

The Rochester Retired Teacher

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Retired Rochester Teachers Association is a Department of the Rochester Teachers Association NYSUT AFT NEA AFL-CIO - 30 North Union St. Rochester NY 14607. Representing RCSD teachers • retired teachers • substitute teachers • school instructors • home/hospital teachers • rochester preschool parent program

Vol. 09 No. 3 August 2019

A Retired Rochester Teachers Publication

RRTA HOLIDAY LUNCHEON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2019

Red Fedele's Brook House
920 Elmridge Center Drive, Greece
(off West Ridge Rd. Route 104)

11:00 a.m. Meet and greet, cash bar
Dress A Girl auction/drawing

12:00 Buffet lunch

\$23.00 Dues payer
\$31.00 Non-dues payer



November 21 Deadline for Reservations

Last year our RRTA Holiday Party was a joyous success. We this year gather again at Red Fedele's Brook House in Greece. Each year the decorations are incredible; so this will be a great kick off for the holiday season. Call up your teaching buddies from your former school and form a reunion table.

Price includes a buffet of olive and cheese antipasto and fruit tray, salads, pasta with red sauce, pasta with broccoli and cheese, chicken parmigiana, sausage and peppers, Italian bread, dessert, beverage, tax and gratuity.

We ask that you bring a nonperishable food item to donate to a local food cupboard. This Holiday Party is also the major fund raiser for our RRTA Dress A Girl/Savvy Sew-ers, who meet once a month at RTA to sew dresses for girls who otherwise might not have dresses.

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RRTA Holiday Luncheon, December 12, 2019
Deadline for reservations: November 21, 2019

Name _____
Phone _____ Email _____
Address _____
City/town _____ Zip _____

Number of \$23 dues payer lunches _____ Total \$ _____
Number of \$31 Non dues payer lunches _____ Total \$ _____
Total amount of check made out to RRTA \$ _____

Please print the name of your guests.

Please make checks payable to RRTA. Return completed form and check, attention Karen Huey, to Rochester Teachers Association, 30 North Union Street, Rochester, NY 14607.

2019 RRTA CALENDAR

An * indicates date not yet firm. More items will be added as the year goes on. Only dues paying members receive timely notification of newly scheduled events.

All RRTA activities are without profit; so be nice to the people who take the time and trouble to plan them. Please check the membership status of your guest(s) before making payment. Payment for events is accepted only with a completed registration form. Please write a separate check for each event or payment.

RRTA meetings are always 10 a.m. in the RTA office, 30 North Union Street and are open to all dues payers.

If you want to be part of an RRTA work crew (stuffing envelopes collating etc.) please call Mary Barnum to be put on the to-call list when RTA needs people power. Come help your union, enjoy a free lunch, and hear the latest buzz.

August

20 RRTeacher mailed

September

- 2 Labor Day parade
- 5 Books for Kids annual meeting
- 6 LADYKILLERS SHAW, N-O-T-L
- 17 Rep Assembly
RRTA book Club
- 20 RRTA picnic Henrietta Veteran's Memorial Park
- 26 BRIGADOON Shaw, N-O-T-L
- 30 Dress A Girl

October

- 3 RRTA meeting RTA office 10ish
Deadline for articles Nov. paper
- 7 Joe's Apple Farm
- 15 RRTA Book Club
- 20 Breast Cancer Walk Frontier Field
- 22 Rep Assembly
- 24 Hurd Orchard lunch
- 28 Dress A Girl

November

- 5 Election Day Referendum on State takeover of Rochester City School District
- 7 RRTA meeting RTA office 10ish
- 19 Rep Assembly
- 25 Dress A Girl

December

- 5 RRTA meeting RTA office 10ish
- 10 Rep Assembly
- 12 RRTA Holiday Party

**BREAST CANCER
WALK**
Sunday, October 20

Frontier Field
RTA walk shirts for members
at the NYSUT kiosk
Look on the RTA website or
call the RTA office (546-2681)
for information to join a team
or donate.

RRTA Meeting April 4, 2019

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

Absent: K. Barkley, M. Ferenczak, M. Keating, S. Silvio

Also in attendance: M. Casey, B. Gerace, D. Smith, A. Urbanski

The meeting was called to order at 10:07.

