

Ann Williams Friendraiser, November 30

State Representative Ann Williams - 11th District, reached out to me in early November and asked me to be a co-host for her "Friendraiser", a free event to thank her supporters. Representative Williams has been a strong ally for education and teachers in Illinois. As her district will shift further east into Lakeview with the new redistricting, she wanted to reach out to her new constituents. I was honored to be a co-host and consider Ann a friend.

I was able to speak to outgoing House Majority Leader, Greg Harris, who is retiring at the end of his current term. Representative Harris is also a strong ally and an important part of the General Assembly's recent legislative success.

Additionally, Senator Sara Feigenholtz, 6th District was present. We have a good rapport and it was great catching up with her.

December 6 – 2022 Legislative Breakfast Meeting

Along with other Local members, we met to discuss what we want to see with the 2022 Legislative Breakfast. We discussed speakers, attendees, invited guests, format, i.e. to begin a plan for the Breakfast, which has a history of being an important stop for area legislators.

December 7 – Chicago Alderman Rod Sawyer, 6th Ward – Fundraiser

Nichole Anderson and I attended the fundraiser for 6th Ward Alderman, Rod Sawyer. Alderman Sawyer is a strong ally of education and teachers in Chicago and we have developed a strong relationship, working with the Chicago Teachers and the Progressive Caucus, of which Alderman Sawyer is a member.

December 9 – Illinois Senators Ann Gillespie and Laura Murphy, et al

Several Democratic members of the Illinois Senate Women's Caucus held a joint fundraiser. I was able to speak to Co-chair Senator Ann Gillespie, 27th District, Senator Laura Murphy, 28th District, Senator Laura Fine, 9th District, and Senator Adriane Johnson, 30th District, thanking them for one of the most successful legislative sessions in decades. All four of these legislators are considered allies of education and teachers, with a strong voting record to support that.

December 14 - CTE – Career Technical Education Visit to Fremd H.S. and Rolling Meadows H.S.

John Cusick, IFT/CTU Field Representative/ Legislative Director, along with Local 1211 president Steve Elza, organized a CTE tour primarily focusing on the success of the career path courses that Districts 211 and 214 offer.

The Chicago Public Schools as well as several other parts of the state have greatly reduced or eliminated their CTE departments or course offerings, at a time when these opportunities are vital to our economy. Our primary purpose in organizing the tour was to solicit support for expansion of these programs from Representative La Shawn Ford, 8th District who is Appropriations-Higher Education (Chairperson); Financial Institutions; Labor & Commerce; Public Utilities; Restorative Justice Committee (Vice-Chairperson), and has a lot of weight in supporting such efforts. In speaking to Senator Adriane Johnson, 30th District at the December 9th fundraiser, I was able to add her to accompany us on this tour. Additionally, Representative Tom Morrison, 54th District accompanied. Senator Ann Gillespie was unable to attend but wants to be kept in the loop on this important topic.

I did not accompany them on the last stop to the Technology Center of DuPage (TCD), but in my opinion, the tour was extremely successful and hopefully this will continue as we press for more Illinois State Government interest.