

News and Notes
College of DuPage Annuitants Association
by
Bob Sobie
June 9, 2016

College Of DuPage's New President To Meet With CDAA Officers & Directors

Dr. Ann Rondeau will become the sixth President of the College of DuPage July 1, 2016. The Officers and Directors of CDAA have arranged to meet with her on July 20. We have no prepared agenda at this point except to get to know each other and to express that CDAA is looking forward to working with the college's new administration to promote the mission of the College. We have also invited President Rondeau to our Annual CDAA Picnic to be held on campus August 11, 2016.

Vice President Spencer Resigns

CDAA Vice President Pat Spencer resigned on June 2, 2016 citing personal commitments. Pat will be missed by all of us. If you are interested in serving as either an Officer or Director of CDAA please contact me at president@codretirees.org.

SUAA Annual Meeting

The SUAA Annual meeting will be held in Springfield on June 21 & 22, 2016. Representing the College of DuPage Annuitants Association will be Prudy Widlak and myself. I am also serving as the Chair of the Nominating Committee at this event. I will report to you about this meeting soon after it concludes.

No More Paper Pay Stubs From SURS

Starting this July all SURS members who have a valid email address on file and receive their annuity via direct deposit will receive an electronic notification when payment has been issued. If you have any questions please call SURS at 800 275-7877

Oscar Swan Lunch

Please join us for a relaxing buffet lunch and social gathering at the beautiful Oscar Swan Country Inn in Geneva on Thursday, June 30, 2016 from 11:30 am. to 2 pm. The owner, Nina, makes sure that her food is prepared fresh daily. She will be preparing an all-you-can-eat buffet for us. For more information please contact Val Follmann at vfollmann@sbcglobal.net. RSVP required.

Upcoming Events

June 21 & 22 – SUAA Annual Meeting, Springfield
June 30 – Oscar Swan Luncheon, Geneva
July 20 – CDAA Board of Directors Meeting, Glen Ellyn
August 11 – CDAA Annual Summer Picnic, Glen Ellyn

News and Notes
College of DuPage Annuitants Association
by
Bob Sobie
July 26, 2016

New Vice President and two new Directors

College of DuPage Annuitants Association welcomes Sally Mullan as our new Vice President. Sally first volunteered to be a Director of CDAA at our last Seven Dwarfs Breakfast, but after the resignation of our VP, I asked Sally to consider being appointed as an Officer. With absolutely no hesitation, Sally said YES. Appointed as new Directors are Val Follmann and Mary Ann Hiller. Both Val and Mary Ann were in attendance at the Oscar Swan luncheon where I mentioned that we have two openings for Directors. Before the event was over both Val and Mary Ann said they would be happy to serve. I think this bodes well for our organization, wonderful, intelligent, caring individuals who are willing to say they want to do their fair share to serve CDAA. I am so grateful to all three and look forward to working with them.

President Rondeau meets with your CDAA Officers and Directors

Dr. Ann Rondeau officially became the sixth President of the College of DuPage July 1, 2016. On her third Wednesday in office she met with the Officers and Directors of CDAA for approximately one and a half hours. The first thought that comes to my mind after the meeting is "What a breath of fresh air!" It seems clear to me that President Rondeau understands the issues left behind by her predecessor and has a well thought out path to recovery. She said multiple times that having the institution on probation is going to slow some of the progress that she has planned, but will not stop her from achieving her goals.

After the meeting I asked those in attendance to give me a few of their thoughts, you can read them below.

"Dr. Rondeau understands that the primary need for COD to succeed is for trust to exist between all its constituencies"

"She certainly believes that honesty is the best policy"

"She was very open, organized and willing to share her philosophy of management"

"She seems to have her priorities straight, probation needs to be fixed first"

"She has an expansive focus to bring us back to the national stage"

"Wonderful to hear her talk about the College Of DuPage family"

"Obligations to each other. A covenant, if you will"

"All about community"

Please join me in wishing President Ann Rondeau all due success in meeting the mission of the College of DuPage!

