



Northwest Suburban Teachers Union



Local 1211

Legislative Director Report: Chicago

April/May 2015

Kevin Palmer

Monday, December 15, 2014

Attended the fundraiser for 28th District Illinois State Senator Dan Kotwoski at Paddy O’Fegans in Chicago.

* Spoke to the Senator about the possibility of coordinating with D211 teachers who reside in his district to gain feedback about education issues. It would be reasonable to coordinate with the Maine Twsp Teacher’s union to coordinate such an undertaking.

Tuesday February 24, 2015

Attended a fundraiser for Progressive candidate Chicago Alderman Scott Waugespak – 32nd Ward.

* I spoke to Alderman Waugespak about our support for the CTU and issues in Chicago related to education that affect even the suburban schools as well as our membership that reside in the city. Alderman Waugespak is an advocate for and an ally of the CTU and education in general.

* Our grass roots support of and financial support for CTU endorsed candidates expanded the Progressive caucus in the city to include an actual teacher to the Chicago City Council. Susan Sadlowski Garza the new 10th Ward Alderman was a city teacher and counselor for 20 years. She beat the entrenched incumbent John Pope by the closest margin of all citywide races – 20 votes. She, along with an additional six other new Progressive alderman gives the Progressive Caucus a likely 14 vote presence in the City Council.

Monday March 16, 2015

Attended Legislative Director meeting at Local 1211 office

April 1-14, 2015

Communicated with Illinois Representatives and Senators in my legislative region

*Contacted either directly or the offices of Illinois State Senators and Illinois State Representatives about the upcoming Lobby Days in Springfield; invited them all to the Reception and Dinner at Augie’s following our lobbying. (*indicates that they made either/and or the dinner).

Senator Iris Martinez – 20th District (my Illinois State Senator), Senator Heather Steans – 7th District, Senator Joe Mulroe – 10th District*, Senator John Cullerton – 6th District, Representative Will Guzzardi – 39th District (my Illinois State Representative)*, Representative Kelly Cassidy -14th District, Representative LeSahwn Ford – 8th District, Representative Sarah Feigenholtz - 12th District, Representative Greg Harris – 13th District, Representative Michael McAuliffe – 20th District, Representative Jaime Andrade – 40th District, Representative, Robert Martwick – 19th District, and Representative Ann Williams – 11th District.

Wednesday and Thursday April 15-16, 2015

Attended Lobby Days in Springfield

* Working with the IFT, we actively lobbied the above state senators and representatives by personally stopping by their offices and in-person reminding them of the Reception and Dinner at Augie’s. While they all had it on their calendar, all were not able to attend but I left my business card and reminded their legislative assistants of the importance of educational issues before the state general assembly.

* Invited Representative Carol Ammons – 103rd District, who our Local had financially supported in her successful campaign in November. Rep. Ammons serves in the Champaign-Urbana and her husband is the SEIU Local President.

* Met personally with representative Guzzardi outside the House chambers and pressed upon him the importance of education issues that the General Assembly is facing. Reminded him of the reception and dinner.

* At the reception and dinner I was able to continue the conversation with Representative Will Guzzardi as well as Representatives Martin(Marty) Moylan – 55th District, Elaine Nekritz – 57th District, and Mike Fortner – 49th District about the importance of the legislature’s obligation to education in Illinois. Had a lively conversation with Representative Fortner over his pension plan reform and pressed him to put it writing or submit to me his proposals (bills) for our consideration.

* Continued the conversations with Representative Moylan, as well as Illinois State Treasurer Mike Freirichs and Representative Lou Lang – 16th District at the Lincoln Hotel lounge.

Monday April 20, 2015

Communicated with IFT Legislative Direct John Cusick

*We have committed to coordinating more closely with increasing our lobbying efforts with Chicago Alderman and Illinois State representatives and senators to press CTU, IFT, and Local 1211 common educational issues.

Tuesday, May 5, 2015

Chicago Federation of Labor Meeting
Plumber's Hall 1340 W. Washington
Chicago, Illinois

Call to order at 6:01 PM by President Ramirez

1. Minutes were read from the Executive Board Meeting held Monday May 4, 2015.

2. Report/discussion of the Trans-Pacific Trade (TTP) Agreement:

- The many federations of labor including the AFL-CIO are working hard lobbying Congress to stop this agreement.
- It is seen by the federation leadership as being harmful to unions and would mean a net loss of union jobs.

3. Discussion of Governor Rauner's continual efforts to destabilize unions in Illinois.

- President Ramirez recounted several successes where the Right-to-Work efforts have been voted down. However, in some areas (i.e., along the Tollways- Chicago Heights) some projects were agreed upon by locales to proceed without union bids represented. This will be a continual effort on the governor and his allies to reintroduce in communities where it may have failed recently but that it will appear on their agenda again.
- A call was made to remain vigilant with our city councils/village boards/county boards Turnaround Agenda - that they have to put a Right-to-Work vote on their calendar within a 48 hour period before a meeting. The key words to look for are **Turnaround Agenda - Preservation of Local Funds - Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF)** If not, they are in violation of state law but they are doing this to prevent labor from showing at these meetings so that they can proceed to a vote for Right-to-Work.

4. Press Conference by President Ramirez in response to Governor Rauner addressing the Chicago City Council on Wednesday May 6 with his anti-union message.

5. Several individuals and locals spoke about their efforts and some provided flyers with calls for action as well as upcoming events. I will bring those flyers to the meeting on Thursday May 7.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:56 with the next meeting to be held on Tuesday June 2, 2015

In Unity,
Kevin Palmer
Local 1211 Legislative Director