**RRTA Meeting**

**May 3, 2018**

**Attendance:**  R. Allen, D. Altobelli, Z. Artson-Crichlow, K. Barkley, M. Barnum, L. Bonanni, C. Bonsignore-Kitchen, P. Brody, B. Buckingham, C. Dean, K. Evans, K. Fager, K. Huey, W. Humphrey, J. Ivanick, M. Jenkins-Cox, A. Johnson, B. Jones, F. Macek, M. McCarron, L. Rapkin, E. Robinson, K. Schultz, G. Shakes, S. Silvio, D. Sullivan, G. Sweeney, F. Valente, D. Voellinger, Y. Wooten, M. Zimmer

**Absent:**  M. Ferenchak, M. Keating, A. Smith, B. Swan

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

The meeting was called to order at 10:16.

1. A moment of silence was observed for teachers who have passed away in the past month: Mary Ann Seahaffer. (A spelling correction of a teacher from last month: Marilyn Hetzler. A $25 donation is made to Books for Kids in memory of any RRTA member.

2. The February minutes were approved as written.

3.  **Vote Cope** — Dave Altobelli reported that for the Vote Cope campaign a letter went out to retirees and that he received a great response from those who signed up through pension deduction or sent money in. Please send your contributions to the RTA office rather than to NYSUT in Albany so that he can be aware of all RRTA members contributing. The active teachers will receive their letters in May and the restaurant door prizes for contributors will be pulled at the June RTA meeting.

At the April RTA meeting Adam Urbanski gave out the Pledge to Commit to My Union forms for the active teachers. Many schools have 100% returns and are posted on the RTA website and on Facebook. It is important to remain with the union to retain health benefits for both active and retired teachers. Also through Vote Cope, Joe Robach and Rich Funke have sponsored the change to APPR which has passed in the lower legislative house.

RTA has received the Abel Blattman Award from NYSUT for having so many Vote Cope contributors. Please do your part.

4. **Dress a Girl/Savvy Sewers** — Gaya Shakes reported that Monday the group made 40 dresses and 23 dolls. She said that they will send 100 dresses to Haiti with panties. They are also making “Days for Girls” which are personal feminine hygiene supplies.

The Zululand Hospice came and sold some Zululand products to help support their yearly trip.

Dress a Girl celebrated their seventh anniversary with cake.

5. **Books for Kids** — School 41 will be visited on May 15 as the final first grade picture book give away. The group is financially in good shape with $7,209 to start out 2018-19. Donations are taken that are tax deductible and checks can be made out to FLACE/Books for Kids.

6. **United Way** — Dial A Teacher (#1403) for the WXXI Homework Hotline show and for Hillside tutoring is still a choice.

7. **Newspaper** — the April paper is ready to be sent out. It goes to only dues paying members: 685 members. The August edition has a deadline of July 12 for articles and pictures. Send in anything that you would like to share to Mary Barnum at RTA.

8. Alex Johnson was welcomed as the newest RRTA rep.

9. **Calendar** — The Retirement Dinner for active members retiring is scheduled for June 11.

September 10, Pat Corcoran will be leading a tour of Mount Hope Cemetery with a theme of Frederick Douglass and the Underground Railroad.

Joe Rizzo’s Apple Farm Tour will be during apple harvest which will be the first or second week of October. Carol Bonsignor Kitchen will be coordinating the visit.

June 8 is the Red Wing game with an optional buffet dinner.

Sue Raymond is coordinating the June picnic at the Canandaigua Yacht Club.

10. Freddie Macek said that Saturday, May 5 the Rochester Labor Council and the Genesee Valley Labor Council are having a meeting in Corning with the guest speaker, Mark McDermott.

The meeting adjourned at 10:46.

Mary Zimmer

secretary