**RRTA Meeting (Virtual on Zoom)**

**March 3, 2022**

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

**Absent:** D. Altobelli, K. Barkley, C. Bonsignore-Kitchen, M. Ferenchak, S. Flynn, M. Jenkins-Cox, M. Keating, C. Smith, D. Sullivan, D. Voellinger, J. Zuniga

**Also in attendance**: M. Ludwig, 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: Robert Babcock, Ellen Eckoff, William Franklin, Jack Graham, Millie Murphy, and Tim Wagner (administrator). A $25 donation is made to Books for Kids in memory of any RRTA member.

3. The February RRTA minutes were approved as written.

4. **Dress a Girl/Savvy Sewer** — Gaya Shakes reported that a shipment of children’s clothing will be sent out in April to Uganda through the connections of Ronnie Baxter (Garth Fagan dancer). Dress a Girl has donated many blankets to local charities and the homeless village.

5. **Labor Council** — Freddi Macek reported that the COPE Committee of the Labor Council is working on questions for state race’ s candidates. Freddi thanked Charlie Dean and Mary Barnum for forwarding the information from the Labor Council to RRTA members about the postal worker reform act. It has passed in the House but needs to be passed in the Senate. Contact Schumer and Gillibrand to pass the bill.

There is a CSEA-CIU Lyceum that will discuss the pros and cons of the single payer health act. The link was send out in the above mentioned information, The Mobilizer. the weekly newsletter from the Greater Rochester Labor Council. If you need the link again contact Freddi Macek. You must register to attend.

6. **Vote Cope** — Mary Barnum said that the list of Vote Cope contributors will be in the RRTA August newsletter. Charlie Dean asks that everyone be a contributor or increase your contribution.

7.  **Newspaper** — The deadline is April 1 for the next RRTA newspaper that will come out in early May. Mary Barnum said she needs material to publish so please forward articles or pictures to Mary B by April 1. The issue will go to just RRTA members: 714 members.

8. **Books for Kids** — There is $10,675 in the account. Please continue to contribute because hopefully the group will resume once schools reopen completely for visitors in the fall.

9. **Calendar** — The next RRTA meeting is scheduled for April 7 at 10 am.

10. **RRTA meeting link** — If you are not getting the links for the RTA or RRTA meetings, please let Mary Barnum know. When she spoke to Bill Gerber he thought that the problem is on the receiver’s side with emails being dropped from group emails by your server. He suggested that you put the group into your contacts and the computer/phone will recognize the email as being acceptable.

11. **Recording of meetings** — As mentioned in last month’s minutes, the meeting last month was recorded. Charlie Dean said that he couldn’t open last month’s meeting. There were 2 ideas of why to record the meetings: The meeting could be watched at a later date for a rep who wasn’t able to attend; The meeting could be put out to the public.

A motion was made not to record the meetings. The information is on the RTA website as printed minutes. Charlie Dean made the motion and Mary Barnum seconded the motion. The motion passed.

12.  **Substitute information** — Anna Marie Manso, an RRTA member, and the Professional Development Consultant for the RTA, is developing a workshop on how to encourage and help retirees and others become a substitute. She is hoping to present it later in March or April because May and June are the months where there is always a shortage of substitutes. She is asking retirees to give her ideas to include in the workshop. If you have anything to share, send your ideas to Mary Barnum. Some ideas mentioned were how to feel better about becoming a sub, how to sign up, what to do when faced with bait and switch when going into a building for one position and being told to go to another, how principals/front office need to be directed not to do the bait and switch (RTA speaks to CO all the time about this, but it isn’t getting the message into the buildings), how to physically get into buildings easily (not getting buzzed in), problems with the parking lot (some buildings have assigned spots or parking lots not obviously adjacent to the building), what subs expect and what they shouldn’t/won’t do, guidance on discipline issues and administrative support for subs. Again, if you have any more ideas to add, send them to Mary Barnum.

13. RRTA Rep Carol Bonsignore Kitchen had been hospitalized. Please send her speedy recovery wishes.

14. **RTA Office Open** — Gaya Shakes asked Matt Lavonis when the office will be open and available for meetings or group gatherings. Matt said that RTA is following the RCSD regulations. Even though the mask rules have relaxed the district is still not allowing large group in person meetings. The RTA office continues to monitor changes.

15. Linda Rapkin congratulated Gaya Shakes’ op ed in Sunday’s paper about the Black athletes and their accomplishments at the Olympics. She had named the athletes and their events. Gaya said that is was in response to the previous Sunday’s op ed about the accomplishments of the local athlete and the Asian athletes in the Olympics. Mary Barnum asked Gaya to forward the op ed to her for the RRTA newspaper.

16. Al Smith and many other reps spoke about Bob Babcock and how much he influenced other teachers and students as well as authored books.

17.  **Ukraine** — The group held a moment of silence for those effected by the conflict.

Matt said that RTA has contacted NYSUT about what the unions can do and it will be discussed at the March 15 meeting. He also said that Aimee and he will be coordinating a memorial ribbon that will be distributed from RTA. They will be announcing the method of distribution at the March meeting.

Charlie Dean cautioned not to respond to emails about donating money because many disreputable people are beginning fishing. Vet any organization to which you donate.

Alex Johnson said that there is a group in Rochester: ROC-maiden from the local Ukrainian club that you can google. He said they are funneling money to eastern Poland where many Ukraine refugees are going.

Jeanne Robillard mentioned World Central Kitchen, an organization of feeding those in a disaster, started by José Andres, which is another reputable organization.

Lucia Espinosa said that whatever organization that our union, locally, statewide or nationwide, should let it be known that we are a union of workers and a multicultural racial coalition that are donating to the Ukraine.

The meeting adjourned at 11:14 a.m.

Mary Zimmer,

RRTA Secretary