

Kansas Coalition of Public Retirees



SERIOUS NEED for a KPERS BENEFIT INCREASE

In the past 23 years, no adjustment has been made to KPERS benefits to account for inflation. During that same period, the cost of living (as measured by the Consumer Price Index, CPI) has risen by approximately 54.0 percent. The Kansas Coalition of Public Retirees, KCPR strongly requests that the Kansas Legislature give serious consideration for a Cost-Of-Living adjustment (COLA) in the form of a permanent annual modification tied to the Consumer Price Index for the over 105,000 retired KPERS members and beneficiaries.

A few KPERS retiree facts:

- A. Beneficiaries range in age from 15 to 109.
- B. The average KPERS retiree benefit is about \$15,500 per year (\$1,292 per month).
- C. Vast majority of KPERS retirees (78%) receive less than \$2,000 per month.
- D. Most KPERS retirees and beneficiaries 85% list a Kansas address in the KPERS database.
- E. 87% (92,118) retirees and beneficiaries have never received a cost-of-living adjustment of any kind. Here are some other related numbers:
 - a. There were 11,536 retirees and beneficiaries who have received at least one permanent, ad hoc cost of living adjustment (retired before 7/1/1997). This represents 11% of the 105,620 total retirees and beneficiaries.
 - b. 89% (94,084) retirees and beneficiaries have never received a permanent Ad Hoc cost of living adjustment.
 - c. There were 13,502 retirees and beneficiaries who have received at least one bonus payment (retired before 7/1/1998). This represents 13% of the 105,620 total retirees and beneficiaries.
- F. Kansas has now recorded the longest period of time among all states without a COLA increase (23 years). This is an oppressive and wrongful record for Kansas.

Mr. Ernie Claudel, Co-Chair KCPR (913) 782 5139
Mr. Dennis Phillips, Co-Chair KCPR (785) 554 3442

KCPR-EB4-2021

