**RRTA Meeting (Virtual on Zoom)**

**December 2, 2021**

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

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

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:05.

2. A moment of silence was observed for teachers who have passed away in the past month: Carol Dundas, Jean Rodgers Havill, Joyce Luce, Frank Muratore, Richard Seager, Marisa Simmons, Charles Skolny, Elizabeth A Widman. A $25 donation is made to Books for Kids in memory of any RRTA member.

3. The November RRTA minutes were approved as written.

4.  **Social Security** — Charlie Dean shared the IRMAA chart that you can obtain from Social[security.gov](http://security.gov). There will be a 5.9% raise and he said that if you get $2,000 per month, you will get a $108 raise. He said that if next year there is no COLA there will be no raise which has happened in the past after a large increase. The Medicare rates are based on the 2020 income (MAGI - modified adjusted gross income). The chart is also on the same website.

5.  **Dress A Girl/Savvy Sewers** — The group met last month at St. Bernard’s preparing blankets for shelters. The RRTA group helped to organize a group that will continue at St. Bernard’s after our group returns to RRTA. They are hoping to get back to the RRTA office soon, depending on the pandemic and protocols.

6. **Labor Council** — Charlie Dean said he attended a NYSUT function with Freddi Macek who presented what the RRTA said at the last meeting how NYSUT did not educate its members about voting in the last election for the constitutional amendments that did not pass but were important for New York.

7. **Vote Cope** — Charlie Dean wanted to remind everyone that they can send in their contribution or increased contribution at any time.

8. **Newspaper** — The tentative deadline for the next newspaper is January 2. Mary Barnum says she needs material and you can send in to her at the RTA anything you would like shared or pictures. She will print the list of dues payers again.

There are 558 members presently.

A motion was made and passed that the RRTA rep who has not paid his/her dues would receive a letter to inform him/her and would lose the position, not be able to vote or run for NYSUT delegate.

9. **Books for Kids** — The group and activities continue to be suspended.

10. **Calendar** — There are no events except for RTA and RRTA meetings that are virtual.

The NYSUT building has new filters in the ceiling and there are more filters in conference rooms that turn over the air several times an hour. Present protocols: 6 feet social distancing, masks used in shared spaces; coming in to the office by appointment only; the door is locked and the RTA office is looking to put in a new lock system where the secretary does not need to go to the door and meet the knocker face to face; and committees are still meeting on zoom. RTA is following the district’s policy.

11. **Other Business**  — Mary Barnum said that active teachers are finding this a difficult time. She said one school has reported that they have used their emergency plan for substitutes 61 times and some teachers have said they have subbed 40+ times. The district is still looking for subs, so anyone who would like to sub, contact the district.

12. Patty Brody said that we should keep the teachers at the Michigan school shooting in our thoughts and prayers.

13. Al Smith said that he is working with **Toys for Tots** preparing toys for School 22 and several community groups. He was looking for volunteers. If you would like to help or have any questions, call him at 750-2147.

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year.

The next meeting will be January 6, 2022.

The meeting adjourned at 10:40.

Mary Zimmer

RRTA Secretary