

ILLINOIS RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
IRTAPAC Committee Meeting
September 12, 2019

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Ed Wollet at 9:32 a.m.

Members Present: Ed Wollet, Chairperson; Mary Lang, Reg. 1; Conrad Floeter, Reg. 3; Mike Wierzbicki, Region 4 (via conference call); Joseph Talluto, Reg. 6; Norma Hedges, Reg. 7; John Abell, Region 12; Gil Deimel, Reg. 14; Steve Launius, Reg. 16 and Gerald Herring, Reg. 17.

Members Absent: Luana Flynn, Reg. 15.

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 March 13, 2019. The motion was seconded by Gerald Herring and passed.

We need to make our local units and members aware that we have raised more money than the IRTAPAC has ever had in the past and helped elect more candidates as well. We should continue to stress to our members that we support legislators that support retiree benefits and issues, and that is the basis of the IRTAPAC endorsement. IRTAPAC does not tell anyone how to vote, we just make members aware of candidates that support retiree issues and benefits.

The 2018-2019 IRTAPAC goals and strategies were reviewed. The committee achieved their first goal which is to recommend endorsements of legislative and gubernatorial candidates. The second goal is to increase the IRTAPAC monthly \$1.00 deduction participation to 7,000 participants. We have approximately 5,600 members participating in the \$1.00 per month IRTAPAC deduction. Unfortunately, we lose about 15 participants to death each month. To continue to increase participation, we need to encourage electronic form submission from the IRTA website. This might be a good local meeting topic. The third goal is assisting in organizing campaign volunteers, particularly in units that will have Tier 1 races. This goal actually pertains to election years. Mary Lang stated that she has organized and helped on candidate campaigns. It was also mentioned that committee members should be focusing on attending legislative fundraisers and taking members from their local units. These fundraisers are fairly in-expensive and it is important for the Legislators to see IRTA members whether the Legislator was endorsed or not endorsed. Now is a good time to be attending fundraisers. To request IRTAPAC funds to attend a legislative fundraiser, just call or email Jim Bachman. Ed Wollet will revise the goals and add a fourth goal regarding attending fundraisers. He will email the revised goals/strategies to the committee.

Steve Launius questioned if IRTAPAC can endorse Congressional Candidates. We currently do not have a federal PAC and you cannot co-mingle federal and state PACs. To be able to endorse Congressional Candidates, we would have to establish a federal PAC. Andrew Bodewes will investigate how to establish a federal PAC.

In preparation for the 2020 election, the IRTA staff will provide a list of candidates running in each IRTA Region and send to the Committee members. IRTAPAC has not previously endorsed in the primary election, because timing is an issue. When the March primary gets closer, we might look at individual races instead of state-wide and develop a simple questionnaire for specific races to possibly endorse in the primary. Jim and Andrew also reminded the Committee that the primary is a good time to work on a Candidate's campaign.

An update was given on the IRTAPAC Silent Auction which will take place on October 14th at the IRTA Convention. Three requests have been sent to the IRTA local units for donations. An email request was sent in March, a mailed request was sent in July and another email request was sent in mid-August. We have received almost \$2,900 in monetary donations for the Silent Auction. Currently, 53 local units have responded stating they will either donate an auction item or make a monetary donation. A list of those local units that have not responded was given to the committee and they were asked to contact those units about making a possible auction donation. Committee members were also asked to assist on Monday morning of the Convention when the auction items are being brought to the Exhibit Hall. If members can assist or if they receive donation responses from Units, they should contact Susan Goetz at the IRTA office.

A motion was made by Steve Launius to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Gil Deimel. With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chairperson, Ed Wollet at 11:27 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Susan Goetz
Administrative Assistant