

ILLINOIS RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
IRTAPAC Committee Meeting
March 13, 2019

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; Joseph Talluto, Reg. 6; Norma Hedges, Reg. 7; 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. 2; Mike Wierzbicki, Reg. 4; Sam Solar, Reg. 5; Jim Balzer, Reg. 9; Joe Underwood, Reg. 10; and John Abell, Reg. 12.

Also Present: Jim Bachman, Executive Director; Roger Hampton, IRTAPAC Board Chair; John Flaherty, IRTA Vice President; Andrew Bodewes, Contract Lobbyist and Susan Goetz, Administrative Assistant.

Steve Launius made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting from August 14, 2018. The motion was seconded by Gerald Herring and passed.

Jim Bachman and Andrew Bodewes reviewed the 2018 election. IRTAPAC contributed a total of \$144,415.00 to candidates in the 2018 election which is the most we have ever contributed in an election year. Of the 25 candidates that IRTAPAC contributed to, 19 won and 6 lost. Andrew personally walked in-district with 7 of these candidates. It was noted that IRTAPAC made a significant difference in the election not only financially but with local support as well. It was a heavily Democratic election cycle even in counties that have been predominantly Republican. This year there are 40 new members in the General Assembly compared to past elections when there have been approximately 4 -6 new members. If a new General Assembly member is having a fundraiser, please contact Jim about attending so you can introduce yourself and make IRTA's name know. The next election cycle will be in 2020.

IRTAPAC hosted a fundraiser on March 11th for 5 Democratic Female Senators. One Senator spoke with Jim regarding the Governor's budget proposal to underfund the pension systems and she agrees with IRTA. She plans to speak up in her Caucus regarding the underfunding proposal.

The IRTAPAC Committee is encouraged to attend local unit meetings when possible and encourage local unit members to attend fundraisers and meet with their newly elected legislators. Encourage local units to invite legislators to their unit meetings. This is especially important when seeking local input during the endorsement process.

We currently have 5,578 members participating in the \$1.00 per month IRTAPAC deduction.

The IRTAPAC Committees duties and goals were reviewed. The committee is to email Ed with any new thoughts on the current goals and strategies.

The endorsement process and the time frame for sending candidate questionnaires will need reviewed and possibly updated before the next election cycle. The addition of late filing candidates will be added to the criteria. The homework assignment for the committee is to find out when their regional local units are meeting. Local unit input on candidates is needed in the future.

The Committee was made aware that the Silent Auction to be held at the 2019 IRTA Convention on October 14th will benefit the IRTAPAC. A letter has been sent to all 93 local unit Presidents asking for donations of auction items. The auction 2 years ago raised over \$10,000 for the IRTAPAC. Monetary

donations are also welcome in lieu of an auction item. The Committee was asked to help assist with the auction tables on Monday. A sign-up will be circulated at the next meeting. Please remind your local units to contact Susan at the IRTA Office with their auction donation(s).

A motion was made by Gary Threw to amend the IRTAPAC By-Laws by changing individual names to Executive Director and Government Affairs Director. The motion unanimously passed.

IRTAPAC Board Chair, Roger Hampton addressed the committee and thanked them for their participation. It was recommended that committee members double check their contact information with the IRTA Office and update it if needed.

A motion was made by Joseph Talluto to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Luana Flynn. With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chair, Ed Wollet at 11:42 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,
Susan Goetz
Administrative Assistant