



Update

Dear Friends,

May 9, 2018

Since my election to the KPERS Board of Trustees I have a new disclaimer that I must include in these updates from now on: "The views expressed in this update represent my views and/or the views of the Coalition. They do not in any way represent the views of KPERS Board of Trustees nor do I speak for them." (Ernie Claudel)

TODAY'S MEETING

The May 9, 2018, KPCR meeting was held back at the KNEA location. BTW we voted to give the new venue a try for a year. The suggestion was made for the move because of ADA accessibilities at KNEA, not available at AFT. We definitely want to thank AFT for their years of hospitality!! The new address is KNEA, 715 SW 10TH Avenue, Topeka. The next meeting will be June 13, 2018 (the second Wednesday as usual).

KCPR would like to thank KARSP & the Leavenworth KARSP Unit for their generous support of KCPR!!

As you would expect, the subject of a COLA took up much of the discussion, as this is the topic of most interest to most of you, as well as the stated goal of KCPR. Ron and Ernie have in the past presented the following in numerous forms, but it bears repeating!

Recent year objections to a COLA are always fiscal in nature. ("You need one, you deserve one, but we can't afford to give you one!!") Previously stated as well is the fact that a COLA would have to be supported by additional funding provided by statute. Present KPERS Trust Fund monies could not be used for the purpose of a COLA. A funding plan would have to accompany any COLA. Therefore, there can be no actions that would reduce the level of State revenue.

1. There can be no tax cuts.
2. There can be no additional funds provided to corporations through tax incentives or tax cuts.
3. Another option would be to further reduce other State services, which because of previous cuts, is not likely to happen.

Legislative Outcomes – 2018 Session

As reported by the KARSP and KKP Lobbyist, Troy Findley, "Nothing bad happened to KPERS" during the session.

Bills to expand coverage for disabilities, and moving various employees from KPERS to KP&F **did not pass**, however. Note the review of KPERS bills listed below.

**This is the review of the KPERS Legislation provided by KPERS.
It is believed that this was the final decision reached by the Legislature.**

- An additional payment of \$82 million will be paid in FY 2019, we don't know the exact timing but this should be a directly appropriation.
- A contingent additional payment of up to \$56 million will be paid in July 2019 if actual FY 2018 receipts exceed the consensus revenue estimates (actual receipts were about \$66 million above in April alone).
- A contingent additional payment of up to \$56 million will be paid in July 2020 if actual FY 2019 receipts exceed the consensus revenue estimates.
- The \$194 million in FY 2019 contributions that were delayed over 20-years last year remains in place with the same 20-year payment schedule.
- The three components: \$82 million + \$56 million + \$56 million = \$194 million

The only policy change this session was the repeal of the Sudan divestment statutes.

There was also a recommendation for an interim study on moving corrections officers and other various law enforcement move to KP&F from KPERS.

KPERS operating budget was approved as submitted.

June KCPR Meeting

Because the upcoming (2019) session is not a carry-over session, all bills will have to be reintroduced. For this reason, the following items will be on the agenda of the June KCPR meeting:

1. The structure of a 2019 COLA for KPERS Bill.
2. Discussion of other KPERS Bills that might be introduced.
3. Strategy for the support of such bills.
4. Strategy for the 2019 elections.
5. Initial plans for the 2019 Rally in support of KPERS and Rally follow up.
6. Fall fund raising strategies. (The last KCPR fundraiser was implemented in 2017.)

The tentative Rally date for next year will be Monday, February 4, 2019. We received enough positive impact feedback from this year's Rally, and advice from one of the speakers at the Rally that we need to continue to keep this issue on the "front burner". It has been determined that we need to continue to hold these gatherings.

Have a wonderful Weekend! Let me know if you have questions!!

- Remember to send us your updated email address...also if for any reason you should no longer wish to receive this update, let us know at the address listed at the end of this "update," and I will contact you and remove you from the official mailing lists.
- Just a reminder, that this email is an official report of the Kansas Coalition of Public Retirees. If I editorialize, I will indicate that fact.
- Remember that we want you to forward this to other retirees and the "working" who will benefit from this information.
- The KCPR website is www.ksretirees.org

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