



Update

Dear Friends,

November 13, 2019

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 next KCPR meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 11, 2019.

THREE IMPORTANT NOTICES:

1. Our website is back up at www.ksretirees.org.
2. All the articles on the sight have been updated where new information is available.
3. We are presently working on the 2020 report to the legislature.

The 2020 session is a 'carry over' session. The two (identical) bills we proposed last year, HB2100 & SB74, are still in play. Testimony was held on HB2100. We know the PROJECTED annual cost to the State is \$13.4 Million for these bills. We have indicated that Representative Benson also has been working on a COLA bill. We have learned that because of the estimated cost, this bill will not be introduced.

We are also working on "The 2020 Report to the Legislature." The last KPERS COLA was granted in legislation passed in 1998 and became payable in 1997. Since that time the Cost of Living has increased 54% through CY 2018. Various components within the CPI have increased even more dramatically and are listed. The Consumer Price Index is a "Market Basket price of goods and services:" as measured monthly; and the source of that information is the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, BLS.

- a. Gasoline – 162%
- a. Food – 48%
- b. Housing – 61%
- c. TV Providers – 91%
- d. Physicians - 65%
- e. Medical Service – 109%
- f. Hospital Costs – 216%

We worked today on the Email Blast releases for the 2020 session. This project is progressing nicely. We will complete this task at the December KCPR meeting.

We want to remind you that July 1, 2019, marked 22 years w/o a COLA. On July 1, 2020, it will be 23 years. The updated figures indicate that 88% of the KPERS benefit recipients **have NEVER received a COLA.**

Remember to talk to your Kansas Representative and Senator about a need for a COLA prior to the beginning of the session.

Monday, February 3, 2020, is the tentative date for our Annual Rally in Support of KPERS!! Put this on your calendar!! We will need you in attendance!

Stay Warm!!!

- A. Remember to send me your updated email address...also if for any reason you should no longer wish to receive this update, let me know at the address listed at the end of this "update," and I will contact you and remove you from the official mailing lists.
- B. 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.
- C. Remember that we want you to forward this to other retirees and the "working" who will benefit from this information.
- D. The KCPR website is www.ksretirees.org

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