



Dear Friends,

February 11, 2026

Our NEXT Regular Scheduled KCPR Steering Committee ZOOM meeting will be held on March 11, 2026.

Please Note Further Information in the body of this memo regarding the next meeting!

KCPR conducted its monthly meeting with the following outcomes:

First let me apologize for this information being a bit later than normal.

A packed agenda was processed on Wednesday. We had good news to share. The decisions that were made are significant but time sensitive.

Here are the important points: [Please read carefully!]

1. We now have the duplicate for HB2500 introduced in the Senate (SB500). Senator Billinger introduced the bill in the Senate Ways and Means Committee. It was then assigned to the Senate Committee on Financial Institution and Insurance. [This is the Senate equal of the House Committee on Financial Institutions and Pensions.]
 - A. This action will mean that the SB500 *WILL NOT BE DEAD* at 'Turn Around'. [If the bills have not been heard in their house of origin at 'turn around' and are not blessed bills, they are essentially dead. Turn around is from February 20th – the 23rd.] The first day back after this brief legislative break is Tuesday, February 24th.]
2. There is also a blessed bill lingering in the House Committee on Taxation. It is HB2380. This is the bill I put together which would allow any KPERs Benefit recipient once reaching 85 years of age to receive \$150 monthly benefit increase. Moving it to another committee, probably Financial Institutions and Pensions, to be heard is the call of the Speaker of the Kansas House. FYI this has a relatively low cost (by legislative standards) and would obviously be a great help to our senior peers.

3. The other good news is that in the legislative visits (51 this session to date) with the exception of 2 or 3 have been much more positive than in the future.
4. We have also completed 3 KCPR Table Days with one more before 'turn around' and have been working hard to book March. I have at least 4 possibilities to date.
5. So, What IS the Plan???"

The plan is a 'PUSH DAY!' And what do you ask?

A. We have replaced the Lobby Day and Rally concepts as follows:

- a. The Table Days
- b. A Push Day (No travel required!) February 18, 2026

Your assignment and we hope you choose to accept it, is as follows:

- We want you to prepare emails for the following and release them on February 18th.
- Your State Senator
- Your House Member
- The members of the two appropriate House and Senate Committees. (Email addresses below)
- Please push for action on HB2500 and SB500 and HB2380.
- Write or Email the Speaker of the House and ask him to let the (2) House Bills [HB2500 & HB2380] be heard. Address Below
- Write or email the President of the Senate thanking him for allowing action on HB500. Address Below

Information you may find helpful:

HB 2500 & SB500 AN ACT concerning retirement and pensions; relating to the Kansas public employees retirement system and systems thereunder; creating the Kansas public employees retirement system cost-of-living adjustment commission; prescribing the powers and duties of the commission; establishing procedures of the legislature for the review and consideration of cost-of-living adjustments by the commission, by Committee on Financial Institutions and Pensions.

We also have postcards available to mail. If you would like some cards, please request them from Ernie or if you belong to a KARSP Local Unit, request cards from your District Director.

We have already received questions regarding why we did not directly ask for a COLA. Even though many of you who have been following this process understand the reasoning, we will repeat it. Over the years following the 2012 legislation that was the result of the 2011 KPERS Commission which established Tier III, KARSP and KCPR have attempted numerous times to have COLA and/or

permanent benefit increase legislation passed for the KPERS Retired and Beneficiaries. We have been turned away repeatedly with a variety of explanations/excuses as to why one cannot be voted on.

The idea of a Commission came about for several reasons:

1. This is the approach used by the Legislature to receive their recent raise.
2. To fund a Commission is a relatively small cost compared to a benefit increase.
3. We hope that if a group of folks, including legislators, suggest a benefit increase the idea will be better received.
4. A thorough study has never been conducted by the legislature.
5. We know that any kind of raise will cost a considerable amount. We hope that with a study and someone else making the proposal, we will finally have some success.

There is a lot of interest in HB2500. As always concerns about the cost of any recommend benefit increase.

What I have learned is that on the Kansas House side the speaker does not want to see a COLA Bill debated or on the floor.

Here are some possible reasons:

1. Even though the Speaker is running for Insurance Commissioner he apparently doesn't think squashing a KPERS Benefit Bill will hurt his election chances.
2. The possibility that it might pass if a bill ever made it to the House Floor.
3. If it did not pass, we would know who voted against it.

I have also been working on the Senate side to get it introduced as well.

This is why you need to keep up the avid emailing to your legislators and the speaker of the house and the President of the Senate. It is time to pounce!

We also have postcards we can provide. Contact Jerry Henn or myself and we will send you postcards for unit members to mail.

We have replaced 'Rally Day' and 'Lobby Day' with numerous '*Table Days.*'

We need a minimum of three people to staff these days from 7:45 AM until NOON. If you provide the original suggested six, that will give all of you ample time to talk to your legislators. Monday through Thursday, the committees in the House and Senate are scheduled to meet at 9:00 or 9:30. This would answer my call for other retirees to visit these committees and be visible.

Leadership Addresses

Kansas Speaker the House contact information.

Representative Dan Hawkins

Room 368-W

785-296-2303

Dan.Hawkins@house.ks.gov

Kansas Senate President contact information.

