

Cook County Pension Fund
33 N. Dearborn St., Suite 1000
Chicago, IL 60602

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PENSIONNOTES



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

On behalf of...

the Cook County Pension Fund, our Board of Trustees, and staff we welcome you to the Winter 2010 edition of *Pension Notes*.

We hope you take the time to read through this entire newsletter. It is filled with enlightening and useful information regarding you, your benefits and the Fund.

Inside this issue you'll find:

- Employee Benefit Information
- Trustee Election Results
- Our Contact Information

The Fund continues to recover from the effects of the 2008 financial crisis and continues to build on the market recovery. As of October 31, 2010, the unaudited asset values have reached in excess of \$7.0 billion for the County Fund and \$167 million for the Forest Preserve Fund. This marks noteworthy improvement from the November 30, 2008 asset values of \$5.6 Billion for the County Fund and \$141 Million for the Forest Preserve Fund.



It is our goal to provide you with exceptional service in the support and administration of your annuity, disability, and health benefits.

We appreciate the years of service and dedication you've contributed as employees of Cook County and the Forest Preserve District, and hope that you are pleased with the benefits that you have received or will receive as a product of your contributions.

Have a Happy and Safe 2011!

P.S. Please note that you can expect to receive your annual "Amount in Fund" statement imbedded in your Spring Newsletter again this year.

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Did you know ... that the Pension Fund has a website?

You can learn more about the Fund and the benefits we offer by visiting
www.cookcountypension.com

You can also use the website to send to us an email. Just locate the "Contact Us" section, fill in the requested information and we will respond to you as soon as possible.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Robert Agnes
Clem Balanoff
Robert Benjamin
Karen Crawford
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Mark Kilgallon
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Patrick J. McFadden

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Daniel R. Degnan

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR BENEFITS



Annuity Benefits

Be sure to contact our office before you stop working. There are some benefits that you can only receive while you are still a contributing member, such as paying to establish past service. Please be sure

to call and speak with one of our Retirement Counselors to ensure that you have considered all of your options.

We recommend that you apply for your retirement annuity 30-60 days BEFORE your date of retirement. This ensures that we have ample time to process your application. If you are unable to provide such notice, please contact the Pension Fund as soon as possible.

Please note that it will generally take 10 weeks from your date of retirement before you receive your first check from the Fund. Saving your vacation time to be paid out with your last work paycheck can help relieve some financial burden of this process.

You do not lose rights to your retirement benefits if you are fired or laid off. If you meet the age and service requirements for a retirement annuity, you will still qualify for that annuity.

Refunds

If you stop working but have not worked long enough to qualify for a retirement annuity, you'll still be eligible for a refund of your contributions plus any interest earned.

Contact us *on* or *after* your last day of employment for a refund application.

The Fund offers you the option to roll over your contributions to another qualified plan in order to defer taxation and avoid the tax penalty. Please note that it generally takes 8 weeks from your last day of employment to receive your refund check.



Disability Benefits

There are two types of Disability Benefits: Duty and Ordinary.

Duty Disability benefits are available ONLY to employees who are disabled as the result of an injury or illness that happens in the performance of an act duty, or, as they say, "on the job." To be eligible for duty disability you must apply and be approved for workers' compensation.

Ordinary Disability benefits are available to employees who are disabled as the result of any cause other than injury or illness incurred in the performance of an act of duty. Generally, this refers to incidents that occur outside of the workplace.

You must apply for Disability benefits with the Fund in order to receive pension credit while you are disabled. If you don't apply, you may later discover that you have to work longer to reach your retirement goals.

For information about the process and rules associated with obtaining disability benefits, please refer to our Disability Handbook. A copy of the Disability Handbook can be viewed on our website or can be requested by calling the Fund.

As always if you have any questions about any of these topics, please contact us.

We are the experts on your pension benefits. You may also view information on our website at www.cookcountypension.com or call us at 312-603-1200.



NEED TO CONTACT US?

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the Fund. For your convenience there are several ways to contact us.

By Phone: 312-603-1200

You will be calling our automatic phone system. This system has 2 options for choosing the right person to assist you.

For Retirees:

If you are a Cook County or Forest Preserve Retiree —Press 1

Frequently Asked Questions —Press 0

Forms or Applications? —Press 1

Retirement Counselor? —Press 2

Health Benefits Counselor? —Press 3

Send us a letter or visit us:

Send us your questions or requests through mail to:

Cook County Pension Fund
33 N. Dearborn St., Suite 1000
Chicago, IL 60602

You can also visit this office Monday-Friday 8:30AM-4:30PM

For All Others (Including Active Employees):

If you are NOT a Cook County or Forest Preserve Retiree —Press 2

Frequently Asked Questions —Press 0

Forms or Applications? —Press 1

Retirement Counselor? —Press 2

Disability Counselor? —Press 3

Refunds Counselor? —Press 4

Questions regarding an Annuity Application? — Press 5

Send us a fax to: 312-603-9760

Visit our website at www.cookcountypension.com



And the results are IN!

Pursuant to the Illinois Pension Code, Trustee elections were held on October 27, 2010 for the positions of Cook County Annuitant Trustee, Forest Preserve Annuitant Trustee, and Cook County Employee Trustee. As a result of these elections an Independent Election Administrator declared the winners for each position as follows:

- Cook County Annuitant Trustee - John E. Fitzgerald
- Forest Preserve Annuitant Trustee - Robert Janura
- Cook County Employee Trustee - Clem Balanoff

Their 3 year terms began on December 1, 2010. Thank you to all those who participated by voting or running.