Future Social Events

The CDAA would like to add more social activities to our calendar of events. Due to the wildly popular breakfasts held at Seven Dwarfs we thought we could add lunch and dinner events. Please send Kim Pack our social chair (social@codretirees.org) your recommendations for restaurants located central

to our core group that may have a separate meeting room where we can enjoy good conversation.

CDAA picnic August 11

Come one come all to the CDAA picnic luncheon on Thursday, August 11 from 11 am - 2:30 pm in SSC 1200. This is the Student Service Center Building, room 1200, the nice room we had 3 years ago. We will be having an Old-Fashioned BBQ buffet: Veggie Pasta Salad, Potato Salad, Biscuits, Baked Beans, BBQ Chicken, BBQ Pulled Pork, Apple Crisp and Raspberry Iced Tea. \$16.25. 11:00 – 12:00 for socializing, with the meal at noon.

Please register and send your check, made payable to CDAA, to me below. *If you think your check won't make it in time, please e-mail me that it is coming (social@codretirees.org)*

Send to: Kim Pack, 17564 S Virginia Dr, Plainfield, IL 60586. BY JULY 29!!!!

I/We will be attending: _____ & _____

Cost is \$16.25/person, made payable to CDAA.

Upcoming Events

August 11, 2016 – CDAA Annual Summer Picnic, Glen Ellyn

October 19, 2016 – CDAA Officers and Directors Meeting, Glen Ellyn

November 14, 2016 – SUAA Meeting, Bloomington

January 18, 2017 – CDAA Officers and Directors Meeting, Glen Ellyn

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Please join me in wishing President Ann Rondeau all due success in meeting the mission of the College of DuPage!

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November 14, 2016 – SUAA Meeting, Bloomington

January 18, 2017 – CDAA Officers and Directors Meeting, Glen Ellyn



News and Notes
College of DuPage Annuitants Association
by
Bob Sobie
August 12, 2016

CDAА Annual Picnic

The College of DuPage Annuitants Association Annual Picnic took place on August 11, 2016. We had a record 51 members who attended. College of DuPage President Ann Rondeau addressed the group with a very positive message about the direction of the College. Dr. Rondeau is a very encouraging individual and her message left me with great hope as to the future of the College. After the wonderful meal we were pleasantly surprised when the current Chair of the College of DuPage Board of Trustees, Deanne Mazzochi, walk in and asked if we would like for her to address the group. Ms. Mazzochi spoke about the current direction of the College and the challenges ahead. She then opened the floor for questions. I think everyone in the room was impressed when she did not back away from any topic and answered all. Meri Phillips addressed the group on various topics and I spoke about general topics concerning Springfield.

I want to thank Kim Pack, our social chair, for planning such a wonderful event and Meri Phillips for securing the room.

CDAА Officers & Directors

In my short time as President of CDAА, it has been wonderful to work so closely with our Officers and Directors. I can honestly report that every one of the leaders of this organization is a positive/hard working individual that we can all be proud of. Please find below a list of our Officers and Directors.

President:

Bob Sobie
president@codretirees.org

Communications:
Mary Ann Hiller

Vice President:

Sally Mullan
vicepresident@codretirees.org

Social:
Kim Pack
social@codretirees.org

Treasurer:

Joe Rorke
treasurer@codretirees.org

Nominations:
Val Follmann

Secretary:

Meri Phillips
secretary@codretirees.org

Director At Large:
Prudence Widlak
atlarge@codretirees.org

Membership:

Brenda Marcy
membership@codretirees.org

Immediate Past President:
Sherwood Edwards
pastpresident@codretirees.org

SUAA Action:

