

RRTA Meeting February 7, 2019

Attendance: R. Allen, D. Altobelli, Z. Artson-Crichlow, M. Barnum, C. Bonsignore-Kitchen, P. Brody, C. Dean, K. Evans, K. Fager, K. Huey, W. Humphrey, B. Jones, L. Rapkin, E. Robinson, K. Schultz, G. Shakes, A. Smith, D. Sullivan, F. Valente, D. Voellinger, M. Zimmer

Absent: K. Barkley, B. Buckingham, M. Ferenchak, A. Johnson, J. Ivanick, A. Johnson, M. Jenkins-Cox, M. Keating, F. Macek, S. Silvio, B. Swan, G. Sweeney, Y. Wooten

Also in attendance: C. Fager, S. Raymond

The meeting was called to order at 10:06.

1. A moment of silence was observed for teachers who have passed away in the past month: Charles Daniels, Kathryn Jane Jewett, Marion Maracle, and Paula A. Maywalt. A \$25 donation is made to Books for Kids in memory of any RRTA member.
2. The January 3 minutes were approved as written.

3. **Vote Cope** — Matthew's Closet sent a thank you note for the clothes donated at the RRTA Holiday Party. Thank you for the generosity shown by those who donated. During January, Dave Altobelli reported that there were no new members enrolled. The Committee of 100 will be meeting in Albany March 4 and 5 with Vote Cope training preceding the other meeting. April 15 begins the 2019 Vote Cope campaign with the preparation of materials.

At the Legislative Forum for the Monroe County School Presidents Council, 10 retirees will attend February 9 at 8:15 at the RIT Conference Center.

Candace Rubin, the chair of the RTA Political Action Committee needs signatures for Willa Powell's run for Board of Education. Because she runs and is not endorsed by the Democratic Committee, Willa needs to get signatures on her own. If you would like to help Candace get signatures (1000), contact her through RTA. The Primary will be held in June.

4. **Dress A Girl/Savvy Sewers** — Gaya Shakes reported that they made 33 dresses and 10 dolls. Linda Kotwas donated a sewing machine to the group and Spiritus Christi Church donated \$950 for their expenses. The group is looking for places to send their dresses and dolls so if you know someone going to a country that would have a need and a contact organization, contact Gaya Shakes or Cathy Fager or leave a message for them at the RTA office. The group will pay for the extra suitcase, but will not mail a box to a foreign country because they feel it might not get into the right hands or used for the wrong purpose.

5. **Volunteering for a Buddy Reading at School 12** — Pat Hart, retired from RCSD as a teacher and administrator, came to speak to the group to explain a program she is overseeing and is hoping to expand. Along with the principal at School 12 they are beginning a Buddy Reading program for 1st graders. Presently they have 7 volunteers and some Nazareth College students. In September they hope to expand to work with more 1st graders and to 2nd and 3rd graders. The volunteers work with one student for 30 minutes and then with one more student. A volunteer would give one hour on Tuesday mornings from 8:30 to 9:30. Volunteers can park in the bus loop. For more

information or to volunteer, call Pat Hart at 703-7598 or email her at phart22002@gmail.com. Or you can contact the parent liaison, Susan Allen at School 12: 461-3298x1120.

A motion was proposed and passed to include an article about the program in the RRTA newspaper.

6. **Books for Kids** — School 9 will be visited on Friday, February 15 at 9:30 am. The group will go to Barnes and Noble to buy books for School 15 on Monday, February 11 and visit School 15 on Friday, March 14 at 8:30 am.

7. **Medicare Advantage** — Charlie Dean said that there was a letter sent (not from RCSD) asking recipients to sign up for more information about Medicare Advantage Plans. He said that if you respond you are going to receive a lot of spam mail. He also said that you can only have one Medicare Advantage plan at a time.

8. **Newspaper** — The due date for articles and pictures for the next newspaper is April 11. Mary Barnum thanked those who helped send out the newspaper in January.

9. **Niagara on the Lake/Shaw plays** — Cathy Fager is organizing 2 excursions to NOTL that will be included in the April newspaper. September 6 there will be a bus going to see Lady Killers and September 26 to see Brigadoon. She has reserved 40 tickets and a bus. There will be parking behind RTA in the Isaac Heating area of the parking lot.

10. There are **712 dues paying members**.

11. **Calendar** — June 1 is the Red Wing Game and more information will be coming.

The Spring Picnic will move to the Henrietta park rather than Canandaigua. Sue Raymond will schedule a date with the Henrietta Rec Department.

Elections of RRTA reps will be in the April/May newspaper.

Shaw dates will be added to the calendar.

12. Linda Rifkin asked Charlie Dean to write an article for the August and November RRTA newspaper which goes to all retirees, not just to members. She would like him to explain the importance of being an RRTA member and how it helps to protect your health benefits. With high numbers of RRTA members (who do vote with a higher percentage than active teachers), those negotiating for retiree benefits know that they have a vote during officer elections and ensure officers will listen to retirees' concerns.

13. The School Board's response to the Acquino report and those running for the board for next year are a concern to the union.

The meeting adjourned at 11:12.

Mary Zimmer
RRTA Secretary