

INSIDE

Election News

Health Plan Corner

New Years' Reminders:
Change of Address,
Direct Deposit

2018 Tax Forms

A Message from the Executive Director

In December of 2018, I began my responsibilities as the Executive Director of the Cook County Pension Fund (CCPF). I am truly pleased and honored to serve in this very important position and am fortunate to follow a long history of dedicated and conscientious prior Executive Directors. I am thankful for this very special opportunity and welcome the privilege to serve such a diverse, hard-working, and diligent group of members who provide vital services to Cook County, the Forest Preserve District, and the greater Chicagoland area. I recognize the many sacrifices you have made over your careers for the wellbeing of the residents, visitors, and other stakeholders of Cook County, and will work tenaciously to service your retirement needs.

There are many initiatives on my task list, most notably progression of CCPF's technical platform to reflect current member needs, and collaboration with all relevant entities to improve the funded status of CCPF. Should you have any concerns or questions, I am always available to listen and will work to continuously enhance the service and operations of CCPF. I am also committed to the highest standard of ethics and integrity and will work to conduct operations in accordance with the Illinois statutes. Prior to my appointment as Executive Director of CCPF, I served for over six years as the Executive Director of the Policemen's Annuity and Benefit Fund of Chicago (PABF), where I had previously served as Comptroller. Prior to joining PABF, I was a Director at Deloitte & Touche LLP, responsible for the Employee Benefit Plans audit practice in the Chicago office. I am a licensed CPA, with a Master of Business Administration from the University of Chicago and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics, with high distinction, from the University of Michigan. Thank you for this opportunity and I look forward to many years of dedicated service to this very distinguished, dedicated, and diverse member group.

Regina Tuczak
Executive Director

CCPF

2018 In Review

Active Members

20,000+

Annuitant Members

19,000+

Counselor Meetings

5,000+

Website visits

270,000+

CCPF Staff Changes

As CCPF (the Fund) welcomes Ms. Regina Tuczak to its staff as Executive Director, it recognizes her predecessor, Ms. Nickol Hackett. Ms. Hackett, hailed for achieving significant portfolio repositioning and maintaining the Fund's solid financial footing, was instrumental in implementing innovative technology upgrades and maintaining low operating costs. She served as the Fund's Executive Director the latter 6 years of her 10-year tenure with CCPF, where she also served as the Fund's Chief Investment Officer. CCPF sends its best wishes to Ms. Hackett in her future endeavors.

2018 Pension Fund Trustee Election Results

For the 2018 election of a Cook County Annuitant Trustee, CCPF congratulates **Mr. Patrick J. McFadden**, the sole candidate, who was declared the winner by acclamation, in accordance with Retirement Board rules.

CCPF also congratulates **Ms. Diahann Goode** who was reelected by Cook County employees as a Cook County Employee Trustee on October 31, 2018, and congratulates **Mr. Dennis A. White**, the sole candidate for the 2018 Forest Preserve Employee Trustee election who was declared the winner by acclamation.

CCPF looks forward to the Trustees' continued contributions and service on the Retirement Board.



CCPF Health Plan Corner



Medicare Education Seminar – February 28, 2019

If you are retired and turning 65, please attend the next Medicare Education Seminar to hear from the Social Security Administration, UnitedHealthcare, CVS, and CCPF about Medicare eligibility, enrolling in Medicare, and Health Plan coordination with it.

CCPF Medicare Education Seminar

10 a.m. to Noon – Thursday, February 28, 2019

70 W. Madison St, Chicago, IL 60602

Space is limited. Pre-registration is required. Call 312-603-1200, Option 2.

**All attendees must check-in with the building's security desk, be sure to arrive early and bring a photo I.D.

2019 Changes:

For Health Plan Members Who are Ineligible for Free Medicare Part A

All annuitants and spouses turning age 65 after January 1, 2019, must have Medicare Part A and Medicare Part B in order to get CCPF Health Plan coverage. Newly retired annuitants and spouses older than age 65 must also have Medicare Part A and Part B in order to enroll in the Health Plan.