Senator Ty Masterson

Room 332-E

785-296-2419

Ty.Masterson@senate.ks.gov

CAPITOL MAILING ADDRESS

Kansas State Capitol
300 SW 10th St.
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Find Your Kansas Legislator

If you do not know, or are not sure, who your Kansas Senator and Representative is, go to OpenStates.org. It will ask you what you are looking for and enter legislators. It will next ask for your address, and your Senator and Representative will pop up!!

EMAIL IDEAS

Jerry Henn, KARSP Executive Director, and I attended an AARP/NRTA (National Retired Teacher Association) conference virtually. One of the presentations was on effective emails. I found it personally very helpful. I am sharing it with you because I believe it would be very helpful to you as well, but also because the emphasis on brevity may relieve some of your communication fear with your representative in Topeka. This information is very compatible with my comments, "Remember a dissertation is not necessary!" 🐼

The Subject Line

- A. The subject line should be limited to about **30 characters**.
- B. Make it time sensitive/urgent if possible.
- C. "Will you please vote [or take some other action] for _____."
 - a. "Will you please voice your support for a COLA now!"
 - b. Hopefully, you will be able to use this suggestion later! "Please vote for Bill _____ which provides the KPERS retired with a COLA."

Email Body

- A. **Make the first sentence and certainly the first paragraph a summary of the rest of the body of the email.**
- B. Remainder of the email body:
 - a. Second Level: In some more detail, **3 to 5** sentences explain in more detail (IF NECESSARY). If possible, communicate to the recipient what the problem is, the solution and the action needed.
 - b. Third Level: An option might be to enclose a link to something you want them to look at in greater detail. One example might be: List our website, www.ksretirees.org and what you want them to read on the site.

Three Cautions:

1. Do not try to prove your knowledge of the vocabulary of the English language. 🐼
 2. Keep the statistics to a minimum!
 3. **Be brief and concise!!**
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Prepared by Ernie Claudel, KARSP Legislative Chair and KCPR and KARSP Lobbyist and members of the KARSP executive board and KCPR Steering Committee.

THESE ARE THE SENATE AND HOUSE COMMITTEES THAT DEAL WITH KPERS ISSUES

Senate Financial Institutions and Insurance 2026

Chair	H. Town	District	Office		Phone	email
Brenda Dietrich	Topeka	17	223-E	785-296	7648	Brenda.Dietrich@senate.ks.gov
Vice Chair						
Michael Fagg	El Dorado	14	234-E	785-296	7678	Michael.Fagg@senate.ks.gov
Ranking Minority						
Silas Miller	Wichita	25	135E	785-296	7391	Silas.Miller@senate.ks.gov
Mike Argabright	Olpe	17	235-E	785-296	7367	Mike.Albright@senate.ks.gov
Beverly Gossage	Eudora	9	455-S	785-296	7382	Beverly.Gossage@senate.ks.gov
Scott Hill	Salina	24	224E	785-296	7670	Scott.Hill@senate.ks.gov
T J Rose	Olathe	35	418-E	785-296	7394	TJ.Rose@senate.ks.gov
Kellie Warren	Leawood	11	419-E	785-296	7646	Kellie.Warren@senate.ks.gov
Democratic Member:						
David Haley	KC	4	134-E	785-296	7376	David.Haley@senate.ks.gov
Committee Meets Daily 9:30 Room 546-S						

House Financial Institutions and Pensions 2026

Republicans		City	Prefi x	#	Offic e	Email
Nick Hoheisel	Chair	Wichita	785 296	7689	276-W	Nick.Hoheisel@house.ks.gov
Angel Stiens	V-Chair	Shawnee	785 296	7675	512-N	Angela.Stiens@house.ks.gov
Carolyn Caiharr		Bonner	785 296	8153	168W	Carolyn.Caiharr@house.ks.gov
Lauren Bohi		Olathe	785 296	7658	168-W	Lauren.Bohi@house.ks.gov
Mike King		Heston	785 296	7500	167-W	Mike.King@house.ks.gov
Allen Reavis		Atchison	785- 296	8621	512-N	Allen.Reavis@house.ks.gov
Lance Neelly		Tonganoxi e	785 296	7683	581-W	Lance.Neelly@house.ks.gov

Angel Roeser		Manhattan		7402	167-W	Angel.Roeser@house.ks.gov
Kyler Sweely		Hutchison	785-296	7695	512-N	Kyler.Sweely@house.ks.gov
Chuck Smith		Pittsburg	785-296	7426	519-N	Chuck.Smith@house.ks.gov
Gary White		Ashland	785-296	7392	352-S	Gary.White@house.ks.gov
Laura Williams		Lenexa	785-296	7696	268-W	Laura.Williams@house.ks.gov
Democrats						
Rui Xu	Rank M	Westwood	785-296	7686	174-W	Rui.Xu@house.ks.gov
Abi Boatman		Wichita	785-296	7631	174-W	Abi.Boatman@house.ks.gov
Suzanne Wikle		Lawrence	785-296	7652	451-S	Suzanne.Wikle@house.ks.gov
Virgil Weigel		Topeka	785-296	7104	581-W	Virgil.Weigel@house.ks.gov
Valdenia Winn		KC	785-296	5593	54-S	Valdenia.Winn@house.ks.gov
Meets M & W	9:00 AM	582-N				

Ernie Claudel
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