

ILLINOIS RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
IRTAPAC Committee Meeting
August 14, 2018

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ed Wollet at 9:30 a.m.

Members Present: Ed Wollet, Chair; Mary Lang, Reg. 1; Conrad Floeter, Reg. 3; Mike Wierzbicki, Reg. 4; Joseph Talluto, Reg. 6; Norma Hedges, Reg. 7; Jim Balzer, Reg. 9; Joe Underwood, Reg. 10; Ferrel Seaman, substitute, Region 12; Gil Deimel, Reg. 14; Luana Flynn, Reg. 15; Steve Launius, Reg. 16; Gerald Herring, Reg. 17; and Gary Threw, Reg. 18.

Members Absent: Ronald Erdmann, Reg. 1 and Esther "Sam" Solar, Reg 5.

Also Present: Roger Hampton, IRTA President; John Flaherty, IRTA Vice-President; Bob Kaplan, Area 2 Rep; Bob Lyons, Region 3 Director; Jim Bachman, Executive Director; Andrew Bodewes, Contract Lobbyist; and Susan Goetz, Administrative Assistant.

Motion by Steve Launius to approve the minutes of the meeting from March 27, 2018 passed.

Ed Wollet reviewed the process of recommending candidates for endorsement to the IRTAPAC Board of Directors. He informed the Committee that four candidate questionnaires were received after the June 15th deadline. On August 14, 2016 a motion was made and passed to always enforce the published deadline with a 72-hour buffer allowance. The deadline is in place to allow IRTA's Government Affairs Team time to collect and record all returned questionnaires, and it gives the IRTAPAC Committee time to review the questionnaires and receive input from their Local Units.

Jim Bachman did explain that candidates did come on the ballot late this year and if they had not filed with the State Board of Elections by the time the questionnaires were mailed, they did not receive a questionnaire. In House District 94, Richard Cramsey was appointed to the ballot after June 15th. Jim Balzer contacted IRTA and asked that we mail him a questionnaire and it was returned by August 1st. The incumbent did not return a questionnaire.

Motion by Norma Hedges to provide an exemption to the IRTAPAC questionnaire deadline to those candidates appointed after the filing deadline. The motion was seconded by Jim Balzer and passed by vote 9-4.

The four late questionnaires were from:
House District 56 – Hal Patton
House District 62 – Sam Yingling (current representative)
House District 94 – Richard Cramsey
House District 109 – Cynthia Given

Of the 4 late questionnaires received, Richard Cramsey will be considered for IRTAPAC endorsement.

The returned questionnaires of each candidate were reviewed by the IRTA Government Affairs Team and the IRTAPC Committee with input from local units.

Senate Candidates

Motion by Gary Threw to endorse Omar Aquino passed.
Motion by Mike Wierzbicki to endorse Laura Fine passed.
Motion by Gary Threw to endorse Michael Connelly passed.
Motion by Mary Lang to endorse Tom Cullerton passed.

Motion by Mike Wierzbicki to endorse Suzanne Glowiak failed by tie vote with Chair abstaining.
Motion by Mike Wierzbicki to endorse Ann Gillespie passed by vote 8-4.
Motion by Ferrel Seaman to endorse Julie Morrison passed.
Motion by Conrad Floeter to endorse Terri Link passed.
Motion by Norma Hedges to endorse Neil Anderson passed.
Motion by Gary Threw to endorse Sue Rezin passed.
Motion by Gary Threw to endorse Don Harmon passed.
Motion by Norma Hedges to endorse John Curran passed.
Motion by Mary Lang to endorse David Simpson passed.
Motion by Luana Flynn to endorse Andy Manar passed.
Motion by Gary Threw to endorse Rachelle Aud Crowe passed.
Motion by Joseph Talluto to endorse Dale Fowler failed by vote of 5-8.

