SENIORS COUNT!

THE KANSAS SILVER HAIED LEGISLATURE WAS INCORPORATED IN 1983, IS A STATEWIDE ORGANIZATION COMPRISED OF THOSE 60 AND OVER AND ADVOCATES FOR SENIORS. WE MEET ANNUALLY IN THE FALL IN TOPEKA IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. MOST KANSAS COUNTIES HAVE ONE DELEGATE, HOWEVER JOHNSON COUNTY HAS SIX DELEGATES BECAUSE OF GREATER POPULATION.

WE HAVE JUST CONCLUDED OUR 36TH ANNUAL SESSION IN WHICH WE FINALIZED THE ISSUES ON WHICH THE ORGANIZATION AGREED TO PRESENT AT THE NEXT LEGISLATIVE SESSION. THOSE ISSUES ARE AS FOLLOWS.

CONTINUE FULLY FUNDING THE SENIOR CARE ACT FOR THIS ACT HELPS MAKE COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES AN OPTION. THINK ABOUT PAYING AN AVERAGE OF $200/MONTH FOR SERVICES AS OPPOSED TO THE STATE PAYING $3,000/MONTH FOR NURSING HOME CARE FOR THOSE WHO QUALIFY FOR MEDICAID.

EXPANSION OF MEDICAID WHICH COULD IMPROVE HEALTH OUTCOMES BY REDUCING THE NUMBER OF UNINSURED KANSANS; COULD INCREASE ECONOMIC ACTIVITY; AND COULD PROVIDE FEDERAL FUNDS WITH A 90% MATCH WHICH COULD REDUCE THE BURDEN OF CARE FOR KANSAS.

EXEMPT FOOD PURCHASES FROM SALES TAX, BUT ADD TAX TO INTERNET SALES WHICH WOULD REPLACE THESE FUNDS. THE STATE SALES TAX IS 6.5% FOR ALL PURCHASES WITH ADDITIONAL TAX IMPOSED BY CITIES AND COUNTIES. REQUIRING ALL SELLERS TO COLLECT AND REMIT SALES TAX SHOULD OFFSET THIS FOOD TAX EXEMPTION.

PROVIDE FUNDING FOR GUARDIANSHIP ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS WHICH WOULD BENEFIT GRANDPARENTS WHO HAVE BEEN GRANTED PLACEMENT WHEN THE CHILDREN HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM CUSTODY OF THEIR PARENT. THESE FUNDS WOULD PROVIDE FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR THE PROVISION OF CARE.

COMMUNITY BASED TRANSPORTATION FOR SENIORS CONTINUES TO BE NONEXISTENT OR LIMITED IN RURAL AREAS. SENIORS NEED TRANSPORTATION TO LIVE SUCCESSFULLY TO OBTAIN ESSENTIAL SERVICES AND KEEP LONG TERM PLACEMENTS AT BAY. STATE AGENCIES COULD GREATLY HELP IN ESTABLISHING COMMUNITY BASED TRANSPORTATION SERVICES.

AUTHORIZE STATEWIDE SPORTS WAGERING DIRECTING THE REVENUE GAINED TO SENIOR CITIZEN SOCIAL SERVICE PROGRAMS.

LEGALIZE EXPANDED MEDICAL CANNABIS APPLICATIONS THAT INCLUDE TETRAHYDROCANNABINOL WHICH HAS BEEN REPORTED TO IMPROVE CARE FOR VARIOUS MEDICAL CONDITIONS WHICH COULD INCLUDE SEIZURES, CHRONIC PAIN, PARKINSON’S, FIBROMYALGIA, NAUSEA, PTSD AND OTHERS.

FULL FUNDING AND A COLA FOR KANSAS PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT (Kpers) WHICH INCLUDES DEBT SERVICE PAYMENTS ON PENSION OBLIGATION BONDS AND STOP DELAYING EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION PAYMENTS. IT HAS BEEN 20 YEARS SINCE THE LAST COLA FOR KPERS RETIREES, BUT INCREASING PRICES REDUCES THE PURCHASING POWER.

MEMBERS OF THE KANSAS SILVER HAIED LEGISLATURE ARE ALL VOLUNTEERS WHO ADVOCATE FOR YOU. THEY WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING INPUT REGARDING STATEWIDE ISSUES IMPORTANT TO YOU AND WOULD BENEFIT THE SENIORS OF KANSAS.