

ILLINOIS RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
IRTPAC Committee Zoom Meeting
July 15, 2020

The zoom meeting was called to order by Chair Ed Wollet at 9:38 a.m.

Members Present: Ed Wollet, Chair; Mary Lang, Reg. 1; Conrad Floeter, Reg. 3; Joseph Talluto, Reg. 6; Sharon Teefey, Reg. 9; Gary Weiss, Reg. 13; Steve Launius, Reg. 16; Gerald Herring, Reg. 17; and Lee Rodgers, Reg. 18.

Members Absent: Kathleen Staerk, Reg. 2; Norma Hedges, Reg 7; Joyce Beard, Reg. 14; and Luana Flynn, Reg. 15.

Also Present: John Flaherty, IRTPAC Board Chair; Bill Funkhouser, IRTA Vice President; Jim Bachman, Executive Director; Andrew Bodewes, Contract Lobbyist; Courtney Hayes, Government Affairs Coordinator; and Susan Goetz, Administrative Assistant.

A motion was made by Steve Launius to approve the minutes of the meeting from September 12, 2019. The motion was seconded by Conrad Floeter and the minutes were approved.

Three questionnaires were received significantly past the return deadline. The committee was asked if they would allow those candidates to be considered for endorsement. A motion was made by Mary Lang to allow the candidates submitting the late questionnaires be considered for endorsement. There was no second to the motion, so the candidates were not considered.

The returned questionnaires of each candidate were reviewed by the IRTA Government Affairs Team and the IRTPAC Committee with input from local units.

Senate Candidates

Motion by Conrad Floeter, seconded by Mary Lang to endorse Laura Murphy District 28 passed.
Motion by Conrad Floeter, seconded by Mary Lang to endorse Melinda Bush District 31 passed.
Motion by Mary Lang, seconded by Sharon Teefey to endorse Patrick Joyce District 40 passed.
Motion by Joe Talluto, seconded by Mary Lang to endorse Meg Loughran-Cappel district 49 passed.
Motion by Steve Launius, seconded by Sharon Teefey to endorse Terry Bryant District 58 passed.

House of Representatives Candidates

Motion by Conrad Floeter, seconded by Sharon Teefey to endorse Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz District 17 passed.
Motion by Conrad Floeter, seconded by Sharon Teefey to endorse Robyn Gabel District 18 passed.
Motion by Conrad Floeter, seconded by Sharon Teefey to endorse Lindsey LaPointe District 19 passed.
Motion by Joe Talluto, seconded by Conrad Floeter to endorse Bradley Stephens District 20 passed.
Motion by Conrad Floeter, seconded by Joe Talluto to endorse Edgar Gonzalez District 21 passed.
Motion by Mary Lang, seconded by Conrad Floeter to endorse Kam Buckner District 26 passed.
Motion by Joe Talluto, seconded by Steve Launius to endorse Tim Ozinga District 37 passed.
Motion by Joe Talluto, seconded by Conrad Floeter to endorse Debbie Myers-Martin District 38 passed.
Motion by Conrad Floeter, seconded by Sharon Teefey to endorse Diane Pappas District 45 passed.
Motion by Joe Talluto, seconded by Mary Lang to endorse Jennifer Zordani District 47 passed.
Motion by Mary Lang, seconded by Sharon Teefey to endorse Terra Costa-Howard District 48 passed.
Motion by Joe Talluto, seconded by Mary Lang to endorse Mary Edly Allen District 51 passed.
Motion by Conrad Floeter, seconded by Mary Lang to endorse Maggie Trevor District 54 passed.
Motion by Conrad Floeter, seconded by Mary Lang to endorse Jonathan Carroll District 57 passed.
Motion by Conrad Floeter, seconded by Joe Talluto to endorse Daniel Didech District 59 passed.

