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In 2016, The Fund's
investment assets
earned

8.06%
for Cook County and
6.01%
for Forest Preserve*

Welcome ...

Welcome to the latest edition of PensionNotes, the member newsletter of the Cook County Pension Fund (CCPF). We hope that you are having an enjoyable season and encourage you to read this newsletter for helpful and important information regarding your benefits.

As we move into the summer, we are pleased to share developments at the Fund intended to enhance our quality of service to you and promote our viability financially.

Plan Growth & Contributions

Both the Cook County and Forest Preserve District plans enjoyed positive financial performance in 2016 with growth in assets and strong investment results, which represented the greatest source of income for annuitant benefits. Plan assets grew \$500 million for the Cook County Fund and \$4.5 million for the Forest Preserve Fund for a combined total value of \$9.7 billion at year end.

For the Cook County Fund, strong performance was also coupled with supplemental contributions resulting from the Home Rule Sales Tax. This additional funding represented an increase of 140 percent above total statutory contribution levels and helped to bolster the stability of the Cook County Fund through the year. For 2017, anticipated supplemental contributions from the sales tax are expected to nearly match total combined contributions and place the plan on an even more secure footing.

Retiree Pension Savings

In 2016, we saw our retiree membership continue to grow to nearly 18,000 Cook County annuitants and more than 500 Forest Preserve annuitants. As the number of retirees continues to increase, CCPF continues to explore opportunities to enhance value for you while managing costs. With the introduction of a Medicare prescription plan administered by SilverScript this year, we can significantly address the rising cost of prescription drugs and still provide this important benefit to eligible members.

Access a Full Range of Information at CookCountyPension.com

If you haven't done so already, please visit our enhanced website CookCountyPension.com, which we launched in late 2016. It is an excellent online resource where you can access a range of information about the benefits you may be eligible for, use our Retirement Estimator to get a projection on your future annuity, find out what to do when you're preparing for a major life event like marriage, and more.

We are pleased to share these updates at the Fund with you and look forward to providing further news on our progress throughout the year.

*Reflects overall performance before fees.

Contact a Counselor – NEW! Scheduled Appointments!

CCPF is pleased to announce that beginning July 1, members can make an appointment to meet with a counselor for their retirement, health benefits, and disability needs. The Fund will continue to accept walk-in member visits, but in an effort to reduce the wait some members may encounter during our counselors' busiest hours, the new appointment option provides an added convenience for members.

To make a 30-minute appointment with one of our counselors, simply call 312-603-1200 to get started.

About Our Membership

In 2016, the Fund paid retirement benefits to nearly 18,000 Cook County annuitants and more than 500 Forest Preserve annuitants.

Since 2000, the number of active contributing employees has been decreasing while the number of annuitants has continued to grow. This means that fewer employees are contributing into the Fund to help pay for benefits being paid out to retirees.



COOK COUNTY

ACTIVE EMPLOYEES

2016 **20,969** ▼

2015 **21,586**

RETIREES

2016 **17,909** ▲

2015 **17,597**

FOREST PRESERVE

ACTIVE EMPLOYEES

2016 **572** ▲

2015 **568**

RETIREES

2016 **530** ▲

2015 **529**

Investment Performance Overview

We continue to experience strong investment returns, which account for approximately 60 percent of our income. Fund investments represent the greatest source of income to pay benefits to our retirees.

For 2016, the Cook County Fund realized an 8.06 percent return and the Forest Preserve Fund realized a 6.01 percent return.

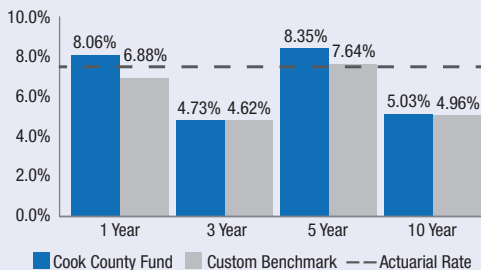
For the seventh consecutive year, both portfolios generated positive returns led by strength in the equity markets and alternative investments for the Cook County Fund.

