



Update

Dear Friends,

December 13, 2017

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 December 13th KCPR meeting featured further preparation regarding the development of the information to be released to the Kansas Legislature in our annual report. We are in the final stages of preparation. We are also planning to communicate with the members of the legislature with some regularity when the session begins in January. We promised that we would provide you with a rationale for a COLA. We believe that with the "The Talking Points" combined with a *KCPR White Paper* which is in the final stages of writing, combined with the 2018 KCPR Report to the Legislature, we will have more than covered the topic!!

Members of the KCPR Steering Committee attended the November 27th meeting of the "Joint Committee, on Pensions, Benefits, and Investments." All of the committee was concerned about needing to add money to the budget because of the recent Kansas Supreme Court Ruling on school finance. It was hard to read the minds of the committee which is charged with KPERS oversight. It seemed fairly obvious that some were wishing the payments didn't have to be made, and all were concerned where the additional needed money would come from. Without a resolution to the underfunding pattern, granting a COLA is probably unlikely.

Once again we mention our concern over any potential underfunding. The following is quite obvious, but you may never have thought to put this into words when communicating with your legislator. Legislators are only concerned with budgets within their service window. Therefore, we must not allow them to 'kick the can' down the road, because future legislators will have no interest in making up the UAL either!!! It might be well to point that out to your elected official. I also heard another thought expressed that I might share here. When you are out asking that the underfunding be stopped, remind your legislator that when you ask them not to underfund, you are not just another special interest group asking for money...This is our retirement which was promised, one could even say 'guaranteed'. Further, the 'formula' for funding KPERS was set up so the 'guarantee' would be funded. Without the proper amount of dollars to provide the "investment" portion of the formula, the whole concept is placed in serious danger.

This year in the Legislature is a so called 'Carry Over Year', therefore, there are two identical COLA bills still in the 'hopper' in both the House and Senate. They are HB2323 & SB227.

Released at the meeting was a list of 'talking points' which have been compiled from the information we have gathered over the years. These were developed using format ideas commonly used by NRTA. You can find them on our website. Check there periodically because the numbers in the "Talking Points" will be updated from time to time.

Our concern about underfunding is amplified by the 'Good News' listed below. It is essential that our work as a coalition and the work of KKP be followed up by your communication with your Kansas Senators and Representatives!!!

IMPORTANT DATE

Note the below listed date is correct!!

The recently released KARSP Meadowlark contained the incorrect date!

At this day and time, the KCPR Rally in support of KPERS is scheduled on Monday, February 5, 2018. The back-up (weather date) will be Wednesday, February 7. The event is scheduled from 10:00 am to 11:30 am in the Rotunda in the Capitol in Topeka. [This date is yet to be officially confirmed, but we are fairly confident that this date will be officially confirmed.] Keeping the Kansas Promise will be hosting a legislative reception following the KCPR Rally on February the 5th, at the Dillion House from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm. This is intended to allow those in the KC area who must work during the day an opportunity to meet with the Legislators.

One last thing...In my travels, I often hear questions about the \$4000 death benefit which KPERS retirees will receive. This \$4K Death Benefit is NOT tax exempt. I have noted that some funeral home information is misleading!!

**We wish all of you Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!
We sincerely hope you have a wonderful Holiday Season!! Stay warm!!**

- 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 Ron and I editorialize, we 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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