1. A moment of silence was observed for teachers who have passed away in the past month: Stephen J. Grey and Bernadette Lally. A \$25 donation is made to Books for Kids in memory of any RRTA member.
2. Charlie Dean thanked everyone for their good wishes and cards while he was recuperating. He thanked Gaya Shakes, Mary Barnum and Alex Johnson for assisting at last month's meeting.
3. March minutes were approved as amended. (corrected attendance info)
4. Vote Cope — Dave Altobelli said that he and Mary Barnum cross checked the Vote Cope data base from NYSUT. There are 413 retirees contributing to Vote Cope. He will be sending out to all retirees a pension deduction form to begin contributing or to increase their donation. April 15 begins the campaign materials preparation.
5. Dress A Girl/Savvy Sewers — Gaya reported that the group met in March and made 41 dresses, 13 dolls, 5 + blankets, and several feminine hygiene packets for girls. They are sending a shipment to Haiti. If you are traveling and have a contact in that country that could use their dresses, contact someone from the committee. Mary B. shared photos from girls wearing the dresses in Zambia. Linda Rapkin shared that she had stopped in and saw the incredible dresses that were being made.
6. Shaw Festival - Niagara on the Lake — Mary Barnum said she is continuing communication with Cathy Fager. Information will be in the April/May RRTA newspaper. For the September Ladykillers, the deadline for tickets will be June 28 and for the September 26 Brigadoon, deadline will be July 19.
7. Books for Kids — On April 12 the group will visit a first grade at the Bilingual Academy at Hart Street at 11 am.
8. Medicare — Charlie Dean said that the tv ads and mailings are not relevant to RCSD retirees. You cannot have 2 Medicare Advantage plans.
9. RRTA reps are helping to mail (at the candidates expense for materials and US stamps) the election literature of candidates for the office of RTA secretary, which is the only office that has multiple candidates and that are relevant to RRTA members.
10. Newspaper — Nominations will be taken for RRTA reps. The form is in the April/May RRTA newspaper. There are 720 members which entitles the RRTA department to 35 representatives. There are 20 positions open (16 - 18 will be for a 2 year term and 2 to 4 positions for 1 year). There are 15 reps who still have another year of their term. Mary Barnum and Charlie Dean will discuss the issue and the information will be in the newspaper.
11. June 25 is the Primary Elections — There will be a phone bank to call for School Board endorsed members. Contact Mary Barnum if you would like to help during the week of June 17 to 20.
12. Adam Urbanski came to the meeting and shared information about the retirement incentive. There were now 124 teachers who have declared their intention to retire. There could be as many as 160 in total. The School Board projected 194 layoffs but now with the incentive it is down to 20 layoffs.

He said that the RTA proved to the district on how they can save \$8 million per year through reduction of payroll and save the new teachers that they have invested in. The Board passed it 7 to 0. He also said that they proved that the newer teacher population is more diversified and the usually antagonistic members of the board approved it. Urbanski thanked Martha Keating and John Pavone for all the work they did.

Urbanski then discussed negotiations saying that the district now has funds for a settlement and hopes to get one with this acting superintendent. It is better to work with the person he is familiar with than the unknown being brought in from outside. The district is wanting to deal with the retirees' health plan and Urbanski said he will not settle for anything less than what we have presently.

Another issue is mayoral control or the state takeover. He said that those pushing this change are those with money interests for themselves.

Urbanski thanked Charlie Dean for all he does for the retirees.

Gaya Shakes commented that many teachers are not volunteering for union offices when the union is the organization that has saved their jobs and guarantees benefits.

13. Calendar — The Retirement Dinner is not being announced because of the number of retirees hasn't been determined. Once it is settled and a venue and date has been determined, it will be announced.

The Dress a Girl dates were adjusted because of a holiday (May).

14. Al Smith said there is only 1 nomination for STEM teacher of the year. Al shared the magazine about the War Memorial honors. His group is also working with blue and gold star mothers to add a banner to the War Memorial.

He also said that the Lions Club is awarding 3 service awards on April 27 at Blades on University from 11 to 1 at a cost of \$25 with proceeds going to Food Link. There is a paraprofessional from 22 school being recognized.

15. Labor Council — Freddi Macek reported that they are endorsing Adam Bello for County Executive and Dan Maloni for Monroe County Leg 6. There will be a fundraiser for Dan Maloni TBD.

April 25 there is a meet and greet at Fingerlakes Casino with politicians from the area. You can come and speak to them about Health Care. Registration begins at 4:30 and for union retirees it costs \$20.

Workers' Memorial Day is observed on April 29 at Highland Park next to the Workers' Memorial (Highland Ave side) at 5 pm.

16. Henry Padron sent an appeal to come and speak to the RRTA reps and to put in a request for volunteers in the RRTA newspaper about Generation 2 working with k - 2 students in schools 3, 45 and others. Brenda Jones says she is involved and that it is "play time" for the kids. A motion was made and passed to let Henry come in to speak to the group.

The meeting adjourned at 11:23. Mary Zimmer RRTA secretary

RRTA Meeting May 2, 2019

Attendance: R. Allen, D. Altobelli, K. Barkley, M. Barnum, C. Bonsignore-Kitchen, P. Brody, B. Buckingham, C. Dean, K. Evans, K. Fager, M. Ferenczak, K. Huey, W. Humphrey, A. Johnson, B. Jones, L. Rapkin, K. Schultz, G. Shakes, S. Silvio, A. Smith, B. Swan, F. Valente, D. Voellinger, M. Zimmer

Absent: Z. Artson-Crichlow, M. Jenkins-Cox, M. Keating, F. Macek, E. Robinson, D. Sullivan, G. Sweeney, Y. Wooten

Also in attendance: B. Gerace, 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: Deroller Nixon, Ed Barkley, and Bob Sadick. A \$25 donation is made to Books for Kids in memory of any RRTA member.
2. The April 4, 2019 minutes were approved as written.
3. Melanie Mroz and Henry Padron came to speak to the group to introduce and seek volunteers for a program called Generation 2. (G2) Melanie spoke and said that the group is already in Schools 3, 45 and RISE and next year will expand to #44. They also are in Fairport and East Rochester schools. She said it is similar to the Primary Projects program that many are familiar with. She said that all students are welcome in the program and not just children with IEPs. The program provides social and emotional support for students in grades k - 2. The volunteers work in a group (of 4 or 5 volunteers) setting in the morning or the afternoon with a toy filled suitcase to play with the students (one adult for each student). You would commit to 2 hours a week (30 minutes with each student) from October to May. There is training for each volunteer, 1/2 day conference in November, and a weekly discussion with the site based coordinator to discuss any questions or issues with a student. Melanie said that students have excellent outcomes, liking coming to school, have less discipline problems and good social behaviors. A motion was proposed and passed that she write an article for the August newspaper to send out a call for volunteers. If you are interested in knowing more contact: Melanie Mroz, executive director at mmrozroch@gmail.com; g2rochester.org; (585)442-6043 or 315-3412; PO Box 18626, Rochester, NY 14618.
4. Vote Cope — Dave Altobelli thanked those who worked on preparing the materials for the Vote Cope campaign: Aimee Rinere (and her daughter), Mary Barnum, Barbara Buckingham, Kathy Evans, Debbi Jackett, Mary Zimmer, Jim Kraus, and George Grevin.

