

Unapproved until  
future meeting

ILLINOIS RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION  
IRTAPAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
November 14, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 12:25 p.m. by Chairman Dave Davison

Members Present: Dave Davison, Chairman; Ed Wollet, Vice Chair; Shirley Dodds, Treasurer; Doris Heaton, Secretary; Bob Pinkerton, Past President; Roger Hampton, IRTA Vice President; and Loryann Eis, Bob Kaplan, Jan Bryant, Donna Sargent, Ferrel Seaman, and Bill Funkhouser, Area Representatives.

Also Present: Jim Bachman, Executive Director; Mary Shaw, Government Affairs Director; Andrew Bodewes, Contract Lobbyist; and John Flaherty, IRTA Vice-President Elect.

Motion by Loryann Eis to approve the minutes of the meeting of April 18, 2017 passed.

Mary Shaw gave an update on donations and expenditures. To date in 2017 the expenditures have been \$9750 but the coming election will be highly contested with six senate and twenty-two house members not seeking reelection. Those numbers are expected to grow by the final date for filing in December. The silent auction at the convention raised \$10,882 for PAC.

Ed Wollet presented a recommendation from the IRTAPAC Committee:

After considering input from the local units; Jim Bachman, Mary Shaw and Andrew Bodewes may make a determination to spend IRTAPAC funds for primary elections up to \$1000 without prior approval. The expenditure of funds between \$1000 and \$5000 can be spent with the approval of the Executive Director, the IRTAPAC Chair, and the IRTAAC Vice-Chair. Any expenditure over \$5000 must be approved by a majority of the IRTAPAC Board of Directors via email, phone, or other means.

Motion by Bob Kaplan to adopt the recommendation from the IRTAPAC Committee passed.

The advisory resolution which was approved by the 2017 IRTA Convention was reviewed.

**WHEREAS**, In recent days, the Governor of Illinois has stated he will be lobbying Congress to give him the power to change public employee pension benefits, which he argues are overly generous; and

**WHEREAS**, Governor Rauner believes the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate can release the state from the pension protections provided under the Pension Protection Clause of the Illinois Constitution by passing a law that would give states permission to come up with cost-saving changes to their pension programs; and

**WHEREAS**, The option would be available to states only after they had established that spending money on workers' retirement plans is hampering other essential services; and

**WHEREAS**, The Governor hopes to see these changes to allow him to bypass the pension protection clause of the Constitution included "with the tax overhaul" that has been anticipated as the next big issue to be taken up in Washington; and

**WHEREAS**, The IRTA Board of Directors urges the IRTAPAC Board of Directors to consider the endorsement of U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate Candidates; and

**WHEREAS**, The endorsement of candidates would be determined based on their previous votes in office and/or their position on issues specific to the interest of IRTA members and answers to a candidate questionnaire; and

**WHEREAS**, The endorsement process would also factor in a U.S. House of Representatives/U.S. Senate Candidates position on the Social Security Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision; and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Delegate Assembly of the IRTA 2017 Convention concurs with the IRTA Board of Directors and allows the IRTAPAC Board of Directors to endorse U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate Candidates up for election from this point forward.

Motion by Bill Funkhouser to approve the resolution passed.

Roger Hampton introduced and a discussion followed regarding a plan to separate the PAC and the Legislative committees so that each would have separate chairmen and a separate committee makeup. The Legislative Committee would report back to the IRTA Board for final approval concerning legislative issues (i.e. health insurance and taxation on retirement income). On the other hand, the IRTAPAC Committee would make their recommendations concerning election endorsements and campaign spending to the IRTAPAC Board.

This separation of duties would help in ensuring there is a clear cut line between the duties of the legislative arm of the IRTA and the Political Arm of the IRTAPAC. This is necessary, especially as we delve into the endorsement side of U.S. Congressional Candidates. There needs to be a clear cut separation with no grey area where things can be confused.

Motion by Bob Kaplan to pursue exploring the separation of PAC and Legislative Committee membership passed.

Motion by Bill Funkhouser to adjourn at 1:00 p.m. passed.

Doris Heaton, Secretary