Since 2011, we have been implementing a long-term diversification strategy intended to enhance returns and protect the portfolios from market swings. As a result, both portfolios have gained exposure to more efficient investment vehicles and reduced the risks associated with concentration in too few strategies.

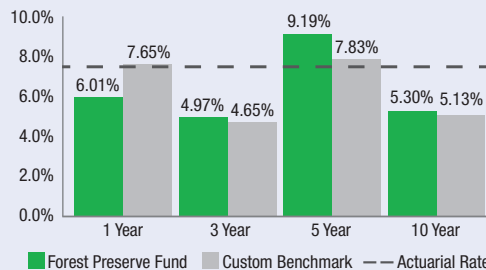
While our investment performance is a strong contributor to the Fund and is an increasing source of current benefit payments to members, our investment strategy is designed to grow our assets over the long-term.

INVESTMENT RETURNS AND PERFORMANCE

COOK COUNTY FUND PERFORMANCE

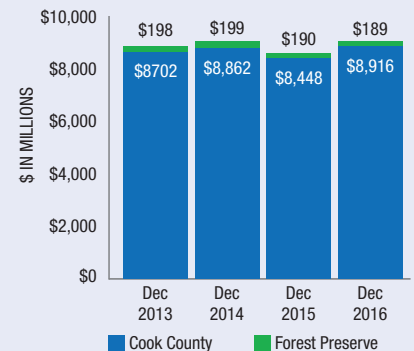


FOREST PRESERVE FUND PERFORMANCE



FIVE YEAR ANNUALIZED: **COOK 8.35%** **FOREST 9.19%**

ASSET GROWTH



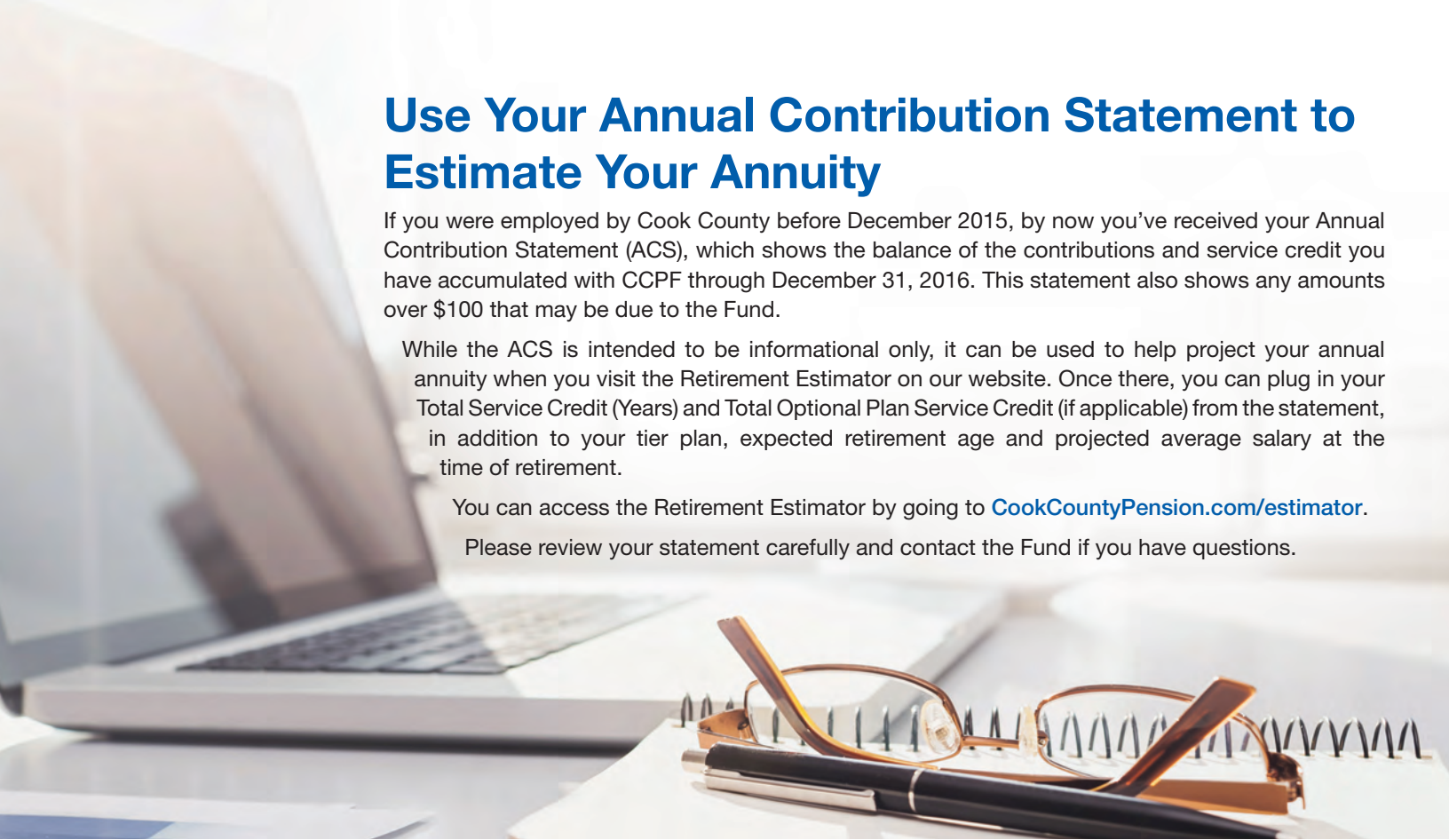
Use Your Annual Contribution Statement to Estimate Your Annuity

