

BREA Minutes

Meeting Date and Place: Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2016; 1:00 PM, BNL Bldg.400, Rms RSB 1&2, Upton, NY
Minutes recorded by new Secretary Arnold Moodenbaugh (Moodenba@optonline.net)

Attendees: Arnold Aronson, Violet Belzer, Peter Bond, Robert M. Brown, James Cardinal, Victor Casella, Anita Cohen, Cheryl Conrad, Dave Cox, Les Fishbone, Sheryl Gerstman, Louise Hanson, Joseph Indusi, Georgia Irving, Mark Israel, Hyon-Joo Kehayias, Robert Kinsey, Lillian Kouchinsky, Jim Lemley, Lois Marascia, Robert L. Marascia, Ken Mohring, Lois Moller, Arnold Moodenbaugh, Arnie Peskin, Mike Schaeffer, Liz Seubert, Steve Shapiro, Joan Skelton, Richard Skelton, Elaine Zukowski

Newly Elected Officers:

President Elizabeth Seubert
Vice President Robert Kinsey
Secretary Arnold Moodenbaugh
Treasurer Steve Shapiro

Contact BREA:

BNL Bldg. 400A
BERA Recreation
Attention BREA
Upton, NY 11973

Appointees:

Newsletter Editors Mona Rowe and Anita Cohen
Membership Chair Sheryl Gerstman

Sign in sheets were circulated for attendees. Names collected are shown above. New President Liz Seubert opened the meeting just after 1:00 PM. An announcement that member Elliot Auerbach had died suddenly. There was a short announcement in the NY Times. His valuable participation in BREA and advice to members was noted.

1. Minutes. Minutes for the Dec. 8, 2015 were accepted by voice vote of those attending.
2. Treasurer's Report By Steve Shapiro (Treasurer): Cash Savings about \$4000; checking about \$9000; CDs about \$25000. BREA received about \$850 in dues from new and renewing members. BNL is billing BREA about \$1500 for the BREA blanket mailing of the December Newsletter. Future mailing costs are to be covered fully by BREA, since BERA funding for activities was cut. Report was approved by a voice vote.
3. Membership Report by Membership Secretary Sheryl Gerstman: 48 new members, 328 paid members, and 140 lapsed memberships (as of now unpaid). Many recent checks have not been deposited yet. See new business 7a.
4. Report on revision of the BREA constitution by Arnie Peskin. A revised constitution is nearly ready to be voted on by membership. Prior to the vote the proposed constitution, and the date and place of the vote, must be available for review by BREA membership. The vote will take place at a regular meeting. Arnie Peskin will provide the draft constitution and an email text, including date set for the vote, to be sent to members with email accounts by Ken Mohring. Peskin will provide a copy of the draft constitution to L. Hanson, who will provide it to BERA staff and to Joanne Delles for posting on the BREA website. Members without email contacts will receive notification in the March/April newsletter that

the constitution is available for review on the BREA website. The proposed constitution will be posted on the BREA website "within a week or two" (planned for late January).

5. Newsletter report by Editor Mona Rowe: Review content for the March/April Issue. The announcement of the upcoming revised constitution vote will be included in this newsletter. Tentatively feature Rhoda Sparrow (100 years), the Nobel Prize in Physics, a BREA reminder and renewal form for unpaid members. Anita Cohen will also follow up for Obits. including Elliot Auerbach. Some of the items proposed may be delayed or shortened in order that the constitution question is adequately discussed. Current plans are to continue with six issues per year. [ed. note: S. Gersten indicated that BREA board and BNL HR also review the final newsletter content.]

6. Health Insurance issues: Peter Bond noted that some vaccines are covered by Medicare Part B, but others are billed to the drug plan (Medicare part D). Typically a Physician or other vaccination provider will bill Medicare B, but not part D if the part B claim is rejected. After the rejection, patients must submit claims to their Medicare part D provider. Coverage for vaccines varies with the specific part D plan chosen, and which vaccines are covered is often not available without making a direct inquiry to the part D provider. Coverage outside the US, including cruises, may vary with the Medicare coverage option chosen (Supplement and Advantage options). It may be useful to purchase trip health insurance (but coverage varies by plan). Members have not yet had experience with the new Health Savings Accounts. [ed. note: A. Moodenbaugh submitted the initial forms with direct deposit info to Saben group in December. He received reimbursement on about Jan. 20.] Dave Cox noted that Savannah River (DOE Lab) provides catastrophic coverage for Medicare Drug Plan enrollees. Liz Seubert will draft a letter on behalf of BREA to inquire with BNL Human Resources to see if such a plan might be feasible for BNL retirees.

7. New Business:

a) From 3: L. Seubert suggested sending a request for dues from lapsed members. S. Gerstman said she would follow up with a note in the next BREA news that further issues will not be sent unless memberships are current. .

b) Steve Shapiro noted that classified ads from BNL should be emailed to members desiring them, and Chris Carter is the point of contact at BERA handling the emails. Some people may not be getting them. Steve will follow up with Chris Carter for a review of the mailing list. [Ed note: Subsequent to the meeting Sheryl Gerstman sent a list of member names and e-mail contacts that should be included in the classifieds e-mail list to Chris Carter.]

c) Ken Mohring suggested that the newsletter should be reduced to an electronic mailing for those members who are willing to omit the paper mailed version. That could save about \$400 each issue (\$2400 per year). Steve Shapiro thinks this is a good idea. In the next newsletter, BREA will inform members that those with valid email accounts will receive ONLY the electronic newsletter unless they "opt in" to paper mailing.

Vote to adjourn approved.

Next meetings:

Tuesday, Feb. 9, 2016, 1:00 pm, BNL Bldg. 400, Rms RSB 1 & 2

Tuesday, March 8, 2016, 1:00 pm, BNL Bldg. 400, Rms RSB 1 & 2