Celebrating 75 Years of Serving You!

The Kansas City Public School Retirement System (KCPSRS) celebrates its 75th year in 2019. In tribute to this achievement, see the historical timeline of events that led to the creation of KCPSRS and the many ways the System has changed over the years. The timeline is showcased on our website www.kcpsrs.org.

In 1943, Governor Forrest Donnell signed into law House Bill No. 178 which enabled the School District of Kansas City, Missouri and its employees (teachers and others) to establish a retirement system.

Since its establishment on January 1, 1944, KCPSRS has been dedicated to its mission: working to fulfill the expectation of a secure retirement for employees of Kansas City, Missouri’s schools and public libraries.

Please join us in celebrating 75 years of service throughout 2019.

We look forward to continuing to provide reliable retirement benefits to Kansas City’s dedicated public school and library staff for another 75 years and beyond!

The Fight for a Dignified Retirement and the Ongoing Work to Keep It Secure

The first of the Kansas City Public Schools to be completed was the Washington School at the southwest corner of Independence and Cherry in 1868. (see article on page 2)

Congratulations to Mr. Rogers and Mr. Ukuu! Re-elected to the KCPSRS Board of Trustees

KCPSRS election results are complete!

Retirees elected Curtis Rogers to serve his sixth four-year term (2019 – 2022) on the retirement system’s Board of Trustees. Mr. Rogers retired from the Kansas City Public School District in 2002 after a 36-year career with the District. He served as a Trustee for the Kansas City Public School Board from 2012-2016. He is active in his fraternity (Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.), his Masonic lodge (Green Pastures #128 Lodge), and in his church (Palestine Missionary Baptist Church).

KCPSRS active members elected Bakari Ukuu to serve a second four-year term (2019-2020) as a Trustee on the KCPSRS Board. Mr. Ukuu is currently a middle school vice principal for the Kansas City Public School District. Since joining the KCPS staff in 2012, he has also served as a classroom teacher, an instructional coach and is an active advocate for the District’s students, families, and staff. In school, Bakari supports teachers and students to disrupt oppressive systems that inhibit their success while assisting teachers in facilitating rigorous, engaging, and culturally relevant learning experiences. Outside of school, he serves on the Teach for America’s Collective National Advisory Board and as a steering committee member of Brothers Liberating our Community.
CELEBRATING 75 YEARS!

Retirement System Celebrates 75th Anniversary: The Fight for a Dignified Retirement and the Ongoing Work to Keep It Secure

Teachers and other public school and library employees in Kansas City sometimes take for granted their membership in a retirement plan that will provide them a lifetime pension benefit. But long before today’s reliable retirement system was established, teachers and their advocates fought a long fight for a dignified and secure retirement income. Since KCPSRS began 75 years ago, its members and Board of Trustees have worked hard to keep the System updated, solid and relevant through a constantly-changing educational environment.

For almost a century after the Kansas City School District was organized in 1866, teachers had little or no opportunity for saving for their retirement years. In 1916, the Kansas City Star pointed out the need for a teachers’ pension system, arguing that teachers were expected to possess refinement and special training, yet pay was so sparse that it was impossible to save for old age. Advocates such as the National Education Association pushed for teacher pensions, pronouncing, “a sound teacher retirement system serves two important purposes: it protects the public from rendered loss competent by advanced age or other disability, and it adds dignity to the work and position of the teacher.”

Although the call for a pension system began just after the turn of the 20th century, the Missouri State Constitution prohibited the payment of retirement allowances to teachers either by the state or by school districts. By 1932, thirty-seven other states had established state-wide or local systems for teachers, believing a retirement system contributed to a sound educational system. Bills in the Missouri state legislature failed to pass in 1937, 1939 and 1941, but in 1943, three separate but similar bills were passed, establishing retirement systems in Kansas City, St. Louis and St. Joseph.

The Kansas City Public School Retirement System opened its doors in 1944, governed by a board of trustees “responsible for the general administration and proper operation of the Retirement System.” Retirement was mandatory at 70 years of age. Retirement eligibility was age 62 with at least five years of service. The System had 2,147 active members and 240 retirees.

The System has grown steadily since then, both in the number of active and retired members and its assets. Today, the System has 3,760 active members and 4,112 retirees and $670 million in assets.

KCPSRS’s Board of Trustees continues to ensure the stability of the System as it celebrates its 75th anniversary in 2019. Chairman Horace Coleman says the Board has several goals: taking its fiduciary responsibility seriously; securing member assets through efficient operations and prudent investments; and overseeing the System’s long-term funding for the financial security of our members.

Coleman hopes teachers and other members understand how important the System is to them. “This retirement system provides financial security for the rest of their lives. It is a lifetime benefit,” he says.