Contributor's names will be entered into the yearly raffle at the June 18 RA with a minimum yearly contribution of \$40.

Dave asked everyone to review your contribution and consider joining through pension deduction and increase your contribution to continue protecting your union.

4. b. Political information: Mary Barnum wanted to remind everyone that the Primary elections for November are now held on June 25. She discussed the RTA endorsed School Board members: Willa Powell (present member), Amy Maloy (teacher in Brighton and with children in School 58), Beatrice LeBron (present member), and Ricardo Adams (husband of past member, Mary Adams). All candidates were invited to a meeting but several chose not to attend. These are not all part of the Democratic Committee endorsed candidates, but are good choices to best help the district and need to be elected to get on the November ballot. There will be a phone bank during the week of June 17 - 20 from 12 to 5 calling NYSUT, democratic, city members. Please join us in calling our NYSUT members.

City Council RTA endorsed candidates are Michael Gerace and LaShay Harris.

RTA is also endorsing Adam Bello and Sandra Doorley in the November elections.

5. Dress A Girl/Savvy Sewers: Gaya Shakes reported that the group in April made 33 dresses, 14 dolls, and 4 blankets (made for hurricane victims at the Hart St. Bilingual Academy who are still needy). If you have any twin beds, linens, etc. contact Gaya.) Their next meeting is May 20 and all are welcome. They are looking for places to send the dresses, so if you know of anyone traveling, contact a member of the group.
6. Books for Kids — In April the group went to Hart St's Bilingual Academy's first grade. The whole committee turned out to work with the Spanish dominant children individually. In May the group is going to School 4 (at Freddie Thomas building). May 9 they are going to Barnes and Noble and May 17 to the class.
7. Newspaper — On Thursday, May 9 the newspaper will be prepared and mailed to members only. Mary Barnum thanked everyone who contributed articles and pictures. July 11 will be the next deadline for the August newspaper. Send her any articles or pictures you would like to share.
8. Calendar — There is a correction of the September picnic date in the newspaper. The correct date is September 20. There will be an additional activity to Joe Rizzo's Apple Farm, but the date is determined on the harvest.
9. Adam Urbanski referred Anne Tartarsky to come and speak to the RRTA group about looking for retired teachers to be Peace Corps volunteers. There was a motion that passed to ask her to come and speak to the group at the June meeting.
10. Gaya Shakes reported that the memorial service for Paula Maywalt will be May 17 at Georgetown Manor Clubhouse from 3:30 to 5:30. She was a Spanish teacher at several high schools and mentor.
11. Health Care info — you do not need to have a Costco membership to use the Costco pharmacy. You just mention that you are going to the pharmacy at the door and they will let you in.
12. Al Smith said that last Saturday his Lion's Club awarded a service award to School 22's para, Matt McCray (also had been at #36). He is a leader in the community for youth and had turned his life around in getting a job in the district and working with kids.

May 19 there will be a Memorial ceremony for the 1,450 vets in Monroe County who have passed away in one year between April 1, 2018 and March 31, 2019. It will be held at the War Memorial on Broad Street and is open to all vets, spouses and family.

13. The Red Wing game for RTA and RRTA members and the buffet will be June 1. Look for the information in the RRTA newspaper that is being sent out in May. There will also be a separate mailing to remind everyone.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15. Mary Zimmer RRTA Secretary



Adam Urbanski

DO YOUR PART - FIGHT STATE TAKEOVER!

On November 5th, Rochester residents will have an opportunity to approve or reject a referendum proposing that the State of New York take over Rochester city schools. And while we all agree that changes and improvements are necessary, this cure would be far worse than the disease. Defeating the referendum would put an end to this misguided proposal.

State takeovers, wherever implemented, have dismally failed to improve students' learning. In a recent national report by The Center for Popular Democracy, the researchers concluded that state takeovers only caused setbacks, mismanagement, instability, disenfranchisement and greater harm. And no wonder - since there's little reason to believe that bureaucrats at the State capital either know our students better than we do or care more about them more than we do.

The answer to our challenges is not to abdicate our responsibility nor to expect that someone other than we can best make decisions for us. Depriving Rochester citizens the democratic right to elect their own school board is not right and is not necessary. If we do not like our current school board members, we can always vote them out and elect others. That's how democracy works. Besides, governance is not our only challenge. We also need to make our schools more safe and ready for all students. And we need to make all our students more ready for school. That means more social and health support services for students and families, real parental engagement, smaller class sizes, rigorous and culturally responsive curricula, expansion of Community Schools, and adequate funding for all this.

We know that no one can save us but us. That is why the RTA is committed to joining with a broad-based coalition to oppose any form of state takeover and to offering a more promising alternative, instead, that would neither jeopardize our contract or teachers' rights and health benefits nor our democratic right to vote and to local self-determination. Guided by the collective wisdom of teachers and parents, we can and will ensure better education for all our students.