Bob Sobie
actionrep@codretirees.org

Webmasters/Database/IT:
Peter Klassen & Al Lanning
webmaster@codretirees.org

Upcoming Events

September 20, 2016 – Center for Tax & Budget Accountability Seminar, Chicago

October 19, 2016 – CDAA Officers and Directors Meeting, Glen Ellyn

November 14, 2016 – SUAA Meeting, Bloomington

January 18, 2017 – CDAA Officers and Directors Meeting, Glen Ellyn



News and Notes

College of DuPage Annuitants Association

by

Bob Sobie

September 27, 2016

Chatter Box Is Back

We've heard from many CDAA members that they miss the Chatterbox newsletter (personal information about your activities, travels, family, events, etc) which used to be sent through the U.S. mail a few times each year. We've decided to revive Chatterbox in the form of an email newsletter sent to members on the CDAA communication list.

When we meet in person to reunite and get important CDAA/SUAA information, one of the most enjoyable aspects is the chance to informally chat with fellow CDAA members and catch up on their activities, travels, and events. By reviving Chatterbox we can all enjoy the updates, including those who cannot get to the CDAA events in person.

Kathryn Golden (Retirement Class of 2006) volunteered to gather items by having CDAA members send her a note via email to chatterbox@codretirees.org or, if you prefer, mailing the item to her at 56 Michael Rd, Bridgewater MA 02324. She will then compile all submissions and send them to me to be distributed via email to those on the CDAA communication list.

We are starting the Chatterbox revival immediately. So please send your information (updates on activities, travels, family events, etc) to Kathryn Golden at chatterbox@codretirees.org when you can (or submit by U.S. mail to address above).

Center for Tax and Budget Accountability (CTBA--Ralph Martire) Symposium

On Tuesday, September 20, 2016, I was privileged to be able to be the guest of SUAA at the Union League Club of Chicago at the Center for Tax Accountability Symposium. The discussion was centered on funding inequality of K-12 public schools in Illinois. Keynote Speaker Tony Smith, State Superintendent of Education, and a panel of four members of the Illinois General Assembly were able to make a compelling argument for the "Evidence Based Education Funding Model". I believe this funding model will be in the news after the election.

College Of DuPage Benefits Fair October 25 10:00-3:00

For the first time ever CDAA will have a table inside of the Benefits Fair thanks to President Rondeau! If you are able to help either staff the table and/or prepare materials for this event, please contact Meri Phillips at secretary@codretirees.com or call her at 630-512-0172. We need to write/produce an information pamphlet about CDAA, prepare a table display, produce graphics, and secure a door prize/raffle item.

Dinner At Cozymel's

We are going to try a different experience and see how it works. Kim Pack has set up a CDAA social event on Wednesday, October 9, for dinner at Cozymel's in Wheaton on Butterfield Rd. (311 E Loop Rd) starting at 4:30 pm. She has reserved a banquet room for 30. We can order off the menu & can get separate checks. You do not need to make a reservation nor send a check, BUT... you do have to let Kim know you are coming so we do not have more than the number of seats available!

Please e-mail Kim Pack by October 12 at packy237@aol.com if you will be attending.

CDAA Constitution/By-Laws Review/Rewrite Committee

The CDAA Constitution and By-Laws are badly in need of updating. I am pleased to announce that four of our members have graciously accepted my appointment to be on the CDAA Constitution and By-Laws Review/Rewrite Committee. Peter Klassen will chair the committee composed of Val Follmann, Russ Watson, Prudy Widlak, and I will serve at the committee's request as a non-voting consultant.

This committee will be tasked with bringing our operating documents up-to-date and presenting them to the Officers and Directors for changes/comments. Then a vote of members will take place to either ratify or not. Once their task is complete the committee will disband.

Membership Committee call

I am putting together a committee that will look at ways to increase the membership of CDAA. I suspect that members drop out of our organization because they forget to write a membership check each year; automatic withdrawal is so much easier. I also suspect that currently working employees of the College do not know that they can be members of CDAA. A committee that works toward increasing our membership will be the charge of the Membership Committee. If your skills could be of value to said committee and you would like to serve this organization, please contact me at president@codretirees.org. Thank You.

