RRTA Meeting

April 12, 2018

**Attendance**: David Altobelli Zelda Artson-Crinchow, Katherine Barkley, Mary Barnum, Carol Bonsignore-Kitchen, Patti Brody, Barbara Buckingham, Charlie Dean, Kathleen Evans, Kevin Fager, Marie Ferenchak, Karen Huey, Willie Humphrey, June Ivanick, Marie Jenkins Cox, Alex Johnson, Brenda Jones, Freddi Macek, Linda Rapkin, Ellen Robinson, Ken Schultz, Gaya Shakes, Sharon Silvio, Al Smith, Deborah Sullivan, Al Smith, Yolanda Wooten

**Absent:** Robert Allen, Lillian Bonanni, Martha Keating, Maureen McCarron, Barry Swan, Grace Sweeney, Frank Valente, Diana Voellinger, Mary Zimmer

**Also in attendance:** Bob Gerace, Adam Urbanski

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:09 by Charlie Dean. Thanks to Deborah Sullivan for taking the notes since Mary Zimmer was absent.

2. A moment of silence was observed for those who died within the past month. Michael Atkinson, Ken Bertrand, Florence Dynski, Janet Helen Hamlin, Marilyn Hetzer, Rose Maxwell, Lilian Stavrevsky “Streb”. Also included was Dom Bona a former teacher and administrator. A $25 donation is made to Books for Kids in memory of any RRTA member.

3. The Minutes for March were approved with one change. Ellen Robinson was present.

4. **Vote-Cope** - Dave Altobelli reported that many volunteers helped with very effective results. Thank you notes have been sent to contributors. Eighteen new retired contributors have completed their membership. Dave will provide a list of contributors for the upcoming newspaper. He encouraged everyone to consider using pension deduction as an automatic pension deduction for Vote/Cope. Please give all pension deductions to Dave or Mary so that we can make sure our lists are correct. NYSUT does not always notify us in a timely fashion when individuals send in the forms.

5. **Dress-A-Girl/Savvy Sewers –** Gaya Shakes reported that this past month, the group made 36 dresses and 37 dolls. Members renewed their help for Zambia. L Gary encouraged everyone to join the Savvy Sewers or to donate materials and/or a sewing machine.

**6. Books for Kids** - The group visited 2 classes at School #23. Next month BFK will visit School #41. Linda Rapkin shared that she viewed first graders at #23 School reading chapter books. Charlie reported a balance of $10,485.83 in our account. When you donate to BFK, please remember to make out the check to FLACE/Books for Kids. Donations are tax deductible.

7. United Way – Charlie reported that we can still donate to Dial-A-Teacher. The donation number is 1403. Adam Urbanski reported that DAT supports tutoring at Hillside and other locations as well as WXXI educational programs. Mary Barnum requested that we identify all the sites for the tutoring and publish them in an upcoming newspaper.

8. Newspaper – Mary Barnum reported that attempts to reduce postage costs require changes in folding the newspaper. Proof reading date is April 24. The Newspaper will go out on May 10 at 11 am. An article about Tom Gillett appears in the paper. Mary thanked all the volunteers who helped with the paper. New procedures will not require envelopes.

12. **Calendar** – Mary referred to a handout of the calendar. Volunteers are needed for the Polizzi mailing on April 18. The Mount Hope tour will be on September 10 with a topic of “the Underground Railroad” presented by Pat Cochrane. Linda Rapkin is trying to arrange a Hurd Orchards event.

13. **Business good for the order** – Adam Urbanski reported that the new contract was ratified by the teachers (99.4%) and the Board of Education (6-0). There has been no release of this information due to the budget deficit. Next year it is projected that 134 teachers will be hired, mostly in student services. Adam also reported that NYSUT is continuing its efforts to eliminate APPR. Adam also stated that RRTA members are good candidates to help educate our younger RTA members on the importance of Union membership. This is going to be necessary if the Supreme Court rules against Public Employee Unions in the Janus Case, which is pending. Among other things, Unions could be prohibited from charging non-members (free loaders) an agency fee for their fair share of benefits. We will be asking current RTA members to recommit as soon as possible. We also recommend that RRTA members also renew as soon as possible. There were many suggestions made to Adam. The Executive Council will be meeting soon to determine how to proceed.

Freddie Macek reported that the Rochester Labor Council is offering a Union Members Campaign School to promote Union members running for political office. It is April 21, 2018, 9am – 3pm. RSVP to fisheraflcio@gmail.com

Charlie Dean reported that we received a thank you note for our contribution in honor of Tom Gillett.

Charlie also suggested that we review our tax liability for next year. The IRS may be taking out less from your pension since the tax is now less due to the tax cut for this year. When you do your taxes next year, you may notice a difference in the amount of tax as well as the amount you withheld during 2018. Since everyone has different financial situations, this must be dealt with on an individual basis. If you have your taxes done professionally, the tax preparer may be helpful.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:22

Submitted by

Deborah Sullivan