

**Eastern Kentucky University Retiree Association Meeting
October 21, 2014**

Location: Gillum's

Time: 11:30

Guest Speaker: Rep. Rita Smart; Senator Jared Carpenter

Topic: Legislative Update

Don Calitri, president of EKURA, opened the meeting by welcoming members and guests to Gillum's. He reminded members that all emails to be sent to membership should be routed through Krista Whitaker, our liaison in The ECU Development Office. Charles Hay, Trip Group Coordinator, announced the November 12, trip to Louisville to tour the Muhammad Ali Museum as well as the Louisville Slugger Museum with lunch at the Old Spaghetti Factory. We will continue our School Supply Drive for Model in December as well as bringing mittens and hats for local children in need. There will be a venue change for the December meeting; President Benson and his wife will join us at the Churchill Building on December 16. The catered meal will be \$17 per person and money should be sent to Pat Ridgley. Our new health carrier, United Health Care, will have a representative in Richmond on October 12; the purpose of the meeting is to update KTRS members on the new health care coverage. All meeting locations are listed in the most recent KTRS newsletter. Dot Kirkpatrick shared a letter from Courtney Abraham, our scholarship recipient. Her major is Music Education, and she will graduate in May, 2015.

Pauletta King maintains our website and noted that the schedule for the upcoming year has been added. We are going to a paperless distribution of information. Any information and updates regarding EKURA will be delivered electronically from the Office of Development (Krista Whitaker). We applaud Pauletta and Krista for all each has done to support EKURA.

Jackie Vance, secretary called for an approval of the August minutes as they appear on the website. There being no corrections or additions, the minutes were approved as distributed.

Representative Smart and Senator Carpenter brought greetings from Frankfort and presented a Legislative Update primarily as related to Retired Teachers. Each recognizes that their role is to bring tax dollars to Madison County. As leaders in Madison County they see the need to study carefully what is going on at local and state levels, identify best practices, and determine what can be brought to Richmond and Madison County to enhance the community. Rep. Smart specifically says her role is to educate other legislators about retirement benefits and lobby for defined benefits. Senator Carpenter stated that they both hold coveted positions on the Education Committee, which is critical to Madison County and its continued growth. He stressed the importance of ECU to the community, especially as it can be so instrumental in building college and career readiness. He expressed his recognition that KTRS is a much more stable system than many other retirement systems and that it is in part his responsibility to make sure that

strength continues. Rep. Smart stated that “when the rubber hits the road” their job is to do their best for the district to help the people in the community. Each emphasized how important it is to contact them with questions and issues needing support. Marshall Myers asked them to be aware that higher education is becoming outpriced for many students because of the constant rise in tuition. Rep. Smart, as a member of the budget subcommittee on post secondary education, spoke about implementing more efficient models in funding and really looking carefully at wastefulness in higher education. It is imperative that retirees stay involved and share their voices. It was pointed out that after money is appropriated the legislator has no control over spending at each institution. Discussion followed on making college more affordable, overabundance of administrators, program cuts, signature programs, job preparation/availability.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45. The next meeting will be at Churchill Building at 12:00 on December 16, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie Vance, Secretary