The strength of KCPSRS is based on the continued growth and wise investment over the years. Assets have increased from just over $200,000 in 1944 to nearly $670 million in 2018.
**Reminders for Those Considering Retirement in 2019**

Your KCPSRS retirement application plus other required documents must be submitted 2-3 months before your effective retirement date. Retirement dates are always the 1st of the month. You must have terminated employment at least by the last day of the month before your effective retirement date. Example: You can retire effectively June 1, if you properly terminate employment by May 31, even if you continue to receive paychecks through August per your employment contract.

Call 816-472-5800 to schedule an appointment within the date ranges shown in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of Retirement</th>
<th>Date Range Application May Be Submitted</th>
<th>Retirement Application Deadline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 1</td>
<td>October 1 – November 30</td>
<td>November 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 1</td>
<td>November 1 – December 31</td>
<td>December 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 1</td>
<td>December 1 – January 31</td>
<td>January 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 1</td>
<td>January 1 – February 28</td>
<td>February 28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 1</td>
<td>February 1 – March 31</td>
<td>March 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 1</td>
<td>March 1 – April 30</td>
<td>April 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 1</td>
<td>April 1 – May 31</td>
<td>May 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 1</td>
<td>May 1 – June 30</td>
<td>June 30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You can refer to the “Ready to Retire Guide” located on our website for more information about what to prepare for when you are ready to retire.

**Attend a 2019 Pre-Retirement Planning Seminar**

It is a good idea to attend a Pre-Retirement Planning Seminar for all members who are 3 months - 3 years away from retirement. Registration is required and easy! Call 816-472-5800 or go on-line https://kcpsrs.wufoo.com/forms/kcpsrs-preretirement-registration/ Seating for each seminar is limited. Register now!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location and Address</th>
<th>Registration Deadline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 19</td>
<td>4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>KCPSRS 3100 Broadway Rm 130 (first floor) 35 seats</td>
<td>February 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 5</td>
<td>4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>KCPSRS 3100 Broadway Rm 130 (first floor) 35 seats</td>
<td>February 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 18</td>
<td>10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>KC Public School 2901 Troost Boardroom auditorium 200 seats</td>
<td>March 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Social Security**

Did you know that you can access your Social Security statement at any time? Create a mySocialSecurity account and have online access to:

- Requesting a replacement Social Security card
- Applying for Social Security Benefits
- Get your Social Security Statement
- Find out if you qualify for benefits
- Estimate your future benefits

**Is Your Beneficiary Designation Up to Date?**

To provide your family with financial security, it is important to designate your KCPSRS beneficiary and keep this information updated as life changing events occur. A marriage, divorce, birth of a child may change your wishes for beneficiary. To view your current KCPSRS beneficiary designation, log in to MY ACCOUNT.

**Annual Interest Rate Set**

At their January meeting the KCPSRS Board of Trustees set the interest rate active members earn on their KCPSRS contributions at 1.92%. Each January interest is credited to active member account balance (member’s total of his or her accumulated contributions and interest) as of the previous January 1.

The interest rate has no impact on the amount of your lifetime retirement benefit calculation. Interest is paid out in any lump sum payments to:
1) members who terminate employment with a KCPSRS participating employer and withdraw their contributions and interest earned
2) a member’s beneficiary in the event of a member’s death.
2019—CELEBRATING 75 YEARS!

JANUARY
1  KCPSRS Office closed—New Year’s Day
7  Board of Trustees meeting
21  KCPSRS Office closed—Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
31  Deadline to apply for March 1st retirement

FEBRUARY
4  Board of Trustees Meeting
18  KCPSRS Office closed—President’s Day
19  Pre-Retirement Seminar @ 3100 Broadway, Room 130 (4:00 p.m.—6:30 p.m.)
28  Deadline to apply for April 1st retirement

MARCH
4  Board of Trustees Meeting
5  Pre-Retirement Seminar @ 3100 Broadway, Room 130 (4:00 p.m.—6:30 p.m.)
18  Pre-Retirement Seminar @ 2901 Troost, Boardroom Auditorium (10:00 p.m.—12:30 p.m.)
29  Deadline to apply for May 1st retirement

APRIL
1  Board of Trustees Meeting
19  KCPSRS Office Closed—Good Friday
30  Deadline to apply for June 1st retirement

MAY
6  Board of Trustees Meeting
27  KCPSRS Office closed—Memorial Day
31  Deadline to apply for July 1st retirement

JUNE
3  Board of Trustees Meeting
28  Deadline to apply for August 1st retirement

JULY
4  KCPSRS Office closed—Independence Day
31  Deadline to apply for September 1st retirement

AUGUST
30  Deadline to apply for October 1st retirement