Be sure to vote "NO" on November 5.



DO YOUR PART - GIVE TO VOTE COPE!

As of this writing, many of our brothers and sisters entered into retirement with a generous incentive spread over five years. This incentive was crafted by our leadership which have everyone's interest at heart. First of all, our career professionals exited with a handsome windfall. Additionally new members, many of whom were recipients of mentor support, will retain their positions as a result of this retirement incentive. Lastly, the RCSD will save millions of dollars over the life of this RTA/RCSD agreement. This is how our union supports its members, by demonstrating a creative solution to what could have been a financial disaster.

Last year we unionists faced another challenge; this time it was the decision by the Supreme Court in the Janus case. This decision forced union leadership to convince their members to remain loyal to their union. Each member signed a participation card pledging his/her loyalty. Instead of decimating the public sector union movement, the opposite occurred... we are stronger, better organized and more powerful than before.

Both RTA and our state union, NYSUT, have plans to further strengthen the labor movement. However, this cannot be fully achieved without your assistance. Last fiscal year VOTE COPE raised nearly eleven million dollars which was used to support each local to strengthen its positions against private interests who wish to weaken our VOICE locally, state-wide and nationally. Funds were used for television ads, phone banking, neighborhood campaign and mailings. Locally we supported four school board candidates, all who won their primary. We invest in campaigns of legislators who support education and educators.

VOTE COPE works for all of us. We retirees enjoy our well deserved pension which is protected by our political lobby. Last year we received an increase in our pension thanks to the permanent Cost-of-Living adjustment negotiated with the support of VOTE COPE.

Please consider supporting VOTE COPE by making out a check to VOTE COPE. Mail your contribution to David Altobelli, RTA 30 North Union St. suite 301, Rochester, NY 14607 Alternately, you may wish to give via pension deduction. Thank you.

by David A. Altobelli — VOTE COPE COORDINATOR

VOTE COPE Contribution Card

Email: _____

Daytime phone number: (____) ____ - _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

LOCAL#: _____

MEMBER ID#: _____

Amount of Contribution: \$ _____

Check enclosed # _____
(Please make check payable to VOTE-COPE.)

Bill my credit card

To charge your contribution, circle one choice below:

VISA MasterCard AMEX Discover

Credit card number:

□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□

Expiration: □□/□□ Credit card CVV: □□□□

VOTE COPE Pension Deduction Authorization Card

The undersigned authorizes the New York State Teachers' Retirement System (NYSTRS) or the New York State Employees' Retirement System (NYSERS) to deduct from each of my regular defined-benefit pension payments the sum of \$10, \$5 or Other \$____ (per month) and to forward that amount to VOTE-COPE, P.O. Box 5190, Albany, NY 12205-0190. I understand that this monthly amount will continue to be deducted until revoked by me in writing.

Such guidelines are merely suggestions. NYSUT members are free to contribute more or less than the guidelines suggest, and NYSUT will not disadvantage anyone by reason of the amount of their contribution or decision not to contribute. Contributing to VOTE-COPE is voluntary, and NYSUT members may refuse to contribute to VOTE-COPE without reprisal. Contributing to VOTE-COPE is not a condition of membership in any labor organization. VOTE-COPE may use the money it receives to make political contributions and expenditures in connection with federal, state and local elections.

I expressly acknowledge and understand that the deduction, as specified above, be withheld monthly and that NYSUT will transmit this authorization to the appropriate retirement system. I hereby certify to NYSTRS and NYSERS that I am a member of NYSUT, an employee organization entitled to receive union deduction payments as provided by law.

Name _____ Pension # _____

Phone # _____ Date _____

Signature _____

Local from which you retired: _____

VOTE-COPE is the New York State United Teachers' political action fund.

Contributions or gifts to VOTE-COPE are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes.

RTA RETIREE VOTECOPE CONTRIBUTORS JULY 2019

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 Patricia Albring
 Margaret Alfieri
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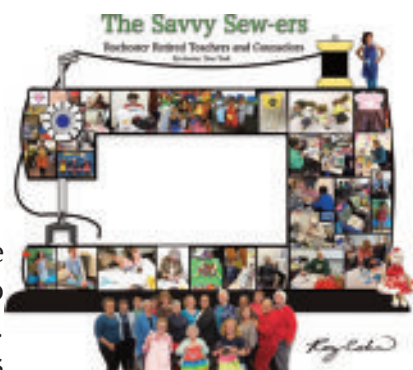
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 Raymond Yeaton, Jr.
 Mary Zimmer
 Joseph Zuniga
 Eva Zweifler

LABOR DAY PARADE, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2019

The Annual Rochester Labor Day Parade is a fun day for teachers to participate! The date for the parade this year is September 2, 2019. We will lineup on North Union Street starting at East Avenue to Charlotte Street. Please arrive at the staging area no later than 10:15. Please park on streets other than the staging street. If you have a blue RTA t-shirt, please plan on wearing it in the parade! We will give out pencils to children along the parade route. We look forward to seeing you at the parade!!

By Margaret Sergent

RRTA SAVVY SEWERS ALL OVER THE WORLD



As "Women who Sew" the RRTA Savvy Sewers continue to change their view of the world.

Our realizations of the crises girls and women face in their everyday lives becomes apparent as we talk to others of their travels and see their pictures.

