



Northwest Suburban Teachers Union



Local 1211

Legislative Director Report: Democratic Party

April 2015

Bobby Walser

Thursday, April 2, 2015

- Distributed and placed yard signs for school board candidate Ed Yung.
- Made calls to Representatives Anne Moeller, Lou Lange, and Senator Tom Cullerton confirming their attendance at our Lobby Day Dinner in Springfield- All confirmed
- Attended a Town Hall Meeting (with Bill Scully) hosted by Senator Dan Kotowski.
 - Participated in the discussion regarding pensions. A local superintendent spoke up and seemed to help people understand the issues.
 - Participated in the discussion regarding property tax relief, tax swaps, holding schools harmless, Governor Rauner's budget (i.e., who it would help and who it would harm).
 - Participated in the discussion addressing new revenue streams including casino expansion, progressive income tax; millionaire tax; ending corporate loopholes; taxing services; transaction fees for stock market trades, and the lottery.

Thursday, April 9, 2015

- Attended the Schaumburg Town Hall meeting to hear Representative Michelle Mussman and Senator Dan Kotowski.
 - The main topics that arose were the sharp rise in property taxes and why teachers still get a pension.
 - The two members of the legislature defended teacher pension.
 - The explanation for the rise in taxes was associated to more companies finding loop holes in the tax code.
 - Additionally, many companies are finding ways to hold the state hostage to get their taxes lowered. Over 2/3's of corporations in Illinois do not pay corporate taxes.
 - To offset lower corporate tax liability, local taxpayers are having to pick up the shortfall created by the corporate tax relief (i.e., Motorola and PTAB).

Wednesday, April 15 and Thursday, April 16

Attended the Local 1211 Lobby Day in Springfield.

- 12 members of Local 1211 traveled to Springfield to speak with legislators.
- The Senate was in session with third readings of bills and were not able to come out of session.
- The group visited representatives and senators offices.
- Later in the evening we had 13 members of the state's political bodies attend. In attendance included Representatives: Michelle Mussman, Anne Moeller, Elaine Nekritz, Linda Chapa-Lavia, Pam Althoff, Mike Fortner, Lou Lange, and Tom Morrison. Senators: Dan Kotowski and Tom Cullerton. Also attending was State Treasurer Michael Frerichs and several members of Illinois Federation of Teachers.
- Many topics were discussed including right to work, tax swaps, education funding, Driver Education, PE exemptions. Class sizes with special education being the main focus, and testing.
- While in Springfield it was announced the state would be getting a new State Superintendent of Schools.



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Legislative Director Report: West Region

April 2015 (cont.)

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Tuesday, April 28, 2015

Attended Elk Grove Village monthly meeting.

- The Board voted 6-0 to support a modified version of the right zone. (No details of the exact wording were given) The board claimed it would give the area rights in case the state passed right to work legislation. This in spite of the fact over 20 people spoke out against the topic and only two person spoke in support the motion.
- This will be held against Springfield in saying that the state should pass Right to Work as villages want this also as was seen by this action.
- The village did not hand out any details of what their exact motion said, this is being checked by labor groups to see if it violates the open meeting act.

In Unity,
Bobby Walser
Local 1211 Legislative Director