RRTA Meeting

November 2, 2017

**Attendance**: Robert Allen, David Altobelli Zelda Artson-Crinchow, Mary Barnum, Lillian Bonanni, Carol Bonsignore-Kitchen, Patti Brody, Barbara Buckingham, Charlie Dean, Kathleen Evans, Kevin Fager, Marie Ferenchak, Karen Huey, Willie Humphrey, Marie Jenkins Cox, Brenda Jones, Maureen McCarron, Linda Rapkin, Ken Schultz, Gaya Shakes, Deborah Sullivan, Barry Swan, Frank Valente, Diana Voellinger, Yolanda Wooten

**Absent:** Katherine Barkley, June Ivanick, Martha Keating, Freddi Macek, Ellen Robinson, Sharon Silvio, Al Smith, Grace Sweeney< Mary Zimmer

**Also in attendance:** Bob Gerace**,** Linda Kotwas, Sue Raymond**,** Mary Jo Whalen,

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:10 by Charlie Dean. Charlie asked for someone to take notes since Mary Zimmer was absent. Thanks to Patti Brody for volunteering.

2. A moment of silence was observed for Carey Fletcher, who passed away in the past month. A $25 donation is made to Books for Kids in memory of any RRTA member.

3. The Minutes for October were approved.

4. **Shaw – Niagara on the Lake** – The Play “Dracula” was very successful. The bus was met by 2 Draculas in the RTA parking lot. They served bloody mary cocktails, and gave the passengers a goodie bag which included garlic and plastic teeth. A good time was had by all. Our coordinators, Maureen McCarron and Nancy Attardo are resigning from the position. A volunteer or volunteers are needed if this popular trip is to continue. Maureen and Nancy are willing to help with the take over. Charlie Dean thanked them for the fine job they have done.

5. **Vote-Cope** Dave Altobelli reported that the campaign poster for November says, “WE STAND, WE FIGHT, WE WIN,” will be reduced and included in a mailing to each rep. Each rep will be asked to get at least one new Vote-Cope contributor. Dave also reminded us that some of our reps have not contributed and this would be a good time to start. He will present this in the November meeting of the Representative Assembly which will be held on Thursday, November 30 at the Art Gallery. (Please not the changes for the date and the location.) Food will be served, so please RSVP when you get the notice if you intend to eat after the meeting.

6. **Dress-A-Girl –** Gaya Shakes reported that dresses and underwear were sent to Tanzania and Puerto Rico. There will be a fund raiser at the Christmas party. Spiritus Christi Church sent a $1,000 donation to Dress-A-Girl. Dress-A-Girl meets the last Monday of each month.

7. **RRTA Holiday Party –** Karen Huey reported that the holiday party is December 5, 2017 at Red Fidele’s Brook House Restaurant, 920 Elmridge Center Drive, Rochester, NY. ( Ridge Road West in Greece) Meet and Greet is at 11:00 with a cash bar and Dress-A-Girl auction/drawing. The buffet lunch will be at Noon. The deadline for reservations is November 27, 2017. Instead of a gift exchange, please bring a nonperishable food item to donate to a local food cupboard.

**8. Books for Kids** - Mary Jo reported that the committee visited two first grade classes at #45 School. The kids were quite “lively”. November 14, the committee will meet at Barnes and Noble at 10:00 am to purchase books for. The visit to #39 School will be on November 9, 2017. Florence Jones will be in charge. Please call Mary to set up car-pooling. The visit to #10 School will be on December 15, 2017 at 10:00 am. They will visit Mrs. Goode’s class as well as Ms. Jackson’s class. Books for Kids is trying to do at least 2 classes at each visit this year.

9. **NCC Committee** – Ken Schultz thanked the NCC Committee for all the hard work. The committee members were Dave Altobelli, Zelda Artson-Crinchow, Mary Barnum, Bob Gerace, Freddi Macek, Maureen McCarron, Linda Rapkin, Sharon Silvio, and Frank Valenti. A special thanks goes to John Pavone for rearranging the times so that panel members could attend the funeral of Joe Morelli’s daughter.

The committee spent all its budget mailers (including a large mailing at the end reminding people to vote on November 7), and the luncheon. Polls are showing that many more no votes than yes votes, but all are reminded that the only poll that counts is the vote on November 7. 20 retirees called all the RRTA members with a reminder to vote.

10. **Membership –** Mary Barnum reported thatwe now have 698 members

11. **Medicare update** – Charlie Dean reported that the Medicare Open Enrollment meeting will be held at Edison on November 9, 2017 in the auditorium. Representatives from MVP and Blue Cross/Blue Shield will be there to present their plans. A dental plan will be offered this year, but is not subsidized by the District. This will also be presented at the meeting. This plan will be available at any time during the year. As with any insurance, please investigate if the plan meets

 your needs before you sign up.

We now have the new premiums for the health plans. Please remember that these premiums are per person and are in addition to anything you pay for Part B and possibly Part D as part of Medicare premiums. The District contributes about $200 in addition to the listed pemiums. This information has been sent to all retirees eligible for Medicare.

Plan of Benefits 2018 Monthly Cost Counties covered

Medicare Blue Choice $103.34 per month Livingston, Monroe, Ontario,

 Seneca, Wayne, Steuben,

 Schuyler, Chemung, Cayuga

 Thompkins, Tioga, Oswego,

 Onondaga, Cortland, Yates

MVP Preferred Gold $35.81 per month Erie, Genesee, Livingston,

Standard Plan Monroe, Niagara, Orleans,

 Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca

 Steuben, Wayne, Wyoming,

 ` Yates, Chautauqua,

 Cattaraugus, Alleghany

MVP Preferred Gold $112.66 Same as Standard Plan

Buy Up Plan

The Buy Up Plan is a closed plan and is only available to retirees who participated in the plan during 2017

The previous plans are all Medicare Advantage Plans offered in conjunction with Medicare. You will receive a card for this plan and you will use this card for covered medical services. You will not need to use your Medicare card, but keep it in a safe place.

The following plan is an EPO plan which provides secondary coverage for Medicare. You will need both cards when you receive covered medical services. Since it is an EPO plan, there is no residency requirement. This plan is usually taken by retirees who live out of the covered counties or who have need of some coverage that are greater than those of the Medicare Advantage policies.

Excellus BCBS $403.59

If you have any questions feel free to contact Charlie Dean 585-865-1735.

12. **GiGi’s Playhouse** Carey Lynn Vertino (Board Member and Volunteer Coordinator GiGi’s Playhouse) presented information about volunteering. GiGi’s Playhouse is a program to build leadership skills in individuals with Down Syndrome and anyone else with special needs. The building is located behind Village Gate.

After the presentation, there was a motion to put information about GiGi’s Playhouse in the RRTA Newspaper. The motion passed.

11. **Newspaper** – Mary Barnum reminded us that the deadline for the January newspaper is December 12. The November newspaper will be mailed on November 8.

12. **Calendar** – Red Wing Game June 8, Books for Kids December 15, Joe Rozzo’s Apple Farm Date to be announced.

13. **Business good for the order** – Bob Gerace reported that the play “Fun Home” might not be appropriate for children.

Mary Barnum reported that we now have 624 dues paying members. This is 70 less than last year. There will be a list of dues paying members in the November newspaper. Please check to see if you have any friends who have not joined this year and contact them. Kevin Fager brought up that the RTA donated $2000 to Project Aqua to help our fellow citizens in Puerto Rico was inadequate. It was agreed that we ought to bring this up in the next RA.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 ish