

ILLINOIS RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION
AD-HOC COMMITTEE
Minutes of Meeting
September 21, 2016

The meeting of the IRTA Foundation Ad-Hoc Committee was called to order by Committee Chair, Bob Pinkerton at 1:23 p.m.

Members Present: David Davison, Foundation Chair; Roger Hampton, IRTA Vice President; Bob Pinkerton, Foundation Ad-Hoc Committee Chair; Judi Harland; Foundation Vice Chair; and Wendy Wiegiers, Foundation At-Large Member.

Also Present: Mary Shaw, IRTA Government Affairs Director; Charlie Chrisman, IRTA Membership Recruitment Specialist; Tricia Klim, IRTA Member Services Coordinator; and Susan Goetz, Administrative Assistant.

The proposal of adding a new scholarship in each of the 6 IRTA Areas to assist active teachers in furthering their education was discussed. This proposal would provide one \$1,500 scholarship in each of the 6 IRTA Areas. Drafts were provided of guidelines, a checklist, and applications that were similar to those used by other states that currently administer this type of scholarship. The committee had reservations about starting a new scholarship program when the current program the Foundation administers does not receive many applications each year. Promotion of this type of scholarship might be difficult as well. The committee members also felt that there would need to be a way to verify if the applicants are receiving assistance from their school districts to further their education as well.

The proposal of increasing the money to fund the Excellence in Education Active Teacher Grants and to make the grants available in all 6 IRTA Areas each year was discussed. All committee members agreed that the grant program is a valuable recruiting tool for IRTA and that having the grants available in all six areas each year will increase the amount of applicants. Since 2017 will start a new cycle of the grants, now is the time to make the change which will definitely be a three year commitment.

Motion by Wendy Wiegiers to postpone starting a new Active Teacher Scholarship to further their education and expand the Excellence in Education Active Teacher Grants to all 6 IRTA Areas each year with the total amount available to be determined by the Foundation Finance Committee. Judi Harland seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Bob Pinkerton will make the following recommendation to the Foundation Board of Directors:

Beginning in 2017, the Excellence in Education Active Teacher Grant program becomes a statewide program each year eliminating the current rotating process in which grant opportunity is every three years. Efforts will be made to equalize grants for each of the six areas as much as possible. The selection process will remain as is with the Foundation At-Large members reviewing all applications and selecting winners from all six areas each year. Application guidelines will remain unchanged. The total cost to be determined by the Foundation Finance Committee.

Consider at a later date an Active Teacher Scholarship program to financially assist current teachers who would like to further their education.

Charlie Chrisman explained the current process of delivering the Grants to the recipients.

Wendy Wiegiers suggested a revised cover letter accompany the grant application as well as revisions to the application itself. Tricia will make those revisions as needed.

Bob Pinkerton - Committee Chair, adjourned the meeting at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Goetz
Administrative Assistant