**RRTA Meeting**

**October 5, 2017**

**Attendance:** R. Allen, D. Altobelli, Z. Artson-Crichlow, K. Barkley, M. Barnum, C. Bonsignore-Kitchen, C. Dean, K. Evans, K. Fager, M. Ferenchak, W. Humphrey, B. Jones, F. Macek, M. McCarron, L. Rapkin, E. Robinson, K. Schultz, S. Silvio, D. Sullivan, G. Sweeney, D. Voellinger, M. Zimmer

**Absent:**  L. Bonanni, P. Brody, B. Buckingham, K. Huey, J. Ivanick, M. Jenkins-Cox, M. Keating, G. Shakes, A. Smith, B. Swan, F. Valente, Y. Wooten

**Also in attendance**: M. Casey, B. Gerace, S. Raymond, D. Smith

The meeting was called to order at 10:05.

1. A moment of silence was observed for teachers who have passed away in the past month: Bill Hardy, Marcia Fallon, Bruce Gillies, Pauline Graves, Ed Kaiser, Chuck Kinnerson, Martha Mower, Alphonso Patuto, and Francis Valenti. A $25 donation is made to Books for Kids in memory of any RRTA member.

2. The June minutes were approved as written.

3. **Shaw Festival** - Maureen McCarron reported that the last 2017 Niagara on the Lake play on October 13 had enough participants to occur and the group will see Dracula.

4. **Mendon Mansion Tour** — Kathy Evans said that everyone enjoyed the excursion visiting Mendon and Honeoye Falls with Warren Kling. The group started at Monroes and completed the trip with a great buffet at Monroes. Many RRTA members participated who had not previously attended activities. It was great seeing so many come.

5. **Vote Cope** — Dave Altobelli said that he attended the new teacher orientation where he and other RTA officers were able to speak to the new 250 + teachers about RTA and Vote Cope. They shared information about the upcoming Constitutional Convention vote in November. Dave said that he signed up 55 new Vote Cope members and the new teachers were able to register to vote and sign up to be an RTA member.

 If RRTA members send a yearly Vote Cope contribution, they should send it the RTA office instead of to Albany directly so that contributions can be attributed to the RTA. Charlie Dean reminded everyone that Vote Cope is responsible for getting the COLA increase to our pensions yearly. RRTA members should consider increasing their contribution to ensure that our benefits continue to improve.

6. **Dress a Girl** — Maureen McCarron reported that some of the group sewed during the summer and brought in 40 dresses and 40 dolls at their first meeting. At that meeting they also made 35 dresses and 37 dolls. All are welcome to join them, meeting on the last Monday of the month at the RTA office. They will have their annual fundraising activities at the holiday luncheon.

7. **Books for Kids** — The group met in September and scheduled which schools they will take books to for first graders. The October school will be #45 buying books at Barnes and Noble on October 12 at 10 am and delivering them to first graders at 9:30 on October 26. All RRTA members are welcome to join the committee.

8.  **No Constitutional Convention Committee** — Ken Schultz reported thanking the committee who helped with the September 7 luncheon. They are now working on a mailing of a sample ballot with the positioning of the amendments. The amendment for the Constitutional Convention will be Number 1 on the ballot. The mailing will be October 25 at 11 am. He is encouraging everyone to continue to tell everyone about voting no. Mary Barnum reported about the phone bank to call all retirees on Oct 31, Nov 1 and 2 from 12 to 5 pm. All are welcome.

 Ken also thanked John Pavone who coordinated the legislators who spoke, RTA office staff who helped with paperwork and Adam Urbanski who presided at the luncheon. Andy Palotta, NYSUT president, came from Albany and Dan Meloni, the AFL-CIO leader also brought their points of view.

 Lawn signs and magnets will be available at the RTA office. Call first to see if they’ve arrived.

9. **RRTA Picnic** — Sue Raymond is coordinating the Friday, October 20 picnic at Roberts Cabin in Henrietta Memorial Park. Call her by Wednesday, October 18, if you are attending so that she has an estimate for purchasing supplies. All are welcome.

10. The RRTA representative nominations from the June meeting were approved at this meeting. No election was necessary because the number of nominations received did not exceed the number of seats open. Ellen Robinson and Diana Voellinger were welcomed as the newest representatives. The others also approved were: Bob Allen, Katherine Barkley, Carol Bonsignore-Kitchen, Marie Jenkins Cox, Kevin Fager, Willie Humphrey, Freddi Macek, Ken Schultz, Gaya Shakes, Sharon Silvio, Deborah Sullivan, Grace Sweeney, and Mary Zimmer. They have been elected for a 2 year term.

11. **RRTA Newspaper** — The November RRTA newspaper will be proofread on October 26 and mailed out on November 14. The group looked at the list of articles and pictures that are expected to be in the paper. Mary Barnum reported that there are 570 RRTA members who have sent in their dues money for the 2017-18 school year.

12. The Calendar for the RRTA newspaper was reviewed.

13. **Medicare Letter** — Charlie Dean said that everyone eligible for Medicare should have received a booklet and a letter. He said that the letter is important only if you want to opt out of the RCSD plan. If you have any questions, call Charlie Dean.

14. John Pavone said that there may be a **dental plan** offered to retirees from RCSD paying a CODA. More information will be coming. You need to look at the cost to you, what it covers, and who accepts the plan. There may be a quick turnover from information to the sign up window in deciding to join. Grace Sweeney warned that if you have the NYSUT dental plan and you cancel it to join this one, you may not be allowed back into the NYSUT plan if you try the RCSD and do not like it or if it is taken away. There may be an article in the RRTA newsletter about it.

15. Mary Barnum said that someone had contacted her from **Gigi’s Playhouse** wanting to speak to the RRTA reps about her program and to solicit volunteers. The group voted to give her 10 minutes at the November meeting. You can go to rochester@gigisplayhouse.org if you would like more information now.

16. **Holiday Party** — The party will be December 5 at the Brook House. There was a form to sign up in the August RRTA newsletter and there will be another in the November newsletter. Please join us to celebrate the holidays. RRTA members will get a discount on the price of the luncheon.

17. Linda Rapkin reported that Patti Brody and her husband were being honored in NYC today by the US Coast Guard for their civilian work.

18. Mary Barnum reported that it was very difficult to get the NYSUT calendars to send to members that she has done for the past years. Tom Gillett from the NYSUT office was able to get her some this year. NYSUT sent members a calendar in September directly from Albany that was a duplicate of the one she sent. It was suggested that instead of sending a calendar next year as members send in their dues, that RRTA send a calendar cover to put the NYSUT sent calendar as a thank you for joining RRTA. The discussion will continue in the spring of 2018 to make a final decision.

The meeting adjourned at 11:43.

Mary Zimmer

RRTA secretary