Dear Membership...

Welcome back from a wonderful warm and sunny summer. But we all know that September is one of the most beautiful months of the year in Upstate New York! So let’s pull on our fall sweaters and show support for our Women’s Council and plan to attend our first luncheon coming up on Wednesday September 20th. Please remember, guests are always welcome!

Nita Genova, Vice President and Program Chair, has done a fantastic job of scheduling informative and thought provoking programs for this 2017-2018 year of programs.

A body camera being worn by police officers all across the country has stirred much controversy this past year. Nita has responded by scheduling Lt. Michael Perkowski from the Rochester Police Department as our first lecturer. He will be sharing with us the positives as well as the negatives of the police body camera phenomena.

I would like to invite all of our members to think about joining our Board or joining a committee. The time commitment for most of the positions requires only a couple of hours a month. Surely some of our members can find a few hours to help support our programs and fundraisers. To find out more, please contact Jo Anne Smith or Joanne Zelazny.

I’m looking forward to seeing you all in a few weeks at our September luncheon!

Warmly,

Cindy Cooper

MISSION: The Women’s Council has an impressive history of supporting RIT since 1955. Through its programs, the members of the Women’s Council will learn about RIT and be ambassadors for RIT in the larger community. The Women’s Council will raise funds to provide scholarships to RIT’s women students. The Women’s Council will actively seek to enhance the academic and campus life of RIT.
SEPTEMBER MEETING - LT. MICHAEL PERKOWSKI

On July 1, 2016, the Rochester Police Department rolled out its body worn camera program. A little over a year later, what has been learned? For example, did you know that the camera has features that can “see” better than the officer wearing the camera? How does that impact the program?

In a very candid look at the program, Lt. Perkowski explains the rules for use of the cameras, their limitations, some of the dangers to an officer wearing the camera, as well as the benefits to both the police personnel and the individuals the cameras record. It is a very interesting, genuinely thought-provoking, firsthand look at a program implemented in many cities across the U.S. and its impact on law enforcement.

RIT AMBULANCE CORPS - A LITTLE HISTORY

RIT Ambulance is a volunteer, student-run NYS BLS (Basic Life Support) ambulance service that averages 700-800 response calls per year. Started in 1970 as the Student Safety Unit, it was a group of students who assisted their classmates by driving them to doctors appointments and urgent care facilities in the “off-hours.” In 1982, it became known by its current name, RIT Ambulance (RITA).

As a 100% volunteer student governed and student operated ambulance service, students are trained in leadership roles and emergency medical skills/techniques required to provide emergency medical assistance/services, following protocols and procedures, as mandated for its NYS certification. In addition to training as “medics”, training must also be provided for drivers and command officers – in order to facilitate a fully appropriate response crew for dispatch. Services are rendered as any other BSL agency within the State.

The primary coverage/response area for RITA is the entire RIT campus – with occasional assistance provided to other agencies throughout the neighboring towns and Monroe County, as needed. This means that a 911 call on RIT Campus is channeled directly to RITA as first responders. The RITA crew then decides and/or obtains community based advanced life support (ALS) services from another agency/technician if needed to assist with the call. In addition to emergency/urgent responses to students and staff, RITA provides stand-by readiness at all major campus events, to on-site dignitaries and other campus visitors.

The required training for functioning as members of the ambulance corps is intense and time consuming. Yet, membership tends to be maintained between 45-60 with participation by many students studying in non-medical related areas (i.e. Computer Science, Industrial Design, Mechanical Engineering, etc.) and represents all areas of diversity among the student population. Many interested students have no training or experience in this area, which means the corps has the unique challenge of training members in basic emergency medical skills at the very beginning of their anticipated tenure if they are to function independently in their desired roles during their four years within our university setting. Fortunately, there are some new members who come trained and ready to operate and/or train others.

While the RIT Ambulance is funded by the University through the Student Health Center, the annual donation from the RIT Women’s Council provides a much needed and appreciated “flexible” source to assist with recruiting and maintaining members. It is most often used to supplement funding of activities for which budgeted amounts, if any, never seem to be sufficient – i.e. refreshments at training sessions, fun activities/cookouts to build and strengthen camaraderie, confidence and trust among the membership.

Personally, I would not be the person I am today without this agency and am thankful for the experiences and opportunities that I’ve received. Members are some of the brightest young minds among the RIT student population and I know that they will all continue to do remarkable things. Members trust each other immensely and I’m very excited to see students grow as individuals and as a community of student volunteers who offer professional medical assistance and care to others, while pursuing creditable and strenuous academic preparation for living and serving beyond the higher educational setting. On behalf of RIT Ambulance, I thank you sincerely for your help in making it so.

