

PENSIONNotes



Retiree Newsletter

Winter 2018

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CCFP
2017 In Review

Active Members

20,000+

Retirees

18,000+

Counselor Meetings

5,000+

SilverScript Prescription
Drug Plan Enrollment

8,500+

Open Enrollment attendees

546

Pageviews of
CookCountyPension.com

249,000



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

It's a new year, which means new opportunities to engage members in fresh and impactful ways, and build upon what we've done thus far as we continue in our work administering pension, disability, and other benefits to employees of Cook County and the Forest Preserve District.

Through key initiatives and improvements including the implementation of a prescription drug cost savings program, and the late-fall relocation of CCPF's office, we continued to enhance our services to members in 2017. We're already continuing in that spirit for 2018.

Last year, in an effort to provide greater value to Medicare-eligible retirees while confronting rising medication costs, we implemented a prescription drug savings program administered by SilverScript, a member of the CVS Health family. Since last January, more than 8,500 retirees have been enrolled in the program.

In December, we moved to a new office a short distance from our previous location in downtown Chicago. Members have embraced the change as we are now able to offer greater privacy and security in one-on-one meetings with staff for retirement plan and benefits needs.

In 2017, the \$353.8 million in supplemental Employer contributions made to the Cook County Fund were instrumental in helping the fund meet pension obligations on an annual basis. The added contributions made it possible for assets to remain fully intact in the fund's investment strategy that experienced another favorable year.

For 2018, we are continuing to explore ways to further strengthen and expand our services to you while containing costs. Initiatives include enhancements to our retiree health benefits education offerings, more in-person opportunities for active members to learn about their pension benefits, and the extension of PensionNotes to an e-newsletter format to reach members who prefer email.

Also in the new year, CCPF welcomes, the newly-elected Employee Trustee, Kevin Ochalla, to the Retirement Board.

We are pleased to share what's in store for 2018 and look forward to serving you. To learn about further developments happening here, we encourage you to visit our website, CookCountyPension.com.

Pension Fund Trustee Election Results

The Retirement Board welcomes newcomer Kevin Ochalla.

Our annual Retirement Board election was held October 25, 2017. There was one position, a Cook County Employee Trustee seat, up for election.

As decided by a majority of Cook County employees, CCPF congratulates Mr. Kevin Ochalla, who was declared the winner of the election. Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2017 Trustee Election.

To learn about the Retirement Board, visit CookCountyPension.com.



HAPPY 65th BIRTHDAY

Medicare Education Event

Are you 65 years old or approaching that age? Do you have questions about Medicare? We have answers.

At CCPF's upcoming Medicare Education event:

- Learn about Medicare eligibility and enrollment;
- Find out how CCPF's Retiree Health Plan works with Medicare;
- Speak with UnitedHealthcare and CVS/Caremark representatives; and
- Hear about ways to improve your health at age 65 and beyond.

When: Wednesday February 28, 2018
10:00 a.m. – noon

Where: 70 West Madison Street
2nd Level Conference Room
Chicago, IL 60602

Please bring a photo I.D. for entry to the building

Register today to attend:

Call **312.603.1200** to register or email healthbenefits@countypension.com.

*If you're unable to attend, you can visit CookCountyPension.com/retireehealthbenefits beginning March 1, to view and download Medicare information for Health Plan members.

Schedule an Appointment to Meet with One of our Counselors

Our new location allows members to meet with CCPF counselors for their benefits needs in a more private and secure environment. As all office visitors are required to first check-in with the building's security, please schedule your counselor appointment in advance. **By notifying us of your plans to visit, we can help facilitate your check-in.**

To schedule an appointment with one of our counselors, call **312.603.1200**.

Just needing to drop off forms?

Avoid delays by mailing or faxing forms to us at **312.603.9760** OR consider visiting our office during our during the afternoon, for faster service.



2017 Tax Forms Have Been Mailed

CCPF sends 1099-R tax forms every year in late January. By now, you should have received your form, but if you have not received it please contact us at **312.603.1200**.

Understanding Your 1099-R Tax Forms

- Box 1:** Reports your gross annuity paid
- Box 2a:** Reports your taxable amount paid
- Box 4:** Reports your federal tax withheld
- Box 5:** Reports your non-taxable amount paid during 2017