House of Representatives Candidates

Motion by Gary Threw to endorse Lou Lang passed.
Motion by Conrad Floeter to endorse Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz passed.
Motion by Gil Deimel to endorse Robyn Gabel passed.
Motion by Luana Flynn to endorse Val Montgomery passed.
Motion by Luana Flynn to endorse Terra Costa Howard passed.
Motion by Luana Flynn to endorse Karina Villa passed.
Motion by Gerald Herring to endorse Mark Walker passed.
Motion by Mike Wierzbicki to endorse Maggie Trevor passed.
Motion by Conrad Floeter to endorse Marty Moylan passed.
Motion by Luana Flynn to endorse Michelle Mussman passed.
Motion by Mike Wierzbicki to endorse Jonathan Carroll passed.
Motion by Luana Flynn to endorse Bob Morgan passed.
Motion by Mike Wierzbicki to endorse Daniel Didech passed.

Meeting recessed for lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Motion by Gary Threw to endorse Joyce Mason passed.
Motion by Gary Threw to endorse Tom Webber passed.
Motion by Mary Lang to endorse Jake Castanza passed.
Motion by Mary Lang to endorse Angelique Bodine passed.
Motion by Mary Lang to endorse Paul Stoddard passed.
Motion by Steve Launius to endorse Tony McCombie passed.
Motion by Luana Flynn to endorse Michael Halpin passed.
Motion by Norma Hedges to endorse Lance Yednock passed.
Motion by Steve Launius to endorse Lisa Dugan passed.
Motion by Steve Launius to endorse Stephanie Kifowit passed.
Motion by Luana Flynn to endorse John Connor passed.
Motion by Steve Launius to endorse Andrew Chesney passed.
Motion by Mary Lang to endorse Amy Davis passed.
Motion by Jim Balzer to endorse Norine K. Hammond passed.
Motion by Steve Launius to endorse Richard Cramsey passed.
Motion by Mary Lang to endorse Dillon Clark passed.
Motion by Gil Deimel to endorse Sue Scherer passed.
Motion by Steve Launius to endorse Mica Freeman passed.
Motion by Mary Lang to endorse Marc Bell passed.
Motion by Mary Lang to endorse Shirley Bell passed.
Motion by Steve Launius to endorse Monica Bristow passed.
Motion by Ferrel Seaman to endorse Katie Stuart passed.
Motion by Luana Flynn to endorse Jay Hoffman passed.
Motion by Luana Flynn to endorse Jerry Costello II passed.
Motion by Gary Threw to endorse Natalie Phelps Finnie passed.

The Committee will receive an email from Chair Ed Wollet as a reminder of their duties from now until the November election. They are encouraged to let IRTA members know when early voting will be and to recruit local members to support endorsed campaigns.

Proposed Distribution of IRTAPAC Campaign Funds for the 2018 Election Year

As of August 1, 2018, there is approximately \$186,812 in the IRTAPAC fund which is expected to be distributed to the Tier 1 and Tier 2 candidates for their election campaigns. The Committee will receive a list of Tier 1 and Tier 2 races. The Committee members are encouraged to attend fundraisers for all candidates. IRTAPAC funds are available to attend these fundraisers by contacting IRTA Executive Director Jim Bachman.

Motion by Ferrel Seaman to cap Tier 1 races at \$15,000 and cap Tier 2 races to \$1,000. The motion was seconded by Joe Underwood and passed.

A review of the distribution of funds from January 1, 2018 through August 1, 2018 was distributed.

Donations

As of August 1, 2018, there are 5,338 IRTA members who contribute \$1 per month to the PAC fund.

Gubernatorial Race

One questionnaire was received by Gubernatorial candidate, J.B. Pritzker. Governor Rauner did not respond and candidate Sam McCann was not on the ballot when the questionnaire was sent. The Gubernatorial questionnaire deadline was May 15, 2018.

Motion by Gary Threw to endorse J.B. Pritzker passed.

After endorsements are approved by the IRTAPAC Board of Directors, letters will be sent to candidates making them aware of the IRTAPAC endorsement. Jim Bachman informed the Committee that the IRTA Government Affairs Team will be reaching out to them to take checks to endorsed candidates.

WEP/GPO

The IRTA Government Affairs Team will be asking each member of the Illinois delegation and Illinois Congressional candidates whether they support the repeal of WEP-GPO. They will also be informed of proposed legislation to reform WEP and if they support this legislation.

Motion to adjourn at 1:46 p.m. passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Goetz, IRTA Administrative Assistant