



Update

Dear Friends,

September 11, 2019

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)

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 9th. The primary agenda of this meeting will be to assemble "Email Blasts" for this year's legislative session.

The monthly KCPR meeting was held on September 11th. The main discussion centered on the pursuit of a COLA for KPERS and a tentative date for the 2020 Rally In Support of KPERS. We also held election of officers.

The 2020 Steering Officers are as follows:

Co-Chairmen – Ernie Claudel & Dennis Phillips

Secretary – Donna Freel

Treasurer – Kent Dederick

Representative Dave Benson was our guest. We had an extended thoughtful discussion regarding what he will propose. He left our meeting on the way to the Capitol to have the revisers put the finishing touches on the bill. This bill will need to be introduced. Once this happens and it has a number, the financial calculations can be made by the actuary through KPERS.

The 2020 session is a 'carry over' session. The two (identical) bills we proposed last year HB2100 & SB74 are still in play. Testimony was held on HB2100. We know the annual cost to the State is \$13.4 Million for these bills. As indicated above, we don't know the 'cost' of Representative Benson's bill. We will certainly share this information when it is available.

We certainly have no preference in which bill is chosen, we support any attempts for a COLA.

We simply remind you of the following:

- A. Since the last COLA was enacted in 1998 and made effective on July 1, 1997, the following has occurred in the **CPI (Consumer Price Index)**: The CPI for all items has increased by 50.0 percent from 1998-2017. The CPI for Medical Care has increased by 96.0 percent from 1998-2017.
- B. KPERS began in 1962. (The Original Kansas Teachers Retirement System was joined with KPERS in 1971 by the Kansas Legislature.) Since the beginning there have been:
 - 1. 5 Bonuses
 - 2. 16 Permanent Benefit Increases (The last effective July 1, 1997.)
 - 3. July 1, 2019, marked 22 years w/o a COLA. On July 1, 2020, it will be 23 years.
- C. Pensions benefit WOMEN – KPERS total participants, as of December 31, 2017, include approximately 311,490: 151,687 active members, 99,807 retired or beneficiaries, 59,996 inactive. Of the retired, approximately 62% are female, while 38% are male. Of the beneficiaries, approximately 82% are female, while 18% are male.
- D. The 'average' monthly KPERS benefit is \$1296.00.
- E. Approximately 83.3% of the KPERS benefit recipients **have NEVER received a COLA.**

Remember to talk to your Kansas Representative and Senator about a need for a COLA prior to the beginning of the session.

We determined that we will request, Monday, February 3, 2020, for our annual Rally!! Put this on your calendar!! We will need you in attendance.

Hope you have a wonderful week!!!

- A. Remember to send me your updated email address...also if for any reason you should no longer wish to receive this update, let me know at the address listed at the end of this "update," and I will contact you and remove you from the official mailing lists.
- B. 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.
- C. Remember that we want you to forward this to other retirees and the "working" who will benefit from this information.
- D. The KCPR website is www.ksretirees.org

Ernie Claudel
eclaudel1@comcast.net
913-481-6923