

ILLINOIS RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION  
IRTAPAC Committee Zoom Meeting  
September 9, 2021

The zoom meeting was called to order by Chair, Ed Wollet at 9:30 a.m.

Members Present: Ed Wollet, Chair; Mary Lang, Reg. 1; Conrad Floeter, Reg. 3; Joseph Talluto, Reg. 6; Sharon Teefey, Reg. 9; Jeff Vallosio, Reg. 10; 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; and Joyce Beard, Reg. 14.

Also, Present: Jim Bachman, Executive Director; John Flaherty, IRTAPAC Board Chair; Courtney Hayes, Government Affairs/Grassroots Coordinator; and Susan Goetz, Administrative Assistant.

The minutes from March 24, 2021, were reviewed. A motion was made by Steve Lanius and the motion was seconded by Gerald Herring to approve the minutes as written. The motion passed and the minutes were approved.

We currently have 5,428 members participating in the \$1.00 per month IRTAPAC deduction. The IRTAPAC fund had a total of \$170,788.25 in assets at the end of July. Ed Wollet reminded the Committee that the \$1 per month deduction does bring in the most significant amount of money for the PAC each year, but we are losing more to death on a monthly basis than what we are adding as new participants. Remember to remind your members at local meetings of this opportunity.

Legislative redistricting maps have been passed by the General Assembly and are awaiting the Governor's signature. Once approved, Courtney will forward the maps to the Committee as well as talking points regarding IRTAPAC. The Illinois Primary has been changed to June 28<sup>th</sup> which is much later than the past Primary date of March. Jim believes since all Legislators will be up for re-election due to re-mapping, that the Committee should look at possibly endorsing or at least assisting in Primary Races for those candidates we have endorsed in the past. After candidates have filed, this Committee should meet to discuss what Candidates to support in the primary election. The Committee agreed to move forward on endorsing Primary Candidates on a race-by-race basis. The Committee was reminded that endorsements are only made based on support of IRTA benefits. IRTA advocates for retirees' pensions and benefits only, other issues are not a part of the endorsement process. We do encourage our members to attend fundraisers once we are meeting again in-person. Please contact Courtney if anyone wishes to attend a fundraiser.

Jim and Andrew Bodewes, IRTA Contract Lobbyist agree that IRTAPAC needs to support the Caucus leaders by possibly spending \$5,000 to each leader. This is a great opportunity for us to build relationships with the leaders. The Committee agreed they should ask the IRTAPAC Board to support the Caucus leaders.

The Committee was made aware that the Silent Auction that was to be held at the 2021 IRTA Convention on October 18<sup>th</sup> has been cancelled due to the Convention now being Virtual. An email has been sent to all local unit Presidents and Legislative Chairs making them aware of this change and reminding them that local units may still make a monetary donation to the IRTAPAC.

Jim did address the Committee regarding the PAC Committee's current structure. The Committee is not currently full and not all members attend the meetings even when they are virtual. The IRTAPAC Board

of Directors should review the Committee size as 18 members does not seem feasible and possibly reduce the Committee size by having 1 representative from each IRTA Area plus a Chair.

Ed Wollet stated that he will no longer Chair the IRTAPAC Committee. He mentioned that if any of the current Committee members wish to continue to serve to please contact their Area Representative.

A motion was made by Joseph Talluto to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Lee Rodgers. With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chair, Ed Wollet at 10:31 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Susan Goetz  
Administrative Assistant