

CDAA News and Notes

Fall 2026

A Note from the President

Hi All.

As we enjoy the beginning of Fall, it's time for our CDAA News and Notes. We have a great team putting this together, and we appreciate their efforts! Thank you to our editor and driving force, Kathryn Golden.

Our Board has been busy paying attention to business. Perhaps our biggest news is that Bob Sobie will be co-chairing the legislative committee of SUAA. He is an excellent choice. He will represent us well and advocate for our pension's future, both Tier 1 & 2. He will update you in this newsletter on his and VP John Kovach's attendance at the SUAA Summer conference as our voting delegates.

The Social Committee has hosted several social events this year, including the recent annual CDAA picnic. We're adding some photos to our codannuitants.org website. If anyone takes some photos at any of our events, please send them to me and I will forward them to Peggy McCarthy who maintains the site. We're always looking for content for the website. I've asked before, but if there is some more information you need to find on our website, let us know.

Moving forward, John and I will be meeting with the Human Resources Retiree Benefits staff, and we've requested another meeting with the College President along with the new HR

Director. I have a scheduled appointment for us to present to the newly organized COD staff union, College of DuPage Staff United. We will have a table at the October Benefits Fair and we're welcome to meet with the Faculty Senate when our schedules mesh. In the near future, I will have a virtual Region 1 Leadership meeting which is always attended by the SUAA Executive Director.

I'll be sending out information about Insurance Premium reimbursement. But here are the big things for this year. Documents will only be accepted between **Dec.1 and only until March 31** and there will be confirmation of COD receiving your documents. Watch for frequent emails from us on this issue, encouraging you to submit as soon as possible.

Of course, I will always encourage you to renew your membership and to convince all your friends to join. Please consider the auto-renewal option or the deduction option from your annuity. It goes unsaid that membership numbers are very important. We are the largest community college chapter and need about 25 more members to have another voting delegate at the SUAA Delegate Assemblies. But today, I'm looking for CDAA committee members. You do not have to live here, near to COD; much of CDAA work is done online. We have committee coordinators, but I'd like to engage more of our members in our activities. Your ideas are always welcomed to the Association and a virtual committee meeting can be a good social event.

I'm always available at glennhansencdaa@gmail.com. Please enjoy the fall colors and every day!

Glenn, CDAA President

Report on SUAA Annual Meeting

Bob Sobie

On June 24-26, 2026, John Kovach and I represented CDAA at the State Universities Annuitants Association (SUAA) Annual Meeting and Delegate Assembly in Champaign, Illinois. This meeting was slightly different from past meetings due to its new location (usually Springfield) and having several break-out sessions. The atmosphere was great and the opportunity to talk to other chapter representatives was a highlight. I was a bit disappointed with attendance with only half of the possible state wide delegates making the trip. Below is a sampling of some newsworthy information we received.

Providing the opening remarks was Suzanne Mayer who is the Executive Director of the State Universities Retirement System (SURS). She has led the system since December 2021. Suzanne told us that of the 280,000 members of SURS, 77% live in Illinois. Current return on investments is 6.4% annually. The State of Illinois has budgeted to make 100% of their required payment to SURS this fiscal year, and it begun, for the first time in recent history, to set up a payment schedule with the State Comptroller's office (I later confirmed this with SURS Board Member Steve Rock). It has been past practice for the State to make a one-time payment to SURS at the very end of the fiscal year. But, with a payment schedule, SURS is now able to invest this money sooner. We also learned that the State budgeted additional dollars, over and above what was required, to be paid into CIP

(College Insurance Program). During a Legislative Update Program with our lobbyists, we learned that Tier Two correction legislation did not pass, but the hope is that the General Assembly members will make the needed changes in the near future. A Bill to require the Illinois Central Management Services (CMS) to hire an Ombudsman to help members work through difficult problems with AETNA Health Insurance failed and will be tried again next year. AETNA did position a person in the CMS office to talk directly to individuals who are in need of extra help.

Discussion about re-branding SUAA took up an entire session. Many people don't understand what an annuitant is, and question how a College employee can take part in a University organization. The hope is a new name/brand might better explain who we are. Any new name/brand will likely change the name of our CDAA chapter. We will keep you informed of the progress on this.

During the Delegate meeting we elected Larry Kloc as our new SUAA President for a two-year term. I have had the privilege to have known Larry for many years and I am sure he will be a great President. We also passed a few changes to the by-laws.

On a final note, I am proud to be a member of a vibrant chapter of SUAA. CDAA has several meetings each year, an active website, several newsletters (News and Notes), and a very healthy bank account. Other chapters are envious of CDAA. Of the 53 chapters of SUAA, 4 have less than 10 members, 2 have no bank account, and 2 chapters have between 150 and 200 members but do not meet and have no Board of Directors and only 1 or 2 officers.

The Official CDAA Website: codannuitants.org

The CDAA official website www.codannuitants.org is an excellent source of useful information for all CDAA members. The website is updated on a regular basis by board member Peggy McCarthy.

Some areas included on the site are upcoming CDAA events, information on the officers and board, and the by-laws of CDAA. It also provides a history of CDAA from its beginnings as a social group in 1987 to its current role and functions, and its relationship with SUAA at the state level.

Also available are the past issues of the CDAA News and Notes. A section called “COD Voices” includes copies of the writings of David McGrath, the work of Gloria Golec, as well as the writings of Tom Montgomery Fate.

Another section of the website provides a memorial list of our members who have passed away in recent years.

When you get a chance, visit codannuitants.org for information and updates. It's a very useful source about CDAA, its purposes, programs and related activities.

CDAA Board Committees

Currently there are 14 members of the CDAA Board who meet quarterly. This group represents a cross section of retirees from

all areas at the College. There are four Board committees who work on certain areas of CDAA business: Membership, Communications, Social, and Nominations (for elected officers). Members of these committees need not be board members but can come from the general membership. If you have an interest in being a part of any committee and its work, please contact Glenn Hansen at glennhansencdaa@gmail.com

UPCOMING CDAA EVENTS

Oct. 28, 2026	CDAA Board Fall Meeting	Virtual Meeting
Dec. TBA	COD Waterleaf Luncheon	
January 2027	CDAA Board Winter Meeting	
April 2027	CDAA Board Spring Meeting	
May 2027.	CDAA Annual Meeting/Luncheon	