

Advocacy Report Winter 2018

By Gerri Settoon, Advocacy Committee Chairperson

Winter is our busy legislative season as so many bills will be coming forth that can impact education, teachers, schools, and students. Become aware and proactive in seeking the best possible legislative outcome for all. Money is tight in our state but we can't use that as an excuse to decrease a reasonable and equitable spending for education. We have seen this year how the Legislature has voted down equal pay for women resulting in the loss of educators. Help prevent the job loss and cut in programs at the elementary and secondary level by letting your legislator know how important it is to value and reward women educators for the job they are doing in our state. Good education and good teachers are vital to Louisiana and should be considered a priority by validating the worth of educators!

Remember to invite a legislator, community leader or public official to your next meeting or to your school for functions such as Young Authors Awards Celebration, Literacy Week, Spring Council Awards Dinner, and next year's African-American Read-in-Chain, Read for the Record, Open House, International Literacy Day, etc. If possible, schedule a Breakfast or Tea to honor their literacy contributions to your council, school, district, or to our state. As a benefit to you, they may decide to join your council. Not only do they increase your membership roster but they can help you with advocacy achievements. These influential members may also help you with grants, donations, prizes, and books for children. Partnerships can be a great benefit to a council. Do let me know if you have interactions in your council with a community, state, or national leader! Thanks for your hard work in growing your membership and contributing to the achievement of the IRA Advocacy Award!

Gerri Settoon can be reached at gerri.settoon@gmail.com