

CDAA College of DuPage Annuity Association
% College of DuPage
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CDAA

COLLEGE OF DuPAGE Annuity Association

Why Join?

CDAA is a Chapter of SUAA
State Universities Annuity Association

300+ *Over half of all COD retirees are members*

Everyone Should be a Member!

The College of DuPage Annuity Association (CDAA) is not "just a social club." CDAA is one of 44 local State Universities Annuity Association (SUAA) chapters. SUAA membership is encouraged for all members of the State Universities Retirement System (SURS), including annuitants and spouses or survivors, as well as current administrators, faculty, and classified staff—pre-retirees who will soon become annuitants. This means Y-O-U!

For just \$2.17 a month you can support CDAA and SUAA in their continuing efforts to protect and improve your retirement benefits.

COD has retirees living in 27 states. If you live outside of Illinois, SUAA may be your only guardian for issues related to your retirement benefits. Membership is important for annuitant survivors, too. In 2002, SUAA improved two major benefits for you.

CDAA represents you to maintain and negotiate COD-related benefits. You can register free for credit classes. This is not true at all SURS schools. Don't forget that retirees qualify for McAninch Arts Center hot tix and bookstore discounts.

CDAA Member Exclusives

Our quarterly newsletter has an exciting new format with articles on:

- ♦ SUAA, SURS and COD updates.
- ♦ CDAA-sponsored activities, like our free hands-on *Internet Introduction* seminar.
- ♦ News and photos about our members.
- ♦ CDAA Board meetings, and opportunities for you to get involved.

CDAA publishes an annual directory of chapter members. Only members receive invitations to our sell-out Spring Luncheon. We also have a terrific picnic in late Summer. CDAA is working to offer you more, two current projects are:

- ♦ Access to COD "All Staff" e-mails on subjects such as: Regrets, Hot Tix, Hospitality Luncheons, lectures, films, discounts, etc.
- ♦ A new CDAA website with news between newsletters, and hotlinks to SUAA, SURS, and retiree insurance websites.

Membership Payment Options

Monthly payments of \$2.17 by automatic deduction from your SURS annuity is preferred and continues until cancelled. Or you may pay \$26 annually (July to June) by check.

Pre-retirees must pay by check.

read about the SUAA organization on the inside >>>

SUAA works to protect and improve your benefits!

Overview

The State Universities Annuity Association (SUAA) is a not-for-profit organization created in 1971 to promote the interests and welfare of State Universities Retirement System (SURS) retirees, their spouses, and survivors.

In 2003 SUAA had over 10,500 current and future retiree members; but SURS, the retirement system for Illinois public universities and community colleges, had approximately 36,000 annuitants and survivors drawing pensions. If you were a legislator, which would impress you more: an organization of 10,500 members or one with 36,000?

Imagine the benefits we could provide our members with a full-time executive director and a full-time lobbyist as well. **With 36,000 members SUAA could do that!**

SUAA's lobbying efforts:

- ◆ Support grassroots lobbying by chapters.
- ◆ Campaign cooperatively with other state retiree groups.
- ◆ Maintain relationships with legislators.
- ◆ Make SUAA's positions clear.
- ◆ Monitor significant pension bills.

Members are kept informed through a communication network of newsletters, legislative bulletins, a website, workshops and meetings.

Priorities

SUAA continually monitors:

- ◆ To maintain all current benefits.
- ◆ Appropriation of state contributions.
- ◆ State funding for the SURS pension program and the health insurance plans.
- ◆ Compounding of annual increases for both annuitants and survivors.

SUAA is working to improve:

- ◆ Benefits for low-income annuitants.
- ◆ Retirement benefits for current annuitants with appropriate funding.
- ◆ Group health insurance, that SUAA helped create, *for us*—community college retirees, their dependents, and their survivors.

Future goals:

- ◆ 80% parity for retirees and survivors who retired before 1990.
- ◆ A thirteenth annual bonus check that will give you a share of any unusual rate of annual profit earnings by SURS.
- ◆ Adjust annuity payments to compensate for loss of purchasing power of greater than 20% due to inflation.
- ◆ Premium subsidies *for our dependents* covered under the community college group health insurance plan.
- ◆ Raise SURS death benefit to \$5000.
- ◆ An increase in the monthly annuity. (25¢ × years of service × years retired)

Achievements

Here are some of the benefits and improvements SUAA has achieved.

For annuitants:

- ◆ Annual cost-of-living increase established at 1.5%, raised to 2%, then 3%.
- ◆ In 1996, the minimum annuity was increased from \$15 to \$25 per year up to 30 years of service. Monthly payments increased from \$450 to \$750.

For survivors:

- ◆ Annuity established at 30% of retiree's base annuity, raised to 50%, then increased in 2002 to 70%.
- ◆ Removed loss of annuity by remarriage before age 55 penalty in 2002.
- ◆ Survivors included in 3% annual annuity increase beginning in 1989.

For both:

- ◆ In 1997, health insurance coverage *for us*—community college retirees and survivors.
- ◆ A 50-year plan for funding retirement systems with provision for continuing appropriation became law in 1994.
- ◆ 3% annual increase compounded for both annuitants and survivors.

For pre-retirees:

- ◆ "30 Years and Out" retirement provision made permanent in 2002.

Structure

A Board of Directors, representing local chapters, meets three times a year to address policies and concerns of the membership. Meetings are open to all members.

An Executive Committee of three officers and four at-large members initiates direction for SUAA and the Executive Director based, in part, on issues raised and preferences expressed by the Board of Directors.

Chapters are the foundation of SUAA. Each chapter elects local officers including representatives to the state organization. Members pay \$21 dues for SUAA, plus chapter dues. CDAA members pay \$2.17 monthly, deducted from a SURS annuity, or \$26 annually. The Association is funded almost entirely by membership dues.

The success of SUAA is attributable to volunteers from the membership who contribute time and energy to achieve SUAA's goals.

To join CDAA/SUAA, contact our membership chair, Steve Mansfield, at 800-843-3542 or send an e-mail to: cdaamember@aol.com

State Universities Annuity Association

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