



Teachers' Retirement System of the State of Illinois

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News

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NEW MEMBERS NAMED TO TRS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

SPRINGFIELD, IL – Two new trustees representing active members have joined the Board of Teachers' Retirement System, replacing members who retired from the Board after 16 years of service.

Trustee Mark Bailey of Palos Park and Trustee Rainy Kaplan of Schaumburg began four-year terms this week and will formally join the Board during the trustees' regularly scheduled August meeting.

Trustee Kaplan and Trustee Bailey are filling two of the four seats reserved under state law for "active" TRS members elected by other active members across Illinois.

State law requires an election among active members for these seats unless the election is uncontested. In that case the balloting is called off and the two eligible candidates automatically fill the open seats. This year only Trustee Bailey and Trustee Kaplan filed the signatures necessary to gain access to the ballot. The election was called off earlier this year by the TRS Board.

Trustee Kaplan and Trustee Bailey assume the seats that had been occupied by former Trustee Molly Phalen of Rockford and former Trustee Jan Cleveland of Carmi. Both retired at the end of their latest terms after 16 years of service to TRS and its members.

Trustee Bailey is director of bands at Scott and River Woods schools in Naperville Unit District 203 and has had a long career as a professional musician, music teacher and band director at private and public schools throughout the Chicago area.

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He currently is president of the Naperville Unit Education Association and treasurer of Region 39 of the Illinois Education Association. He holds a Master's Degree in leadership and administration from North Central College in Naperville and a bachelor's degree in instrumental music from Luther College in Decorah, Iowa.

Trustee Kaplan is a Spanish teacher and head boys' track and field coach at Westmont High School (Westmont Community Unit School District 201) and a member of both the IEA Board of Directors and the National Education Association Board of Directors. She holds two Master's Degrees – in administration from Concordia University in River Forest and teaching and leadership from St. Xavier University in Chicago. Ms. Kaplan completed her undergraduate studies in Spanish and secondary education at Bradley University in Peoria.

There also was no need this year for an election to fill a third open seat on the Board, this one designated for an elected annuitant. That seat has been occupied by Trustee Robert Lyons of Hoffman Estates, who was first elected to the Board in 2005. Trustee Lyons was the only annuitant to file the required number of signatures for the ballot and was uncontested for re-election. He was automatically retained for another four-year term.

The TRS Board of Trustees consists of:

State School Superintendent Christopher Koch, who by law serves as president of the Board.

Four trustees elected by active members: Sharon Leggett of Evanston, who was selected vice president by the other trustees; Mark Bailey of Palos Park; Rainy Kaplan of Schaumburg; and Cinda Klickna of Rochester.

Two trustees elected by annuitants: Robert Lyons of Hoffman Estates and Cynthia O'Neill of Carlyle.

Five trustees appointed by the governor: Mike Busby of Kenilworth; Marcia Campbell of O'Fallon; Janice Reedus of Indian Head Park; Enrique Vasquez of Cary; and Sonia Walwyn of Naperville. There is one open gubernatorial appointment on the Board.

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About Teachers' Retirement System

The Teachers' Retirement System of the State of Illinois is the 39th largest pension system in the United States, and provides retirement, disability and survivor benefits to teachers, administrators and other public school personnel employed outside of Chicago. The System serves 366,000 members and had assets of \$39.6 billion as of March 31, 2013.