

ILLINOIS RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
IRTAPAC Committee Meeting
October 4, 2017

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ed Wollet at 11:01 a.m.

Members Present: Ed Wollet, Chair; Jeanne Kovanda, Reg. 1; Norb Wolter, Reg. 2; Karl Gabbey, Reg. 3; Vic Corder, Reg. 4; Steve Ramsdell, Reg. 6; Don Gibb, Reg. 7; Joan Jordan, Reg. 11; LaVonne Chaney, Reg. 13; Gil Deimel, Reg. 14; Ken Perkins, Reg. 15; and Dennis Kimmel, Reg. 17.

Members Absent: Cliff Olson, Reg. 5; Jim Balzer, Reg. 9; Diana Waren, Reg. 10; John Abell, Reg. 12; Kelley Kesterson, Reg. 16; and Lee Rodgers, Reg. 18.

Also Present: Jim Bachman, Executive Director; Mary Shaw, Director of Government Affairs; David Davison, IRTA President; and Susan Goetz, Administrative Assistant.

Motion by Dennis Kimmel to approve the minutes of the meeting of March 2, 2017. Motion was seconded by LaVonne Chaney and passed.

Update on Member Contributions: As of September 1, 2017 there are 5,090 IRTA members participating in \$1.00 per month IRTAPAC deduction. The goal is to have 6,000 participants by the end of 2017. The total amount in IRTAPAC account as of this same date is \$126,900. Since the beginning of 2017, the IRTAPAC has distributed \$9,750.87 in campaign contributions.

14 local units doubled their IRTAPAC \$1.00 per month deduction participation. Those units will go into a drawing at the IRTA Convention for a \$100 gift card that has been donated by Roger Hawk.

Preparation for 2018 Election: Mary Shaw stated that currently there are 22 Representatives and 6 Senators that are not running for re-election, but the list is changing daily. The Governor will be up for re-election as well in 2018. At this time, Governor Rauner has not declared if he will run for re-election. IRTAPAC has the ability to endorse candidates and those candidates do not need to be incumbents. In the past, IRTAPAC has not engaged in a primary,

Motion by LaVonne Chaney: Jim Bachman, Mary Shaw and Andrew Bodewes may make a determination to spend IRTAPAC funds for primary elections up to \$1,000 without prior approval. The expenditure of funds between \$1,000 and \$5,000 can be spent with the approval of the Executive Director, the IRTAPAC Chair, and the IRTAPAC Vice-Chair. Any expenditure over \$5,000 must be approved by a majority of the IRTAPAC Board of Directors via email, phone or other means. Dennis Kimmel seconded the motion.

Discussion by the committee determined that this would only be for campaign donations and is separate from members attending a candidate fundraiser. Any expenditure would only be a campaign donation and is in no way an endorsement in the primary. The filing deadline for candidates is in December. In January, IRTA would be emailing candidate information to the IRTAPAC Committee as well as any local units that have a contested primary asking for feedback from the local unit regarding the candidates.

Motion by LaVonne Chaney to amend the original motion adding the following: After considering input from the local units, that Jim Bachman, Mary Shaw and Andrew Bodewes may make a determination to spend IRTAPAC funds for primary elections up to \$1,000 without prior approval. The expenditure of funds between \$1,000 and \$5,000 can be spent with the approval of the Executive Director, the IRTAPAC Chair, and the IRTAPAC Vice-Chair. Any expenditure over \$5,000 must be approved by a majority of the

IRTAPAC Board of Directors via email, phone or other means. Joan Jordan seconded the motion which passed.

The original motion as amended passed on roll call vote 10 – yes and 1 – no.

Mary Shaw reminded the committee that the Silent Auction at the IRTA Convention will benefit IRTAPAC and workers are needed to man the IRTAPAC table. A sign-up sheet was available for committee members. Mary also mentioned that 15 local units have still not responded if they will be making a donation for the silent auction.

Gil Deimel gave a short presentation on Land of Lincoln's efforts to increase IRTAPAC \$1.00 per month donation participation. LLRTA, with the help of the State IRTA Office, mailed a letter along with an IRTAPAC Fact Sheet and an IRTAPAC Donation form to all of their local unit members. The IRTA Unit did double their \$1.00 per month participation. Ed Wollet would like to target 3 -4 local units to embark on a similar campaign to solicit more participation in the \$1.00 per month IRTAPAC deduct donation. The IRTA office will help in making copies for the materials that will be mailed to the local unit members. Gil is also soliciting his local unit members to be involved in Voter Voice and developed a flyer to send.

Motion by Dennis Kimmel to adjourn the meeting was seconded by Steve Ramsdell. With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Susan Goetz
Administrative Assistant