

Legislative Director Report: North Cook County/Lake County

Gerri Songer – *October-November 2018*

ENGAGE. A Civic Engagement Initiative

<https://engage-today.com>

The candidates and elected officials below participated in the *ENGAGE Civic Engagement Initiative*. Candidates and elected officials of BOTH Democratic and Republican parties at the Congressional, State, and Local levels of government within school voting areas were invited to attend. Forums, updates, research tools, and other resources are posted at [Engage-Today.com](https://engage-today.com). I hope to expand this initiative to include more schools in future years.

Thursday October 11, 2018 – Elk Grove High School

Sponsor: Matt Bohnenkamp

Co-Moderator: Chuck Keeshan, Daily Herald

KEYNOTE: U.S. Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi (D), 8th US Representative District

Candidate Jitendra Diganvker (R) – 8th US Representative District

Candidate John Elleson (R), 9th US Representative District

Sen. Laura Murphy (D), 28th IL Senate District

Rep. Marty Moylan (D), 55th IL Representative District

Commissioner Tim Schneider (R), Cook County District 15

Candidate Kevin Morrison (D), Cook County District 15

Candidate Abdelnasser Rashid (D), Cook County District 17

Mayor Craig B. Johnson, Elk Grove Village

Thursday October 18, 2018 – Wheeling High School

Sponsors: Barry Hanrahan, Sarah Struebing, Adriana Soto

Co-Moderator: Jim Slusher, Daily Herald

KEYNOTE: U.S. Congressman Dick Durban – IL

Candidate Doug Bennett (R), 10th US Representative District

Candidate Barrett Davie (R), 29th IL Senate District

Candidate Mark Walker (D), 53rd IL Representative District

Rep. Jonathan Carroll (D), 57th IL Representative District

Candidate Daniel Didech (D), 59th IL Representative District

Candidate Karen Feldman (R), 59th IL Representative District

Trustee Amanda Howland (D), College of Lake County

Trustee Matt Stanton (D), College of Lake County

Village President Pat Horcher, Wheeling

Wednesday October 24, 2018 – Rolling Meadows High School

Sponsor: Gabe Popovich

Sen. Tom Rooney (R), 27th IL Senate District

Candidate Ann Gillespie (D), 27th IL Senate District

Other Guests:

Maryam Judar, Executive Director & Community Lawyer – Citizen Advocacy Center
Ben Silver, Community Lawyer – Citizen Advocacy Center
Heidi Graham, President – League of Women Voters, Arlington Heights Chapter
Stacey Tobin, Volunteer (Mock Elections) – League of Women Voters, Arlington Heights Chapter

Mock Election Voter Turnout: 5.2% EGHS and 9% WHS

Saturday October 20, 2018

Canvassed in Mount Prospect area.

Saturday October 27, 2018

Attended College of Lake County Foundation’s *2018 Scholarship Gala* held at the Royal Melbourne Country Club in Long Grove. More than 150 friends of the College of Lake County Foundation came out to support student scholarships. Spoke with *IL Senator Terry Link* and College of Lake County *Trustees, Matt Stanton* and *Amanda Howland*.

To learn more about the Foundation visit www.clcillinois.edu/foundation.

Friday November 9, 2018

Worked with Development Associate Susan Wakefield from Citizen Advocacy Center and Elk Grove High School students to initiate the *Profiles in Civic Engagement Project*. Citizen Advocacy Center is looking for students to interview community members who CAC has worked with over the years and to document their stories. Interviews will be uploaded using the StoryCorps app and filed with the U.S. Library of Congress.

If any teachers are interested in hosting this project at their building, they can contact [Gerri Songer](mailto:gerri.songer@d214.org) (gerri.songer@d214.org, 847-718-4701). Otherwise, interested students can contact [Susan Wakefield](mailto:gerri.songer@d214.org), CAC Development Associate, at 630-833-4080 regarding the *Profiles in Civic Engagement Project*.

Thursday November 15, 2018

Attended *Citizen Advocacy Center’s 25th Anniversary Kick-Off/Donor Appreciation* event in Elmhurst at Wilder Mansion. CAC will be hosting a gala at the Carlisle in Oak Brook on March 23, 2019 to celebrate its 25th year of operation.

CAC is an award winning, non-profit, non-partisan free community legal organization. It operates through the use of community lawyers who protect the public’s assets and promote meaningful participation in the democratic process. CAC engages in a holistic approach to building democracy through community organizing, coalition building, legal advocacy, civic education, and litigation to make government more accountable, accessible, and transparent.

CAC has worked with both students and staff in the District 214 area and is available to District 211 students and staff as well. I'd like to ask Local1211 members to consider a contribution to support this extraordinarily valuable resource.

TICKET SALES:

A table of 10 is \$1250 (or \$125 per ticket)

PROGRAM ADS

(Ad will include information about organization and logo)

Full page: \$500

Half Page: \$250

Quarter Page: \$125

SPONSORSHIPS

\$500 - \$50,000

Spoke with newly elected *Lake County Board Member, John Wasik*, about advocating for an extension of Citizen Advocacy Center located in the Lake County area.

Spoke with *Steve DeLaRosa, Villa Park Public Library Trustee* and *Porus Dadabhoy, CAC Board Member* regarding students living in unincorporated areas who lack access to public libraries.

A recommended resource, *First Book Marketplace*, is creating equal access to quality education — making everything from brand new, high quality books and educational resources, to sports equipment, winter coats, snacks, and more – affordable to its member network of more than 400,000 educators. First Book is the largest and fastest-growing network of educators in the United States exclusively serving kids in need.

Teachers can go to <https://firstbook.org> and register - some of their books are free, one only needs to pay delivery charges, other books are discounted up to 50-90%.

For questions, call 202-393-1222 and ask for Courtney Coaypor.

Tuesday and Wednesday, November 27-28, 2018

Lobbied in Springfield, IL. Invited Senator Terry Link, Senator Julie Morrison, Senator Melinda Bush, Representative Daniel Didech, Representative Jonathan Carroll, Representative Bob Morgan. Those who attended included *Senator Terry Link, Senator Julie Morrison, and Representative Daniel Didech*. Newly elected Representative *Mary Edly Allen* from the Lake County area also attended along with other legislators. Topics discussed included PERA, teacher pensions, and standardized assessments.

Wednesday, November 28, 2018

Sent research I've done regarding standardized assessments and text complexity via email to *Senator Laura Murphy* and *Representative Fred Crespo*. Offered to meet with them to discuss details.