



Update

Dear Friends,

January 8, 2020

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)

Because the calendar of events for KCPR & KARSP are filling my January calendar once again, I have chosen to make this Rally Update a combined Update and First Rally Update as well.

First, all the important dates:

1. There will be an additional brief KCPR meeting this month. It will be held on Wednesday, January 29th at 1:30 PM. We are expecting an increased attendance this year at 'The Rally' and will have this additional meeting to make sure everything is ready.
2. *We have confirmed that the Rally date is official. Monday, February 3rd, at 10:00 AM in the Capitol Rotunda.*
3. The next regularly scheduled KCPR meeting will be held on February 12th at 9:30 AM. (The KCPR meetings continue to be held at the KNEA Building, 715 SW 10th Avenue, Topeka.)
4. **This is the first Rally Update!! There will be at least two more RALLY Updates to be released!**
5. Also, we have included a copy of the Rally flier for those who might need one. Feel free to copy and distribute.

Today's Meeting:

Today's meeting began with a presentation by Laurie McKinnon, the KPERS General Counsel. She discussed the present standing of public pension legislation across the country. She explained legal concepts that are the basis of the findings in many of the pension court cases. They are most often decided by law as opposed to equity. Monies in pension trust funds must be distributed fairly and evenly. We want to thank her for her time and effort in the presentation.

Other items of general interest:

- A. We discussed the distribution of the KCPR annually produced "Report to the Legislature". These can be found electronically on our website. The emphasis is on the need for a COLA and the appropriate funding of the KPERS Trust Fund. In conjunction to the delivery of the document to each legislator, we jointly distribute the KARSP Platform.
- B. We also reviewed the support we are getting from the National Public Pension Coalition. Some of the support we have and will receive are:
 - a. "Pension Bucks" – You will begin seeing these soon. They are just positive reminders in the approximate shape of a "bill" of the need for and reasons for a COLA.
 - b. They have put together a one-page COLA rationale sheet, focusing on the positive impact for all provided by the KPERS benefits.
 - c. They are going to be providing audios that will be available on our Facebook page, explaining the need for a benefit increase.

- d. They will also be providing information through those of you who receive this 'Update' through our website. (These are the ones that come to you from my address.)
 - e. We certainly appreciate all their work in our behalf.
- C. We have prepared and will send what we call 'Email Blasts' to the legislature on a weekly basis.
- D. The Governor is obviously dead set on re-amortizing the KPERS Trust Fund Unfunded Actuarial Liability.** Her proposal last year did not pass the legislature. You will recall that the increased cost over time was calculated to be \$7.4 Billion over the 15-year extension. It was *calculated* at that time, there was a 1 in 3 chance that the UAL would be paid off if there was no re-am and only a 1 in 5 chance if extended. This year's proposal is to extend the payoff period 10 years. KPERS calculates the cost of this proposal to be a \$4.4 Billion increase in cost.
- a. All present at the meeting could see no reason to increase the overall cost of this repayment, especially when we are talking Billions. Additionally, the press release has no mention of a COLA recommendation and none of the Governor's representatives will comment. It was mentioned that it appears that there is an attempt to fund the Unfunded Actuarial Liability on the backs of the employees by not offering them a COLA. (Presently we have no calculation on what the probabilities are for payment under this plan.)
- E. Regarding The "KPERS RETIREES UNITED RALLY," sponsored by KCPR:**
- a. Today we want to discuss the LARGER logistics involved in this endeavor, i.e., transportation and parking.
 - b. Ample parking is available at the Topeka Expo Center at 19th & Topeka Avenue. A shuttle will run from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm from this location. (This shuttle is provided courtesy of the Topeka Fire Fighters.) Parking in the immediate area of the Capitol is limited to the Capitol underground parking, which is free, **BUT** will fill up very early on the 3rd. Very limited handicap parking may be available in the Capitol parking garage. Past these two options, metered parking on the streets is about the only other option available, but it is also very limited. We cannot over emphasize the challenge you will face if you aren't bussed or carpooled to the Capitol, and then the drivers "shuttled" to the Capitol from the Expo Center! More on this later! Ernie used this service last year and found it very satisfactory and easy to use.
 - c. The parking area is located at the Stormont Vail Convention Center located in front of the Capital Plaza Hotel.
 - d. We suggest that the driver of your transportation drop you off at the Capitol and then go park the car or bus down at the convention center and then ride the shuttle back to the Capitol. You can be dropped off at the north entrance off the circle drive, then take the carpool vehicle to the shuttle area (see above) and have the shuttle return you to the Capitol. Buses may park or wait at the convention center also. (There are no longer stairs you must climb to enter the building!)
 - e. If you are lucky enough to park on the street, choose the parking meters with the yellow post. They allow for longer parking at a cheaper price. Even parking across the street from the Capitol will require more walking than using the shuttle.
 - f. The entry, which we have described above, is truly beautiful. You enter the building, and past the security check point is a Visitors Center, and then there are some 30 yards of exhibits as you move toward the elevators. This path will lead you to an office referred to as "The

Document Room.” To gain access to the elevators, you move straight ahead until you come to a T (The Document Room). Turn right a few steps for the elevator. This elevator will take you to all five floors! You will also find an elevator to your left. There are steps in this area leading to the first floor. You may want to take those if you are able bodied. The Rally is on the first floor Rotunda.

- g. We suggest you plan to wear black. While it would be nice to give everyone a free t-shirt, our budget does not allow for this type of expenditure. (If your organization has matching t-shirts which identify you as a group, by all means wear them!!)
- h. We are not aware of any simple way for you to get something to eat in the Capitol itself. We have just received word that the “Capitol Snack Bar,” which has been an institution for years, is open but could best be described as a snack shop.
- i. **If your group is planning on bringing a bus, please let me know!**

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 me 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 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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