Upcoming Events

October 18, 2016 – North East Illinois SUAA Chapter Get-Together, Harper College Palatine
October 19, 2016 – CDAA Officers and Directors Meeting, Glen Ellyn
October 19, 2016 – Cozymel's Dinner, Wheaton
October 25, 2016 – COD Benefits Fair, Glen Ellyn
November 8, 2016 – Election Day
November 21, 2016 – SUAA Meeting, Bloomington
January 18, 2017 – CDAA Officers and Directors Meeting, Glen Ellyn

News and Notes

College of DuPage Annuitants Association

by

Bob Sobie

November 14, 2016

Reimbursement for Health Insurance

Last year the College started requiring employees who are retired and eligible for reimbursement of a portion of their Health Insurance costs to submit proof of the payment of said insurance. CDAA requested that informational meetings be set up to help us through the process, but unfortunately the HR department felt that meetings are unnecessary. This year the College is requesting proof of Health Insurance coverage and payment to be submitted between December 1, 2016 and January 31, 2017. Payment will be processed on a first come first serve basis within 60 days after HR receives each retiree's documentation.

Examples of acceptable documentation include the following:

- Letter from insurance carrier/provider or employer documenting the cost paid for single medical coverage
- Premium statement AND canceled checks covering the reimbursement year
- If applicable, documentation must clearly separate the cost for the COD retiree's portion from the spouse's or dependent's cost

Questions about submission of documentation should be directed to:

Rosemary Sams, Benefits Manager, SRC2134, 425 Fawell Blvd, Glen Ellyn, IL 60137, (630) 942-2427, retireebenefits@cod.edu

CDAA Constitution/By-Laws Review/Rewrite Committee

The CDAA Constitution and By-Laws Review/Rewrite Committee has been hard at work. Members of the committee Peter Klassen (chair), Val Follmann, Russ Watson, Prudy Widlak, and Bob Sobie have been through several drafts and have had lengthy discussion both in person and electronically. The next step will be to seek approval of the latest draft from our current Officers and Directors and then via a vote of the membership at the CDAA Annual Meeting in the Spring of 2017.

Dinner At Cozymel's

On Wednesday, October 9, approximately 20 CDAA members enjoyed dinner at Cozymel's in Wheaton. Kim Pack did an excellent job of putting together another fantastic social event for all of us to enjoy. Due to the success of this dinner, we would like to try it again! If you have a restaurant that you would like to suggest we have a lunch and/or dinner at, please let me know at president@codretirees.org or Kim Pack at packy237@aol.com. In general, a restaurant that can hold approximately 30 people in a separate room and where we can ask for separate checks is preferred.

Chatter Box

The first Chatterbox Newsletter (personal information about your activities, travels, family, events, etc) in many years contained submissions from nine members when it was delivered to your email boxes this past October. Chatterbox is a tradition we are attempting to revive.

Kathryn Golden volunteered to gather items by having CDAA members send her a note via email to chatterbox@codretirees.org, or for those who prefer, mailing the item to her at 56 Michael Rd, Bridgewater MA 02324. She will then compile all submissions and send them to me to be distributed via email to those on the CDAA communication list.

Please consider sending Kathryn your personal story for the next edition of the CDAA Chatterbox at anytime. When enough have been received we will email the next edition.

College Of DuPage Benefits Fair

For the first time ever CDAA was invited to participate in the College of DuPage Benefits Fair thanks to College of DuPage President Rondeau! On October 25, Sally Mullan and I met with hundreds of current employees to promote the College of DuPage Annuitants Association. A huge thanks goes out to Cathy Leveille, Larry Larson, Meri Phillips, Sally Mullan, Linda Brookhart, and Prudy Widlak for their effort in making this event so successful.

Resignation

Brenda Marcy has resigned from the CDAA Board. I want to thank Brenda for all the time and effort that she has provided CDAA through the years, Brenda - you will be missed. Brenda is looking forward to moving out of state now that her husband has retired. I am sure you will join me in wishing her a happy next step in life.