If you were employed by Cook County before December 2015, by now you've received your Annual Contribution Statement (ACS), which shows the balance of the contributions and service credit you have accumulated with CCPF through December 31, 2016. This statement also shows any amounts over \$100 that may be due to the Fund.

While the ACS is intended to be informational only, it can be used to help project your annual annuity when you visit the Retirement Estimator on our website. Once there, you can plug in your Total Service Credit (Years) and Total Optional Plan Service Credit (if applicable) from the statement, in addition to your tier plan, expected retirement age and projected average salary at the time of retirement.

You can access the Retirement Estimator by going to CookCountyPension.com/estimator.

Please review your statement carefully and contact the Fund if you have questions.



Inquire Before You Retire: Your COLA

Retiring as soon as you've reached age 60 or 30 years of service can be incredibly appealing. But before you resign, consider this: Your annual cost of living adjustment (COLA) will begin January 1 a year after your retirement date, so when you retire during the calendar year matters.

If, for example, you retire any time in 2017, you will not receive your first COLA until January 1, 2019. Or, if you retire any time in 2018, you will not see your first COLA until January 1, 2020.

Therefore, we generally encourage members who are approaching retirement to leave as close to the end of the year as possible. Retire in the first quarter of the year and you will have longer to wait for the annual adjustment.

As a reminder, if you are 60 to 90 days away from your retirement date, we urge you to contact us.



Regular Exercise is a Heart Smart Idea

You may feel short on time to do everything you want in 24 hours – pressured to push some activities to the next day or abandon them altogether. But it's critical you prioritize exercise, which helps keep your heart healthy. Fitness experts say that all you need is as little as 10 minutes each day to work out and reduce your risk for heart disease. And the workout doesn't have to be a high-energy event. Moderate physical activity like brisk walking, jogging or running, biking, swimming, dancing or jumping rope count.

Before you start this or any other exercise regimen, be sure to first consult your doctor.

PENSION*Notes*

Summer 2017 Active Member Newsletter

Cook County Pension Fund
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Office Closed

Labor Day, September 4
Columbus Day, October 9

Upcoming Retirement Board Meeting Dates

August 3, 2017
September 7, 2017
October 5, 2017

Contact Us

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