**RRTA Meeting**

**June 1, 2017**

**Attendance:** R. Allen, D. Altobelli, Z. Artson-Crichlow, M. Barnum, C. Bonsignore-Kitchen, P. Brody, B. Buckingham, C. Dean, K. Evans, K. Fager, M. Ferenchak, K. Huey, W. Humphrey, B. Jones, M. McCarron, L. Rapkin, K. Schultz, G. Shakes, A. Smith, D. Sullivan, B. Swan, M. Zimmer

**Absent:**  K. Barkley, L. Bonanni, J. Ivanick, M. Jenkins-Cox, M. Keating, F. Macek, S. Silvio, G. Sweeney, F. Valente, M. Weeks, R. Wolf, Y. Wooten

**Also in attendance**: M. Casey, S. Raymond, D. Smith, MJ Whalen

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:07.

2. A moment of silence was observed for teachers who have passed away in the past month: James C. Brown, Karl E. Heath, John L. Sage, and Ken Silvio. A $25 donation is made to Books for Kids in memory of any RRTA member.

3. The April and May RRTA minutes were approved as written.

4. **Shaw Theater** - Niagara on the Lake — Maureen McCarron said that the recent trip to see St. Joan was well received by the attendees. Fifty will be going to Me and My Girl on June 15. There are still 20 seats left for Dracula in October. The deadline to get tickets is August 4.

5. **Vote Cope** — Dave Altobelli reported that there are about 70 new contributors or members who have increased their contribution. He thanked teacher, Debbi Jacket, at School 17 who has signed the whole staff and administrators to become donors. The June drawing for restaurant gift cards is on track for the RA in June. He hopes to get more new contributors or those who increase the amount they are giving.

6. **Dress a Girl** — Gaya Shakes reported that at their recent Monday meeting they made 40 dresses and 4 dolls. They need to have 150 dresses ready to send in September for people traveling to countries that will give the dresses to needy girls. She thanked people who have donated materials. She said that as a result of the Rochester Teachers Care video they have gotten more volunteers to help make dresses. They welcome anyone who wants to come and volunteer.

7. **Books for Kids** — Mary Barnum reported that the organization has a healthy bank account of $8,913. Many donated to Books for Kids in memory of Anne Allen. The group was videoed for a Rochester Teachers Care segment at Barnes and Noble and at School 41. The video should be posted in a couple of weeks. Rochester Teachers Care is funded through next year by NYSUT.

8. **No Constitutional Convention Committee** — Ken Schultz reported that the September 7 luncheon is proceeding on schedule. There will be local unions leaders, legislators and possibly the NYSUT president. All RRTA members are encouraged to come and learn about the issue and bring a friend. 11:15 will be registration that day and lunch will be served at 12:45. On June 27 and 28 there will be an informational mailing sent to all retirees with 6,000 pledge to vote no cards. All are welcome to come and help. If you have any questions or suggestions, write to Ken Schultz at kzschultz@gmail.com. Mary Jo Whalen shared an article from a recent D&C that talked about a poll that Siena College did that said that most New Yorkers do not know about the vote of the NYS Constitution but that when informed they were in favor of having one. Maureen McCarron said that the building unions are against having a constitutional convention because they are afraid of losing workers’ rights, workmen’s comp or not being allowed to form unions or have union rights. NYSUT is having informational meetings (June 1) and promised future meetings at the NYSUT building. Maureen said that she will help anyone who would like to write letters to the editor about the issue.

9. **RRTA rep election** — Fifteen names were submitted for the 16 positions available. Nominations were closed and the 15 people are RRTA reps for the next 2 years: 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, Mary Zimmer, Diana Voellinger, Ellen Robinson.

10. **RRTA picnic** — June 23 at Canandaigua Yacht Club. Information is in the April RRTA newspaper.

11. **Membership Report** — There are 697 dues paying RRTA members.

12. **RRTA Newspaper** — Mary Barnum shared the many articles and pictures that she is planning for the August RRTA newspaper. The deadline to submit anything you would like to share is July 13.

13. **RRTA Calendar** — Mary Barnum shared the calendar with activities for RRTA members that are in the RRTA newspaper. Because of the difficulty of scheduling and paying, the fall Hurds activity has been canceled.

14. **Red Wings Game** — June 10 — Charlie Dean said that he mailed out a notice and anyone wanting to attend should call him to reserve tickets.

15. **Mansions and Millionaires tour** — Kathy Evans wanted to remind everyone that the deadline for the October 2 tour is quickly approaching (June 15) and there a several seats left on the bus.

16. **Ganondagon Visit** — Mary Barnum proposed a visit for the fall to the Native American site. Information will be coming.

Mary Zimmer, RRTA Secretary