



Update

Dear Friends,

May 10, 2017

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)

The monthly KCPR meeting was held Wednesday, May 10th.

We have received the repeated question as to when the results of the KPERS Board election will be released. KCPR has received word from KPERS that the results will be released [on May 19th](#).

At the time of the meeting there was no progress to report on the Kansas Budget. The meeting was taken up on the discussion of three items, as follows:

1. The latest happenings at the Capitol. On this front there is nothing to report as indicated above. The reason for the lack of progress is likely attempts to pass a budget which is veto proof and that raises enough revenue to cover said budget.
2. KCPR is still concerned that in order to reduce the need for revenue, one solution MAY be to reduce the "scheduled KPERS contributions", hence (re)starting the underfunding. (You may recall that this scheduled amount is still less than the Actuarial Required Amount of contribution, so the contribution already represents a reduced amount.) At this point, there appears to be limited interest in the legislature for doing this, but the Governor seems to want to persist! Paying the scheduled KPERS contributions is going to have to be consistently followed or the UAL (Unfunded Actuarial Liability) will continue to rise. It has been continually confirmed that the payments will eventually have to be met and the underfunding now leads to larger contributions later. It is the opinion of KCPR that the scheduled payments need to be followed as benefit payment is required and is likely at its cheapest point presently. Scheduled payments also reduce the effect of any damage to the Trust Fund caused by economic downturn. You need to "keep those cards and letters coming in" on this situation. Encourage your legislator to HOLD WITH THE SCHEDULED KPERS CONTRIBUTIONS.
3. There was also extended discussion regarding rationale for a benefit increase for KPERS retirees. It is hoped that in the near future we can offer in writing a concise set of rationale. We are well aware that this is a deep concern for retirees, and it has been repeatedly indicated in word and (lack of) outcome how difficult this has been and will be.

We will continue to work toward a benefit increase and full funding of KPERS!

TOPICS REVISITED FROM THE LAST "UPDATE".

WORKING AFTER RETIREMENT (WAR)

(The Controversy)

No meeting has been scheduled to resolve the differences between the House and Senate regarding this bill. (You may wish to refer to last month's Update.)

Resolved KPERS Bills

(Apparently non-controversial)

The considerations that could be resolved by this Conference Committee have been placed in SB205. This legislation has passed the House on a vote of 122-0 and will be addressed by the Senate when it gavels back in during the so called veto session. Contained in this bill are the following items:

- a. KP&F surviving spouse benefit, which I have previously referred to as the 'Todd Hart Bill'.
- b. Removing the Board of Regents members from the 'WAR' related statutes. I have previously referred to this bill as 'The Fort Hays State Bill'.
- c. Legislation which resolves KP&F participation issues, administrative leave, etc.

These issues appear to be on their way to quick passage.

This bill is now on the Governor's desk waiting for his signature.

Have a great week!!

- 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(es) listed at the end of this "update," and we 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 Ron and I editorialize, we 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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