

ILLINOIS RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION  
IRTAPAC Committee Zoom Meeting  
March 24, 2021

The zoom 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; Norma Hedges, Reg. 7; Sharon Teefey, Reg. 9; Gary Weiss, Reg. 13; Steve Launius, Reg. 16; Gerald Herring, Reg. 17 and Lee Rodgers, Reg. 18.

Members Absent: Kathleen Staerk, Reg. 2; Joseph Talluto, Reg. 6; Joyce Beard, Reg. 14; and Luana Flynn, Reg 15.

Also, Present: Jim Bachman, Executive Director; John Flaherty, IRTAPAC Board Chair; Bill Funkhouser, IRTA Vice President; Andrew Bodewes, Contract Lobbyist; Courtney Hayes, Government Affairs/Grassroots Coordinator; and Susan Goetz, Administrative Assistant.

The minutes from July 15, 2020 were reviewed and approved.

We currently have 5,473 members participating in the \$1.00 per month IRTAPAC deduction. \$89,000 was given to candidates for their campaigns in the 2020 election and 45 Candidates were endorsed in total. 40 endorsements were made in the House of Representatives and of those, 30 won their races. 5 Candidates were endorsed in the Senate and all were elected. Fundraisers are starting again, and the Committee was reminded to reach out to Jim or Courtney if they wish to request IRTAPAC funds to attend.

The IRTAPAC Committees' goals were reviewed.

Goal 1: Recommend endorsements of legislative and gubernatorial candidates. (Keep)

Goal 2: Raise money for the IRTAPAC by increasing participation in the \$1/month deduction program. (Take out the 7,000 by December 31, 2020).

Goal 3: Assist in organizing campaign volunteers, particularly in units that will have Tier 1 races. Possibly add a 4<sup>th</sup> Strategy and include organizing the distribution of Yard Signs.

Goal 4: The IRTAPAC Committee will explore avenues to initiate a Federal PAC. The IRTA Government Affairs team was asked to put together a Pros/Cons Position on possible Federal Candidate endorsement.

The endorsement process and the time frame for sending candidate questionnaires was reviewed. 2020 was a successful endorsement year and the number of returned questionnaires was similar as to those received in the past. Both staff and the Committee need to contact candidates to return completed questionnaires in a timely manner. When sending questionnaires via email, we can request a "read receipt" which would help with tracking and follow-up. The yard signs for candidates were a great success. In the future, we will center our focus around Tier 1 endorsed races and try to get Retired Teachers Vote yard signs statewide. The Committee is meeting again in the fall, but Jim stated that a Zoom meeting can be called at any time when an issue arises or needs discussed. The Committee was asked to think about the endorsement process critically and were reminded that the questionnaire can be changed and updated as needed. Courtney will resend the 2020 Questionnaire to the Committee for review and to see if any changes or additions need made.

The Committee was made aware that the Silent Auction to be held at the 2021 IRTA Convention on October 18<sup>th</sup> will benefit the IRTAPAC. An email will be sent to all local unit Presidents asking for donations of auction items. Monetary donations are also welcome in lieu of an auction item.

A motion was made by Mary Lang that if local units ask, the recommended monetary donation for the IRTAPAC Silent Auction by a local unit should be \$100. Gary Weiss seconded the motion which passed.

A motion was made by Steve Launius to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Gerald Herring. With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chair, Ed Wollet at 10:54 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Susan Goetz  
Administrative Assistant