Shirley Dorsey, one of our founders, reported, "We sent dresses to Liberia, Uganda, and two different areas of Zambia. The dresses taken to Liberia went to two different orphanages. The girls were especially happy to receive the dolls and even the underwear tucked in the pockets. The report from Uganda was that they could have used many more. Cost of extra luggage is a problem. The two areas in Zambia can be a continuous connection. This was our third year of sending dresses to Bakashana, a project in Zambia focusing on uplifting women and girls. The second group in Zambia is through a church there building an educational center."

Our "Days for Girls" program is gaining momentum. Again, our RRTA group and Life Span are working together to produce feminine hygiene products for girls and women in developing nations. We have surprised ourselves and others at the number of liners and drawstring bags we have been able to produce."

In addition to these outreach efforts and a number of others, seven of us volunteered at the Fairy Godmothers event to help girls become the Cinderellas that they all are! We had just as much fun as the girls did! When they put on these dresses, they all became the most beautiful young women!

Please join us on the last Monday of the month at the RTA office from 9 till 2:30 or so. We love new members and we have many jobs that don't require sewing! Contact Cathy.fager@gmail.com for more details

by Cathy Fager

RESULTS OF RRTA REP ELECTION

In response to the May call for nominations for RRTA Representative, the following were nominated: Bob Allen, Katherine Barkley, Carol Bonsignore Kitchen, Kevin Fager, Robert Gerace, Willie Humphrey, Marie Jenkins Cox, Alex Johnson, Freddi Macek, Ellen Robinson, Ken Schultz, Gaya Shakes, Sharon Silvio, Cathy Smith, Deborah Sullivan, Diana Voellinger, Mary Zimmer, Joe Zuniga.

Since we were nominating and electing for 20 positions and only 18 nominations were received, there is no need for an election; all 18 are declared elected to 2 year terms to expire June 30, 2021.

The terms of the following end June 30, 2020: David Altobelli, Zelda Artson Crichlow, Mary Barnum, Patti Brody, Barbara Buckingham, Charlie Dean, Marie Ferenchak, Karen Huey, Brenda Jones, Martha Keating, Linda Rapkin, Al Smith, Barry Swan, Frank Valente, Yolanda Wooten.

With a dues paying membership of 725, RRTA is entitled to 35 Representatives to the RTA Representative Assembly.

by Mary Barnum

WHAT PAYING RRTA DUES BRINGS YOU

We cordially invite you to join us as an RRTA dues-paying member. Pay your dues and

You will receive all RRTA mailings, including the RRTA newspaper and prompt notification of all our activities. Non-dues payers receive only 2 mailings per year.

You are entitled to run for office and vote in RTA and RRTA elections, including elections for NYSUT, AFT, and NEA delegates. (Each year, at the NYSUT convention, about 25% of the items voted on deal with retiree issues.)

You will elect 35 RRTA Reps to the RTA Representative Assembly, based upon our present membership of 725 dues-paying retirees.

You will elect a Department Chair who is a voting member of the RTA Executive Council.

Your email will be included in our retiree listserve and you will receive timely RTA information.

You will receive discounts on many RRTA activities, which are held, whenever possible, during school hours.

And, of course, you will receive a 2019-2020 pocket calendar (this year from AFT, since NYSUT tells us they send a NYSUT calendar to all retirees) to keep track of all your retiree activities.

RRTA dues are set at 10% of RTA dues. Presently that is \$39.30. Our membership year is September 1 to August 31. But we are happy to accept dues at any time.

2019-2020 RRTA DUES PAYMENT

Name _____

Former School _____ Year Retired _____

Address _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

If you wish, your email _____

Please print clearly.

Send completed form and check for \$39.30 made out to RRTA and note that the check is for 2019 – 2020 RRTA dues. Send to 30 North Union Street, Rochester, New York, NY14607

2019 RTA Election Results

RTA Officers

President	Adam Urbanski	886 uncontested
1st Vice-President	John Pavone	844 uncontested
2nd Vice-President	Margaret Sergent	887 uncontested
Treasurer	Aimee Rinere	888 uncontested
Secretary	Matt Lavonas	450
	Michael Tobin	349
	Tracey Farmer	220

RTA Bylaws require the winning candidate to receive a majority.

The Secretary Run-Off Results

Matt Lavonas	502
Michael Tobin	361

Rochester Retired Teachers Department

Chairperson	Charlie Dean	368 uncontested
Vice-Chairperson	Gaya Shakes	347 uncontested
Secretary	Mary Zimmer	336 uncontested
Department Rep.	Kathleen Evans	346 uncontested

All are 2 year terms, ending June 30, 2021.

Rochester Teachers Association A Union of Professionals

LEARN THE LATEST ON YOUR RTA WEBSITE

WWW.ROCHESTERTEACHERS.COM

PHONE BANKS TO SAVE OUR HEALTH INSURANCE



Thanks to those RRTA members who worked our phone banks to elect RTA endorsed candidates for the Rochester School Board in the Democratic Primary on June 25.

The calls were important just to remind voters that the primary was taking place. Patty Brody, Freddi Macek, Sharon Chandler, and Barry Swan joined me each afternoon on June 18, 19, and 20 in calling every retired NYSUT member registered Democrat in the City. We also got about half way through the inservice list of NYSUT Democrat city registered voters. Our thanks to Candace Rubin, RTA Legislative Political Action Chair for lists of NYSUT members and Paul Hippolyte of NYSUT who supplied lists and pizza. We are grateful that Aimee Rinere and Lisa Englert of the RTA Executive Council joined us in calling.