Seven Dwarfs Breakfast

Our next social event will take place at Seven Dwarfs Restaurant, 917 E Roosevelt Rd, Wheaton, IL 60187 on Tuesday, December 6, 2016 at 9:00 am. No need to RSVP just show up and enjoy breakfast. If you have any questions, please contact Kim Pack at packy237@aol.com.

Upcoming Events

November 21, 2016 – SUAA Meeting, Bloomington
December 6, 2016 – Breakfast @ Seven Dwarfs, Wheaton
January 18, 2017 – CDAA Board Meeting, Glen Ellyn
April 19, 2017 – CDAA Board Meeting, Glen Ellyn
July 19, 2017 – CDAA Board Meeting, Glen Ellyn

News and Notes

College of DuPage Annuitants Association

by

Bob Sobie

December 13, 2016

Health Insurance Reimbursement Problems

Last year the College of DuPage Human Resources office unilaterally decided that retirees would not receive their reimbursement on the anniversary of their retirement date as we were used to, but instead we would receive said reimbursement only at the beginning of the calendar year. In other words, last year's reimbursement would be less than we were used to receiving because it is prorated for the number of months between one's anniversary date and the end of the year, and we would be made whole this year. Depending on when you retired and how your contract/agreement was written at the time of your retirement date, there may also be delayed health insurance payments your spouse pays for her/his health insurance through the College. These changes imposed on us by the College may have two negative consequences on your finances. First, the College unfairly does not plan to pay us interest on the delayed reimbursement. Second, the medical deductions on your tax return may be less than you anticipated, obviously affecting your tax liability. Before the end of this year you may want to talk to your tax professional and/or financial advisor for help with this issue.

I have been learning of several retired individuals who are having problems receiving their reimbursement for Health Insurance costs. It seems the HR department is over whelmed. I am not surprise considering the work that in past years was spread out over 12 months is now being performed during a two month period. Our members are not receiving returned telephone calls, having to e-mail several times to get simple answers, no notifications of received documents, etc.

I suggest that you keep a paper trail of all correspondences with the College of DuPage's Human Resources Department until all issues are resolved. I personally sent in my proof of payment for insurance as registered mail, and I am keeping a copy of every document!

It is important to point out that CDAA anticipated that said problems would occur, so we requested the HR department hold seminars to teach us what documents were needed and how to submit said documents. Unfortunately they refused. We then asked HR to write a document describing the new procedure and submit it to me so I could publish it in the last edition of "News and Notes". Again, they refused. My reason for pointing out this fact is not to bad mouth the College. I just wanted you to know that CDAA anticipated the current problem and attempted to prevent these issues in the first place!

I understand that there are three professionals who are in the Benefits division of the HR Department at the College. Their contact information is listed below. Make sure that you contact them with any questions you have.

Rosemary Sams|Benefits Manager
College of DuPage | HR Benefits | SRC2134
425 Fawell Blvd | Glen Ellyn, IL 60137-6599 | USA
Phone (630) 942-2427 | samsr@cod.edu

Lisa O'Reilly
Benefits Analyst / Human Resources
College of DuPage | 425 Fawell Blvd.,
SRC 2134 | Glen Ellyn, IL 60137
(630) 942-2648 | oreillyl7@cod.edu

Beryl Mosley
Benefits Specialist | Human Resources
College of DuPage
425 Fawell Blvd | SRC 2134 | Glen Ellyn, IL 60137
630.942.3030 | 630.942.4027(fax)
retireebenefits@cod.edu

SUAA Fall Meeting

On November 21, 2016, the State University Annuitants Association (SUAA) held their Fall Meeting in Normal, IL. Representing the College of DuPage was Joe Rorke (Treasurer), Sally Mullan (Vice President), and myself (President). At this meeting, we approved the SUAA annual budget, legislative agenda, and changes to the employee policy manual. We were also presented with a report on the SUAA Foundation. Keynote speakers were Eric Rankin (Department of Politics & Government, ISU), George Heyman (Oakton Community College), and Rodney Davis (U.S. Representative for Illinois District 13). During the Executive Director's report, we learned that the State's deficit to the 5 pension systems is now calculated to be \$130 billion dollars. All members are invited to attend the SUAA Meetings. The College of DuPage Annuitants Association (CDAA) sends three members as voting directors.

