

**Eastern Kentucky University Retiree Association Meeting
October 18, 2016**

Location: Golden Corral

Time: 11:30

Guest Speaker: Jane Gilbert, Health Insurance Coordinator for TRS; Don Hines, KRTA legislative contact

Topic: Updates from Frankfort on Health Insurance and Legislative Action

Charles Hay, president of EKURA, opened the meeting by welcoming more than 20 members and guests to our October meeting which officially presents us with updates from Frankfort. After a buffet luncheon, the meeting was called to order and Jane Gilbert was introduced. Jane very effectively and efficiently explained via handouts, the TRS Insurance Team Communication for 2016, which describes expectations for 2017 for members of TRS (note that the identifier is now Teachers' Retirement System of the State of Kentucky instead of KTRS). The expectations are that MEHP (Medicare Eligible Retirees) will pay any increase to Social Security while KEHP (Kentucky Employees' Health Plan) will pay the Part B equivalent to TRS. At this time there is no awareness of any major plan changes in either area. MANDATORY is total re-enrollment in mid-October (must be accomplished by each identified KEHP retiree). As noted there is a change in the TRS logo. While the coverage remains the same for MEHP, there could be a change from \$121 in 2016 to around \$149 in 2017 for the SAME coverage. The Annual Medicare Wellness visit or physical with your doctor including its reward program AND home visits through HouseCalls remains a feature of the program. Both SilverSneakers and edumedics continue to be offered by TRS partners. There also continues to be specialized services available through Express Scripts as outlined in literature which has been mailed. The Know Your Rx Coalition, which is a Pharm-Assist offering, is still available and encouraged.

Jane Gilbert encouraged all KEHP (under 65) members to make themselves aware of the program, first by reenrolling and knowing that Anthem is the Third Party Administrator with services through CVS Caremark, Humana Vitality, the SmartShopper Program and WageWorks, who administers the COBRA/HRA. She briefly compared the CDHP and PPO offered as the Living Well component. She explained that the consumer-driven health plan was \$169.78 per month in 2016 for the CDHP and the PPO was \$201.78. Although the Annual investment in the PPO is almost \$400 more it locks you into a flat copay. Her advice is that we must be aware of our coverage especially when cost of service differences are considered.

TRS KEEPS IN TOUCH WITH US THROUGH MAILINGS AND NEWSLETTERS AS WELL AS ONLINE NOTIFICATION AND AVAILABLE CALL CENTERS. Our sound coverage has been retained. We are responsible for keeping up with it. The example she gave was that a "bad news" letter went out to over 800 retirees under 65 in July and September – very few responded, but now that reenrollment is upon us, the call center is VERY busy. Jane met with several retirees who had specific questions.

Don Hines, our Legislative contact for KRTA, gave us an update of information coming out of Frankfort which could affect us. He introduced Steve Gillespie, a member of Madison County Retired Teachers' Association, who is also working to keep us abreast of Frankfort changes. He directed us to the "blue" sheet sent out by KRTA in its fall mailing which outlines the legislative points of which we need to be aware and which we need to emphasize when talking with retirees or those in-service who will be affected by changes in legislation at retirement. Most critical points to know about our pension:

1. Actuarial soundness – enhanced by the \$578 million payment to the ARC plus the annual employer contribution. It is now a line item in the budget and could be increased with additional monies designated by the Governor.
2. Governance – we elect the members of the Board. Currently solid but we need to support to keep it this way. Transparency is always an issue here.
3. Defined Benefits – we MUST fight to keep this distribution plan. Reports reviewed on NIRS.org website show that plans which are defined benefits are 20% more effective than defined contributions.
4. Medical Insurance – no push back in this area. It is going well.

Don also addressed two issues being reviewed by congressional delegations:

1. Windfall Elimination Plan
2. No mandatory Social Security for KTRS members

He also pointed out that our bond rating is improving and there is now an effort to find a person to replace Bob Waggoner who retired in September.

Fawn Conley announced that Salvation Army bags are available for anyone who wants to participate in the food collection for Christmas Angel Project. Ron announced that there is a sign-up sheet for those who want to attend our trip to First Winery in Versailles followed by Low Tea at Waveland. The limit is 18 and anyone interested must contact Ron Wolfe by November 4. Pat Ridgley, treasurer, announced a balance of \$2,631.46 in our treasury with two new life members, Hal and Kathy Holmes. Charles reported on the Regional meeting at Boone Tavern which was attended by Charles Hay, Fawn Conley, Richard Vance, Jackie Vance, John Gump, Phyllis Gump and Nancy Kenner. Charles described the Necrology Service at the meeting, remembering all deceased retirees in our region. He asked for a moment of silence to honor those who were from ECU. He also encouraged encouraging newly retired members to join EKURA. Materials for membership were available at a registration table. Jackie Vance, secretary, called for approval of August minutes, previously delivered electronically. She announced the December meeting at Arlington with President Benson as our guest and a meeting of the Pension Oversight Board in Frankfort on October 24. Jackie also reported that the market value of our ECU Retirees Association Endowed Scholarship is \$63,207.72.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30. Our next meeting will be at Arlington House on December 20, with President Benson as our guest. More information will follow.

Respectfully submitted, Jackie Vance, Secretary