# **PENSION Notes**



**Retiree Member Newsletter** 

Summer 2016

#### INSIDE

2015 Financial Snapshot

UnitedHealthcare Premium Program

#### **Open Enrollment**

Save-the-Date Find Your Path

Trustee Election Notice

## Home Rule Sales Tax

Expected to **DOUBLE**Employer Contributions
in 2016

## Welcome ...

In this newsletter, we present the 2015 financial snapshot for the Cook County and Forest Preserve District pension funds. While 2015 was a challenging year, we are pleased that meaningful progress is taking shape towards long-term viability.

#### 2015 Highlights

For 2015, the funded status for both funds decreased modestly, as inflows from investment earnings and contributions were not sufficient to keep pace with benefit payments. On an actuarial basis, the funded status for Cook County is 55.39% (relative to 57.51% in 2014) and 60.02% for the Forest Preserve (relative to 60.25% in 2014). The insolvency date for both funds is approximately 25 years.

To address the severity of the funding crisis, in 2015 the Board of Commissioners raised an additional \$270.5 million through the Home Rule Sales Tax for the Cook County Pension Fund. As of June 30, 2016, the fund received approximately \$81.8 million, having the beneficial impact of meeting benefit payments and allowing fund assets to remain at work within their investment strategies. Such additional contributions overtime will restore stability and put the fund on a path towards solvency. The Retirement Board also continues to advocate for a permanent solution that guarantees solvency for both funds.

#### What to Look For

The fund is always exploring ways to maximize the value of your benefits while minimizing cost. One such way is through the introduction of a pharmacy program that will help offset the ever-escalating costs the fund pays for prescription drugs while providing more service options to you. You will receive more information about this new offering in the weeks to come as well as information about this year's Open Enrollment season.

In an effort to improve communication and services, the fund is enhancing the layout of CookCountyPension.com to create a better experience across all your devices. In the near future, you will see these changes when you visit the website.

Finally, the fund would like to welcome Bill Kouruklis as the newly appointed Trustee replacing Trustee Patrick Nester. We welcome Trustee Kouruklis as he will assume the appointed position of the Cook County Treasurer. The fund would also like to recognize Mr. Paul Rzeszutko who has announced his retirement after 30 years of service as an employee of the fund. We have benefited from Mr. Rzeszutko's diligent efforts and service. On behalf of all the members, we wish Mr. Paul Rzeszutko well in his retirement!



#### **COOK COUNTY PENSION FUND**

## **Financial Snapshot**

The Funds' performance reflects an environment where the S&P 500 and BC Aggregate Bond Index returned <1.5% in 2015.

Full 2015 financial statements and reports can be found online: CookCountyPension.com/about\_the\_fund/investments/financial\_reports.aspx

#### COOK COUNTY FUND As of 12/31/2015 **General Information Fund Size** \$8.6 billion New Retirements During 2015 1,006 **Retiree Membership Information Retired Annuitants** 14,922 Annuitant Beneficiaries 2,675 Average Annuitant Annuity \$37,222 71.6 Average Annuitant Age **Employee Membership Information** Active Employee Members 21,596 Average Employee Salary \$72,811 Average Employee Age 47.1 **Benefit Payments** Annuity Benefits \$633 million Health Benefits \$51 million Refunds \$33 million Disability Benefits \$10 million **Sources of Income** Investment Income -\$22 million **Employer Contributions** \$187 million **Employee Contributions** \$138 million \*2015 Funded Ratio 55.39% \*2014 Funded Ratio 57.51%

FOREST PRESERVE FUND As of 12/31/2015	
General Information	
Fund Size	\$192.3 million
New Retirements During 2015	14
Retiree Membership Informati	on
Retired Annuitants	383
Annuitant Beneficiaries	146
Average Annuitant Annuity	\$28,855
Average Annuitant Age	71.3
Employee Membership Information	
Active Employee Members	568
Average Employee Salary	\$56,352
Average Employee Age	44.7
Benefit Payments	
Annuity Benefits	\$15.1 million
Health Benefits	\$1.7 million
Refunds	\$0.6 million
Disability Benefits	\$.02 million
Sources of Income	
Investment Income	\$2.5 million
Employer Contributions	\$3.5 million
Employee Contributions	\$2.7 million
*2015 Funded Ratio *2014 Funded Ratio	60.02% 60.25%

<sup>\*</sup>The funded ratio is based on the Actuarial Valuation Report.

## UnitedHealthcare Premium Program

Find out if your doctor, clinic or facility is in the network.

We have partnered with UnitedHealthcare to help you achieve the healthy retirement you deserve. As a member, you have the choice between two health care plans administered by UnitedHealthcare, with access to many additional tools and programs offered as part of your plan.

#### Search For a Doctor

One of the options available to members who opt for our health coverage is access to a search tool to find a premium doctor. We know that choosing a doctor is one of the most important health decisions you will make. You can take an active part in your health by utilizing the UnitedHealthcare premium program to help you find the care that is right for you and your family.

The UnitedHealthcare premium program evaluates doctors in 27 different medical specialties, using national standards for quality, and cost efficiency. The program designates doctors based on these standards and has identified those in the program as a Premium Tier 1 doctor.

#### To find a Premium Tier 1 Poctor:

- 1. http://ccpfretirees.welcometouhc.com/
- 2. Download the free smartphone app, UnitedHealthcare Health4Me
- 3. Call the number on the back of your health plan ID card

When you visit <a href="http://ccpfretirees.welcometouhc.com/">http://ccpfretirees.welcometouhc.com/</a> and select "Find Your Doctor" from the homepage, you can search for doctors and other professionals by specialty. Whenever you see this icon next to a doctor's name, it means that physician has received the premium designation for quality and cost efficiency.

