**RRTA Meeting (Virtual on Zoom)**

**April 7, 2022**

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

**Absent:** D. Altobelli, K. Barkley, C. Bonsignore-Kitchen, M. Ferenchak, S. Flynn, K. Fager, B. Gerace, K. Huey, M. Keating, L. Rapkin, D. Sullivan, D. Voellinger, J. Zuniga

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

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:06.

 2. A moment of silence was observed for teachers who have passed away in the past month: Jennifer Gourdine. 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 said that the shipment is ready for Uganda including 60 dresses, 61 onesies, and dolls.

5. **Labor Council** — Freddi Macek thanked Charlie Dean and Mary Barnum for sending out information for the Postal Workers Reform Act that President Biden signed yesterday (April 6) after 16 years of trying to get this reform. Before this, DeJoy was trying to privatize and sell the post office, but the reform will keep it functioning, keep from machinery being taken out, and not having to prepay benefits and pensions 50 years in advance for workers that were not even hired which was bankrupting the system.

 The next issue to be dealt with The Communication Workers of America and the broadband across New York State. They are asking that union workers put in fiber optics which is easier to maintain and union workers have the safety training and expertise.

 April 28 will be the Workers’ Memorial Day Ceremony for a remembrance for those who have died over the past year including those who died of COVID. It will be in Highland Park at the Workers’ Memorial at 5 pm.

 April 30 there will be breakfast (8am) at Workers United on East Ave. for the annual meeting of the Genesee Valley Labor Council. If you want to attend, contact Freddi Macek.

6. **Vote Cope** — As checks come into the RTA office they are processed and sent to NYSUT. Consider becoming a contributor or increase your contribution. The forms ask for your retiree number, which can be found in the NYSTRA statement all retirees get in September and anytime you make a change in your pension. Keep one form throughout the year to have your number, but also if you send in a Vote Cope form without it, RTA will fill in the number.

 The August/September issue of the RRTA newspaper will have the list of Vote Cope contributors and a message will be included in all the benefits a retiree has received due to Vote Cope’s work.

7. **RRTA Newspaper** — The April issue is going to the printer tomorrow (4/8) and should be in the mail before the end of the month. This issue goes only to dues payers. Mary Barnum will contact the reps is she needs help in preparing the mailing. Alex Johnson volunteered to take it to the post office.

8. **Books for Kids** — Mary Barnum said that the group will probably meet in September to make decisions of how to get books into first graders’ hands.

 All contributions to Books for Kids are tax deductible and donations $50 or more will get a tax deduction form from the bank (FLACC). Checks should be written to “Books for Kids/FLACC”.

 The acknowledgment card from RTA/RRTA should include the donor’s name, amount donated and the date so that it also can be used as a tax deductible form.

9. **RRTA Calendar** — RRTA meeting will be May 5 at 10 am.

 Election of RRTA reps

 Mary Barnum sent to all reps information about whose terms are expiring:

 The terms of the following Reps expire 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.

 And whose terms have one more year:

 The terms of the following end June 30, 2023: Bob Allen, Carol Bonsignore-Kitchen, Marie Jenkins-Cox, Kevin Fager, Robert Gerace, Willie Humphrey, Alex Johnson, Freddi Macek, Ellen Robinson, Ken Schultz, Gaya Shakes, Sharon Silvio, Cathy Smith, DebSullivan, Diane Voellinger, Mary Zimmer, Joe Zuniga.

 There are 728 dues payers which allows 36 representatives. There are 19 openings for the 2 year terms. Nominations need to be into the RTA office by June 1 in writing or an email to Mary Barnum. At the June 2 RRTA meeting she will tell us who has been nominated and nominations can be taken at the June 2 meeting. Information and forms will be in the April RRTA newspaper. If there are more than 19 nominations there will have to be an election.

 Charlie Dean said there are no plans to resume the RTA baseball night this year, but if anyone is interested, contact him.

10.  **Substitute Workshop** — May 9 from 3 pm to 5 pm, Anna Marie Manso will be having a professional development workshop for those interested in subbing. Mary Barnum, the per diem sub chair, and Anna Marie took suggestions and issues from what was discussed at the last RRTA meeting and those expressed by subs to develop a workshop. She is asking those from CO that are responsible for subs to attend to answer questions. The workshop will be on zoom. You must register to participate by May 4. Contact her at AManso@rochesterteachers.com with your full name, jobs willing to accept including grade levels, special subjects, and content area classes.

11. **Mass emailings** — Those RRTA members using Road Runner often do not get mass emails sent from the RTA office because it is reading as spam and being blocked. Smaller content does go through at times, but longer ones tend to be blocked. There are about 90 to 100 of you not receiving messages. Bill Gerber, the RTA computer consultant, suggested that you addrrtaduespayer@rochesterteachers.com as a contact. Therefore, Road Runner will recognize it as an acceptable sender.

12. Sharon Silvio reported that at her NYSUT Committee of 100 they discussed the **teacher substitute shortage** and spoke to all NYS legislators asking them to lift the retiree cap on pensions so that the pool of substitutes grows.

13. **Ribbons for Ukraine** — Many RRTA volunteers went into the office to cut ribbons for Ukraine. Thank you to Diana Voellinger, Kathy Evans, Marie Ferenchak, Linda Rapkin and Mary Zimmer for coming in. There will be information about how to request the ribbons in the RRTA April newspaper. They are for dues payers only and can be sent through the mail.

 A moment of prayer was requested for those in the Ukraine.

14. Mary Barnum said that the D&C today (4/7) has information about the second Covid booster. Everyone over 50 should get the booster and appointments are easy to obtain.

Mary Zimmer

RRTA Secretary