Motion by Conrad Floeter, seconded by Mary Lang to endorse Rita Mayfield District 60 passed.
Motion by Conrad Floeter, seconded by Mary Lang to endorse Sam Yingling District 62 passed.
Motion by Mary Lang, seconded by Conrad Floeter to endorse Brian Sager District 63 passed.
Motion by Mary Lang, seconded by Conrad Floeter to endorse Suzanne Ness District 66 passed.
Motion by Mary Lang, seconded by Joe Talluto to endorse Maurice West District 67 passed.
Motion by Mary Lang, seconded by Sharon Teefey to endorse Jeff Keicher District 70 passed.
Motion by Mary Lang, seconded by Joe Talluto to endorse Tony McCombie District 71 passed.
Motion by Mary Lang, seconded by Sharon Teefey to endorse Michael Halpin District 72 passed.
Motion by Steve Launius, seconded by Jerry Herring to endorse Daniel Swanson District 74 passed.
Motion by Mary Lang, seconded by Sharon Teefey to endorse Lance Yednock District 76 passed.
Motion by Mary Lang, seconded by Sharon Teefey to endorse Camille Lilly District 78 passed.
Motion by Mary Lang, seconded by Conrad Floeter to endorse Charlene Eads District 79 passed.
Motion by Conrad Floeter, seconded by Sharon Teefey to endorse Barbara Hernandez District 83 passed.
Motion by Joe Talluto, seconded by Sharon Teefey to endorse Dagmara Avelar District 85 passed.
Motion by Mary Lang, seconded by Sharon Teefey to endorse Karla Bailey-Smith District 88 passed.
Motion by Mary Lang, seconded by Sharon Teefey to endorse Seth Wiggins District 90 passed.
Motion by Sharon Teefey, seconded by Gary Weiss to endorse Norine Hammond District 93 passed.
Motion by Joe Talluto, seconded by Steve Launius to endorse Mark Batnick District 97 passed.
Motion by Steve Launius, seconded by Mary Lang to endorse C. D. Davidsmeyer District 100 passed.
Motion by Gary Weiss, seconded by Jerry Herring to endorse Dan Brady District 105 passed.
Motion by Mary Lang, seconded by Conrad Floeter to endorse Monica Bristow District 111 passed.
Motion by Gary Weiss, seconded by Mary Lang to endorse Jay Hoffman District 113 passed.
Motion by Lee Rodgers, seconded by Steve Launius to endorse Dave Severin district 117 passed.

The Committee was reminded that once endorsements are made, they are encouraged to recruit local members to support endorsed campaigns.

Proposed Distribution of IRTPAC Campaign Funds for the 2020 Election Year

As of June 30, 2020, there is approximately \$196,183.59 in the IRTPAC fund. As of June 30, 2020; there are 5,576 IRTA members who contribute \$1 per month to the PAC fund. There have not be any expenditures from the PAC fund. IRTA Staff believe that there will possibly be one Tier 1 race in the Senate and approximately 4-6 Tier 1 races in the House.

A motion was made by Sharon Teefey to recommend to the IRTPAC Board of Directors to fund up to \$15,000 to Tier 1 races. The motion was seconded by Jerry Herring and passed.

The IRTA Government Affairs Team believes that providing funds to non-Tier 1 races will be a way to help legislators keep a balance in their campaign since fundraising has been lost due to the COVID pandemic.

A motion was made by Steve Launius to recommend to the IRTPAC Board of Directors to provide up to \$2,500 in non-Tier 1 races to endorsed candidates or Senators not currently up for re-election but are a friend and have supported IRTA issues. The motion was seconded by Joe Talluto and passed.

After endorsements are approved by the IRTPAC Board of Directors, letters will be sent to candidates making them aware of the IRTPAC endorsement. Jim Bachman informed the Committee that the IRTA Government Affairs Team will be reaching out to them to take checks to endorsed candidates if possible.

Congressional Questionnaires

Nine Congressional questionnaires were returned to the IRTA office. The responses are informational only and do not give an endorsement to any candidate. These responses will be sent to our local units and will also be printed in the IRTA Action Newsletter. PAC funds cannot be given to Congressional candidates.

A motion was made by Joe Talluto and seconded by Steve Launius to adjourn. With there being no further business, the zoom meeting was adjourned by Chair, Ed Wollet at 12:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Goetz, Administrative Assistant