



Update

Dear Friends,

July 11, 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 July 11, 2018, KCPR meeting was held at the KNEA location. BTW we voted to give the new venue a try for a year. The next meeting will be August 8, 2018 (the second Wednesday as usual).

During this morning's meeting the following discussions/announcements took place:

- A. Because the Kansas Supreme Court partially accepted the Kansas Legislature's plan to fund Kansas schools, there will be no special legislative session, prior to January.
- B. We want to remind everyone how important it is to vote in the primary.
- C. Ernie and Donna are working on a mailing list for the fall fundraiser.
- D. We once again discussed getting the off duty fire fighters and police officers to attend next year's rally and to vote in the primary. Anything you can do in this regard would be much appreciated.
- E. We discussed the 2019 KCPR Report to the legislature and "Email Blasts" for the 2019 Legislative Session. Further explanation of this plan can be found below in the next section of this Update.
- F. The upcoming elections were discussed in some detail and it was announced that candidate evaluation is available in the following locations if you are interested.
 1. KNEA.org, go to Under the Dome
 2. Mainstream Coalition – this website has the legislature rated in five areas: Tax Reform, Public Education, Health Care, Women's Health, and Gun Safety. To Find go to:
 - a. Mainstream Coalition.org
 - b. Click on Get informed
 - c. (Scroll down to) and Click on Voting Scoreboards
 - d. Click on 2017 State Wide Alphabetical

FURTHER EXPLANATION OF TODAY'S MEETING

You have undoubtedly noticed that the recent 'Updates' have been rather brief. Obviously the summaries do not reflect some of the in-depth discussions that have taken place. I will briefly try to summarize some of our reflections, thoughts and plans. This is done for two reasons: 1) To keep you informed of our thoughts, and 2) ask a favor of you...besides voting.

1. We seem to be in a better place than we have been for a while. With the change of administration, increased tax revenue, and an at least partially favorable Kansas Supreme Court ruling on school finance, there is at least more funds available than in the past. We hinted, but never actually stated in this newsletter, what turned out to be an obvious fact. Because of the concern over school funding, any bill, no matter how legitimate which had a 'price tag' just didn't pass.
2. Governor Colyer recommended a 'make up' funding amount in the KPERS contribution with conditions. Those conditions were met.
3. The legislature for the most part has come to understand that the underfunding cannot continue. This is why it is so important to elect and reelect representatives that understand the need for proper funding in general and support KPERS in particular.

4. We continued, and will continue, to sponsor a "Rally in Support of KPERS" as we have in the past. This year, even though numbers were down because of the weather and the serious flu outbreak, those in attendance worked extremely hard at seeing their representatives and delivering a strong message in support of KPERS. At this rally, the assembled were told that these gatherings need to continue because of the need to keep the need for proper funding and a COLA on the front burner so to speak.
5. This led KCPR to continue publishing the "Annual Report to the Legislature." We released this as a printed document and it is also available on our website.
6. We also tried a new strategy. Once the session began, we released a weekly "EMAIL Blast" to all legislators. This consisted of highlighting certain pages of the Annual Report to the Legislature as well as some specific editorial material. This strategy obviously focused on facts. The "head" if you will. We want to address the personal side, "the heart" this year as well. The one way we can do this is use your antidotal reports on retirement. Our discussions have led us to the thought that the areas of most concern will be "eats, heat and meds"!!!
7. Now, besides to be sure to vote in the primary, we have an additional request. Would you please compose a letter (email) which highlights the challenges you face living on Social Security and your KPERS Benefit without a COLA? Please send it to me at eclaudel1@comcast.net. (That's eclaudel (the number one))

August KCPR Meeting

Further discussions will be held regarding email blasts, the annual KCPR Report to the Legislature and the upcoming general election.

Dates to Remember

Primary Election Day – August 7, 2018 – Be sure a vote and be sure your peers vote as well!!

The next KCPR Meeting will be held Wednesday, August 8th, at 9:30 AM in the KNEA Building, 715 SW 10th Avenue, Topeka.

The KCPR Rally in support of KPERS will be held, Monday, February 3, 2019, at 9:30 AM at the State Capitol in Topeka. (This date is Tentative but likely.)

Have a wonderful Weekend! Let me know if you have questions!!

- 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 listed at the end of this "update," and I 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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