**RRTA Meeting (Virtual on Zoom)**

**January 7, 2021**

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

**Absent:** D. Altobelli, K. Barkley, M. Ferenchak, K. Huey, B. Jones, F. Macek, D. Sullivan, J. Zuniga

**Also in attendance**: S. Raymond, J. Robillard, R. Wolf, M. Lavonis (RTA Secretary/zoom administrator)

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:01.

2. A moment of silence was observed for teachers who have passed away in the past month: Bert Alexander, Esther Cohen, Charis Davis, Deloris Gardner, Doris Gerst, Norman Gebauer, Gertrude Husted, Robert Scuteri. A $25 donation is made to Books for Kids in memory of any RRTA member.

3. The December minutes were provisionally approved upon being sent out to the other representatives. Mary Barnum will send out the minutes to the reps each month after receiving them from the secretary.

4. **Dress A Girl/Savvy Sewers** — The group donated 40 blankets and food to the Dimitri House in December. They plan to do this on a regular basis. Each person is working from home and if you would like to help or donate, contact Gaya Shakes. (Checks can be made out to RTA/Dress A Girl.)

 5.  **RRTA Representative Election —** Mary Barnum reported there are 18 positions open. The following nominations were received for RRTA Representative: Sharon Flynn, Linda Rapkin, Marie Ferenchak, Martha Keating, Barry Swan, Al Smith, Charlie Dean, Zelda Artson-Crichlow, Frank Valente, Patti Brody, David Altobelli, Barbara Buckingham, Yolanda Wooten, and Mary Barnum. The floor was open for additonal nominatioons.  Mary Barnum nominated  Karen Huey.  Cathy Smith nominated Lucia Espinosa.  There were no further nominations.   Mary Barnum moved that since there are 18 open Rep positions and only 16 nominations that a member mail ballot  election is not necessary and those nominated be declared elected to terms to end June 30, 2022: Linda Rapkin, Marie Ferenchak, Martha Keating, Barry Swan, Al Smith, Charlie Dean, Zelda Artson-Crichlow, Frank Valente, Patti Brody, Karen Huey, David Altobelli, Barbara Buckingham, Yolanda Wooten, Sharon Flynn, Lucia Espinosa, and Mary Barnum.  Linda Rapkin seconded the motion.  The motion passed.  We thank Brenda Jones, a good and faithful Rep, who chose not to run again.

6.  **Vote Cope** — Mary Barnum thanked Jim Grattan for his contribution. There will be an appeal in the May RRTA newspaper.

7. **Dues** — A sheet came out over winter vacation to send in your dues. Because of limited services in the RTA office it may take longer for the turn around with acknowledgement of the receipt of your dues.

8. **Newspaper** — Mary Barnum thanked Alex Johnson for taking the RRTA newspaper bulk mailing to the post office in December.

The next issue is projected for the end of February (at the February meeting she will give us the deadline for submitting articles, pictures, and information).

The November issue went to the printer in November but because of their technical difficulties, remained at the printer until the end of December when it was then sent out to members. Mary Barnum thanked Bill Gerber for dealing with the printer. The February issue will include the dues payers for 2020 - 21.

There will be a thank you included in the next paper from Freddi Macek for the AFL/CIO’s effort to call Georgian voters for the January 5 senator elections. Those who helped the effort were: Elaine Alma, Sharon Chandler, Julie Clayton, Juliette Cummings, Paula Hansen, Ed Hathaway, Eldridge McClaney, Maureen Preston, Todd Storm, and Stella Wiley.

Mary Barnum said that in the recent edition of the RRTA newspaper she thanked those who helped with the RTA/NYSUT endorsed candidates for the November election. She said that is she omitted anyone’s name she would like to acknowledge that person in the next newspaper. Please let her know. It was stated that the volunteers’ list amplifies awareness and might encourage other retirees to get involved with the union.

9.  **Books for Kids** — They continue to take donations made out to Books for Kids/FLACE.

10. **Calendar** — Next RRTA meeting will be February 4 at 10 am on zoom.

11. Al Smith thanked everyone who participated in the Toys For Tots with School 22. They delivered 2,000 toys at school (via drive through), to homes, and to two community centers.

12. Sharon Silvio said that this year there will be elections for the County Legislature, City Council, and school boards. If you know of good candidates, encourage them to run. If you have any questions about qualifications, dates, etc., contact her or Candace Rubin. (Employees of a school district cannot run for the same school district.)

13. RTA officer elections are coming this spring.

14. Martin Luther King Jr. Awards Ceremony will not occur this year according to Barry Swan.

15. Mary Barnum thanked Matt Lavonis for facilitating the RRTA meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15.

If a retiree would like to attend the RRTA meeting, contact Matt Lavonis or Mary Barnum to get the zoom access. If a rep forwards the zoom access number, let Matt or Mary know you’ve shared the info before the Thursday, 10 am meeting.

Mary Zimmer

RRTA Secretary