**RRTA Meeting**

**June 6, 2024**

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

**Absent:** P. Givens, M. Keating, S. Silvio, A. Smith, T. Stamper Webster, B. Swan

**Also in attendance**: J. Cox Hiler, B. Jones

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:12.

2. A moment of silence was observed for teachers who have passed away in the past month: James Nicoll. A $25 donation is made to Books for Kids in memory of any RRTA member.

3. The May 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) Next RRTA meeting is October 3 at the RTA office at 10 am.

b) Charlie Dean has baseball tickets he is willing to give away to RRTA reps for a June 26 game and September 4 and September 18 games for any RRTA member and guest. Contact him to receive them.

c) There has been a concern for a survivor of a retiree benefits. CO had given wrong information and with John Pavone and Charlie Dean’s aid they are clearing the issue. If you have any question about benefits, you can contact them. It was clarified that a survivor of a retiree can only receive benefits if they are receiving benefits at the time of the employee’s retirement. (If one is remarried after retirement, that spouse or child cannot get RCSD benefits.)

d) The RTA retirement dinner is June 11 at Casa Largo.

e) There is an RTA end of the year party on June 14 at Joli, 384 East Ave from 3:30 - 6:30. All RTA and RRTA members are welcome.

5. **Dress a Girl/Savvy Sewers** — At their May meeting they made 20 dresses and 50 hygiene packs. They will be sending 50 dresses to Haiti when it is safe to travel there. In June they will be sending 37 kits and 50 dresses to Uganda. They also made a donation to Ibero American Action League for refugee families. Gaya thanked Bob Gerace for his donations.

6. **September RRTA Picnic** — Karen Huey reported that the picnic will be at Braddocks Bay Lodge on Wednesday, September 18. She said that it is the height of migration and attendees can hike, walk on the boardwalk and go birdwatching. There will be information in the August RRTA newspaper and will cost $5 to help pay for salads and hots. There will be an RSVP form in the paper. Thanks to Karen for organizing this.

7. **Vote Cope** — Mary Barnum is looking for a volunteer to help with the retiree Vote Cope paperwork that Dave Altobelli used to oversee.

Recently every contributor received from NYSUT an acknowledgement of your contribution asking you to increase your amount. If you are going to fill out the form, return it to RTA so that they can log the information and then they will forward it the Albany. Mark it with a notation of Attn: Mary Barnum. The August issue of the RRTA newspaper is devoted to Vote Cope which will remind those who don’t contribute via pension deduction to send in their contribution.

Remember that Vote Cope is working on fixing Tier 6 as well as oversee the COLA we receive in our pensions.

8. **RRTA Representative Elections** — There are 663 dues paying members which means the RRTA is allotted 33 representatives. There are 15 reps who have one more year in their term and therefore, there are 18 open positions.

Nominated by mail: Zelda Artson Crichlow, Mary Barnum, Patti Brody, Jocelyn Cox-Hiler, Charlie Dean, Lucia Espinosa, Debbi Jackett, Brenda Jones, Martha Keating, Linda Rapkin, Barry Swan, Frank Valente, Yolanda Wooten, Al Smith, and Sharon Flynn.

Nominated at the meeting: Marie Ferenchak.

Mary Barnum made the motion to accept the names submitted as the slate of RRTA reps, Linda Rapkin seconded the motion and the motion passed.

9. **Newspaper** — The August newspaper deadline is August 1. It will include information about Vote Cope, a remembrance to Dave Altobelli, membership form, fall picnic info, the Labor Day Parade info and Shaw info.

10. **Labor Council** — Freddi Macek said that she needs volunteers for the phone banks from 12 - 4 and walks for Demond Meeks in the 137th district for the assembly. He has been endorsed by the unions, though the Democratic Committee has backed his opponent, Willie Lightfoot. Primary Day is June 25. Early voting begins June 15. Demond is union oriented, contact Freddi ([fmacek01@gmail.com](mailto:fmacek01@gmail.com)) if you can help or have questions. There is a new dialing system for the phone banks and if someone would like to call from home, that can be arranged.

July 11 at Genesee Valley Park there is a picnic to meet the local state legislators from 5 pm to 7. $20 and for registration, contact Freddi.

11. **Books for Kids** — Kathy Evans said that the 2023 - 24 year is completed. Their organizational meeting for the 24 -25 school year is scheduled for Thursday, September 5 at 11 am in the RTA office.

12. **Calendar** — September 5 — Organizational meeting for Books for Kids

September 18 — RRTA picnic at Braddocks Bay

October 3 — RRTA meeting, 10 am at the RTA office

October 9 — Niagara on the Lake/Shaw

13. **Niagara on the Lake/Shaw** — Bob Gerace reported that 12 have signed up. They need 30 for the trip to go. There are great reviews about the play and the deadline for sending in your money will be early September. The committee will be sending out a reminder as the deadline approaches.

14. **Old Business** — There was a request from an RCSD retiree, but not an RRTA dues payer, to distribute material at the RRTA picnic about the American Association for University Women looking for new members. She had also contacted NYSUT about this at other meetings and someone from NYSUT contacted Charlie Dean. Zelda Artson Crichlow made a motion to have Mary Barnum contact her and let her know that if she becomes an RRTA member she can send Mary the literature she’d like to distribute to be reviewed to see if it is appropriate. There was a concern that she was also making political statements.

15. Today, June 6 is the 80th Anniversary of D Day.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30.

Mary Zimmer

RRTA Secretary