Daniel Hoffman, RIT Ambulance President, 4th Year CS BS
MARGARET’S HOUSE

As you all know the Women’s Council supports the Margaret’s House Child Care Center at RIT. Every year the Women’s Council awards scholarship money to the Center to disperse to those in dire need of tuition assistance. Marianne Goff, Nita Genova and Cindy Cooper had the opportunity to enjoy a personal tour with the center’s Director, Roberta DiNoto (retired June 30, 2017). The child-care center provides quality care and early childhood education for children 3 months to 5 years old.

The staff at Margaret’s House are employees of RIT and are educated and experienced in the field of early childhood education. The Center has bright and cheerful classrooms, a large outdoor playground and an indoor playroom for use during inclement weather.

The Center strives to provide a sense of community for the children and their families. The children are often out-and-about on the RIT campus enjoying all that it has to offer. They welcome and encourage parents to visit and participate as partners in their children’s education. The children are provided with lunch and healthy snacks everyday.

Margaret’s House is open to children whose parents work or study at RIT and to families in the surrounding community. If any of the members of the Women’s Council would like a reason to smile or are just looking for a fun way to volunteer – please consider reading a book to the children!! The center has made it so easy to schedule a book reading time. Just call Deanna LaManna, Program Director at (585) 475-5948 or contact her by email dmlhcc@rit.edu.

The April 2017 Scholarship recipient is Mia Groh. She is a single mom and former foster child. She has taken two leaves of absence, from her course work, due to financial issues. Without this scholarship award she was not sure she was going to be able to graduate this past May. She said, “I am so grateful and appreciate the help I have received from the RIT Women’s Council Scholarship”. We all wish Mia much success in reaching all of her future goals.

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU

April 20, 2017

Dear Cindy,

Thank you so much for reaching out to us with the RIT Women’s Council donation! It is truly humbling that we continue to receive such amazing support from our peers here in the RIT community. Since we do not bill our patients, it’s partly through generosity like this that we are able to continue doing what we do. I’m truly grateful for the opportunities that I’ve been given in this agency and I will do everything that I can to ensure that future students have the same chances that I have been given.

Each and every volunteer that we have impresses me. I admire all that our members do for each other, their patients, and their community. I’m deeply thankful for this donation, because I know that it will help us continue to strive to be the best agency that we can be.

Thank you,
Daniel Hoffman
President, RIT Ambulance 6M380

THE PUMPKIN PATCH

The Glass Pumpkin Patch Sale will be held on Saturday, September 30th at the Polisseni Arena. This is the Women’s Council primary fundraiser and supports our scholarship and Bridging the Gap funds. Students are working hard to make this another successful year! If you are interested in volunteering please email Marianne Goff at goffjmkb@aol.com. We will have volunteer sign up sheets at the September meeting as well as some special news to share about our pumpkins; so make sure you are there!
**MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

Annual Dues are $35. If you are interested in joining, contact: Rosie Sepos, 72 Misty Pine Road, Fairport, NY 14450, (223-5247).

Dues help support the Council Notes and operating expenses, Margaret’s House, the Outstanding Female Senior Student Award, and the RIT Ambulance Corps.

Additional gifts are tax deductible and may be directed to the Women’s Council Endowed Scholarship of RIT or you may direct your gift where it is most needed to support the Women’s Council of RIT.

If you wish to send a gift to the Endowed Scholarship, please contact Heather Engel, Assistant VP, Development & Alumni Relations, 585-475-2627.

**VISION**

The Women’s Council will support the mission of RIT by supporting the success of RIT women students, faculty, and staff.

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**2017-2018 Meeting Calendar**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event/Activity</th>
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| SEPTEMBER 20, 2017 | Guest Speaker: 
Lt. Michael Perkowski
Rochester Police Dept.  |
| SEPTEMBER 30, 2017 | Time: 10 AM to 2PM  
Event: Annual Glass Pumpkin Patch Sale  
Place: Gene Polisseni Center  
South side of the RIT campus |
| OCTOBER 18, 2017 | Guest Speaker: David Schnucken Glass Artist/Lecturer  
RIT School for American Crafts  |
| NOVEMBER 15, 2017 | Guest Speaker: Women of SOFA (School of Film Animation)  |
| JANUARY 17, 2018 | Guest Speaker: Kerry Foxx  
Director, Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement  |
| JANUARY 20, 2018 | Event: Holiday Tea  
Location: Chatterbox Club  
Performance by: Osher Chamber Music Special Interest Group (SIG)  |
| FEBRUARY 20, 2018 | No Meeting  |
| MARCH 20, 2018 | Guest Speakers: Dr. James Watters  
Senior VP for Finance and Administration  |
| MARCH 21, 2018 | Program Chairs:  
Nita Genova  
PH 585-261-3970  
Hospitality: Barb Elliott  
PH 585-924-2875 |
| APRIL 18, 2018 | Guest Speaker: Dr. David Munson  
RIT President  
WCRIT Scholarship Award Presentation  
Location: Liberty Hill |

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Our 2017-2018 Program Chairs:

Nita Genova  
PH 585-261-3970  
Hospitality: Barb Elliott  
PH 585-924-2875