

County Employees' Annuity &  
Benefit Fund of Cook County  
33 N. Dearborn St., Suite 1000  
Chicago, IL 60602



PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
CHICAGO, IL  
Permit No. 2079



# PENSIONOTES

SPRING 2010

Newsletter for Member's of the County Employees' Annuity & Benefit Fund of Cook County and Forest Preserve District Employees' Annuity & Benefit Fund of Cook County

## We welcome you...

Welcome to the latest issue of *Pension Notes*, your Pension Fund newsletter. We hope this newsletter finds you well and trust that after a long cold winter you are ready to enjoy some much needed spring weather. In an effort to continue to improve our communication to you, we are pleased to announce the launch of our new web site. Please visit us at [www.cookcountypension.com](http://www.cookcountypension.com) and tell us what you think.

Our objective is to provide exceptional service in our support and administration of your annuity, health and disability benefits. In addition, along with your Board of Trustees, we are also committed to effectively managing the assets of both the Cook County and Forest Preserve Pension Funds.

In November 2009, the Fund conducted its second annual open enrollment meeting for the retiree health benefit. In response to feedback regarding parking and accessibility, the event was held at the facilities of the IUOE Local 399. We experienced a tremendous turnout and thank everyone for attending. Our focus was on providing you with tools and resources to improve and manage your health. Partnering with CVS/Caremark and BCBS, we will continue to identify programs and plan enhancements that will assist with this goal.

Last year we reported that, like all other institutional investors, the Funds' experienced losses in their investment portfolios during 2008. As long term investors, we know the importance of maintaining a well diversified portfolio. During 2009 the Funds benefitted from this approach and, along with a

robust market recovery, achieved an investment gain of approximately 18%. While we expect the economy will continue to recover, albeit at a slow and uneven pace, we are aware that market fluctuations will occur from time to time. We commit that we will continue to invest your funds in a prudent and disciplined manner maintaining the highest fiduciary standards in safeguarding your assets.

We are also happy to report that the Cook County Board of Commissioners has approved payment of the funds due December 2008 to the Fund from the 2007 Levy. Payment of all funds owed plus interest is expected this summer. The Board of Trustees and the Board of Commissioners have been focused on this matter and working toward a solution since early last year. It has been through the commitment of both bodies that a solution has been found.

Please watch for further information on the condition and performance of the Funds.



## BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Joseph Fratto, President  
Robert Agnes  
Clem Balanoff  
Robert Benjamin  
John E. Fitzgerald  
William Granberry  
Mark Kilgallon  
Patrick J. McFadden  
Antoinette Williams

## Comments or Suggestions?

Write to:  
**The Cook County Pension Fund**  
33 North Dearborn, Suite 1000  
Chicago, IL 60602

If you have any questions about the Pension Plan or your benefits, please contact the Pension Fund office and we will be happy to help.

PHONE: 312- 603-1200  
FAX: 312 603-9760

**Office Hours: Monday-Friday**  
**8:30am to 4:30pm**

## Inside this issue...

Trustee Election Results	p. 2
Direct Deposit	p. 2
Benefit Enhancements	p. 2
Beneficiary Form Information	p. 3
Stroke Awareness	p. 3
BCBSIL Information	p. 3

2009



## TRUSTEE ELECTION RESULTS

Pursuant to the Illinois Pension Code, Trustee elections were held on October 28, 2009 for the positions of Cook County Employee Member Trustee, Forest Preserve Employee Member Trustee and Cook County Annuitant Member Trustee. An Independent Election Administrator declared Mr. Mark Kilgallon, Mr. Robert Agnes and Mr. Patrick McFadden respectively, as the winners. Their 3 year terms began on December 1, 2009.

Thank you to all those who participated by voting or running.

## ANNUITY DIRECT DEPOSIT

If you weren't already aware, the Pension Fund offers the benefit of direct deposit. If you aren't currently participating in the program, make sure to sign up today. You'll have one less thing to worry about each month.

