

RALLY DAY REPORT (January 20, 2016)

In spite of the questionable weather, we had a great turn out with a variety of organizations represented.

The most exciting news of the day was that the KCPR COLA bill was introduced in the House Committee on Pensions and Benefits prior to the beginning of the Rally. Rep. Kevin Jones, Wellsville, introduced the bill and it was accepted by Chairman Steve Johnson as a Committee bill.

The Rally began promptly at 10:00 AM. Co-Chair of KCPR, Dennis Phillips served as Master of Ceremonies and did a masterful job of introducing the speakers for the morning. The summary remarks of those who accepted our invitation to speak were Sen. Anthony Hensley, Minority Leader of the Senate; Rep. Tom Burroughs, Minority Leader of the House; Rep. Ed Trimmer, Ranking Minority Member of the Standing House Committee on Pensions and Benefits; Rep. Steve Johnson, Chairman of the Standing House Committee on Pensions and Benefits; and Ernie Claudel, Co-Chair KCPR

Ernie Claudel announced that the COLA bill had been introduced, reiterated the outstanding reports on KPERS not only for the Efficiency Report from the state contracted group, but also the Efficiency Report given by a KPERS contracted firm. He also observed that the Governor has become more careful in how he states reductions in KPERS State Employer contributions. The Governor is now saying the amount which is currently required by law is being reduced only because the number of state and school employees is reduced. We suggest that this is not the point. Dollars are dollars and the UAL is at the level it is because of underfunding. Not funding for any reason does not help make up the deficit.

Those attending the rally were reminded that we all have two obligations:

- To serve on juries
- To vote

Refusing to vote is not rebellion; it is surrendering.

Submitted by Ernie Claudel and Ron Gardner