

BREA Minutes

Meeting Date and Place: Tuesday, January 11, 2011; Bldg. 400, Rm RSB 2

Attendees: Eena-Mai Franz, Louise Hanson, Mona Rowe, Richard Skelton, Myron Strongin and Joyce Tichler (by phone).

Eena-Mai Franz opened the meeting at 1:08pm.

The minutes of the Dec 14th meeting were accepted as presented.

There was no Treasurer's Report. Ken Mohring was not present.

Old Business:

SeniorNet: As mentioned in the December minutes, SeniorNet coordinators would like the names of people to contact in senior communities such as Leisure Village, to set up informational meetings. Richard Skelton has followed up on this and provided the name and address of the Chairman of the Board of Directors at Leisure Knolls. Apparently, this individual wants to be contacted only via letter – not by email or phone. Leisure Glen already has in-situ computer courses.

DOE's Former Worker Medical Screening Program (FWP): Mona Rowe reported that Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval is in place and screening by outside physicians has begun. The Lab intends to mail information about the program to retirees using the Bulletin address list. Thus far, Richard Skelton is the only person at today's BREA meeting who has received a mailing and has been called for a screening appointment.

BREA newsletter: Mona Rowe has been working on the Newsletter for distribution early in February. She plans to include a President's piece from Eena-Mai Franz, vacation photos from Eena-Mai and Arnie Peskin, a BERA piece by Chris Carter, a piece on the FWP, and a piece on talking science with the community (in reference to Jeanne D'Ascoli's presentation at the December BREA meeting). Elliot Auerbach, who often writes on medical issues, has nothing new to report at this time. Mona and Joyce Tichler will contact Dave Cox to update the mailing list so that it includes the new members.

E-mail/On-line communication between retirees and BNL: Mona Rowe reported that Thomas Schlagel is committed to "Phase I" this fiscal year and that it is moving along. About 40 people retire per year and the plan is to start with them. All retirees will lose their bnl.gov accounts within two weeks, unless they continue on-site with a guest appointment. Mona had a sample form for us to review – "Stay in Touch via Email" - that will be given to new retirees by Personnel. This form asks for the retiree's personal email address and has check-offs for email reception of "news & events" and the Monday Memo.

A discussion ensued. Is a forwarding system from a bnl.gov account to a retiree's personal email account, especially for new retirees, possible? Could a message to be sent out for some prescribed time period after a person retires that provides the sender with the retiree's new personal email account, something along the lines of an out-of-office message?

Contact with retiree organizations at other DOE Labs: There is a continuing worry that policies with regard to DOE Lab retirees will change in the future and that one way to try and combat this is for BREA to have strong contacts with retiree organizations at other Labs. Myron Strongin is still going over material previously collected by Joyce Tichler. Because of the volume of material and the number of Labs involved, Joyce urged Myron to think about ways we could help. One possibility she suggested would be for Myron to set up a committee that would (1) decide upon a set of common interests, i.e. what specifically we would want to know, and then (2) each committee member could follow through with a specific Lab or two.

New Business:

Spring BREA tour of new BNL facilities: No date has been set yet. Eena-Mai Franz reported that Ken Mohring would like to add the new solar farm to the tour.

The meeting ended with a discussion concerning whether BREA should more actively cultivate contacts with BNL managers, especially people new to us. Eena-Mai Franz was of the opinion that these people are generally very busy, and that we should meet with them only if we have specific issues.

Feb. 2011 meeting: Tues, Feb. 8, 1pm, Bldg. 400, Rm RSB 2

Mar. 2011 meeting: Tues, Mar. 8, 1pm, Bldg. 400, Rm RSB 2

Meeting adjourned at 2:15pm

Minutes submitted by Louise Hanson