**RRTA Meeting (Virtual on Zoom)**

**June 3, 2021**

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

**Absent:** D. Altobelli, K. Barkley, M. Ferenchak, S. Flynn, A. Johnson, E. Robinson, D. Sullivan, Y. Wooten

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

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:04.

2. A moment of silence was observed for teachers who have passed away in the past month: Sheila Marconi, Frank Mielnicki, Patricia Milner, Paul Schutt, James Sudore, and Nora Tierney. A $25 donation is made to Books for Kids in memory of any RRTA member.

3. The March RRTA minutes were approved as written.

4. **Dress a Girl/Savvy Sewers** — Gaya Shakes reported that 500 dresses were sent to Haiti with Life Span and 2 other organizations with Dr. Kennedy, a retired person from the U of R. Fifty dresses were sent to Rwanda with Ronnie Baxter, a retired Garth Fagan dancer. Gaya said that she has had a recent donation of fabric that the group will be using once they are allowed back into the RTA office and they are making blankets for their Christmas project.

5. Freddie Macek reported for the **Rochester Labor Council** — Workers’ Memorial Observance was held April 28 at Highland Park which honored first responders and those who passed away during this Covid period.

The annual convention was held in person in Corning. The speaker was the president of airlines attendants.

Phone banks for Malik Evans will be virtual and they will be calling all union members except for teachers because NYSUT will be calling their members.

There will be a picnic to meet legislators and would-be legislators on July 8 at 5 pm. Freddie did not have any more information, but you can contact her when the date gets closer for the location.

6. **Vote Cope** — Forms for retirees can be requested to make a contribution or increase your contribution by calling the RTA office. Also the list of contributors and forms will be in the August RRTA newsletter. Please consider increasing your contribution as the new school year begins.

7.  **Newspaper** — You should have received your April/May RRTA newspaper recently. July 15 is the deadline for the August RRTA newspaper. Mary Barnum reported that along with the Vote Cope information, Barry Swan has written an article about the Elders, Alex Johnson wrote about subbing in the hybrid teaching model and the request for the RRTA 2021-22 dues will be included.

8. **Membership** — There are now 722 RRTA members. Mary Barnum said she would work with the RTA secretary to get the correct number of RTA reps allotted to RRTA.

9. **Nominations of RRTA reps to the RTA Rep Assembly** — Presently 19 RRTA reps’ terms are expiring. At the May meeting the following were nominated: Bob Allen, Marie Jenkins Cox, Bob Gerace, Carol Bonsignore Kitchen, Kevin Fager, Willie Humphrey, Freddie Macek, Ellen Robinson, Ken Schulz, Gaya Shakes, Sharon Silvio, Cathy Smith, Diane Voellinger, Mary Zimmer, and Joe Zuniga.

Mary Barnum said she received a written nomination from Alex Johnson.

Zelda Artson Crichlow nominated Deb Sullivan.

At an earlier RRTA meeting it was decided that the nominations would be finalized at the September meeting because of the fluctuating membership number as a result of Covid restrictions.

10. **Books for Kids** — Rosemarie Milliman’s family requested that people donate to Books for Kids in her memory because she was very involved in the program. Checks should be written out to “Books for Kids/FLACE” which is a tax exempt organization.

11.  **Calendar** — September 9 will be the next RRTA meeting.

Hurds Orchards prices increased for lunches so there will probably not be a luncheon scheduled there unless this changes. Linda Rapkin will look for another possibility for a fall get together.

Shaw — Bob Gerace and Kathy Fager have been in touch with Niagara on the Lake’s Shaw Festival. They are open but are not offering group rates and because the US/Canada border remains closed, they have decided not to schedule anything until spring of 2022.

Gaya Shakes said she would look into GEVA afternoon performances for RRTA members.

Carol Bonsignore Kitchen suggested looking into other regional theater in New York State.

We discussed having a Christmas party. The people responsible for the past Christmas parties will be contacted to get a date. More information will be in future newspapers.

Mary Barnum said that the plan for the 2021 - 22 RRTA newspaper will be to return to the regularly scheduled issues that come out 4 times a year.

12. **Action Committee** — Mary Barnum said she was in touch with the chair of the Action Committee about the RTA masks that were distributed to active teachers. It was decided that it would be costly to send them out to all retirees who may not want one, but a note will go out and masks will be sent out for those requesting one.

There was a question about when the RTA office will be open again. Matt Lavonis said they are waiting for air filters to be installed for all the conference rooms.

13. **Juneteenth Recognition** — Gaya Shakes said that June 19 is a state observed day. The Genesee Country Museum is having an activity to recognize the meaning of the day.

14. Kevin Fager wanted to remind everyone that **June 22 is Primary Day** and if you live in the city it is very important you go out to vote. RTA and the Rochester Labor Council are endorsing Malik Evans for mayor and for School Board are endorsing Joshua Bauroth, James Patterson, and Camille Simmons.

15. Zelda Artson Crichlow asked about any endorsement for City Council since there are 16 people running for 5 positions. RTA is not endorsing anyone for City Council. Van White is endorsed by RTA for Monroe County Court Judge. Rachel Barnhart is endorsed for the the 21st district, and Elena Cariolla is endorsed for Monroe County Supreme Court (in the Republican primary and election).

Meeting was adjourned at 11:20.

The next RRTA meeting will by September 9, 2021.

Mary Zimmer

RRTA Secretary