

Pension plans in trouble

Wayne Turner retired in 1973 after 32 years driving a package car for United Parcel Service.

Now he says his monthly pension is at risk because of legislation passed by Congress last year that is meant to help underfunded multi-employer pension plans bolster their finances by giving them a way to cut benefits for some retirees.

"It isn't right and we definitely will have to adjust our lifestyles but I am not worried about me, I am concerned about what it's going to do for other drivers and their families," he said this week.

Turner says he doubts that many other retirees from not only UPS but Carolina Freight (in this area) are aware of the risk of their pension being cut as a result of the legislation passed in December 2014 as part of a spending bill meant to run the federal government through the rest of its fiscal year. That legislation, he said, was added at the last minute and it is targeted at companies that enter into pension plans with other companies.

Turner is circulating flyers in the Cleveland and Gaston county areas to make people aware of what is happening and has scheduled a meeting for Saturday, May 30, at 2 p.m. at the Belmont Moose Lodge, Robert Russell Road, Belmont, exit 26



Wayne Turner holds up a shirt that he is wearing to put emphasis on a "Stop the rush to pension cuts" a meeting slated for Saturday, May 30, at 2 p.m. at Belmont Moose Lodge, Robert Russell Road, Belmont, exit 26 off I-85.

off I-85, follow the signs. A meeting is also planned for Greensboro on May 31 at 2 p.m. at Clarion Hotel at 415 S. Swing Road, Greensboro Airport, exit 213 off I-40 Guilford College Rd/Swing Road.

Karen Friedman, Policy Director of the Pension Rights Center, Washington, DC and Ken Paff, National Organizer of Teamsters for a Democratic Union, will be the speakers.

"We want everyone to come to this 'defend our pension meeting' to get the latest updates on the new law and threatened drastic pension cuts by the Central States Pension fund. We must learn what we can do

to protect our earned pensions," he said.

Petitions are being circulated by the committee to protect pensions, www.mycspensionhandsoff.com.

An independent audit will be paid by the Central States Fund to evaluate other alternatives and possible changes that may indicate other options to any proposed cuts.

"We need a second opinion to submit to the Secretary of the Treasury and other oversight bodies as well call for an immediate independent review of the Central States Fund by independent actuaries and pension experts," said Turner.

Action Plan in the works at Grover

GROVER — Although Town Board is still waiting to hear from a IRS audit, board members voted Monday night to move forward and ask for assistance in creating an "action plan" for the town's future.

A third party is handling payroll duties and making payments in a timely manner, Mayor J. D. Ledford reported., and state auditors have been designated power of attorney for the town's taxes.

The mayor has also asked for help in evaluating a new clerk and finance officer position for which applications are being received. The board voted to spend no more than \$800 to contract with a sec-

ond party to evaluate candidates for the position.

"We are on track to be under budget by \$14,000 in the general fund for the fiscal year 2014-15," the mayor reported.

"How can the town be under budget and still going through this financial situation," a Grover resident asked at the meeting.

Ledford said the budget is "tight"

Another citizen commented, "You let go of the clerk but that's not the whole problem. Go back and review."

"You took money out of one pot and put it on water/sewer expenses and that doesn't sound right, that de-

partment should stand alone," said another citizen.

The mayor explained that the town had paid water/sewer bills in anticipation of a loan which is being held up by the Local Government Commission.

In other actions, the board:

+voted to buy pedestrian signs for Main Street and Hardin Circle.

+voted to accept applications for an open commissioner seat. The council member would serve until the November elections.

Four of Grover's five council seats are up for grabs in the November elections and the mayor's seat is also up.

Allen, local student inducted into Phi Eta Sigma National Honor Society

Steven T. Allen, of Kings Mountain, a member of the class of 2018 at Washington and Lee University, was recently inducted into Phi Eta Sigma National Honor Society, which is limited to students who complete the first term of their first year with superior academic records.

To be eligible for Phi

Eta Sigma, a student must be in the top 20 percent of the class at the end of his or her first term. Seventy-two W&L students were initiated at a ceremony held during W&L's 2015 Reunion Weekend.

"The academic accomplishments of the first year class, individually and col-

lectively, are very impressive," said Jason Rodocker, associate dean of students and dean for first-year experience and adviser to the W&L chapter of Phi Eta Sigma. "Many Phi Eta Sigma inductees will obtain further academic accolades including graduate fellowships."

East Elementary First Knight club donates to Nepal

Since the 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck Nepal and left thousands without a home, the Early Act First Knight Club at East Elementary School decided to send money from their highly successful talent show.

The East School talent show raised \$600 for local and international service projects. Last Thursday the club members conducted the meeting for local Rotarians and presented \$300 to Rotary District 7680 and the money was doubled by the Rotarians and \$600 sent to help with earthquake relief in Nepal. The remaining \$300 proceeds was donated to a local cause — Relay for Life- to help with expenses for a local cancer patient.

An EAFK club was chartered at East School by Kings Mountain Rotary Club in 2013 and, as any Rotary Club, the club is expected to choose and complete service projects. In April the East School club held the first ever East's Got Talent Show and raised \$600 for local and international projects.

East Elementary is the first North Carolina elementary school to implement a EAFK program with Kings Mountain Rotary Club in 2013. Grier Middle School in Gastonia was the first NC intermediate school to implement the program.

Early Act First Knight is a character development program developed by Texas Rotarian and former



Jordan Ellis, president of East School's EAFK club, presents a check to help the victims of a Nepal earthquake to KM Rotary club President Dr. James Mason. Kim Reel, left, school counselor/social worker, looks on.

Photos by LIB STEWART

Navy Chaplain Dr. Randall Parr. He was concerned that students in K-12 were not introduced to the concepts of service or friendship or taught basic character traits like responsibility, respect and honesty. The program was introduced to Texas Rotary Clubs and is exclusively sponsored by clubs today in Texas, California, South Carolina and North Carolina.

The school year kicks off with a medieval joust on the playground. Costumed knights ride horses and teach honesty and fairness in the games they demonstrate to the entire

student body.

The EAFK curriculum is used with students every day and teaches not only the Rotary Four Way test but also about character traits at home, school and in the community. Interactive activities are geared to grade levels and students are chosen monthly as the best example of the trait being studied. Monthly or bimonthly award ceremonies recognize students and medals and knighting takes place with queens, knights, princesses and ladies in costume from the Rotary club.



OFFICERS OF EAFK — Pictured are officers of the EAFK club at East Elementary School sponsored by Kings Mountain Rotary Club. From left, Jordan Ellis, president; Madison Buchanan, vice-president; Jayden Henderson, secretary; Makaylah Reid, treasurer; and Jacob Hamrick, sergeant-at-arms. Back row, from left, Rotary advisors Hazel Thrift-Morrow, Kim Reel, school counselor and Suzanne Amos, Rotary club advisor.



EAFK CLUB AT ROTARY — Members of the EAFK Club of East School participated in the Rotary Club program Thursday, the EAFK president presiding. Attending were Gage Noblett, Sarah Hudson, Jeremiah Ellis, Sam Black, Jailen Moore, Ella Kue, Karlie Postell, Blake Lovell and Stetson McDaniel.

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AUSTIN PUTNAM delighted Kings Mountain Rotarians Thursday with the dance numbers he performed recently to win the East School talent show.