CDAA Constitution/By-Laws Review/Rewrite Committee

The CDAA Constitution and By-Laws Review/Rewrite Committee has completed a final draft of the new By-Laws. It will be presented at the Officers and Board Members meeting on January 18, 2017 for a vote of endorsement. Next, it will be presented to all members of CDAA for a vote of approval/denial at the CDAA Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting will take place on May 5, 2017 at 11:30 at the Glen Ellyn Village Links Reserve 22 Restaurant. Special thanks goes out to the committee members Peter Klassen (chair), Val Follmann, Russ Watson, Prudy Widlak, and Bob Sobie.

SUAA Foundation Emergency Assistance Program

The SUAA Foundation just started a new program titled "Emergency Assistance Program" (EAP). The EAP is intended to help out long time SUAA members with financial help in the event of a sudden personal crisis. Examples of sudden personal crisis include but are not limited to home fires, floods, tornado damage, and extraordinary health issues. The individual in need must have been a member of SUAA for at least 5 years and be financially in hardship. Assistance of up to \$1,500 may be available. If you or anyone you know fits into the criteria listed above please refer them to me at president@codretirees.org. The SUAA Foundation plans to publish information about the EAP on the SUAA website in the near future.

Seven Dwarfs Breakfast

On Tuesday, December 6, 2016 CDAA held a breakfast for its members at Seven Dwarfs Restaurant in Wheaton, and 34 members were present. Thank you Kim Pack for putting this event together. We are in the process of scheduling a lunch event for sometime after the winter snows (probably March).

Our E-Mail System

For many years CDAA has been using an email system called Da Da Mail. This system is antiquated and has been causing us problems lately. We can not include photos nor hyperlinks, and sometimes character and paragraph formatting is rejected or changed. Rest assured, we are looking into replacing Da Da Mail with a modern solution. I will keep you informed as to our progress.

Our Membership

Have you ever wondered how many members of SUAA/CDAA exist? The College of DuPage Annuitants Association (CDAA) is one of 52 chapters of the State University Annuitants Association (SUAA). As of the end of October 2016, SUAA has 15,506 members and CDAA has 434 members. The chapter with the most members is University of Illinois, Urbana/Campaign with 1,990 members and the chapter with the least is Spoon River College with 6 members. We can be proud that CDAA has the highest number of members of any Community College chapter in the State of Illinois.

Membership in SUAA/CDAA costs just \$38.00 per year if paid by check/credit card. By far the most common method of payment is to have \$3.17 deducted each month from your SURS annuity. By having your dues automatically deducted there is no chance of accidentally forgetting to write the check each year. If you want to have your dues automatically deducted, please contact the SUAA office at 217 523-4040.

Upcoming Events

January 18, 2017 @ 2:00-4:00 – CDAA Board Meeting, C/D BIC 2625G, Glen Ellyn
March, 2017 – Lunch, TBA

April 19, 2017 @ 2:00-4:00 – CDAA Board Meeting, C/D BIC 3529, Glen Ellyn

May 5, 2017 @ 11:30am – CDAA Members Annual Meeting, Village Links, Glen Ellyn

June 20 & 21, 2017 – SUAA Annual Meeting, Springfield

June/July, 2017 – Oscar Swan Luncheon, TBA

July 19, 2017 @ 2:00-4:00 – CDAA Board Meeting, C/D BIC 3529, Glen Ellyn

August, 2017 – CDAA Picnic, TBA