Our effort paid off. Willa Powell, Beatrice LeBron, Amy Malloy and Ricardo Adams won the Democratic designation for the November election for the Rochester City School Board.

We will need to do phone banks for the November election. There will be a referendum on the question of the state taking over the City School District. A state takeover would not be good for our Contract and, therefore, our health insurance. We will make calls to defeat this referendum. All calls are made from the NYSUT office at 30 North Union. To volunteer, call RTA 546 2681 and leave your name for Mary Barnum. This is not a time for retirees to sit quietly and wait to see what happens.

by Mary Barnum



Matt Lavonas

MEET THE NEW RTA SECRETARY

Dave Wurz, retiring RTA Secretary, is now one of us - and he has paid his 2019-20 dues! Welcome, Dave.

And welcome to our new Secretary, Matt Lavonas. Matt has taught fourth grade at #2 for 19 years and as our Social Media/Technology Coordinator for 10 years assisted Bill Gerber in building the RTA website.

What the Retirement Incentive Means to the RRTA



The Holiday Party – should be growing!!



Bruna Evangelista, Freddi Macek, Pat Thompson, Corinthia Sims, Cathy Smith, Phyllis Ferrara Shrouf, Richard and Diana Vega and Dorothy Rossi

The end of the school year picnic was a great success with 50 people attending. Willie Humphrey, as grill master, did a great job with the hots and hamburgers. Friends met and caught up on one another's activities and shared the many dishes that people brought to pass. Everyone seemed to have a good time and some lingered after things were picked up. If you missed the event, mark your calendars now and come join us for the September picnic when we should be welcoming some of our new retirees.

by Sue Raymond

RRTA FALL PICNIC

- WHEN:** Friday, September 20, 2019
 - WHERE:** Roberts Cabin, Henrietta Veterans Memorial Park 595 Calkins Road (turn at Recreation Department road)
 - Cost:** \$6.00 (or a dish to pass)
 - Food:** Hots, Hamburgers, and whatever's on sale in that week's ads (plus the usual assortment of "goodies" that people will bring to pass)
 - DRINKS:** Coffee, soda, iced tea plus anything you choose to bring
 - TIME:** 11:00 A.M. (Lunch will be around noon depending on if the fire cooperates)
 - ENTERTAINMENT:** Catching up with former colleagues, socializing, meeting new retirees, etc., etc., etc.
 - REGISTRATION:** Call Sue Raymond (359-2860) By or Before Wednesday, September 18th so we can plan!
- P.S. It's a good idea to bring a folding chair.**

MAYORAL CONTROL AND YOUR HEALTH BENEFITS

When talk of mayoral control comes up for the RCSD you may think, I'm not teaching anymore and I'm retired living the good life, so it doesn't affect me. Think again!

Did you know that if the RCSD goes to mayoral control retirees could lose their health benefits. Yes, your health benefits. What's more important to retirees than their health benefits and pension?

Through our Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) with the RCSD retirees receive health benefits at no cost to the retiree until age 65. When they reach 65 and older retirees have access to Medicare Advantage plans at a reasonable cost to retirees.

All this because of OUR UNION! So, when there's talk of Mayoral control get out there and MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD loud and clear. No Mayoral Control!

by Ken Schultz

WINNERS OF VOTECOPE LOTTERY GIFT CARDS

Nancy McGrath	East Upper	Australia Estrella Brazil	Int Arts
Janet Swartout	#28	Mary Hayes	#28
Ellen Folts	retiree	Zachary Johnson	SOTA
Kimberly Levitt	#4	William Schumacher	#17
Ellen Wilber	retiree	Jessica Ellis	#17
Kathleen Schello	#39	Wanda Santillo	#5
Jane Beaver	retiree	Tracy Reiman	Edison

ABBEY OF OUR LADY OF THE GENESEE BLESSING OF THE RENOVATED GATEHOUSE

Saturday-May 4, 2019

Mary Mans (1929-2014) taught Social Studies in the Rochester City School District for 38 years and made a generous bequest in her will to the Abbey of The Genesee that made possible the renovation of the Gatehouse consisting of the reception center and store. Father Gerard presided over the dedication and thanked Mary and Carl O'Connell (Mary's executor) for providing support for this very useful project.

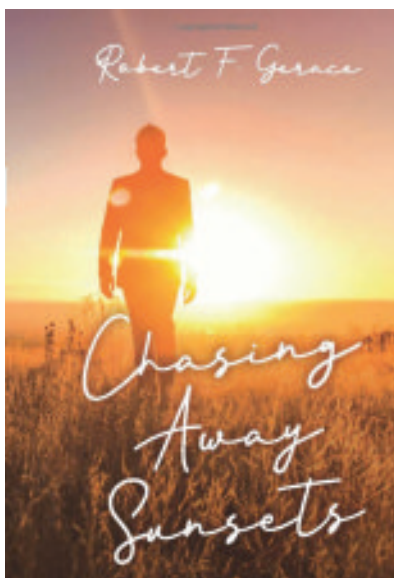


Mary- You will probably remember my friend Mary Mans who died in 2014. Well this past Saturday I was asked to attend the dedication of a renovated reception area and store (famous for its Monks Bread) at the Abbey of the Genesee in Piffard , New York. Mary-though certainly frugal in life - made several large donations to Catholic charities in her will. As her executor, I dutifully pursued her final bequests and tried to persuade those Catholic charities to invest in some local projects in her memory. At any rate, last Saturday I attended the formal dedication of the renovated areas of the Abbey of the Genesee. At the insistence of several retired RTA folks, I put



together several items that may help you determine if this story is worthy of the our newsletter.

