

**RRTA Meeting
February 1, 2018**

Attendance: R. Allen, D. Altobelli, Z. Artson-Crichlow, L. Bonanni, M. Barnum, C. Bonsignore-Kitchen, P. Brody, C. Dean, K. Evans, K. Fager, M. Ferenchak, K. Huey, W. Humphrey, M. Keating, F. Macek, M. McCarron, L. Rapkin, E. Robinson, K. Schultz, G. Shakes, S. Silvio, A. Smith, D. Sullivan, F. Valente, D. Voellinger, Y. Wooten, M. Zimmer

Absent: K. Barkley, B. Buckingham, J. Ivanick, M. Jenkins-Cox, B. Jones, B. Swan, G. Sweeney,

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

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: Marleen Colosimo, Lorie Dengler Dewey, Dianne Hebbrecht, Derick Hulme, Pat Lang, Virginia Hart Norton, Evelyn A. Parsons, and Robert Salzano. A \$25 donation is made to Books for Kids in memory of any RRTA member.
2. The January minutes were approved as written.
3. **Vote Cope** — Dave Altobelli reported that the 2018 campaign begins in April when the volunteers will prepare the materials April 2 to 6. It is an important year because of the Supreme Court decision that is set to break unions. Vote Cope needs contributions to advertise the importance of being a member of a union.
4. April 12 is the next RRTA 10 am meeting because of the Spring Break being the first week of April. All RRTA members are welcome.
5. Ten RRTA members are attending the NYSUT Legislative Breakfast, Saturday, February 3 at 8 am.
6. **Savvy Sewers - Dress A Girl** — Gaya Shakes reported that the group made 56 dresses and 12 dolls last week. They are sending 100 dresses to Haiti. Some members continue to support 2 girls' education in Zambia. The group sent a thank you note to RRTA for last month's monetary contribution. All are welcome to join the group.
7. **Books for Kids** has \$8477 in its account for the purchase of picture books for first graders. Monday, February 5, the group will be going to purchase books at Barnes and Noble for the February school (#9 on Feb 9 at 9:30 am) and the March school (#20 on March 14). All RRTA members are welcome to join the committee.

8. The January RRTA newspaper had a call for an RRTA rep position that was not filled in June. Alex Johnson was the only applicant and will now be an RRTA rep. The April RRTA newspaper will have a call for the yearly election for one half the committee.

9. There was a list of dues payers who were members in the past but haven't sent in their 2017 - 18 dues. Mary Barnum passed around the list so that RRTA reps can look to find anyone we might contact and asked them to send in their dues. Non members do not receive the January or April newsletters.

10. **Newspaper** — April 12 is the deadline for the next April newsletter which only goes to dues paying members. Send in material, articles, and pictures to Mary Barnum at the RTA office. Mary will ask Adam Urbanski to write something about Janus and the Supreme Court decision and ramifications. Mary Barnum thanked those who helped with the tedious task of mailing the January newsletter to save money by putting them in an envelope.

11. **Calendar** — There were additions of June 22, the picnic at Canandaigua Lake and the fall picnic on September 7 at the Henrietta park. Sue Raymond is the organizer. The Apple Farm visit will be in late September.

We are looking for more activities to add to the calendar. If anyone has suggestions, contact M. Barnum.

12. **Rochester Labor Council** will be having a open forum on the Janus Supreme Court decision. The forum will be held on **March 3** from 10 am to 12 at the NYSUT building. There will be NYS legislators and Rochester union leaders in attendance.

13. **Discussion of the new tax law** — Retirees should have received a letter from NYSTRS about tax adjustments. At the end of the year there may be more you are paying because of less deductions, i.e. there is no more personal deduction or union dues will not be deductible.

14. Al Smith, RRTA rep and Lion Club member reported that Logan Newman is working at delivering eyeglasses with Flaum Eye Institute to Haiti.

15. Gaya Shakes distributed informational sheets about Frederick Douglass's 200th birthday celebrations including one at the Rochester Academy of Medicine on East Avenue on Feb 10. She is singing with a choir and readings by the North Star Players. She said that Rochester has a list of events on their website.

16. NYSUT delegate election is presently occurring, please vote.

17. Tom Gillett is retiring as the NYSUT regional director. Carrie Andrews will be taking he position. Tom's retirement party will be March 3.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15.

Mary Zimmer
RRTA secretary