Part A is free for people who paid 40 quarters of Medicare taxes or who qualify under a spouse or ex-spouse's work record. People who are ineligible for free Medicare Part A can purchase it from the government (contact the Social Security Administration for more information). Annuitants and spouses who purchase Medicare Part A receive a credit from CCPF to reduce the cost of their monthly CCPF health premium.



New Year's Reminders

Moved Recently? Drop Us a Line.

CCPF wants to make sure you are receiving the important benefits information sent to annuitants. That is everything from the tax Form 1099-R that is sent to annuitants for tax reporting purposes, to the benefits verification letters sent to annuitants living out of state.

Please note, if your mail is returned, CCPF may suspend your monthly payments until we have confirmation of your correct address. So keep CCPF informed. Call **312-603-1200** to request a Change of Address form to complete and mail back to us or visit us online at CookCountyPension.com/general-forms to download a copy.



Nothing's Wrong with Snail Mail but ...

Do you know what is safer, more convenient, and gets your funds to you sooner? Visit CookCountyPension.com/3-reasons-for-direct-deposit to find out why CCPF thinks you should enroll in Direct Deposit for your annuity payment if you have not done so already.



2018 Tax Forms Have Been Mailed

CCPF sends tax Form 1099-R to all annuitants each year by January 31. By now, you should have received your form, but if you have not received it, please contact CCPF at **312-603-1200**.

Understanding Your Tax Form 1099-R

Box 1: Reports the gross annuity paid

Box 2a: Reports the taxable amount paid

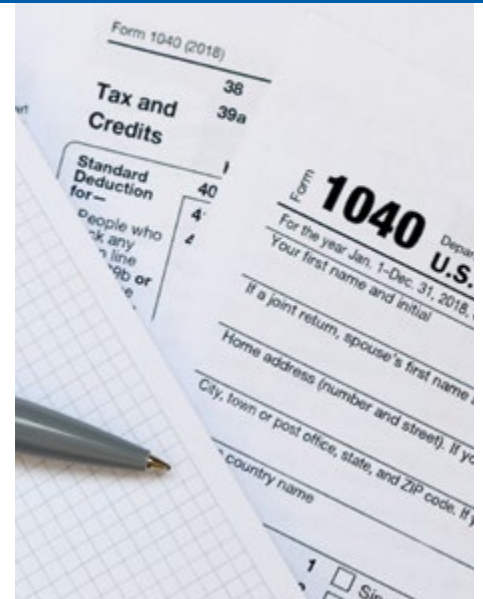
Box 4: Reports the federal tax withheld

Box 5: Reports the non-taxable amount paid during 2018

The non-taxable amount paid during that period is determined by any post-tax contributions you made to CCPF prior to your retirement:

Box 1 – Box 2a = Box 5.

Please note, should you have specific tax questions, please contact your tax advisor or local tax authority.



PENSIONNotes

Winter 2019 Retiree Newsletter

Cook County Pension Fund
70 W. Madison St, Suite 1925
Chicago, IL 60602

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

Don't Wait to Designate

Have you recently gotten married or divorced, welcomed the birth or adoption of a child, or lost a loved one? Please consider updating your beneficiary designation.

Visit CookCountyPension.com/general-forms to download a Beneficiary Designation form or call us at **312-603-1200** to have one mailed to you.

Retirement Board

Lawrence L. Wilson, CPA, President
Dennis A. White, Vice-President
Diahann Goode, Secretary
Robert DeGraff
John E. Fitzgerald
Bill Kouruklis
Patrick J. McFadden
Joseph Nevius
Kevin Ochalla

Upcoming Office Closings

Washington's Birthday – February 18
Memorial Day – May 27

**CCPF will be open on
Pulaski Day, March 4.*

Upcoming Retirement Board Meeting Dates

March 7, 2019
April 4, 2019
May 2, 2019

Contact Us

County Employees' and Officers' Annuity and Benefit Fund of Cook County
Forest Preserve District Employees' Annuity and Benefit Fund of Cook County
70 W. Madison St, Suite 1925, Chicago, IL 60602
phone: (312) 603-1200 • **fax:** (312) 603-9760
web: CookCountyPension.com • **email:** info@countypension.com