Thanks, Carl O'Connell



CHASING AWAY SUNSETS

Robert F. Gerace, RCSD retiree, has published a book of poetry and prose. The title is *Chasing Away Sunsets*. This book, through poetry and prose, along with representational artwork, expresses the gamut of an individual's emotions. Love, sorrow, affection, beauty, pain, loss, prejudice and the effects on the human condition. If you are interested contact Bob at 233-2087 or email <shadowfax@netacc.>.

**SEPTEMBER 6 SHAW FESTIVAL
LADY KILLERS**

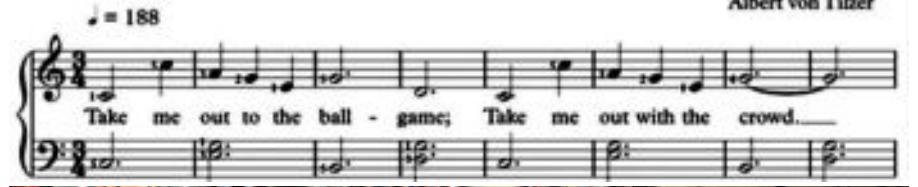
**SEPTEMBER 26 SHAW FESTIVAL
BRIGADOON**

**OCTOBER 24
HURD ORCHARD LUNCHEON**

Take Me Out To The Ballgame (Beginner)

Arranged by
Brienne Burr

Original Song by
Jack Norworth and
Albert von Tilzer



A beautiful Saturday evening, good seats, and Milo, the bat dog - RRTA night at the Red Wings included the McCranks, Alex and Laurie Johnson, Shelly Oliver, the Evans', the Fagers, Al Silverman, Charles Boyer, Judy Goldstein, Bob Allen. Our thanks to Charlie Dean who each year obtains our tickets.

**PLEASE INFORM THE RRTA
WITH ANY CHANGE OF HOME
OR
PERSONAL EMAIL ADDRESS**

The Rochester Retired Teacher

The Rochester Retired Teacher

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Tel: (585) 546-2681 • **Hotline:** (585) 546-2768 • **Fax:** (585) 546-4123

Website: www.rochesterretiredteachers.com

RRTeacher Staff

Mary Barnum Content editor

Bill Gerber - Design/Layout editor

Proofreaders

David Altobelli, Kathy Evans, Karen Huey, Alex Johnson, Mary Zimmer

Photographers

Bill Gerber, Charlie Dean, Carl O'Connell, Mary Zimmer

Cartoonist

Alex Johnson

Printed by Eagle Graphics

RRTA Officers

Chair Charlie Dean
Vice-Chair Gaya Shakes
Secretary Mary Zimmer

RRTA Reps to RTA Assembly

Robert Allen 544-0078 aballen@rochester.rr.com
David Altobelli 880-5795 Maltobel24@gmail.com
Zelda Artson Crichlow 461-3963 zeldajac@aol.com
Katherine Barkley 442-8865 kgbarkley@frontiernet.net
Mary Barnum 697-4494 mbarnum@rochesterretiredteachers.com
Lillian Bonnani 385-3289 lbonnani@frontiernet.net
Carol BonsignoreKitchen
Patti Brody 451-8476 brody2940Aaol.com
Barbara Buckingham 247-5127
Charlie Dean 865-1735 deanswim@aol.com
Kathy Evans 455-6161 kathleencevans@gmail.com
Kevin Fager 442-3175 marinphoto@aol.com
Marie Ferenchak 544-8033 billmarie_817@rochester.rr.com
Robert Gerace 233-2087 shadowfax@netacc.net
Karen Huey 227- 6101 kahuey56@aol.com
Willie Humphrey 264-9645 whumphrey14@yahoo.com
Marie Jenkins Cox 723-8861 jenkjoyce@aol.com
Alex Johnson 703-6011 sciconn@yahoo.com

W. Brenda Jones
Martha Keating 248-5945 maskerade6@aol.com
Freddie Macek 244-9611 freddimacek@gmail.com
Linda Rapkin 244-9489 linroed@aol.com
Ellen Robinson 426-5206 erobins1@rochester.rr.com
Gaya Shakes 458-5715 gayashakes@aol.com
Ken Schultz 271-2754 kzsultz@gmail.com
Sharon Silvio 244-1912 Sharonpsilvio@gmail.com
Al Smith 544-2839 asmith1@rochester.rr.com
Cathy Smith 244-8145 cat2000_me@yahoo.com
Deborah Sullivan 385-0087 westminsterdeb@yahoo.com
Barry Swan 461-5137 BASWAN@aol.com
Frank Valente 271-7882 fpvalente@yahoo.com
Diana Voellinger 260-1574 dvoellinger682@hotmail.com
Yolanda Wooten 235-1252 lydawooten@aol.com
Mary Zimmer 352-4982 Zinval@aol.com
Joe Zuniga 381-2777 zunigajoe@hotmail

BOOKS FOR KIDS

Since Books for Kids began in 1996, we have delivered books to students in 144 first grade classrooms in the Rochester public schools. From the beginning, we wanted this to be a happy experience for everyone. The following is Linda Rapkin's account of our visit this year to the Bilingual Academy at Hart Street.

In the Fall of 2018 when our team signed up for a school, we chose a relatively new program located at 30 Hart Street entitled Bilingual Language and Literacy Academy serving grades 1 - 12. I am sure we were focusing on the joy of choosing books at Barnes and Noble which would enchant first graders rather than their native language.

