

Dear Friends,

September 9, 2020

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**

Today's meeting was held on Zoom! We will stay with Zoom meetings for a while, and we are changing the time to 10:00. Unless further Legislative action would suggest another additional meeting, the next meeting will be regularly scheduled on Wednesday, October 14th. *Please note the new time of 10:00 AM.* If you are interested in being involved in this way, please let me know and I will make sure you are included!

We would like to thank the Leavenworth KARSP unit for their generous donation to KCPR!!

General discussions were held on several topics. Following is a summary and some suggestions that came out of the meeting: **(Note that some of the suggestions at the end of this document have not changed. The information and the need for sharing this info still stands.)**

### **Kansas Election Information:**

- October 13 - Last day to register to vote in General Election
- October 14 - Advance voting begins
- October 27 - Deadline for voters to apply for advance ballots by mail for the General Election
- November 3 - General Election
- November 6 - Deadline for receipt of advance ballots postmarked on/before election day

The above information as well as the official outcome of the Primary Election can be found at: <https://www.kssos.org/elections/voter-information.html>

**COLA Bill:** We are putting together further rationale for a benefit increase. We are researching in depth the rationale and possibilities for a KPERS Benefit increase. Please do your part by doing five things: 1. Register to vote. 2. Vote. 3. Be sure your friends are registered to vote. 4. Be sure they get to the polls to vote. 5. Talk to the candidates and be sure they understand where you stand.

**KPERS BOARD ELECTION:** Ernie announced that he will run for a third term on the KPERS Board representing KPERS School.

### **KCPR 2021 Election results are as follows:**

Co-Chairs, Ernie Claudel & Dennis Phillips, Secretary Donna Freel, Treasurer Kent Dederick.

### **FYI**

The following information was offered at our meeting:

- a. KPERS, KPERS School, Local KPERS, the Legislature, Local Corrections Officers are under Tier III.
- b. KP&F, State Corrections Officers, Judges remain in Tier II.

### **Suggested Rebuttal for COLA or Funding Push Back**

I am often asked what response/rebuttal should be used when excuses are offered for no final action on a COLA. **Suggested responses to these excuses are as follows:** KPERS never had a COLA built into the statute. (In my opinion, this response is a condescending answer, and I will indicate those thoughts to those who use it!) Response: Nor did the Statute have a prohibition against a COLA.

1. KPERS benefits are 'earned' benefits'. Benefits are paid an amount calculated using a formula, therefore, the benefit is in proportion to what was paid in.
2. ALL employees have paid in every dollar they were required. They have received no contribution variance; in fact, the employee contribution was raised from 4% to 6% per the 2012 legislation.
3. KPERS is not like Social Security! The KPERS Trust Fund balance is derived from three sources: Employee Contribution, Employer Contribution, and Investment Returns. Without the proper employer contribution, proper investment returns are not possible!
4. Approximately 87% of KPERS retirees still reside in Kansas.
5. As of July 1,2020, it will be 23 years without a COLA.
6. All US retirement systems are approved by the IRS; therefore, the KPERS retirement system is NOT a Ponzi scheme!

If you have any questions, please call me at the number listed at the end of the Update.

- Remember to send us your updated email address...also if for any reason you should no longer wish to receive this update, let me 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](http://www.ksretirees.org)

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