fund is revitalized.

SB2404. Sponsor: John Cullerton

SB2404 was developed as a compromise with the unions, which support SB2404.

SUAA supports SB2404, which includes a pension funding guarantee and dedicates state revenues to a Pension Stabilization Fund with supplemental payments on top of the required contribution, strengthening the systems' solvency. It establishes three choices for employees in Tier I:

- Move from a 3% compounded to a 3% simple COLA with a two-year delay. Includes: guaranteed access to health care, that all future salary increases count toward their pensions, and an optional cash balance plan;
- Choose the 3% compounded COLA with a three-year delay. Pay 2% more into the pension system. Guaranteed access to health care and future salary increases count toward pension.
- Choose the 3% compounded COLA, as is. No guaranteed access to health care; forgo future salary increases counting toward pension.

It also establishes a choice for current retirees and those retiring as of January 1, 2013.

- Choose to keep guaranteed access to health care and a 3% compounded COLA with a two-year COLA freeze in non-consecutive years.
- Choose to keep the 3% compounded COLA with no freeze; but forgo health care.

It creates a Tier II task force to study improving the retirement benefits for Tier II employees.

While SUAA opposes any diminishment of pensions and benefits, we understand the economic necessity of finding a way to resolve the issue of our underfunded pension system now, before it is too late. We need to work to assure funding to support the quality of life for retirees and to assure pensions and benefits for those currently working in our public universities and community colleges.

We urge you to follow what's going on in Illinois in pension matters and stay in touch with your legislators, letting them know how you stand on the bills before them and on pension reform. Urge them to look at alternative revenue enhancing measures that have been proposed by various groups, in addition to cutting pension expenses. **DO IT NOW**. To find your legislator, call We Are One: 888.412.6570.

Go to SUAA.org for the latest information about the status of pension reform in Illinois.



Illinois State Capitol Building. © Lmulvey | Dreamstime



State University Annuity Association

The **Voice** Serving All Participants and Beneficiaries of the State Universities Retirement System

Membership Application and Dues Deduction Form

Moraine Valley Community College Annuity Association

A Chapter of the State Universities Annuity Association

SUAA is a 501(c)(4) organization that advocates for employees, retirees, spouses, and survivors who will receive or are receiving benefits from the State Universities Retirement System (SURS). Benefits of membership include:

- A voice in Springfield and across the state that represents your pension and healthcare interests.
- Access to a knowledge base about proposed legislation and effects.
- A communication network that informs and updates you on local and state issues that concern pension and healthcare benefits.
- A path for involvement in the legislative process.
- Interaction with SURS annuitants from other community college and universities.

Complete and mail this form to: SUAA
217 E. Monroe, Suite 100
Springfield, IL 62701

To pay by check, include a check for **\$36.00** payable to **SUAA**. The state office will mail renewal notification on the anniversary of your membership.

MVCC Chapter

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ **Zip Code:** _____

Telephone: (____) _____ - _____

Email Address: _____

You Are: _____ Retiree _____ Active Employee
 _____ Spouse _____ Supporter
 _____ Retiree & Spouse

I hereby authorize the State Universities Retirement System (SURS) to deduct monthly the amount as certified by the MVCC Chapter as the current rate of dues. The deduction is to start once the SURS process is complete.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Dues deduction is available only for annuitants. Your membership dues will be deducted from your SURS pension amount until you cancel your membership by notifying the MVAA Treasurer, SURS, or SUAA. Your membership is automatically renewed until you cancel this dues deduction authorization.

You can also join online at www.suaa.org