As the time came to book shop, I jolted awake in the middle of the night and thought, "I don't speak Spanish. How will they read the books in English which is the program's goal?" While I insisted that my own daughter become fluent in Spanish, I had not achieved that goal myself!

Color, I thought... very colorful picture books and not too many words. Fortunately, we were all on the same page when it came to book selection day. Our team (Randy Bradshaw, Ann Lame, Maureen Van Buren, Linda Rapkin) were met at B&N by many Books for Kids volunteers. We always have great discussions and much fun choosing the books in which we will put a book plate with the student's name and present it with a smile followed with a photo of the child holding her own book.

After Hurricane Maria displaced so many people from Puerto Rico, the Rochester City School District hired more than two dozen teachers from the island to work with nearly 600 children whose families came to our city seeking shelter and safety from the ravages of the disaster. Each classroom at the Bilingual Academy is headed by a bilingual teacher and a paraprofessional to meet the multiple needs of the students.

Our visit was scheduled for April and the combination class of first and second graders were making great progress with their English as a second language.

It was especially heartwarming that so many of our Books for Kids volunteers responded to our request for extra people so that each child could have his/her own one on one reader/friend.



A full Books for Kids turnout at the Bilingual Academy at Hart Street in April.

A special thanks to Mary Zimmer, our photographer par wonderful and also a fluent Spanish speaker.

The children had wide eyes and wide smiles throughout our time with them. We left them with each receiving a brand new hard cover book, their picture taken with the book, a group story, individual attention and a snack.

Thank you to the fabulous BFK volunteers who came out in full force so that students could enjoy a special individualized experience.

We welcome you to join us on our shopping and school visits. This program initiated by retirees and solely supported by retirees is one of the joys of being a retired RCSD teacher.

If you would like to join the Books for Kids Committee, come to our annual meeting, this year on September 5 at 11 a.m. at the RTA office. This is our only meeting all year. Here we will select schools and volunteer to be the host committee for each school selected. Typically, 3 or 4 people will handle one school, so the work is spread around. Our only criteria for selecting a school is that someone present wants to give books to 1st graders in that school. If you can't make the meeting and still want to participate, call the RTA office 546 2681 and leave your name and number and someone will call you to bring you up to speed.

Books for Kids lives by the donations of retirees. If you would like to help us buy books for kids, please use the form below.

by Mary Barnum

Following is a list of schools where we have presented books to first graders

- | | | | |
|-----------|---|---------|--|
| 1997-8 | School 37 | 2008-9 | Schools 33(2), 4(4), 3(3), 34(2), 45(2), 43(4), 14, 12(2) |
| 1998-9 | School 22 | 2009-10 | Schools 50, 39, 20, 9, 25(2), 57, 2, 30 |
| 1999-2000 | Schools 5, 35 | 2010-11 | Schools 28, 46, 6, 52, 36, 8, 41, 58 |
| 2000-01 | Schools 29, 17 | 2011-12 | Schools 42, 15, 41, 23, 54, 10, 44, 16 |
| 2001-2 | Schools 7, 19, 42, 4, 16 | 2012-13 | Schools 5, 17, 57, 35, 7, 1, 44, 45 |
| 2002-3 | Schools 33, 14, 33, 43, 34, 12 | 2013-14 | Schools 19, Wilson Found, 17, 22, 34, 12, 3, 33 |
| 2003-4 | Schools 9, 3, 25, 20, 2, 8 | 2014-15 | Schools 42, Wilson, 12, 9, 50, 2, 25 |
| 2004-5 | Schools 39, 45, 50, 36, 22, 6, 30 | 2015-16 | Schools 25, 57, 12, 3, 1, 28, 52, 45 |
| 2005-6 | Schools 46, 52, 28, 42, 41, 46, 17 | 2016-17 | Schools 25, 57, 12, 44, 8, 46, 41(2) |
| 2006-7 | Schools Inquiry, 15, 2, 23, 27, 33, 57, 44, | 2017-18 | Schools 45, 39, 10, 9, 20, 23, 41 |
| 2007-8 | Schools 19, 17, 54, 16, 5, 29, 35, 7 | 2018-19 | Schools 43, 7, Wilson Acad, 44, 9, 15, Hart St. Biling., 4 |



Books for Kids' Grace Carswell reads to 1st graders at School 15 in March, 2019

BOOKS FOR KIDS DONATION/INTEREST FORM

My tax deductible donation in the amount of _____ is enclosed.
 (Please make out checks to **RRTA Books for Kids FLACE**)

I am interested in joining the Books for Kids committee _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Address _____

Return to RTA, 30 North Union St. Rochester, NY 14607

JOE RIZZO'S APPLE FARM

RRTA Tour

October 7 11:00 A.M.

4940 State Route 96,
Shortsville, New York



A tour of the apple orchards with commentary by Joe. No charge. Apples for sale after the tour. We and Joe need to know how many are coming. Fill out the form below and send to the RTA by September 30. We will send directions to those who request.

Name _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Number for tour _____

We need directions _____

NYSTRS NUMBER

In any communication with our retirement system, the system will ask for your NYSTRS number. Be certain that you keep your number in a place that you remember.

For example, each year NYSTRS sends us a statement of what our monthly payment will be that year, including deductions.

We advise you to put that yearly statement in a safe place, since it includes your NYSTRS number, in case you ever need it.

by Mary Barnum