

PLANNED ACTIVITY FOR FEBRUARY 22nd “KPERs LOBBY DAY AT THE CAPITOL”

THE GOAL IS TO HAVE AS MANY PEOPLE IN THE CAPITOL TALKING ABOUT THE NEED FOR A COLA AS POSSIBLE. We have a 'staging area' of the Capitol reserved from 8:00 am until noon on this day on the 2nd Floor Rotunda. This does not mean that we will not be available until as late as 3:00 pm in the general assigned area.

To ensure that you receive all of the information for this event, go to www.ksretirees.org and sign up to receive the latest KCPR Update. In this way you will receive the latest info in a timely manner. We may well have information regarding Committee Meeting, etc. up until the last day. Check your email before you leave home for the trip to Topeka.

KCPR WILL PROVIDE:

1. A representative to meet you past the entrance and direct you to our assigned space.
2. A packet having:
 - a. Update KCPR/KARSP Brochure
 - b. KPERs COLA History
 - c. A '**report form**' so we can be made aware of your experiences so we can follow up as well as know what feedback you received.

YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES, should you choose to attend: 😊

1. Prior to this day, schedule an appointment with your representative, your senator, and any others you know. What hours might be available? (It has been suggested that you start this process directly.)
2. To find your Representative and Senator please use the following method:
 - A. If you do not know or, are not sure who your Kansas Senator and Representative is, go to OpenStates.org. It will ask you what you are looking for so enter legislators. It will next ask for your address, and your Senator and Representative will pop up!!
 - B. SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY 22nd:
 - a. Most legislators arrive in the building by 8:00 am.
 - b. The House goes into session at 11:00 am. The session at this time of year will likely not last more than an hour. This however is not a guarantee.
 - c. You then have from 8:00 until 11:00 to schedule with your House Member and perhaps after the session when the day concludes.
 - d. The Senate goes into session at 2:30 pm. The session at this time of year will likely not last more than an hour. This however is not a guarantee.
 - e. You will probably be restricted to 8:00 until 2:30 with the Senate. Arrive not later than 11:00 am providing you have later appointments.
 - C. If others have appointments with your legislator/senator and could not get an appointment and you have one, you can take them with you.

- D. We would also ask that you drop off a card at the Governor's Office asking for a COLA.
- E. Finally return the '**report form**' you were asked to fill out to a KCPR representative.
- F. KCPR representative will provide you with a packet of information as well as be able to direct you where to go and offer advice if wanted on how to present the information provided.

OTHER INFORMATION:

1. Presently there is a nice deli on the first floor and a nice area to eat across the hall. Therefore, one does not need to pack a lunch unless you personally wish to do so.
2. Building Tour Information: (You can turn this into a Capitol Day Trip as well.)
 - A. The only entrance to the Capitol is through the North entrance. (You can take any exit to leave, but only one to enter.)
 - B. To the left of the entrance is the Capitol Store which is open 9 am to 5 pm.
 - C. Just past this on the left is the tour guide/information center. You can pick up a brochure there and follow it for a walking tour of the building.
 - a. There is also a guided tour of the building at 9 am, 10 am, 11 am, 1 pm, 2 pm, & 3 pm. You do not need to sign up ahead of time. You are welcome to join a tour at any one of these times. You do not need a reservation!
 - b. Also available are 'Dome' tours. These leave the guide station at 9:15 am, 10:15 am, 11:15 am, 1:15 pm, 2:15 pm & 3:15 pm.
3. You can also examine the House and Senate chambers with no one present as well as see both Chambers in session if you like.
4. *We cannot predict this early whether there will be committee meetings of interest you might attend. This information will be available as late as the morning of the 22nd. (You may have heard the humorous country tune by Don Williams, "Tulsa Time." The legislature runs on 'legislative time.' 😊)*
5. Unless your group or organization has a designated T-Shirt or other desired apparel, we would ask that you wear black.

TALKING POINTS

The organizers disclaimer follows:

You don't have to be an expert on all the KPERS talking points or information. We provide you with this information because we think that it is valuable for you to know and understand. The following is what the legislators need to learn from you:

- 1. That you are here today to advocate for a Cost of Living for KPERS retirees and how long you have been retired.*
- 2. If you have a personal story of being retired and have seen prices increase and your KPERS benefit remains the same, how has it affected you?*

- 88% of KPERS Retirees have never received a benefit adjustment.
- 87% of the KPERS Retirees reside in Kansas.
- The Kansas Legislature has not provided KPERS Retirees with a permanent increase since 1997.
- The average KPERS monthly retirement benefit is \$1,376.00.
 - $(\$1,376.00 \times 12 = \$16,512.00)$
 - The Average KP&F monthly retirement benefit is \$3,396.00.
 - $(\$43,396.00 \times 12 = \$40,752.00)$
 - [Note both the employer and employee contribute more and retirement age is sooner.]
- Under Tier I & II the benefit is equal to approximately 51% of the retirees final average salary.
- The employees are required to contribute their designated amount. It is estimated that if the legislature had contributed what they needed to, that KPERS would be over 80% funded. Therefore, because of the 25 years of underfunding, the employees are not realizing any added value for their earnest contributions over the years.
- All state employees, which includes school staff, local, state, and county employees must become part of KPERS when hired.
- The employees with options are Elected State Officials.
- Elected officials can refuse the offer.

- None of these employees can enhance their KPERS retirement if they are already drawing KPERS retirement benefits.
- Legal finding showed that if you are drawing retirement from KPERS or are a beneficiary of a retiree, you must receive the promised benefit. Any vested member of KPERS falls in this category as well.
- These legal rulings refer to contract law and the fact that KPERS is a retirement plan approved by the IRS.
- Since all employees must be a part of KPERS by law, and their contributions are contributed through payroll deduction, all employees contributed the required amount to KPERS throughout their employment.
- Local government entities are also legally required to contribute their employers share to remain in KPERS.
- Because of legislative funding practices for KPERS State and Schools, the employer funding for KPERS State and Schools have been short funded.
- When the original Kansas School Retirement System (KSRS) was combined into KPERS in 1971, it was not fully funded. When the two pension systems were combined the new actuarial calculated amount was not contributed for 25 years. Since 1997, the employees have not received any of the added value from investment returns that would have been available if the KPERS Trust Fund had been fully employer funded. (The actuarial calculated contributions were not met for 25 years. This underfunding continues to be the primary cause of the present Unfunded Actuarial Liability.)
- Calculations show that if the actuarial calculated amount had been contributed, the funded level of the KPERS Trust Fund would be over 80%. Additionally, the UAL (Unfunded Actuarial Liability) would be at a minimum, 50% less than it is today.
- The understanding of these facts is particularly important when the recent excuses for no COLA have been that KPERS is not funded at an 80% level.
- The recent rhetoric saying that no COLA can be given because Defined Benefit Pension Plans do not have COLA's is inaccurate. (The Kansas Legislature since 1972 has granted 16 COLAs, 5 bonus payments and authorized a 13th check. As reported by the National Association of State Retirement Administrators, a selection of 100 public sectors plans (state and municipal) showed that 72 plans included an automatic COLA of some kind in the benefit plan design and 28 plans (including Kansas) utilized ad hoc COLAs.)