Premium Tier 1 doctors follow evidence-based medicine, which means ordering the right diagnostic tests, procedures and treatment for their patients. This avoids duplicate testing and adverse drug interactions.

In 2015, members who used Tier 1 doctors saw five percent lower costs, compared to those who didn't select Tier 1 doctors. Members were also readmitted less frequently to the hospital after surgery or other medical procedures.



## Save-the-Date 2016 Open Enrollment Locations

#### SOUTH

Friday, Oct. 28 Orland Civic Center 14750 Ravinia Avenue Orland Park, IL 60462

Thursday, Nov. 10 Kroc Center 1250 W 119th Street Chicago, IL 60643

#### **DOWNTOWN**

Tuesday, Nov. 1 County Building, 4th Floor Conference Room A & B 118 N. Clark Street Chicago, IL, 60602

#### NORTH

Friday, Nov. 4 Lincolnwood Community Center 6900 N Lincoln Ave Lincolnwood, IL 60712



Attend an Open Enrollment meeting to learn more about your benefits!

## Open Enrollment is Coming ... Find Your Path To Health!

Learn about personal health management options through UnitedHealthcare

One of the best opportunities to connect with our staff and representatives from your health benefits program is during Open Enrollment in the fall. Get prepared for this year's Open Enrollment by taking a moment to think about your choices in healthcare and benefits.

During Open Enrollment, find your path to health as we provide helpful information for Wellness, At Risk and Chronic Conditions.



- ✓ Understanding Insurance Options
  - Is your current plan the right one for you financially?
  - Do you have the right providers in place to support you in staying healthy?
- ✓ Find out more about Vision, Hearing and Prescription Benefits
- ✓ Discover myuhc.com & myNurseLine

### **Find Your Path** to Wellness

- ✓ An engaging journey through your United Healthcare member experience
- Experts to help you plan for your health needs and goals

Open Enrollment will be offered at four locations around the Chicagoland area.

Keep an eye out for information in your mailbox about this year's Open Enrollment activities to help manage and improve your health!

### **Pension Fund Trustee Election Notice**

Notice is hereby given to all Cook County Annuitants and Forest Preserve Annuitants that there will be an election for one Cook County Annuitant Trustee and an election for one Forest Preserve Annuitant Trustee on Wednesday, October 26, 2016.

The 2016 Trustee Election will be held on October 26, 2016. Only a Cook County annuitant may vote for a Cook County Annuitant Trustee and only a Forest Preserve annuitant may vote for a Forest Preserve Annuitant Trustee.

Nominating petitions are first available on August 18, 2016 and can be obtained at our office at 33 N. Dearborn Street, Suite 1000, Chicago, IL, 60602. Nominating petitions must be filed at our office between

9:00 a.m. on September 6, 2016 and 4:30 p.m. on September 9, 2016.

Information about candidacy and voting will be available at **CookCountyPension.com**. To learn about the qualifications of candidates running for a trustee position, Candidate Statements will be posted to our website around September 23, 2016.

Please note that an election will only take place if there are two or more candidates running for the position.

### You may vote in-person or by mail

#### In-Person Voting

7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

October 26, 2016

Room 885 of the Cook County Building at 118 N Clark Street, Chicago, IL 60602



#### Vote By Mail

You must request a mail-in ballot.

In order to receive your mail-in ballot you must first complete a mail-in ballot application request form.

A mail-in ballot application request form will be sent to the address on record with the Pension Fund on or before September 26, 2016.

If you do not receive this application request form, contact the pension fund at (312) 603-1200 no later than October 3, 2016 to request that another form be mailed out.



#### Work on Election Day. Serve. Empower. Impact.

The Cook County Clerk's office is recruiting community members to serve as suburban poll workers for the Nov. 8th Presidential Election! It is a great opportunity to get paid for supporting the democratic process and serving your community. Poll workers are paid \$175 or \$325 based on the position they choose. Those who are interested should visit cookcountyclerk.com/judges or call 312.603.0965 to learn more and submit an application.

## **PENSION***Notes*

Summer 2016 Retiree Member Newsletter

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



#### Retirement Board

Alexis Herrera - President
Patrick J. McFadden - Vice-President
Diahann Goode - Secretary
John E. Fitzgerald
Bill Kouruklis
Joseph Nevius
Dennis White
Lawrence L. Wilson, CPA

#### Office Closed

Labor Day, September 5
Columbus Day, October 10
Veteran's Day, November 11
Thanksgiving Day, November 24
Day after Thanksgiving, November 25
Christmas Eve, December 23
Christmas Day, December 26

#### Upcoming Retirement Board Meeting Dates

PRESORTED STANDARD MAIL U.S. POSTAGE PAID CHICAGO, IL

Permit No. 2079

August 4, 2016 September 1, 2016 October 6, 2016 November 3, 2016 December 1, 2016

#### SIGN UP FOR EMAIL NEWS

Visit our website to sign up for periodic email updates from the Fund. You will need your office number to register, which can be found on most correspondence from the Fund, or you can call us to request it. The Fund does not share email information with any outside parties, and you can opt out of email alerts at any time.

You can register your email address online at CookCountyPension.com/registration.aspx.

#### **Contact Us**

County Employees' and Officers' Annuity and Benefit Fund of Cook County Forest Preserve District Employees' Annuity and Benefit Fund of Cook County 33 N Dearborn St, Suite 1000, Chicago, IL 60602

phone: (312) 603-1200 • fax: (312) 603-9760 • web: CookCountyPension.com • email: info@countypension.com