If you are currently participating in the program, please make note that your money is deposited on the 1st of each month. If the first of the month happens to fall on a weekend or holiday, then your money will be deposited the following business day.

## NOW AVAILABLE

### BENEFIT PLAN ENHANCEMENTS FOR 2010

The Pension Fund is committed to providing options and solutions that help manage cost and improve health outcomes for all of our members and their dependents. We are pleased to announce, through a partnership with CVS/Caremark, the following initiatives which are now active:

#### 1. GENERIC COPAYMENT INCENTIVE

The Fund offers an incentive program to all participants who are currently taking a Brand medication through retail or by mail.

##### How it works:

By agreeing to move to a Generic alternative within the same therapeutic category as your existing Brand medication, and filling a 90 day supply prescription through the mail order or CVS retail program, the Fund will cover your copayment expense for 6 months.

You can expect CVS/Caremark to contact you via letter identifying which (if any) of your medications qualify for this program and what steps to take with your physician.

#### 2. DISEASE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM: DIABETES

In an ongoing effort to provide valuable health management resources, we have chosen to implement a program to support those with Diabetes.

##### How it works:

The program is administered by Accordant and is voluntary. Any members identified as eligible participants will be contacted directly by an Accordant Nurse and invited to enroll.

The program is designed to:

- Maintain compliance.
- Connect you to appropriate support and resources.
- Develop a clinical plan to manage your condition and improve outcomes.



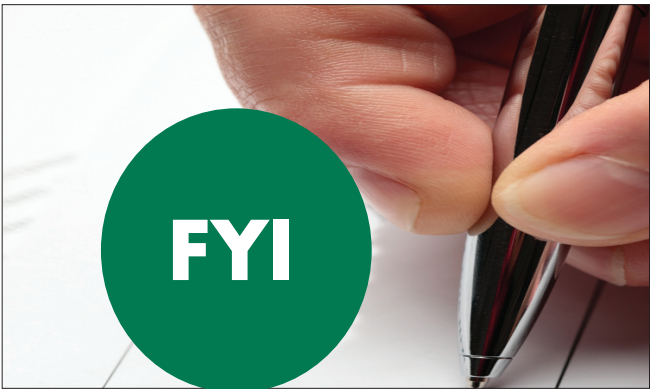
## MAY IS...STROKE AWARENESS MONTH

Stroke is the third leading cause of death and a leading cause of disability, but many people don't understand the importance of educating themselves and others to reduce the incidence of stroke. ANYONE can have a stroke no matter their age, race or gender. The chances of having a stroke increase if a person has certain risk factors that can cause a stroke. According to the National Stroke Association, up to 80 percent of strokes CAN be prevented, and the best way to protect yourself and your loved ones is to understand personal risk and how to manage it. The National Stroke Association encourages everyone to take time during May to spread awareness about how to:

- STOP primary and secondary stroke through risk factor management.
- Act F.A.S.T. to increase recognition of and response to stroke symptoms.
  - F** is facial weakness.  
*Ask the casualty to smile, both sides should move together.*
  - A** is arm weakness.  
*Ask the casualty to raise both arms, if one or both are not moveable seek medical aid*
  - S** is speech.  
*Is the casualty able to make coherent speech?*
  - T** is time.  
*If one or more of these symptoms are present the casualty must get medical aid within 2 hours and the effects may be reversible.*

- Spread HOPE about recovery from stroke.

\*Source [www.stroke.org](http://www.stroke.org)



## YOUR BENEFICIARY FORM: Keeping it Up To Date

When was the last time you updated your beneficiary form with the Fund?

If you have moved, changed phone numbers or experienced a relationship change that impacts your beneficiary designation, you should let us know. If you have changes to make, please contact the Fund at 312-603-1200 to request a new form.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois offers many advantages to our members. Visit them online to learn about exclusive discount programs, health management tools and resources that can save you money and help you manage your health, all at no extra cost!

Visit [www.bcbsil.com](http://www.bcbsil.com) to register and start taking advantage of all Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois has to offer.