

UPI Retirees Chapter Candidates

Position: Retirees Chapter President

Candidate Name: Audrey Edwards

The Retirees Chapter can be a strong force in supporting UPI's campus chapters as they work for faculty, students, retirees, and higher education. To contribute to this effort, I am seeking re-election as chapter president.

After serving for five years as EIU's representative to the Retirees Executive Board, I became chapter president in 2015. Together, my colleagues and I have achieved the following:

- Lobbying of federal and state legislators for increased university funding
- Pooling of ideas and materials for pre-retirement meetings
- An abridgement of IFT's *Retiring Wisely* that is tailored to SURS members
- An AFT grant to fund recruitment activities for our chapter
- Our own Facebook page
- Reporting of SURS discussions related to UPI
- An information sheet comparing data services for remote learning

I have enjoyed coordinating the efforts of our members and look forward to continuing this work.

Position: Retirees Chapter Vice President

Candidate Name: Marsha Katz

I have been a member of UPI since 1998 when I joined the faculty at GSU. I served as grievance officer, treasurer, VP and president of the GSU campus chapter.

On retiring in 2012 I became a member of the UPI Retirees Chapter and served as representative from GSU on the Retirees Executive Board. As GSU representative, I organized campus retiree meetings about twice a year, communicated regularly with retirees by email, and generally encouraged GSU retiree members to stay actively involved in the chapter.

Upon resignation of the chapter's vice-president, I assumed that position and have since remained in it. As vice president, I have represented the Retirees Chapter at HOD and at some Local Executive Board meetings. Within our chapter, I have served as chapter historian and have stood ready to conduct meetings on a substitute basis as needed. I organized and researched a Data Services Information Sheet for use by university faculty and students during the pandemic. I also organized the chapter's first annual newsletter, sent to chapter members in November 2020. I have enjoyed my service to the Retirees Chapter and look forward to continuing as its vice-president.

Position: Retiree House of Delegates

Candidate Name: Steven Rock

I am a candidate to be a member of the House of Delegates and retirees' representative from Western Illinois University. I have been a member of UPI Local 4100 for 32 years, 29 as a faculty member and 3 as a retiree. At the chapter level, I served as Treasurer for 15 years and a member of the House of Delegates for at least as long. I also represented WIU on the Local Executive Board for 3 years. I have been on contract bargaining teams and attended several AFT conventions. I have been a SUAA member for a number of years. For the last six years, I have been one of the elected trustees to the State Universities Retirement System, where I have been on the Investment Committee and chair of the Legal and Legislative Committee. I look forward to continued service to UPI and retirees.

Position: Retiree House of Delegates

Candidate Name: Susan Meiers

As a recently retired Biology professor and former House of Delegates delegate for WIU for the previous 3 years, I hope to continue actively serving the UPI and WIU/University communities. I strongly believe in the benefits of unions for workers and in strengthening educational opportunities for our students. I am happy to talk with and work with other union leaders and members, community members, and anyone who can help improve educational opportunities for our young people. I don't have a personal agenda beyond staying involved with the union and working on our behalf and on behalf of our students. Should anyone have any suggestions for how to do this, I am also happy to listen (phone, email, Zoom call). We need to stay strong and committed and active, and I look forward to helping our union do just that.

Position: Retirees Chapter Secretary-Treasurer

Candidate Name: Elizabeth Essex

I strongly believe in the union movement and am currently the GSU representative on the Retirees Chapter Executive Board. In this role, I have actively worked to engage GSU retirees in UPI. These efforts include organizing a pre-retirement workshop and get-togethers for GSU retirees; communicating about and advocating for UPI initiatives; recruiting members; and updating retiree spreadsheets. I have also contributed to chapter-wide activities, including co-editing an abridged *Retiring Wisely*, observing and writing up SURS meetings, and developing a retirement planning webinar.

I now hope to transition to Secretary-Treasurer, for which I am well qualified. I have taken minutes and written reports for numerous organizations and handled budgets as a social service administrator and a researcher. My service to the Retirees Chapter builds on my earlier work with UPI. Prior to retiring from GSU, I was a member of the House of Delegates and co-chaired the GSU-UPI Member Mobilization Committee.