**RRTA Meeting (Virtual on Zoom)**

**December 3, 2020**

**Attendance:**  D. Altobelli,Z. Artson-Crichlow, M. Barnum, C. Bonsignore-Kitchen, P. Brody, B. Buckingham, C. Dean, K. Evans, K. Fager, B. Gerace,W. Humphrey, M. Jenkins-Cox, F. Macek, L. Rapkin, E. Robinson, K. Schultz, G. Shakes, S. Silvio, A. Smith, C. Smith, B. Swan, F. Valente, Y. Wooten, M. Zimmer

 **Absent:** R. Allen, K. Barkley,M. Ferenchak, K. Huey, A. Johnson, B. Jones, M. Keating, D. Sullivan, D. Voellinger, J. Zuniga

**Also in attendance**: L. Espinosa, S. Raymond, M. Lavonis (RTA Secretary/zoom administrator)

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:03.

 2. A moment of silence was observed for teachers who have passed away in the past month: George W. Graham and Frieda Irene Monahan. A $25 donation is made to Books for Kids in memory of any RRTA member.

3. **Election of RRTA reps:** Mary Barnum shared the information that will be in the RRTA newspaper:

Already nominated :  Zelda Artson Crichlow, Mary Barnum, Patti Brody, Barbara Buckingham, Charlie Dean, Marie Ferenchak,, Brenda Jones, Martha Keating, Linda Rapkin, Al Smith, Barry Swan, Frank Valente, Yolanda Wooten, Sharon Flynn

Call for Nominations for RRTA Rep

This is official notification that nominations are now open for the position of

RRTA Representative.  With a dues paying membership of 755, RRTA is entitled to 37 Representatives to the RTA Representative Assembly.   The terms of the following  end this year : **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.**

The terms of the following expire June 31, 2021: Bob Allen, Katherine Barkley,  Carol Bonsignore Kitchen,  Marie Jenkins Cox, 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.

Nominations are now open for 18 RRTA Rep positions for  2 year terms

 ending June 30, 2022.

A Rep is expected to attend monthly RA and RRTA meetings.

Any dues paying RRTA member may nominate.  Any dues paying RRTA member may run and serve.  You may nominate yourself.  Please have the permission of the person you are nominating.   All nominations must be received in the RTA office by January 7.

**4. Vote Cope** — If you get a Vote Cope form from NYSUT for pension contributors, we had originally said to send them to the RTA office if you were increasing your contribution. However, with COVID the office is only semi opened and so that your check or form doesn’t sit in the office indefinitely, you may want to send it directly to Albany. The April newsletter will have the annual Vote Cope plea to contribute.

 If you have any questions about NYSUT, Vote Cope, or RRTA dues mailings sent to the RTA office you can contact Mary Barnum.

**5. Dress a Girl/Savvy Sewers** — Gaya Shakes reported that they have 40 blankets to donate to Dimitri House. They have come up with a Covid 2021 Special Project that they can work in their individual homes. They will make personal hygiene products and blankets for women’s shelters. Mary Barnum asked that members from the committee to take photos and send them to her for the newspaper.

 Donations are welcome. Gaya Shakes will share what they need at the January meeting once their plans are solidified. She said that she knows you can get the no sew blanket kits at JoAnns. She also said that Beyond the Sanctuary at 549 Clarissa Street, 14608, accepts donations of food and money on Wednesdays after 12 pm.

**6. Health Care** — Charlie Dean said that there were problems with the zoom number particularly for the MVP members for the district meeting with retirees earlier in November. It is now past the date to change, but if you have questions you can call Charlie Dean (865-1735) and there is information on the RTA website.

**7. Newspaper** — The November/December issue is at the printer who is having some mechanical difficulties. It is expected to be mailed before Christmas. Because nothing is happening and therefore little or no content the next issue is projected for April. This issue will go to all retirees, about 2500 people.

**8. Social Security** — IRMAA — Charlie Dean shared a chart of the IRMAA schedule. He had gotten the information from the federal government for Medicare contributions Part B and D for 2021. You will pay this through Social Security and is different than paying the RCSD advantage plan. It is based on your reported income from your tax returns (including money taken from IRAs or annuities). If you have any questions, you can contact him.

**9. Books for Kids** — The program has been suspended until visitors are able to visit schools again.

**10. Calendar** — The RRTA January meeting is Thursday, January 7 at 10 am. Kathy Fager said that Shaw Festival has notified her that Gypsy should be on in the fall of 2021. She will keep us posted.

**11. Labor Council** — Freddi Macek thanked Mary Barnum for the 9 volunteers to call Georgia for US Senate seats. They were calling union members first and now going to the general public to call. Also they are sending postcards and if some come to the Rochester area, Mary will reach out for volunteers.

 Freddi reported that for Thanksgiving the Labor Council gave laid off BENTE workers gift cards. She suggested that RTA do something for BENTE and RAP laid off workers. Charlie Dean asked her to coordinate this project.

12. Al Smith reported that the Pearl Harbor commemoration on December 7 was limited to only 15 participants and therefore, not open to the general public

 **December 14 volunteers** are needed for the annual **Toys for Tots** that are given to each student from School 22. This year the parents can drive by to get the gift at 11 am at the school on Upper Falls Boulevard at Hudson. Volunteers can go to the Toys for Tots warehouse on Buffalo Road (the old Gerber factory) to help load the truck at 9 am and/or go to the school to help pass out the toys at 11.

13. 2020 retirees getting negotiated increase and NYSTRA — Someone had contacted a rep asking if the increase would give them more in their pension and who would contact NYSTRA. Charlie Dean said that it is the district’s responsibility to contact Albany and it will be adjusted, but because it is a minimal increase and it is the average over 3 years you may not see much of a change.

14. Anyone interested in attending the **monthly RRTA zoom meeting** on the first Thursday of the month can contact a rep or Matt Lavonis to send you the link to get into the meeting. Please do not post it on social media.

15. Mary Barnum and the RRTA reps thank Matt Lavonis for making the RRTA zoom meetings possible.

Meeting adjourned at 11:02.

Mary Zimmer

RRTA Secretary