

Legislative Director Report: North Cook County/Lake County Gerri Songer – *June-August 2019*

Friday July 12, 2019

Attended League of Women Voters Lake Michigan Region and the Waukegan Harbor Citizens' Advisory Group for a fundraising luncheon to support watershed education efforts. Featured was a presentation by a representative of the US EPA on the great strides made in cleaning up Waukegan Harbor. Spoke with *IL Representative Joyce Mason* and *CLC Trustee Matt Stanton*.

Tuesday July 23, 2019

Attended a reception supporting *State Representative Mary Edly-Allen* in Libertyville. Spoke with Rep. Edly-Allen, *County Board Member Julie Simpson*, and *CLC Trustee Matt Stanton*.

Monday July 29, 2019

Attended a dinner with *State Senator Mary Julie Morrison* in Deerfield. Spoke with Sen. Morrison about the Fair Tax along with *CCSD21 Board Member Bill Harrison*. Sen. Morrison felt the Fair Tax would be a very hard sell in her district.

Resolutions submitted for IFT Convention (October 18-19, 2019) are below. IFT picked up Resolutions #2 & #3, *Don't Outsource Driver Education* and *Repeal PERA*.

RESOLUTION #1 Ensuring the Public's Right to Know and Prepare

Calls for the IFT to partner with city governments, calling for full transparency in the dissemination of information pertaining to safety threats related to the storage and transport of hazardous substances including petroleum oil to the parents of students attending, and faculty employed by, schools at risk of being negatively impacted. The IFT will partner with community organizations to ensure the implementation of comprehensive oil spill response plans and drills specific to incidents involving the storage and transport of hazardous materials including petroleum oil and high-hazard flammable trains (HHFTs).

RESOLUTION #2 Don't Outsource Driver Education

Calls on IFT affiliates and its members to strongly oppose the outsourcing of driver education and other public education services.

RESOLUTION #3 Repeal PERA

The IFT will call on legislators to sponsor and support legislation repealing PERA and to mandate the implementation of an objective teacher evaluation system with supporting research verifying its inter-rater reliability and validity that uses evaluation criteria based directly on teacher behavior.

RESOLUTION #4 Single Scores Cheat Students

The IFT will call on the Governor and legislature to repeal legislation that bases student performance on a score from any single assessment. The IFT will call on legislators to sponsor and support legislation mandating the implementation of a comprehensive approach to assessing student potentials for college and career readiness such as the utilization of a portfolio assessment, including GPA, teacher recommendation, student work samples, and etc.

RESOLUTION #5 Civics Ed for Democracy

The IFT affiliates and its members will partner with state legislators, local school boards, public high school administration, and community organizations to ensure that Civics Education is implemented with integrity as a semester-long, stand alone course that must include instruction on government institutions, current and controversial issues discussions, service-learning, and simulations of democratic processes as mandated by HB 4025 (Public Act 99-0434), clarified by Public Act 099-0485, and outlined in ISBE's February 2016 State Graduation Guidance Document.

RESOLUTION #6 Oppose Arming of Teachers

The IFT affiliates and its members will strongly oppose proposals to arm teachers, staff members, and volunteer teachers who undergo background checks and training. The IFT will promote evidence-based and expert-endorsed actions that schools can take such as creating threat assessment programs in schools, implementing expert-endorsed school security upgrades, initiating effective emergency planning, and creating safe and equitable schools. The Governor and legislature will be called on to support legislation focusing on proven solutions that intervene to prevent shootings such as the enactment of Red Flag Laws, encouraging responsible firearm storage, raising the age to purchase semiautomatic firearms, and requiring background checks on all gun sales.