

## KCPR MINUTES

September 9, 2020

The meeting was called to order by Ernie Claudel, Co-chair, on the above date at 10:00 AM on ZOOM. Present: Jerry Henn, Marc Galbraith, Brenda Stafford, Ed Klumpp, Kent Dederick, Susan Schram, Bill Layes, Ruthe Goff, Terry Forsyth, Michelle Prescott, Dennis Phillips, Melody Hoffsommer, and Harv Ludwick.

Minutes: The next meeting will be held on October 14th at 10:00 AM, once again on Zoom. The KNEA offices are not open presently because of the virus. There were no minutes for the August meeting as there was no action taken. Ed Klumpp moved, and Jerry Henn seconded a motion which acknowledged the above information. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Kent reported the balance is again unchanged at \$784.64. This total showed a \$50.00 increase since the last report because of the donation from the Leavenworth KARSP unit. Harv moved the treasurers report be accepted and Marc seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Discussions included the following:

1. It was emphasized that everyone needs to vote. There is a real push to get another conservative elected as Senate President. As far as a COLA is concerned, this would not be good.
2. There was also consensus on what to do about the 'Annual Report to the Legislature' and development of a COLA Bill. Because we are certain that there are enough books left over from last year and the statistics will be similar, the following will occur: We will provide a paper and electronic review to the incumbents and provide that review plus last year's publication to the newly elected. The preparation for the COLA Bill will likely provide information for the updated report as well as the email blasts for next year.
3. Brenda will help Ernie find the background on what we have done in the past regarding the KPERS Board Election. Brenda and Sue will also help Ernie get signatures for his run for the KPERS Board. Final decision on how to proceed will need to be made when it is determined who is running.
4. A motion was made by Ed and Seconded by Jerry that KCPR be added to Ernie's Lobbyist list. The motion also included that if there was cost associated with this move, KCPR would pick up the additional cost. Motion carried.
5. With a due date of Wednesday, Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>, as the due date, the following tasks will be completed and sent to Ernie who will distribute all the info to the committee so that COLA bill plans can be put together.

- A. Dennis was assigned to determine exactly how many 2019 reports to the legislature are remaining. This is to determine if we have enough copies for the newly elected legislators.
- B. Ernie will provide:
  - a. An update on what the other states are doing COLA wise.
  - b. A copy of the KPERS explanation of last year's bill.
  - c. A copy of the costs of last year's bill.
  - d. Funding levels since 2000.
- C. Michelle is going to research the increase in per diem for the legislators since 1997. Note: The Statute was passed in 1998, but back dated the effective date of the actual COLA.
- D. Bill will provide us with his reasoning on how a COLA may be tied to inflation and/or a cost of living increase as opposed to strictly a percentage.
- E. Michelle & Bill were also going to investigate how the virus-related government subsidies specifically impact the retired. It is believed they did not.
- F. Ernie was asked to find out from KPERS what the present expected benefit rate would be for Tier III.
- G. Anyone else with ideas regarding a COLA should put it in writing and send it to Ernie on or before Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>. It is likely that even 'what if' thoughts would be helpful, since 'two heads' are better than 'one'!!
- H. The following information was offered at the meeting:
  - a. KPERS, KPERS School, Local, Legislature, Local Corrections Officers are under Tier III.
  - b. KP&F, State Corrections Officers, Judges remain in Tier II.

Annual Elections were held for KCPR. It was moved by Harv and seconded by Michelle that the slate of officers be approved. The motion carried. The officers are: Co-Chairs, Ernie Claudel & Dennis Phillips, Secretary Donna Freel, Treasurer Kent Dederick.

Next meeting: Wednesday, October 14, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. on ZOOM.  
Ernie Claudel, Co-Chair

Respectfully Submitted,

Ernie Claudel