



Update

Dear Friends,

March 14, 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 March 14, 2018, KPCR meeting was held at a new 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 April 11, 2018 (the second Wednesday as usual). At the next meeting we will determine whether we are going to meet all summer as we have in past years.

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

1. Concerns were voiced regarding retirement for the younger KPERS employees in general. After the 2002 down turn in the economy, there was a heightened concern by many regarding their retirement. That 'shock factor' seems to have subsided. The latest research indicates that 5% of the millennials are saving what they should.
2. KCPR sent letters to the House Ways and Means Committee requesting a hearing on our COLA bill, HB2323, and to the Senate Committee on Financial Institutions and Insurance requesting that SB227 (Our identical COLA Bill) have a hearing. Letters were sent to the Chair and Vice Chair of each committee as well as the ranking minority. To date no reply has been received.
3. The KPERS related bills that are gaining some apparent positive attention at this point are KP&F related and are attempts to address hard to fill vacancies or have little financial impact on the State General Fund and/or the UAL. Once again, inaction on school funding has an untold effect on all funding issues.
4. Some good news!! HB2419 is a new bill. This proposes 50% of any 'rainy day' funds left over at the end of the fiscal year be given to the KPERS Trust Fund!
5. We would remind you all that KPERS was to receive 25% of the ELARF proceeds (gaming tax receipts). This has happened only technically! What has happened is that the ELARF monies have been included in the General Fund Transfer to KPERS, **not** added to the transfer amount!

Speaking for myself, I offer the following:

It should be noted that the oft stated reason for public pensions was to help recruit talented employees to the public sector when they would be presented greater income possibilities in the private sector. Once employed, the second component of this rationale was to retain these talented and now experienced employees in the public sector. This original reasoning becomes extremely pertinent in light of the present teacher shortage and the fact that the shortage is caused by the small pool of potential employees not because of increased numbers leaving the profession. Research indicated that potential public servants are indeed investigating retirement options when choosing the location of their employment in addition to salary and funding provided to their areas of interest. There has been action taken by the Kansas Legislature in attempts to address the teacher shortage. It is interesting that the facts listed above are not known or ignored. Recently released information indicates that there is a decided pay level issue for public employees in the State of Kansas. Lower than average salaries obviously also impacts the ability to invest in retirement.

Kansas is in a drought. I hope by next month that it can be said that we are "ALL WET!!!"

- 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 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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