

CDAА NEWS AND NOTES

Fall 2025

A Note from the President

Happy Holiday Season to everyone!

I thought it was time to send an update about what your organization is up to. I've been slow to sit at the keyboard and write to you, I am truly sorry about that. Summer is often quiet because the Illinois Legislature is not in session, but CDAА and SUAA have been busy.

First, let me say that our pensions are not under attack in the Legislature this year, currently Tier 2 is the focus of the State, SUAA, and CDAА. There has been some relief due to the Social Security Fairness Act for discrepancies in retirement income. Two Tier 2 bills are moving out of committee in the State House. SUAA is monitoring the progress. I personally feel there are more issues to be resolved. The Tier 2 pensions have a detrimental impact on recruiting staff for our institutions. While most of us are under Tier 1, we are all concerned about the future of COD. College of DuPage is the people who serve our students. The SUAA and SURS websites are good places to start your research on our pensions and any pending legislation. (see the links below)

On June 13th & 14th, I attended the SUAA Summer Conference and business meeting. It was informative as usual, but this year the State organization included breakout sessions. The hope is to attract SUAA members beyond Chapter voting delegates. About

100 people attended, mostly delegates. In the business meeting, 2 amendments to the By-Laws (to eliminate the fall delegate meeting and the creation of an independent chapter for members whose chapters have collapsed) were considered. Both failed.

In May we had our Annual CDAA Meeting. We had some committee reports and nominations for Secretary and Treasurer. Virginia Garner was elected as Secretary of CDAA (after completion of internet vote). Bill Peacy volunteered to be Treasurer for the next two years. On July 16th Oct. 22nd, we had our CDAA Board Quarterly meetings. We are reviewing our CDAA By-Laws for compliance with our practices and the changing times with tech solutions to communications. Succession planning for Board membership and committee expansion to include more members are topics we are addressing. I'd love to hear your ideas about what works and what hasn't.

On Oct. 21, I represented CDAA at the COD Benefits Fair. I met many new people and answered as many questions as I could. I also met a new member of Human Resources who is the new Director of Total Rewards (including retiree benefits). She and the person with direct oversight are on our list for meetings to enhance relationships.

John Kovach and I met with Dr. Muddassir Siddiqi, COD's new president on November 18th. We had not pursued meetings with COD Administration during the period of transition this summer, some positions remain open. There is a national search underway for a VP of Human Resources which they hope to fill by April. We shared introductions with Dr. Siddiqi and shared the importance of CDAA to COD. We also continued to emphasize the significance of the issue of retired annuitants working at COD. This is

important to retirees and we believe the future of COD. He agreed and shared with us a policy that is under legal review and would go to the BoT after a 30 day period of public review. Dr. Siddiqi will be attending the CDAA luncheon at the Waterleaf on Dec 4th. We've asked him to make a few brief comments for 15 minutes during dessert. We agreed to meet each semester for a discussion of issues and to provide our feedback. Dr Siddiqi was appreciative of annuitants' sense of history and deep experiential knowledge.

I continue to be part of the quarterly SUAA Region 1 leadership meetings that are also attended by SUAA Executive Director Bryan Soady. I've raised the issue of the discrepancy in TRAIL rates amongst the different state annuitant groups. It piqued some interest on Bryan's part. I'll keep you posted if there is any more information. In July I brought to everyone's attention that there are groups working with some State Legislators about Fossil Fuel Divestment. The official position of SUAA is that they will not advise SURS on investment, that is SURS area of expertise. The CDAA Board will not take a position on this either as we don't see this within our purview because of your diverse political perspectives in the Association. However, I want you to be aware there are groups working on this issue and you should pursue this as you individually see fit.

Watch your website, <https://www.codannuitants.org>, for updates from COD and our CDAA activities. You can view updates on the local in-person CDAA social gatherings that your colleagues attend. You can also find updates of other upcoming events and our CDAA Board meeting calendar.

Today, my question for you is, what would you like from us? We'd like to hear from you. Please continue to update us with a current email address if you change email providers or addresses.

All the best until next time (hopefully sooner than later),

Glenn

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www.codannuitants.org

www.suaa.org

www.surs.org

The Official CDAA Website: www.codannuitants.org

The CDAA official website [codannuitants.org](http://www.codannuitants.org) has an abundance of useful information for all CDAA members.

Some of the information on the site include a list of upcoming CDAA events, information about 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.

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

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

Many thanks to CDAA Board Member Peggy McCarthy for her outstanding contribution to the design and continued updates to our CDAA website.

Recent CDAA Events

On Thursday May 1st over 40 CDAA members met for the Annual Lunch and Meeting of CDAA. A delicious Southwestern American themed lunch was prepared and served at Waterleaf Restaurant by students of the College of DuPage Culinary Arts Program. Ellen Farrow from the College of DuPage Foundation presented information about current projects, including the COD Student Food Pantry. At the Annual Business Meeting, updates were provided by Board subcommittees and Virginia Garner was nominated for secretary of CDAA and Connie Canaday Howard was appointed to the CDAA Board as a member-at-large. Later in May, Virginia Garner was elected as Secretary, and Bill Peacy was confirmed by the Board as CDAA Treasurer. Many thanks to Virginia, Bill and Connie for volunteering for these positions.

Other CDAA social events also combine good food and good company, as well as updated information on CDAA and SUAA

priorities. This year, these events included lunch at the charming Oscar Swan Country Inn in Geneva IL in July and the CDAA Annual Picnic on September 18, 2025 at the scenic Herrick Lake Forest Preserve. A CDAA breakfast was also held on October 28th at Carol's Garden Restaurant in Carol Stream IL.

Here are some upcoming CDAA Events:

Dec 4, 2025. CDAA Fall Luncheon-Waterleaf Restaurant

January 21, 2026. CDAA Board Winter Meeting

April 22, 2026. CDAA Board Spring Meeting

More events are likely to be scheduled and email invitations will be sent to all CDAA members with details.