**RRTA Meeting (zoom meeting)**

**March 5, 2024**

**Attendance:**  Z. Artson-Crichlow, M. Barnum, P. Brody, C. Dean, L. Espinosa, S. Flynn, B. Gerace, K. Huey, W. Humphrey, M. Jenkins-Cox, A. Johnson, F. Macek, L. Rapkin, E. Robinson, G. Shakes, S. Silvio, A. Smith, C. Smith, D. Sullivan, B. Swan, F. Valente, Y. Wooten, M. Zimmer

**Absent:** D. Altobelli, C. Bonsignore-Kitchen, B. Buckingham, K. Evans, K. Fager, M. Ferenchak, P. Givens, M. Keating. K. Schultz, T. Stamper Webster, J. Zuniga

**Also in attendance**: J. Cox Hiler, J Robillard, M Lavonis, zoom coordinator

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: Andrea Bruce Ellison, Ann Marie Gaesser, and Roberta Paul. A $25 donation is made to Books for Kids in memory of any RRTA member.

3. The February RRTA minutes are posted on line within a week of the meeting. If there are any questions, contact Mary Zimmer and changes will be announced at the next meeting.

4. **Announcements**:

a) The next RRTA meeting will be April 11 (after the school spring recess) at 10am in person at RTA.

b) Daylight Savings Time starts Sunday, March 10, “Spring Forward”.

c) The Solar Eclipse is April 8. The Eclipse starts at 2:07 pm and ends 4:33 pm. Period of total darkness starts at 3:20 and lasts 3 minutes and 38 seconds. Do not look directly at the eclipse without protective glasses that are approved with ISO certification. Charlie Dean told us of someone he knew who had lost sight in one eye by using a scope to look at an eclipse. Frontier Field is charging $35 to view the eclipse from the stadium and Patti Brody said that thousands are expected at the beaches including Charlotte.

d) Thoughts and prayers are sent to David and Mary Ann Altobelli (Dave is a long time RTA and RRTA rep and chair of Vote Cope). They lost their son, Adam and anyone wishing to send a contribution to a cause in his name, send it to Grace of God Recovery, 120 Franklin St. 14604.

5. **Niagara on the Lake/Shaw Theater** — Bob Gerace said they have no new information. Mary Barnum reminded him that information is needed for the deadline of the RRTA newspaper by April 1.

6. **Labor Council** — Freddi Macek reported that she attended the Rochester State of the Union. She said they discussed Monroe County’s labor force, day care issues, etc. RRTA members get regular updates about the Labor Council sent by Freddi. The Labor Council will be interviewing Meeks and Lightfoot this week. In the past the Council has endorsed Meeks for this position. The primary for this election is the last Tuesday in June.

The **Presidential Primary is April 2**.

7. **Dress a Girl/Savvy Sewers** — Gaya Shakes reported that they have had many requests for several items. They have prepared shipments to a church group in Brazil, Honduras, Ron Baxter’s charity in Uganda, have had another church contact in Africa (not sure of exact location), Chile, Kenya, Zululand, Bahamas, Gambia and Senegal.

In February, the group collected cleaning supplies to take to Beyond the Sanctuary. They took a van full of supplies.

The group is working on sponsoring a scholarship to a deserving student in the RCSD.

Mary Barnum asked Gaya to write an article for the April newspaper to share all the group’s great work.

8.  **Vote Cope** — The group continues to receive contributions. Keep Dave Altobelli in your prayers for an improvement in his health.

9. **RRTA Representative Elections** — There are 634 dues paying members which entitles RRTA to 32 reps, 4 less than from past years. Mary Barnum sent the list of which reps were elected for 2 terms last June and whose terms are expiring in June, 2024. Fifteen were elected last year, therefore there will be 17 positions open for the June election. Mary B also shared the October through February attendance to RRTA meetings and there were a few reps who have not even attended one meeting. The April newspaper will have the call for nominations and at the June RRTA meeting nominations will be taken. If there are more than 17 nominations an election will be held.

It was also determined that RRTA could have alternates that may attend meetings, both RRTA and RTA, because there are always absences and the alternates can vote for those who are absent. If there needs to be an election, the top 17 nominees will become reps and the others will become alternates.

10. **Newspaper** — April 1 is the deadline and the newspaper goes to dues paying members only. It will have Shaw information, nominations for RRTA rep elections, and some other info that didn’t fit in the January paper. There can be no ads or profit making articles or events because the paper is mailed as a non profit organization that receives a special postal rate.

11. **Books for Kids** — The group is visiting 2 first grade classes at School 7 on March 14. Donations are always taken for Books for Kids/FLACE.

12. **Calendar** — March 29 - April 8 RCSD Spring Break

April 1 — deadline for newspaper articles and pictures

April 2 — NYS Presidential Primaries

April 8 — the Solar Eclipse

April 11 — the next RRTA meeting at the RTA office

13. **New Business** — Charlie Dean said that he will have Red Wing Tickets available for free but has not yet gotten the dates. Keep an eye out here for how to request them.

Meeting adjourned at 11:16.

Mary Zimmer

RRTA Secretary