

Lobby Day 2009

Chapter 10 Notes

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We were able to visit with thirteen of our sixteen legislators. Very good for a busy day of house and senate sessions. We were introduced by Senator Rob Mayer on the senate floor. **Very exciting!** Last year at Lobby Day we were introduced by Representative Wright, so we enjoyed the senate introductions this year.

I kept hearing that the money was tight, and we didn't know if we would be getting a COLA this year. So, I asked why don't we have any money for a COLA? Here's what I was told by Senator Jack Goodman – (one of our co-workers senators, not ours).

“We have seen a decrease in capitol gains taxes.”

(I sadly have no capitol gains, but for those who pay capitol gains taxes, they must not have made much money, and therefore that money is not being collected by the state. So, that's one decrease in their funds.)

Then he said that the amount of sales tax has gone down dramatically.

(That made since to me, since people who aren't buying, weren't paying, right?)

He said that the amount of income tax has stayed basically the same, but with the decrease in the other two taxes, there wasn't as much available money to spend.

(Something I learned this trip, too, is that the state of Missouri's constitution does not allow our legislature to spend more than they have. Not all states have that law, therefore Missouri does not deficit spend. I like that!!!!)

(I'm trying to explain to you; in the same way I needed it explained to me, the reason why we may not see a COLA? Do I want a COLA? Why sure!!!!!! I know you do, too. Our chapter's mission was to make our legislators aware of our needs. That is what we did!!

We also were told by many of the legislators, that the effort made by Senator Griesheimer and Representative Schlottach to eliminate the inclusion of overtime pay as part of your salary in calculating your retirement is dead. It does not appear it will be going to vote. That's a **major accomplishment** for the Association, and it is exactly the way our district vote went. Please continue to stay in touch with your legislators.

Another issue we asked about was the inclusion of veteran service time to be included in your year's service with the state. They said this was not going anywhere. Again, it was a cost issue for them.

An increase in our deferred compensation state match was added to one of the bills that had been heard on the house floor. It did not make it any further than that, so if it can't be tacked on to another bill before session ends, then we probably won't be seeing any increase this year. We want to continue to add to this benefit. This is a cost issue, so it looks pretty bleak.

As far as the primary seat belt law, two separate representatives told me that they would probably oppose it. They want to vote the way their people back home tell them to vote. They said they know that means less

money for the state, but they must vote according to their constituency. So, we'll have to watch this issue to see how it turns out.

Now, if you have made it this far in my newsletter, I either have made you happy or mad, right? Hee hee hee Nah, I'm teasing with ya. Your chapter has worked very hard for you, and I want to thank each of you for your support. It makes it well worth the effort when I see interest and hear conversation about your future and your jobs. That's what it's all about, folks.

**YOU HAVE TO CARE, YOU HAVE TO STAY INFORMED AND YOU
HAVE TO VOTE.**