

Legislative Report to Luncheon 6/21/24

At the Area II online conference yesterday(6/20), IRTA Lobbyist Andrew Bordewes reported on some of the legislative actions and lack of action as the State Legislature has adjourned for the election cycle. The will return on November after the election.

Some of Andrew's observations were optimistic, in that, both parties appear to be committed to protecting the State's pension funds. The time lines differ, of course, but the way ahead is promising. The Governor has committed to working toward reducing the pension deficits and looking to create legislation that would see TRS 90% funded by 2040 and 100% by 2048. Still work to do on that front.

Turning to the political reality in Illinois. IRTAPAC has a need for more funding. It seems that the \$1 deduction from TRS has declined significantly over the past 4 years. Members need to be certain that they are up to date with TRS. Of course, direct contributions can be made to IRTAPAC through IRTA web site. IRTAPAC will be providing endorsements of local and State candidates from all parties in the early fall. Hopefully before our September luncheon.

Federally; both Parties in Congress have endorsed legislation to end the penalty that keeps teachers who also qualify for Social Security benefits from receiving those benefits. However, as is the case with nearly everything in D.C., nothing has been finalized on that front.

NOW SOME GOOD NEWS

Sometime in late summer or early fall IRTA will be providing details of a new benefit for members with the TRAIL insurance program. Dental and Vision coverage is expected to be included in your plan as of January 1, 2025. Details are still sketchy and a small? increase in premiums may happen. Look for details later.

The bill to end road tests for elderly drivers is still alive as the Legislature looks to the veto session after the November elections.

Mick Williams, Chair
EARTA Legislative