



Update

Dear Friends,

April 11, 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 April 11, 2018, KCPR meeting was held back at the AFT 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 May 9, 2018 (the second Wednesday as usual). It has been determined that we will hold our KCPR meetings at the KNEA location for at least a year.

While we are talking dates, 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. There will be no carry over bills, so we will have to start fresh this fall!

We had some wide ranging discussions. Summary of the discussions follows:

1. Virtually no KPERS or KP&F bills, that we have discussed here, have been passed. Many, as discussed previously, are totally 'dead'! The few that aren't don't look very promising. As described earlier, no bill with any kind of price tag was considered. Only one bill, SB2444, which is a procedural bill, made it to the Governor's desk.
2. Many times we have, with 'clinched teeth', told you how the procedural rules of the Legislature have been twisted and bent. This time there were some rules that could not be bent and some of the necessary procedures were followed with literally 2 minutes to spare.
3. The "strong arm" move to refuse to discuss school funding prior to a constitutional amendment being passed by the leadership of the Senate lost sway when it was determined they did not have the votes to pull off the move.
4. There has been some discussion, and likely to be followed by much more because of the poor quality of the educational finance bill. These mistakes were likely caused by the late hours and the necessity to HURRY UP and get it done!
 - a. Because some of the money was previously targeted for this year, not all of the \$500 Million is 'new' money.
 - b. As noted in all the media, wording was left off and shorted the \$500 Million total, \$80 Million was left off. (This can be easily corrected if the game playing is over!!)
 - c. There may also be other issues with the bill as it is further reviewed.
5. The Legislature will reconvene on April 23rd.
6. Since May 4th is the final day, so called Sine Die, there will be only 8 days to finish this year's work! This includes completing a total budget which was not done because of the school finance bill being put off until the last minute, literally!!
7. If the legislature leaves a bill on the Governor's desk the last day and the Governor eventually vetoes it, there will be no recourse.

8. KCPR will remind the Legislature on April 23rd that they need to make no further cuts to KPERS funding. We would ask that you remind your legislators of this need as well!
9. It should be noted, and you will likely read that the educational funding bill will not pass Supreme Court muster. If this were the case, a special session would be required.
10. Last but not least, definitive word on the \$4000 KPERS Death Benefit:
 - a. Benefit requested by the family after retiree's death...amount paid \$3200 – Beneficiary receives a 1099 tax form. (The \$800 is withheld tax.)
 - b. Benefit requested by the funeral home after retirees death...amount paid \$3200 – (Or the spouse may assign the benefit to the funeral home.) Beneficiary receives a 1099 tax form.
 - c. Benefit requested by the retiree prior to his/her death, to be sent to a specific funeral home, amount paid to funeral home \$4000. – The funeral home receives the full \$4,000 and **NO** 1099 tax form is sent to the funeral home or to the beneficiaries!

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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