

RRTA Meeting
May 4, 2017

Attendance: R. Allen, D. Altobelli, Z. Artson-Crichlow, K. Barkley, M. Barnum, L. Bonanni, C. Bonsignore-Kitchen, B. Buckingham, C. Dean, K. Evans, K. Fager, K. Huey, W. Humphrey, M. Jenkins-Cox, B. Jones, M. McCarron, L. Rapkin, K. Schultz, G. Shakes, A. Smith, D. Sullivan, B. Swan, G. Sweeney, Y. Wooten, M. Zimmer

Absent: P. Brody, M. Ferenchak, J. Ivanick, M. Keating, F. Macek, S. Silvio, F. Valente, M. Weeks, R. Wolf

Also in attendance: R. Gerace, S. Raymond

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: Frank E. Mockevicius. A \$25 donation is made to Books for Kids in memory of any RRTA member.
3. The April RRTA minutes were not presented.
4. **Shaw** – Niagara on the Lake – Maureen McCarron said that tickets for October's Dracula are still available and information is in the April, 2017 RRTA newspaper.
5. **Vote Cope** – Dave Altobelli said that the Vote Cope campaign began at the April 25th RA. All those who have contributed a minimum of \$20 will be eligible for the June drawing of five \$50 restaurant gift cards. He said that next year the minimum will be \$30. The list of Vote Cope contributors is in the RRTA April newspaper. If you see any discrepancies, contact him.

Statewide Vote Cope is working on disseminating information about the Vote "No" for the Constitutional Convention.

September 7 there will be an RRTA informational forum and luncheon at which there will be another drawing for those attendees who have returned the pledge cards which ensured that you have spoken to others about the Constitutional Convention and the reason to vote no. Please bring anyone wanting more information to the luncheon. More information was reported by the NCC (see below).

It is important to become a Vote Cope contributor so that the NYSUT political group will have the funds to fight the NYS Constitutional Convention that without a "no" vote could put our pensions at risk. Also there is a case coming to the Supreme Court, the Janus decision, that could destroy all labor unions that needs political clout to defeat.

6. **Dress a Girl** – Gaya Shakes reported that the committee was very busy at their last get together. They made 48 dresses and 8 dolls. They also prepared dresses for several groups traveling abroad. A Jupiter, Florida retiree group are going to Tanzania; a Lifetime group to Zululand; and a group to Haiti. Rochester Teachers Care featured Dress a Girl and you can see the video on RTA's Facebook page, YouTube, or by going to the RTA website for the link. Rochester Teachers Care will also be presenting Books for Kids. Gaya said that as a result of the video they got one more sewing volunteer and donations of material.

7. **Books for Kids** – Mary Barnum reported that there is \$8,435 in the treasury. Rochester Teachers Care will be filming today at Barnes and Noble and again at School 41 on May 22. This will be their final visit, but the organizational meeting for the 2017 – 18 school year is scheduled for September 14 at 11 am. All are welcome to join the group. If you cannot make the meeting contact Mary Barnum to have your name included.

8. **NCC Committee** – (No to the Constitutional Convention Committee) Ken Schultz reported about the September 7 informational luncheon. It will begin at 11:15 at the Genesee Valley Club at 420 East Avenue. Active RRTA members will pay \$17 and non members will pay \$32 for lunch. Tickets are limited. There will be a table to sign up RRTA members. It will begin with a short presentation from a NYSUT representative and there will be a panel of about 7 to 8 people on the panel, including local union presidents (ie CSEA), legislators, and Adam Urbanski. Information and the form to sign up will be in the April RRTA newspaper and more information will be sent out in August. On June 27 and 28 at 10 am there will be a mailing to the 2000 names of RCSD retirees. All volunteers are welcome to help with the mailing. Included in the mailing will be the pledge cards asking you to speak with family and friends to commit to vote no for the NYS Constitutional Convention on November 7. Those who return their pledge cards will be eligible for the drawing.

Committee members are working on other areas, also. Maureen McCarron is spearheading members to write letters to the editor, some of the committee is working on the luncheon and others on buttons and the pledge cards. If you would like to help or have ideas write to Ken Schultz at kzschultz@gmail.com.

There was an informational article that was well written in the last NYSUT Teacher magazine that can be used for talking points. Ken said he would mail the NYSUT power point to the RRTA reps. It is important to speak to more than just teachers about losing their pensions. There are other factors at risk such as rights to worker's compensation, collective bargaining, right to a free public education, state land and forest protections, and Adirondack "Forever Wild" protections. It can be explained that changes can be made to the constitution through amendments and that a convention could cost taxpayers up to \$100

million. Those voted to go to the convention would most likely be the same legislators receiving a second salary as a delegate (double dipping) to do the same job they could do as a legislator to amend.

9. RTA Officers Election – May 5 is the deadline to return your ballots. Counting is May 9 and the results will be on the RTA Hotline and reported out at the May rep meeting.

10. RRTA membership – Mary Barnum reported that there are 698 registered RRTA members.

The RRTA representative election – forms are in the April RRTA newspaper with a list of those whose terms expire and those who have another year. The deadline for nominations is June 1 for a written nomination and at the RRTA meeting on Thursday, June 1, nominations will be taken at the meeting. There are 16 positions open.

11. Calendar – The calendar was reviewed that Mary Barnum had copied from the April RRTA newspaper. There will be an RRTA Thursday morning meeting, October 5. Linda Rapkin is organizing a Hurds luncheon in either September or October. The Holiday Party will be December 5 at the Brookhouse.

12. RRTA Newspaper – The August RRTA newspaper deadline is July 13. Mary Barnum shared the articles and pictures that she has already or that have been promised. If you have any articles and/or pictures of activities you'd like to share with retirees, send them to Mary Barnum at RTA.

13. Mary Barnum shared a memo from the state AFL-CIO organization and Mario Cilento about a change in NYS laws that will allow a state deduction for union dues.

14. Thanks to June Ivanick for her many years of service as RRTA Vice Chair. We would also welcome Gaya Shakes as the new Vice Chair.

Mary Zimmer
RRTA Secretary