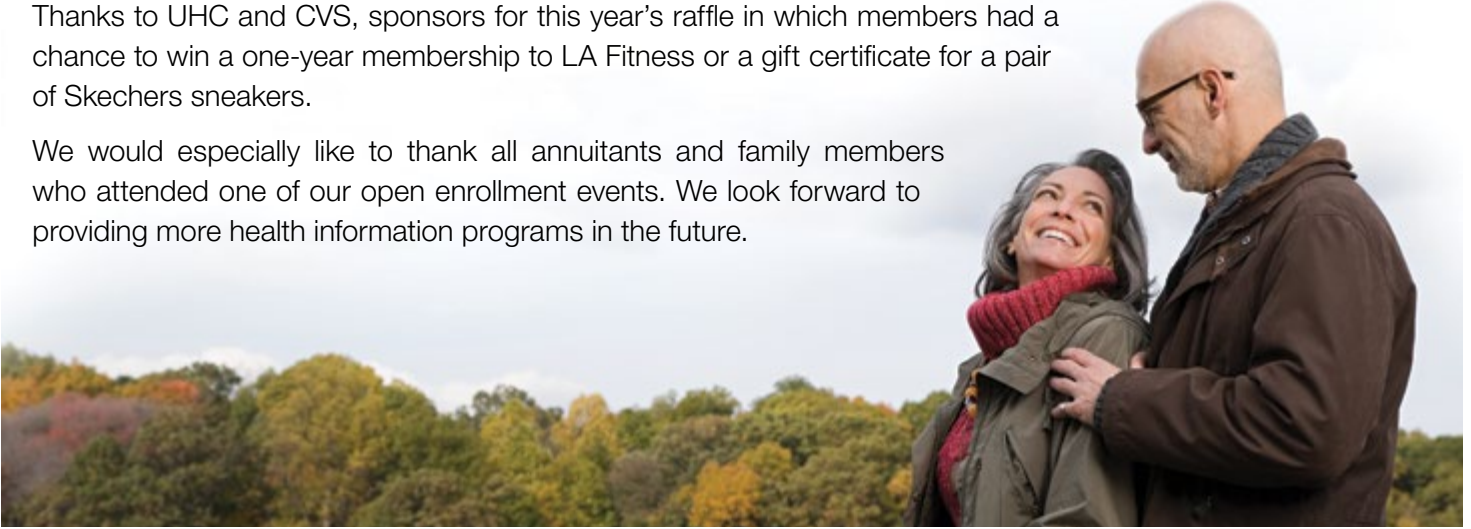
Your non-taxable amount paid during that period is determined by any post-tax contributions you made to CCPF prior to your retirement: **Box 1 – Box 2a = Box 5.**

Open Enrollment Recap

CCPF's annual healthcare Open Enrollment period was from November 1-30, 2017. We hosted three open enrollment sessions with more than 500 attendees who had the opportunity to speak with representatives from CCPF's health benefits department, UnitedHealthcare, and CVS.

Thanks to UHC and CVS, sponsors for this year's raffle in which members had a chance to win a one-year membership to LA Fitness or a gift certificate for a pair of Skechers sneakers.

We would especially like to thank all annuitants and family members who attended one of our open enrollment events. We look forward to providing more health information programs in the future.



New Year's Reminders Let Us Know About Your Life Changes

We would like to remind you to maintain a **current Designation of Beneficiary** on file with CCPF. In the event of your death, if the most recent form we have on file for you is old – with names of people you no longer want to be your beneficiary – CCPF must still follow what's on the form. If no beneficiary form is on file at all, at the time of your death, your estate becomes your default beneficiary.

A person, trust, charity, or organization can be named as a beneficiary. You decide. The beneficiary you identify will also be the person who receives your \$1,000 death benefit.

By keeping this form up to date, CCPF can follow what your wishes are now.

Visit CookCountyPension.com/general-forms/ to download a **Designation of Beneficiary** form or call us at **312.603.1200** to have one mailed to you.

Keep Your Address Up-to-date

Have you moved recently? Don't forget to notify CCPF.

Call **312.603.1200** to request a **Change of Address** form to complete and mail back to us. You can also visit us online at CookCountyPension.com to download a copy.

Use Your Office Number When Calling or Writing CCPF

Do you use your office number when you call CCPF with questions about your benefits?

It's the unique 4- to 6-digit number we use on documents like your first-of-the-month payment advices. **When you use it when contacting us, you'll be helping us help you keep your private information safe.**

Sign Up for Direct Deposit and Give Yourself One Less Thing to Think About

In 2017, storms and natural disasters delayed the delivery of important mail to people in places like Texas, Florida, Louisiana, Puerto Rico, and California. While you hope for the best, it doesn't hurt to plan for everything else.

Sign up for direct deposit to help ensure that you can access your benefits as soon as they are available.

Visit CookCountyPension.com/general-forms/ to download a **Direct Deposit** form or call us at **312.603.1200** to request a form.

PENSION*Notes*

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Cook County Pension Fund
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Dennis White, Vice-President
Diahann Goode, Secretary
Robert DeGraff
John E. Fitzgerald
Bill Kouruklis
Patrick J. McFadden
Joseph Nevius
Kevin Ochalla

Upcoming Office Closings

Presidents' Day, February 19
Casimir Pulaski Day, March 5
Memorial Day, May 28

Upcoming Retirement Board Meeting Dates

March 8, 2018
April 5, 2018
May 3, 2018
June 7, 2018

Contact Us

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