

What have JCTA/KEA done about the KTRS crisis?

Creating Visibility and Awareness:

- JCTA continues to discuss the KTRS issue in an on-going manner at JCTA Professional Representative meetings.
- JCTA has held special meetings to discuss KTRS.
- JCTA President Brent McKim has visited dozens of schools, with more scheduled, to inform members of the retirement issues we face.
- JCTA devoted the entire PR meeting in January 2014 to the KTRS issue, engaging our PRs in a campaign to raise awareness of KTRS throughout the state.
- JCTA's Board of Directors called every PR and Alternate to encourage them to attend the January PR meeting and participate in our campaign.
- JCTA PRs held building level meetings throughout the district from January to March 2014.
- JCTA PRs emailed their colleagues throughout the state to inform them of the pension crisis.
- JCTA publishes ongoing information articles in The Action updating members on KTRS
- JCTA emails important media articles dealing with KTRS to all members.
- The JCTA President and Vice President authored and passed a New Business Item at the 2014 KEA Delegate Assembly creating a statewide KEA task force charged with developing and implementing a statewide action plan for full KTRS funding.
- The JCTA Organizing Team provided yard signs so that members could raise awareness in their neighborhoods.
- JCTA led a social media campaign that stretched far beyond our 5,900 members
 - Our petition to Save Our Pension garnered nearly 15,000 supporters, and gave us a network of people throughout the state that we can communicate with about KTRS
 - Our Thunderclap had 142 participants with an outreach of more than 42,000 people
 - Numerous Tweets and Facebook Posts were retweeted and shared by JCTA and KEA members

Member Mobilization:

- JCTA and KEA led members in a post card campaign to encourage legislators to make KTRS funding a front-burner issue
- JCTA and KEA members Tweeted the Governor asking him to include a plan for fully funding KTRS in his 2014 budget
- JCTA and KEA members emailed the Legislative inbox about KTRS
- The JCTA Organizing Team organized and, through our petition, led members across the state in a call in day to Governor Beshear stressing the importance of funding KTRS in this biennium, and were successful in shutting down the Governor's phone lines
- The JCTA Organizing Team organized and led the state in a call in day to House Budget Chair Rick Rand to encourage him to refinance Kentucky's debt to KTRS
- JCTA members lobbied their legislators in person during KEA's Day of Learning on February 6th

Partnerships: These groups partnered with JCTA and KEA to make our lobbying successful

- KEA Retired
- JCTA Retired

- Kentucky Retired Teachers Association
- KTRS
- Peritus Public Relations
- Kentucky Jobs with Justice
- Kentuckians for the Commonwealth

Lobbying:

- In 2007, the JCTA President was appointed by Governor Fletcher to be an employee advocate on the Blue Ribbon Panel on Public Employee Pensions
- JCTA and KEA employ seven full-time lobbyists, who have been working to achieve full funding for KTRS since 2008
- In 2008, JCTA and KEA protected long-term retiree benefits when the Legislature revised the system
- JCTA and KEA lobbyists have met with all key legislators and the Governor frequently and repeatedly to keep KTRS funding in the forefront.
- In 2014, KEA moved KTRS funding to the top of its Legislative Agenda

Accomplishments:

- JCTA and KEA made sure that there are an active and a retired member on every sub-committee of the Blue Ribbon Panel
- In 2007, JCTA's President was appointed to the Blue Ribbon Panel on Employee Pensions
- JCTA and KEA protected long-term employee benefits in 2008
- In 2010, JCTA and KEA preserved retired teachers' insurance benefits through Shared Responsibility
- In 2010, the State repaid \$450M it had borrowed from the retired health plan with interest
- Although the Legislature did not pay its portion of Shared Responsibility in 2010, JCTA and KEA have made sure that it has paid its share every year since
- In 2014, JCTA and KEA achieved a \$116M stream of funding for KTRS which will begin in 2017, with an addition \$34M contributed this biennium
- For the first time, KTRS officials tell us the active and sustained engagement by JCTA and KEA members has made a huge difference in the awareness among legislators of the need for significantly more funding for KTRS. This is now regarded by legislators as a “front burner” issue “that will have to be addressed.”
- Delegates of the 2014 KEA Delegate assembly passed NBI 1, introduced by JCTA, which KEA will implement by convening a stakeholder group to develop an aggressive and sustained action plan to get the Legislature to fully fund KTRS.