



Update

Dear Friends,

November 8, 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)

TODAY'S MEETING

The November 8th, KCPR meeting signaled the beginning of the preparation regarding the development of the information to be released to the Kansas Legislature in our annual report. We have many concerns about what may happen to the KPERS underfunding pattern if the legislature looks for additional funding for education following the recent Kansas Supreme Court judgment. The seriousness of further underfunding cannot be overstated!!

Without a resolution to the underfunding pattern, granting a COLA is probably unlikely. We have promised detailed rationale which supports our repeated call for a COLA. As the above mentioned information is developed and will be available to all, this rationale will become very apparent.

This year in the Legislature is a so called 'Carry Over Year', therefore, there are two identical COLA bills still in the 'hopper' in both the House and Senate. They are HB2323 & SB227.

Released at the meeting was a list of 'talking points' which have been compiled from the information we have gathered over the years. These were developed using format ideas commonly used by NRTA. We hope you will find them useful!! [Find them attached!]

Our concern about underfunding is amplified by the 'Good News' listed below. It is essential that our work as a coalition and the work of KKP be followed up by your communication with your Kansas Senators and Representatives!!!

Some GOOD NEWS

1. The Silver Haired Legislature recently passed two resolutions, one supporting a COLA for KPERS recipients (Resolution 3504) and a resolution asking the legislature to stop underfunding KPERS (Resolution 3503).
2. One of our sister coalitions KKP (Keeping the Kansas Promise) is affiliated with NPPC – (National Public Pension Coalition) which will FUND a KPERS SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN promoting no further underfunding. This has begun!
3. Additionally, the Chair of KKP, Michael Scribner, has recently released an Op Ed entitled, Stop Messing with Public Employee Pensions in Kansas! This coincides with the Campaign announced above.
4. KKP – will also be funding a reception following the February 5th RALLY in support of KPERS for those who have to work during the time of the rally.

IMPORTANT DATE

Note the below listed date is correct!!

The recently released KARSP Meadowlark contained the incorrect date!

At this day and time, the KCPR Rally in support of KPERS is scheduled on Monday, February 5, 2018. The back-up (weather date) will be Wednesday, February 7. The event is scheduled from 10:00 am to 11:30 am in the Rotunda in the Capitol in Topeka. [This date is yet to be officially confirmed, but we are fairly confident that this date will be officially confirmed.]

ELECTION DATES 2017 & 2018

Election dates for the 2018 elections can be found on the KCPR website, www.ksretirees.org.

We sincerely hope you have a wonder week!! Stay warm!!

- 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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