

**RRTA Meeting
February 2, 2017**

Attendance: D. Altobelli, Z. Artson-Crichlow, M. Barnum, , C. Bonsignore-Kitchen, P. Brody, C. Dean, K. Fager, M. Ferenchak, K. Huey, W. Humphrey, M. Jenkins-Cox, M. McCarron, L. Rapkin, K. Schultz, G. Shakes, S. Silvio, A. Smith, D. Sullivan, B. Swan, F. Valente, Y. Wooten, M. Zimmer

Absent: R. Allen, K. Barkley, L. Bonanni, B. Buckingham, , K. Evans, J. Ivanick, M. Keating, B. Jones, F. Macek, G. Sweeney, M. Weeks, R. Wolf

Also in attendance: N. Atherton, M. Casey, R. Gerace, L. Kotwas, S. Raymond, D. Smith, MJ Whalen,

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: Arlene Hanley, who was a founding member of the Paraprofessional Unit and an active RRTA member passed away in January. A \$25 donation is made to Books for Kids in memory of any RRTA member.
3. The minutes were approved as written.
4. **Niagara on the Lake and Shaw** – Nancy Atherton said that they have received several forms for the 3 plays. Get your reservations in to guarantee a place at the play. See the January RRTA newspaper for dates and information.
5. **Vote Cope** – Dave Altobelli said that he continues to work on Vote Cope. He is writing an article for the April and August RRTA newspaper about not having the Constitutional Convention and voting no in November. It would cost NYS more than \$340M to have the convention, money that could be used to repair NYS infrastructure.
6. **Dress A Girl** – Gaya Shakes reported having made 67 dresses and 20 dolls this past Monday at their monthly get together. Many dresses were made at home by people who like to sew. Dresses will be sent this spring to Costa Rica and to Tanzania in June. A thank you card was received for last month's "pass the hat" donations at the RRTA meeting. They would gladly accept any monetary donation and would also like any fabric you have to make dresses.
7. **Books for Kids** – Mary Jo Whalen reported that the group went to School 7 last Thursday and the teachers and students were very appreciative. February 17 we will be going to School 44.

8. **Legislative Breakfast** – Mary Barnum announced the annual breakfast for Saturday, February 25 at 8:30 at the Burgandy Basin Inn. It is a chance to meet legislators to express concerns and to listen to their views. RTA pays for the table and if anyone wishes to go, contact her for a reservation.

9. **Constitutional Convention Committee** – an ad-hoc committee was established at the January meeting chaired by Ken Schultz. They met on January 20, reviewed the problem and set an action plan. They shared the plan with those responsible for each action. They have proposed pledge cards, buttons, a September luncheon with a NYSUT speaker (they are asking each RRTA rep to come and bring another RRTA member to learn about the issue), a raffle, articles in the RRTA newspapers and October phone banks. All are welcome to join the committee or help with any of these actions. A resolution was proposed to take to the General RTA Assembly to ask for \$3000 to help pay for printing the pledges and buttons and to lower the cost of the luncheons for RRTA members. Gaya Shakes asked why the committee was not working for all RTA members. Ken said that the active teachers should be organizing their own group to educate its members. The resolution passed and will be brought up at the RTA February or March meeting.

10. Mary Barnum shared yesterday's D&C article on what the NYS legislature is doing about corrupt members and their pensions. She also shared a NYSUT newspaper article on what to know about the Constitutional Convention and the paragraph in the present NYS Constitution from 1938 that deals with public employee pensions.

Sharon Silvio said that the NYSUT Committee of 100 and PAC are holding a 2 hour workshop on the convention and she will share the information with the group at the next RRTA meeting. Someone also asked her to submit an article for the RRTA newspaper if the information is relevant.

11. Mary Barnum reported that there are 696 RRTA members signed up. If you change your address, let the RTA office know so that you will receive the newspapers and any other mailings.

12. **RRTA newspaper** – The deadline for the April newspaper is April 13. Articles that she is expecting are about the Lollypop Farm excursion, Warren Kling's October excursion tour of Mendon and Millionaires, and any on the Constitutional Convention.

13. **Calendar** – The Red Wing Game date is June 10.

14. **Friends of Strong Memorial** – Mary Barnum was contacted by Joyce Stadtmiller to reach out to retirees for volunteer positions at Strong Hospital. She

is looking for volunteers to show people to rooms, help with visitors, library jobs, etc. She will be coming in to the March RRTA meeting and speak for 10 minutes.

Mary Barnum also **shared handouts** that were sent to the RTA office to share. One is from the RCSD looking for retirees to deliver Academic Intervention from Jan to March at \$39/hour. If interested, go to the RCSD website to apply. The Bivona Child Advocacy Center is looking for a Prevention Education and Outreach Specialist. Go to www.bivonacac.org/careers/ for a job description.

15. Al Smith is looking for **5 volunteers** to carry the banner (4) and take pictures (1) for the veterans at the **St. Patrick's Day Parade** on March 11. It begins at 12:30 and the parade is taking the original route through the city. Call Al Smith if you are able to help him out.

16. There was a discussion about the Supreme Court and if the **anti-unions case** will be brought up again. C. Dean said that Paul Hetland, the treasurer, continues to monitor the issue and reports monthly the number of agency fee paying members. Aimee Rinere is continuing to sign up these members. Mary Barnum asked Charlie Dean to look into the issue of "dues check off" members versus agency fee paying members.

17. February 8 is the deadline for write in nominations for **N & E RTA officers** elections. There will be an opportunity to nominate members at the Rep Assembly. Charlie Dean, Kathy Evans, and Mary Zimmer had all been nominated for their current positions. All RRTA members are welcome to submit their names for a position.

Mary Zimmer
RRTA secretary