

Unapproved until
future meeting

ILLINOIS RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
IRTPAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
April 30, 2020

The Zoom Conference Call meeting was called to order at 11:10 a.m. by Chair John Flaherty.

Members Present: John Flaherty, Chairman; Ed Wollet, Vice Chairman; Roger Hampton, Past Chairman; Doris Heaton, Secretary; Don Ostrom, Treasurer; and Jo Anne Nelson, Wendy Wieggers, Jan Bryant, Donna Sargent, Jim Barr, and John Harland, Area Representatives and Bill Funkhouser, IRTA Vice President

Also Present: Jim Bachman, Executive Director; Erica Pinkley, Comptroller; Courtney Hayes, Government Affairs & Grassroots Coordinator; and Andrew Bodewes, Contract Lobbyist.

Motion by Don Ostrom to approve the minutes of the meeting of November 19, 2019 passed.

Legislative Update: The General Assembly is presently not meeting and is not expected to be in session until the fall. There may be a budget passed but it will probably give lump sum amounts to each entity instead of a detailed budget.

2020 Election: This election cycle is off to a slow start and it will probably be summer before any useful data is obtained and candidates can be assigned to the 3 tier system for consideration for level of endorsement.

Donations and Expenditures: The IRTPAC fund presently contains \$177,018 with 5,525 members presently contributing \$1 per month. No donations have been made to candidates to date this year.

Legislative Candidate Questionnaire: The questionnaire will be forwarded to the legislative candidates shortly with a return due date of June 1. The PAC committee members will be advised which candidates have/have not returned the questionnaire so that they might contact the candidate and urge their participation.

Other Business: One goal of the PAC Committee this term is regarding the GPO-WEP Social Security problem. The PAC Committee suggests that a questionnaire be forwarded to all Illinois U.S. Congressmen and candidates to determine their stance on this.

Motion by Ed Wollet that the IRTA staff develop a questionnaire for candidates to Congress from Illinois. These completed questionnaires would then be sent to the IRTPAC Committee members for input and recommendations. This questionnaire would ask:

1. Do you support the repeal of WEP-GPO?
2. If no, do you support modification of WEP-GPO?

Motion passed.

Ed Wollet presented the 2020 IRTPAC Goals and Strategies -

2020 IRTPAC GOALS & STRATEGIES

Goal 1:

Committee Duties & Responsibilities & Goals: To recommend endorsements of legislative and gubernatorial candidates.

Strategy: Develop a General Assembly and Gubernatorial questionnaire to submit to each candidate through his/her campaign committee for return by July 5. Periodically, the PAC committee members will be updated on which candidates in their region have failed to return a completed questionnaire. PAC committee members will contact those campaigns encouraging them to submit the PAC questionnaire for consideration for endorsement. No consideration for endorsement will be extended to any candidate who does not submit a completed questionnaire.

Goal 2:

Committee Duties & Responsibilities: Raise money for the IRTAPAC by increasing participation in the \$1/month deduction program to 7000 participant by December 31, 2020.

Strategy: The rationale behind the \$1/month deduction program is to provide consistency and predictability for the IRTAPAC fund. This program currently brings in an average of \$5 to every \$1 of voluntary contribution. This fund has grown from having \$20,000-\$30,000 available to support campaigns to over \$150,000. Regional PAC committee members will be supplied with PAC enrollment forms to use as they meet with local units. Electronic communications will include the link (<https://form.jotform.com/80233925745156>) for members to use for electronic sign up.

Goal 3:

Committee Duties & Responsibilities: Assist in organizing campaign volunteers, particularly in units that will have Tier 1 races.

Strategy:

1. Help local units to schedule visits with candidates to review the answers to the PAC questionnaire and receive assurances of future support for TRS retirees' pension and **health insurance** benefits.
2. Help local units recruit volunteers for campaigns, working particularly with units with identified Tier 1 campaigns. For example, volunteers may want to help by answering a phone at campaign headquarters, addressing and stuffing campaign envelopes, canvassing a precinct, calling voters on election day.
3. Make at least an annual contact with local units and/or local unit executive boards to ascertain how the IRTAPAC committee can assist the local unit in meeting local Legislative PAC goals.

Goal 4:

Committee Duties & Responsibilities: The IRTAPAC committee will explore avenues to initiate a federal PAC.

Strategy:

1. IRTAPAC committee meetings will include staff updates about upcoming federal elections and a list of those Illinois candidates (both incumbent and challengers) who express support for rescinding WEP/GPO.

Motion by Don Ostrom to adjourn the meeting at 11:50 a.m. passed.

Doris Heaton, Secretary